

Quicksilver Study Guide

Quicksilver by Neal Stephenson

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Plot Summary

PLOT SUMMARY

"Quicksilver" by Neal Stephenson is the first volume of a historical fiction series about the Baroque period. The novel follows the life and achievements of Dr. Daniel Waterhouse as he becomes involved in the politics of the period, while maintaining his interest in science and his affiliation with the Royal Society of London. "Quicksilver" is an entertaining novel that liberally includes fictional characters and events within the true historical context of the Baroque period.

In the first book, Quicksilver, Enoch travels to Boston to find Daniel Waterhouse because Sophie wants Daniel to return to London to affect a reconciliation between Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz. As Daniel travels to London on the Minerva, he recalls his youth in England. Daniel meets and befriends Isaac Newton while they attend Trinity in 1663. They spend time together until the Plague hits London in 1665, forcing Newton to return to his family manor in Woolsthorpe while Daniel returns to his father's house. When Daniel grows bored of his father's Puritanical rhetoric, he travels to Epsom where he studies Natural Philosophy with John Wilkins. Daniel also visits Newton in Woolsthorpe and returns to London during the Fire of London in time to see the King ignite Daniel's father's house. Shortly afterward, Daniel and Newton begin teaching at Trinity. Newton acquires the patronage of Lord Upnor, and Daniel acts as secretary of the Royal Society while Oldenburg is held in the Tower of London for active foreign correspondence. Daniel is intensely involved with politics and the Royal Society, and in 1672, he and Newton are fellows at Trinity and build an alchemical laboratory. Daniel convinces Newton to become involved with the Royal Society. In 1673, Leibniz comes to England, and Daniel acts as his escort to meetings with important members of British society. Daniel gains the patronage of Roger Comstock by acting as his architect. Meanwhile, in 1713, the Minerva is pursued by Blackbeard's fleet of pirates who seek to kidnap Daniel. With the help of trigonometry, Daniel assists van Hoek in escaping the pirates in the bay.

King of the Vagabonds, the second book, follows the life of the vagabond Jack Shaftoe. As a child, Jack and his brother, Bob, expedite the deaths of men condemned to hang by dangling from their legs. In 1683, Jack travels to Vienna to assist in the European expulsion of the Turks at the Battle of Vienna. Here, he saves Eliza, a European slave in the sultan's harem, and the two travel to Bohemia with their loot. Deciding to wait for the Leipzig Fair to sell their loot, they spend the winter near a hot spring, and in the spring, Jack and Eliza travel to Leipzig where they meet Doctor Leibniz who helps them sell some of their wares and invites them to accompany him to his silver mine in the Harz Mountains. After visiting the town near Leibniz's mine, Jack gets lost in the woods and is chased by witch hunters, but he manages to find a tunnel that leads to Leibniz's mine where he is reunited with Eliza. Next, Jack and Eliza go to Amsterdam where Eliza learns about the trade of commodities. Jack goes to Paris to sell the ostrich feathers and war horse he acquired during the Battle of Vienna, but he is imprisoned when he insults Etienne d'Arcachon. John Churchill helps Jack escape from the barn where he is



imprisoned and when Jack rides into the ballroom, he is mistaken for King Louis XIV until the true king arrives. Jack destroys the ballroom and cuts off d'Arcachon's hand, but he manages to escape. Meanwhile, Eliza becomes involved in politics in Amsterdam, helping the Duke of Monmouth manipulate the trade of VOC stock. Jack visits Eliza with whom he falls out after she learns he is going into the slave trade. Because of this, Eliza agrees to d'Avaux's request to go to Versailles as his spy. On her way to Versailles, Eliza is intercepted by William of Orange who forces her to act as a double agent for his benefit. Jack's ship is captured by Barbary pirates who take him and the crew as galley-slaves.

In the final book, *Odalisque*, Daniel has become a courtier to King Charles II by 1685, and when Charles die, he becomes advisor to the new King, James II. He continues to be involved with the English court. Eliza becomes the governess of a widower's children in Versailles, and with d'Avaux's aid, she also becomes the broker of the French nobility, creating market trends from which the French court profits and thus gaining the title Countess de Zeur. At dinner at Huygens' house, Eliza meets Daniel and Nicholas Fatio. The next day, Eliza and Fatio prevent d'Avaux from kidnapping William. In London, Daniel is arrested by Jeffreys and later imprisoned in the Tower of London, but he escapes with the help of Bob Shaftoe with whom he makes a pact to kill Jeffreys and Upnor. At William's orders, Eliza becomes Liselotte's lover, but on her way to Amsterdam to provide William with her notes, she is impregnated by King Louis' cryptographer who spreads the rumor that the child belongs to d'Arcachon. Eliza gives birth to a healthy son and plans to go to London to build a life for her and her son. Meanwhile, William marches on England, causing King James II to flee London, and when Daniel encounters King James II in a tavern, he returns to London where he and Bob incite a crowd at another tavern to capture Jeffreys for trial. Daniel plans to go to Massachusetts, but his friends first force him to go to Bedlam in order to have his bladder stones removed by Robert Hooke.



Section 1: Quicksilver, pages 1-69

Section 1: Quicksilver, pages 1-69 Summary

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In Boston Common on October 12, 1713 at 10:33:52 AM, Enoch enters the city to see a woman being hanged as a witch, causing him to worry that "things could go badly for him in Boston" (p. 5) should these people find that his saddlebags are filled with books containing the occult symbols of Alchemists and Kabalists. He continues on to a tavern on the wharf in a vain search for a certain sea captain, van Hoek, but instead he is followed and befriended by a curious young boy, Ben Franklin, who offers to lead Enoch to the Charlestown Ferry. On October 12, 1713, Enoch reaches Dr. Waterhouse's abode in Newtowne, Massachusetts Bay Colony, and Daniel nearly swallows his teeth when he sees Enoch. They discuss Daniel's work for a bit before Enoch produces a letter from Princess Caroline, a personal friend of Dr. Leibniz. She wants Daniel to return to England to affect a reconciliation between Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz because she supposed Daniel is different than the other attempted peacemakers. They go to a tavern to discuss this proposition where Daniel explains his father, Drake Waterhouse, educated him to assist in preparations for the Apocalypse which Drake expected in 1666. After the execution of Hugh Peters, Drake took Daniel to Trinity College in Cambridge to see Wilkins, leaving his son to study under Wilkins who suggested Daniel study Natural Philosophy.

At the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Cambridge in 1661, Daniel hears a commotion at 3 AM his first night at college. He looks out his window to the courtyard where he sees a boy stabbed when he tries to prevent other boys from bringing a wench to their room. Daniel rushes downstairs where he encounters Comstock and Jeffreys in pursuit of a ruffian who Lord Upnor. When Daniel mentions the boy was murdered, they lead him to the house of the Justice of the Peace, but Daniel opts to avoid becoming involved in an endless legal battle since Upnor will be judged when Jesus returns in five years. Jeffreys taunts Daniel for his inaction, and these events cause Daniel to become isolated until he is attracted to another solitary young man "like a pair of comets drawn together, across a desolate void, by some mysterious action at a distance" (p. 60). He befriends Isaac Newton, another alienated Puritan interested in Natural Philosophy. They arrange a room swap, and Daniel decides to be a Natural Philosopher; if it leads him to damnation, he may as well fill the time with something he finds interesting. Returning to Boston in October 1713, Enoch makes arrangements with Captain van Hoek of the Minerva while Daniel informs his family of Princess Caroline's offer and his decision to go to London where he can "imagine generations of



Waterhouses yet unborn, and Godfrey can imagine a hero-father better than [he] can really be" (p. 67). At the waterfront, Daniel bids his family a tearful adieu and boards the Minerva, staring at the stars as he leaves America.

Section 1: Quicksilver, pages 1-69 Analysis

Book 1: Quicksilver begins with an invocation to the Muse, maps of Europe and London and a quote by Roger Cotes in the preface to Isaac Newton's "Principia Mathematica," second edition, 1713. When first joined by Benjamin Franklin, Enoch refuses to divulge the name of the man who he has traveled to America to see for fear his man may have a poor character among these people. After negotiating for Ben to accompany him and receive return passage back, Enoch boards the Charlestown Ferry, and from his many questions, Ben learns that Enoch belongs to the Royal Society of London. On the ferry are many professors from Harvard University who are intrigued by the foreigner, but when Enoch mentions he is seeking Dr. Daniel Waterhouse, they mock the doctor, warning Enoch he has fallen under the spell of Herr Leibniz and infected with metaphysical thinking, imagines he will discover new truths through computation. Ben chides Enoch for not confiding who he sought for Ben would have taken him directly to Dr. Waterhouse since he knows his son, Godfrey. Outside of Charlestown, Ben searches the coppice and finds Godfrey Waterhouse who accompanies them on the rest of their journey as Enoch recounts the time in 1655 when he first saw a young Isaac Newton in Grantham who he compared to a six-year-old boy named Gottfried in Leipzig, both of whom excelled in learning Alchemy.

For the first time in many years, Daniel recalls his early years at Trinity and Cambridge, as well as the horrors he saw during the war. As Enoch describes the insurance policy Princess Caroline has arranged, Daniel realizes he will go to London, though he will not admit it for several hours as Enoch struggles to convince him to return to England. In attending Cambridge, Daniel initially planned on becoming Wilkins' protégé, but Wilkins was forced from his position before Daniel began attending the school. Daniel's decision not to pursue the murder of the boy with the Justice of the Peace causes him to question himself, which leads to his isolation through which he meets and befriends Newton. At the end of this section, Daniel agrees to travel to London with Enoch and bids his family goodbye. Throughout this novel are scattered quotes from various authors and books. In this section, quotations are included by the following: Roger Cotes in preface to Newton's "Principia Mathematica," 2nd edition, 1713; Hobbes' "Leviathan;" Daniel Defoe's "A Plan of the English Commerce;" "The Mischiefs That Ought Justly to be Apprehended from a Whig-Government," anonymous, attributed to Bernard Mandeville, 1713; Milton's "Paradise Lost;" and John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress."



Section 2: Quicksilver, pages 70-146

Section 2: Quicksilver, pages 70-146 Summary

At Trinity in 1663, Daniel and Isaac rarely attend classes, and Daniel has basically become Isaac's servant, assisting with his experiments. Though Isaac was accomplishing unimagined things in Natural Philosophy by 1664, their professors still planned to test Isaac and Daniel on Euclid, threatening to kick them out of Trinity if they failed. They are given scholarships after scoring indifferently on the exams, and "Daniel would continue to learn more from Isaac's idle musings than he would from the entire apparatus of the University" (p. 80). Daniel recalls the day in 1665 when he and Isaac walked along the River Cam on their way to the Stourbridge Fair, discussing fluxion. After a man at the fair died, Isaac was intrigued, but Daniel pulled him away, insisting upon returning to London because the Plague, a sign of the Apocalypse, had arrived. In the summer of 1665, Cambridge is closed because of the Plague. Daniel returns to his father's farm and studies while Isaac returns to his home in Woolsthorpe. Tired of Drake's Puritanical rhetoric, Daniel suggests visiting Wilkins and Comstock to learn about Natural Philosophy. Daniel spends the remainder of 1665 and the beginning of 1666 at Comstock's seat in Epsom where he assists Wilkins and Hooke in various experiments, finding Wilkins' tutelage to be nearly indistinguishable from drudge work. Wilkins focuses on inventing an alphabet for writing the Philosophical Language while Hooke experiments with blood transfusions in dogs, allowing Daniel a lot of time to ponder what Isaac is doing in Woolsthorpe. One day a dog that is being experimented upon, screams so loudly that it attracts the attention of the Duke of York who discusses these experiments with Daniel. The Duke of York privately tells Daniel that his friend has contracted syphilis and asks Daniel to keep him informed if the Royal Society learns anything about the rumor that mercury serves as a cure for the disease. When the dog dies, Daniel is disgusted with the experiments and realizes the Royal Society fled their own ignorance as well as the Plague by leaving London. After thinking about the letter Isaac sent him regarding needing assistance with the observation of Venus, Daniel rides north on a borrowed horse four hours later.

Section 2: Quicksilver, pages 70-146 Analysis

As he spends all of his time with Newton, Daniel begins to wonder if Isaac is right and all the others are wrong; if so, Daniel is receiving the best education possible in Natural Philosophy. In 1664, Isaac constructs his own sundial on a south-facing wall and plots the curves in order to understand why each curve is shaped as it is because he wants to be able to do the same thing anywhere. His experiments could have ramifications, and Daniel worries whether they will be kicked out of Trinity. He also wonders whether people have souls and Free Will. As he recalls this time period from the *Minerva* in 1713, Daniel is appalled that people ever doubted these matters since all of nature and the human world is a family of curves. Daniel and Isaac first witness the effects of the Plague while at the Stourbridge Fair. As the *Minerva* sails along the New England coast,



Daniel performs experiments to test whether the North Atlantic is striped with currents of warm water, planning to present the data to the Royal Society if he reaches London. When Drake agrees to allow his son to visit Wilkins to learn about Natural Philosophy since Trinity is shut down because of the Plague, Daniel must demonstrate his faith by walking across London at the height of the Plague to obtain the funds to visit Wilkins as well as to collect certain items requested by Wilkins and his group and to leave a packet of letters at the door of Oldenburg, the only member of the Royal Society to remain in London during the Plague. Daniel performs menial tasks to assist with Wilkins' and Hooke's experiments in Epsom. After one of Hooke's experiments causes a loud explosion, Comstock summons Wilkins to insist he take care since two young royal females are also staying at his estate. Daniel recognizes the Duke of York strolling through the gardens with one of these women, diverting into a long genealogical examination. The Duke of York's faith in Daniel's discretion about syphilis foreshadows their future relationship when the Duke of York becomes King James II. Bothered by the experiments at Epsom, Daniel decides to visit Isaac in Woolsthorpe. In this section, quotations are included from the following: "Memoirs of the Right Villainous John Hall," 1708; Hobbes' "Leviathan;" John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress;" John Donne's "Elegie on M. Boulstred;" Hobbes' "Leviathan;" Ned Ward's "The Vertuoso's Club;" and Milton's "Preface to Eikonoklastes." This section also contains the House of Stuart and House of Orange family trees.



Section 3: Quicksilver, pages 147-217

Section 3: Quicksilver, pages 147-217 Summary

Aboard the *Minerva* in Plymouth Bay in November 1713, Daniel wakes to find Captain van Hoek's ship is being attacked by a boat filled with pirates. Van Hoek captures and tortures several of the pirates. During the spring of 1666, Daniel arrives in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire to find Isaac experimenting with colors and light. Trinity tries to resume in the spring but is forced to close almost immediately when someone dies of the Plague, causing Isaac to return to Woolsthorpe while Daniel resumes his wandering life, spending time with Isaac, Wilkins and Drake. In early September, Daniel returns to London from Woolsthorpe to find that London has been burning for a day and is still yet burning. He rushes toward his father's house in Holborn where he sees Drake, who sees the fire as a sign of the Apocalypse, standing on top of his roof as the fire quickly approaches. The King causes an explosion to Drake's house in order to prevent the house from spreading farther, hiding Drake from Daniel's view forever. In November 1713, Daniel learns the *Minerva* is under attack by the fleet of Captain Edward Teach who seeks to take the *Minerva* as his flagship. In Charing Cross in 1670, Daniel ducks into a coffee house while following Isaac who woke and left their house mysteriously. A courtier also watches as Isaac enters an apothecary shop. Daniel watches as Upnor rides up and his entourage parts to admit the courtier who spied on Isaac. Upnor enters the shop from which Isaac still has not emerged. After the Royal Society meeting, Daniel accompanies several members to the Dogg Tavern on Broad Street where he learns the King is holding Oldenburg in the Tower due to his active foreign correspondence. When Daniel visits Oldenburg the next day, he learns that the Royal Society has great plans for him. He also informs Daniel about the rising political conflict between the Kings of England and France.

Section 3: Quicksilver, pages 147-217 Analysis

In 1713, Daniel is frightened as the *Minerva* is under siege by pirates, but Captain van Hoek does his best to protect his beloved vessel. In Woolsthorpe, Daniel and Isaac discuss the current battle with the Dutch in the Narrow Seas before turning their attention to the topic of centrifugal force or gravity. Isaac shows Daniel his experiments. Trinity tries to reopen but is forced to close almost immediately when someone dies from the Plague. The Year of the Beast, 1666, is nearly gone, and the Plague has gone with it, but war continues to rage. In September, Daniel returns home from his wandering to find London is on fire, and he reaches his father's home in time to see the King set explosives to it while Drake preaches from his rooftop about the pending Apocalypse. In November 1713, Daniel is terrified when he learns that the pirates attacking the *Minerva* belong to the fleet of Captain Edward Teach who is also known as the notorious Blackbeard. In 1670, Daniel follows Isaac and learns that his friend has accepted the patronage of Lord Upnor. As Daniel attempts to peer through the shop's windows using Isaac's telescope, he is joined by Sir Winston Churchill and his half-



brother, Sterling Waterhouse. As Daniel heads to a meeting in Bishopsgate, he is jealous of his friend's flirtation with alchemy, though he also has his own friends who he is going to visit now. In the meeting minutes of the Royal Society, Daniel acts as secretary in the stead of Henry Oldenburg who is absent due to being held in the Tower for suspicion of espionage in his active foreign correspondence. Daniel, Pepys and Wilkins take a coach to Comstock House where John Comstock informs Pepys and Wilkins that they will join the King at Whitehall Palace the following evening for a demonstration of phosphorus by Enoch the Red while Daniel will visit Oldenburg at the Tower and see to his needs. After visiting Oldenburg at the Tower, Daniel visits his Uncle and Aunt Ham. Uncle Ham shows him a forge where they are melting the new coins being stamped out at the mint into bullion which then circulates eastward. Despairing of ever understanding money, Daniel claims "if money is a science, then it is a dark science, darker than Alchemy" (p. 212). At the King's Head Tavern, he hears about Enoch's demonstration and ensuing conflict with Upnor. The next day, Isaac shows Daniel a beautifully bound book he received from Upnor, causing Daniel to realize that Upnor has offered to be Isaac's patron. In this section, quotations are included from the following: Daniel 2:22; "The History of the Royal Society of London for Improving of Natural Knowledge," Jan. 18, 1665; and Ned Ward's "The Vertuoso's Club." A diagram of the House of Bourbon family tree is also included.



Section 4: Quicksilver, pages 217-279

Section 4: Quicksilver, pages 217-279 Summary

In 1672, Daniel spends two months making a hole in the roof of Gresham College for Hooke who plans to construct a thirty-two-foot long telescope to obtain the proper level of magnification to prove there are stars nearby and farther away and that the Earth moves in an ellipse around the sun. Back at Cambridge, Daniel attends a play about courtly and collegiate intrigue, but it is too much for him to grasp. King Charles II is in attendance, along with the Angleseys and Comstocks. Sitting next to Daniel, Oldenburg asks where Isaac is, and glad to have a pretext for leaving, Daniel makes his way behind the stage where he accidentally runs into two actresses, one of whom, Tess, intrigues him. After a brief encounter with Jeffreys who claims Daniel wants England to be ruled by fear as he was in their early days at Trinity, Daniel rushes to the alchemy chamber in his home where members of the Royal Society are experimenting. Following a dispute about patrons and Providence, Daniel convinces Isaac to attend the play, and they set out for the play, accompanied by Boyle, Lock and Lefebure. As the play draws to an end at which Oldenburg will introduce Isaac to the King, Daniel returns to the house to retrieve Isaac's notes. He finds Roger Comstock working in the dark lab, and startled, Roger drops a mortar, causing a small fire which Daniel contains as Roger rushes out. Daniel retrieves the notes on calculus and rushes back across Trinity Green. In 1673, Daniel loiters in a particular part of London Bridge called the Square, waiting for a certain man in a certain boat. Leibniz arrives and asks about Wilkins. Leibniz visits Wilkins' sick-bed at his step-daughter's house in Chancery Lane, claiming he would be honored to carry Wilkins' work forward.

Section 4: Quicksilver, pages 217-279 Analysis

As the Minerva makes it out of Plymouth and into Cape Cod Bay, Daniel is led to the gun deck where he will soon be taught how to fuse mortar-bombs. While assisting Hooke at Gresham College, Daniel uses his idle moments to look down at London where he can see the artillery grounds to the north beyond Bedlam where camps are busy with the third Anglo-Dutch war in three decades. One day, he descends from the roof and encounters Pepys who suggests visiting Wilkins. They laugh at handbills, likely created and distributed by Knott Bolstrood, and Wilkins comments that the same men are doing the same things as ten years ago. While relaxing on the benches along the fortifications outside the city on another afternoon, Daniel notices Gomer Bolstrood, the son of Knott Bolstrood, who leads him to a tent where Daniel discusses the potential for war with a Dutch ambassador, and the ambassador says the Dutch will let up when the French do. Outside the tent, Gomer warns that Daniel is danger, meaning spiritually. Daniel argues that using tactics does not mean one lacks faith. That evening, Comstock arrives to insist Hooke and his assistants drop what they are doing to investigate the remnants of a cannon that went off unexpectedly during the day; he insists his enemies tampered with it. Leaving the play to retrieve Newton, Daniel is exhausted from his day



of keeping pace with the King, but since Wilkins is unable to urinate, it is Daniel's responsibility to report everything to Wilkins later. Daniel convinces Isaac to present his studies on calculus to the Royal Society and while retrieving Isaac's notes, he sees Roger Comstock experimenting in their laboratory which foreshadows Comstock becoming Daniel's patron. After Daniel retrieves Leibniz from the Square at London Bridge, Leibniz and Daniel discuss politics and Leibniz's hope to achieve contact with important figures through the pursuit of Natural Philosophy. Wilkins tells Daniel "the responsibility now falls upon you to make it happen" (p. 272) before drifting off to sleep forever. When Daniel asks which of Wilkins' projects Leibniz plans to pursue, Daniel feels misgivings that he was too stupid to understand since Leibniz plans to continue Wilkins' research on the Philosophical Language. They talk about Hooke's projects, alchemy, God and predestination, but the conversation is discontinued because Leibniz must rendezvous with his traveling companion, though he offers to resume their discussion another day. In this section, quotations are included from the following: Robert Hooke; Hobbes' "Leviathan;" Milton's "Paradise Lost;" and Leibniz's "Philosophical Essays."



Section 5: Quicksilver, pages 279-335

Section 5: Quicksilver, pages 279-335 Summary

In 1673, in the Grand Salon of Gunfleet House, Boyle and Comstock debate autopsying Wilkins at a Royal Society Meeting. When they decide to overlook Wilkins' recent ventures into politics because the pain medications affected his judgment, Daniel runs to the garden, unable to stand anymore. Roger Comstock follows him, bragging about the money he made by supplying intelligence to the Angleseys, but he is interrupted by Leibniz lamenting that his mathematical proofs were proved barbarously a year earlier by a Scotsman. Roger Comstock follows Daniel into St. James' Fields to offer his patronage if Daniel will design and oversee a larger house on a parcel of land he bought from the Waterhouses. After Daniel agrees to consider the offer of patronage, they walk toward a coffeehouse in the theatre district where Roger is meeting Leibniz. On the *Minerva*, Daniel learns that van Hoek is parleying with the pirates who want Daniel, but he is assured van Hoek will never yield to the pirates' demands. One morning, Daniel wakes to the noise of Hooke experimenting with gunpowder, and later that day, Roger collects Daniel to go to Whitehall to witness the King sign the Declaration for Freedom of Conscience of all Dissenters since Daniel is the leading dissenter next to Bulstrood. Tess, the actress, accompanies them in the coach, and she pretends to be his mistress at court, eventually becoming his mistress in actuality in a backroom of Roger's theatre. Aboard the *Minerva*, Daniel assists van Hoek in escaping the bay and Blackbeard with the use of trigonometry, thus sailing into the Atlantic Ocean and beginning their journey to the Old World.

Section 5: Quicksilver, pages 279-335 Analysis

In Cape Cod Bay in November 1713, Daniel carries bags of ammunitions to the cannons, assisting as van Hoek attacks the pirates trying to capture the *Minerva*. Daniel is upset that Boyle and Comstock discredit Wilkins' political ventures by claiming that his pain medication affected his judgment. When he rushes to the garden, he is followed by Roger Comstock who offers his patronage, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing regarding this arrangement. Hooke and Oldenburg join the group which proceeds to discuss various experiments. The Earl of Epsom approaches Daniel, predicting that England will be united under an established church and those who stand in opposition will be seen as traitors. Later, Leibniz and Daniel continue their conversation about free will and predestination, but Daniel is distraught; he wants to be a great Natural Philosopher, but he was put on earth with Newton, Hooke and Leibniz, making it seem an impossible feat.

On the *Minerva*, Daniel learns that Blackbeard is attacking the *Minerva* to get to him, but he is assured van Hoek will never yield to any pirate's demands. Daniel spends time at Roger's theatre in London in 1673. King Charles II admits the country cannot repay its debts, and rumors that the Dutch won the war circulate throughout London. Hiding out

in Bedlam, Daniel only enters the city to visit Leibniz for discussions about politics and science. Daniel accompanies Roger to witness the King sign the Declaration for Freedom of Conscience of all Dissenters during which he takes the actress Tess as his mistress. Daniel has found his role: to be a leading dissenter and a noted savant in the Royal Society. He did not realize his career would last twenty-five years or that he would be called back for an encore after forty years. Back aboard the Minerva, Daniel uses his knowledge of trigonometry to assist van Hoek in escaping the pirates and the bay, beginning their journey to London. In this section, quotations are included from the following: Milton's "Paradise Lost;" Hobbes' "Leviathan;" and John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress."



Section 6: King of the Vagabonds, pages 337-390

Section 6: King of the Vagabonds, pages 337-390 Summary

After their Mother sends them to work, Dick, Bob and Jack acquire work robbing boats, but after Dick drowns and their employer is imprisoned, Bob and Jack acquire money by expediting the deaths of condemned men, hanging onto their legs so they die quicker. In September of 1683, Jack heads east, claiming he is going to fight the Turks. He joins the army as they cross the Danube and set up camp. During the battle, a Polish Hussar orders Jack to hold his mount's reins, but when an ostrich runs by with men chasing it, Jack mounts the horse and chases the bird toward Vienna, getting lost in the dust and smoke until he realize he is in the midst of a Turk camp where people are being executed. A woman screams, alerting Jack to the fact that a harem of women is being executed. "Jack had been presented with the opportunity to be stupid in some way that was much more interesting than being shrewd would've been" (p. 367). Riding into a Turk's tent, Jack fights the Turk, retrieving his sword. Eliza, a European slave in the sultan's harem, praises Jack's way of fighting the Janissaries. Eliza dresses in the bloody captain's coat and rides behind Jack as he lectures her about showing any perceived womanly behavior while they skirt the remainder of Khan Mustapha's camp. Eliza tells him that she is from a Qwghlmian family, and she was abducted at age five with her mother by Barbary Corsairs while they were walking on the beach the second week of August. They discuss selling the ostrich feathers and other looted items, including a Turkish warhorse they call Turk, but objecting to the poor price they will fetch on the black market, Eliza recommends waiting for some fair and dressing as a lady and gentleman to sell their wares to the wealthy. Jack suggests the Leipzig fair, but they will have to wait for spring.

Section 6: King of the Vagabonds, pages 337-390 Analysis

The second book, King of the Vagabonds, begins at this point, focusing on Jack Shaftoe. In 1665, Mother Shaftoe sends three of her six sons out to obtain food and money when the eldest is seven years old. Dick, Bob and Jack leave their shack on the Isle of Dogs and acquire work with John Cole robbing ships at harbor. Two weeks after Dick drowns, John Cole is imprisoned in Newgate and sentenced to hang, but he asks Bob and Jack to meet him at his execution and pull on his legs so he will die quicker. Thus, Bob and Jack begin a new trade, visiting Newgate shortly before hanging days and acting out a short skit to show the benefit of hiring them to hasten death. Then, they circulate among the condemned, negotiating terms and collecting money. During the summer of 1683, Jack is living in Strasbourg in unaccustomed comfort as he pretends



to be a soldier for the amusement of Elector Palatine. He encounters a fleeing rich man who hires Jack to live in his home in Strasbourg for several weeks to make sure it is not infected with the Plague and then send word if it is safe. Jack moves into the house, and as the rich man sends more vagabonds to remove previous bodies, the house gains more inhabitants until they find it necessary to depart in September. Jack heads east to fight the Turks, and after conning Herr Augsburg to provide him with a musket and other materials, Jack offers his services to an Austrian regiment which camps outside Vienna. As the war gradually begins, Jack wonders where the best looting is found. Later that morning, artillery fire begins the Battle of Vienna as the Europeans attempt to expel the Turks, and Jack joins the troops charging toward the city. While holding the reins to a Polish Hussar's mount, Jack chases an ostrich which leads him to the Turks' camp where he rescues a European slave forced to be part of the Sultan's harem; her name is Eliza. He beheads the ostrich as the woman he saved laughs and addresses him in English, mistaking him for a knight until he speaks as his speech marks him as no gentleman. While Eliza retrieves the ostrich feathers, Jack acquires a bloody Christian man's clothing for her to wear. She informs him she is looking for some sort of partnership but not necessarily the matrimonial kind. As they travel away from Vienna, they banter and argue, Jack threatening to abandon her and Eliza accusing him of cruelty. Telling him about her past, she tells of how her mother was ill-used by a certain personage on the ship that took them captive, but Eliza was spared at the time because she had not yet begun to exude certain womanly humors. Eliza tells her story over the course of their journey, speaking only when they are near some settlement or nunnery. Jack tells Eliza about his poverty-stricken upbringing also. When discussing how to sell their loot from the Turkish camp, Eliza promises to fetch ten times the price he could demand on the thieves' market if he keeps her alive during the winter so they can go to the Leipzig Fair. Jack walks toward the Danube ferry with Eliza and Turk following behind him silently. In this section, quotations are included from the following: "Memoirs of the Right Villainous John Hall," 1708 and Daniel Defoe's "Moll Flanders."



Section 7: King of the Vagabonds, pages 390-450

Section 7: King of the Vagabonds, pages 390-450 Summary

When Jack and Eliza encounter a Frenchman dressed in rags at a pond, Jack fixes dinner for the man and his children, but Eliza rides away a bit for fear of diseases they may carry. As the people draw near to pay their respects to Jack and Eliza, Jack grows angry at the way Eliza looks at him; the last person to peer at him in such a way from the back of a fine horse was Sir Winston Churchill who was amused at the sight of Jack and Bob dangling from hanging men's legs. Though Jack was irreverent, John Churchill, Sir Winston's son, convinced his father not to whip the boy, and Sir Winston claimed he saw qualities in Jack and Bob that would make them useful in a regimental setting. When Eliza mentions the charity he shows to these people, Jack objects: they need information from these people. He has learned of a place with a hot spring nearby which keeps the homeless warm during the winter. Two weeks later, they finally emerge into a steamy vale where Jack talks to German miners who indicate they will not give him any trouble if he camps at the headwaters of the hot spring up the valley for the winter. Once spring arrives, Jack and Eliza travel to Leipzig dressed as a noblewoman and her bodyguard. After finding a place to stable Turk, they go to market where Eliza convinces Jack they can profit from buying shares in the silver mines. She learns that only one person at the fair is selling these shares so they must find the Doctor who is in the general quarter of the Jahrmaket. After inviting them to accompany him to his silver mine, the Doctor leads them to the House of the Golden Mercury where he helps them sell their wares. After Leibniz finishes his errands in Leipzig, they proceed west through the Saxon plain with his entire train of two dozen wagons. They travel to his mine where he has replaced miners with machines. From the top of the mountain where the entrance is located, Jack and Eliza can see the town of Bockboden below, but Leibniz warns them against going into town. Regardless, Jack descends the mountain and visits the town. Frightened by a witch execution, Jack leaves Bockboden and subsequently gets lost in the woods.

Section 7: King of the Vagabonds, pages 390-450 Analysis

Three days north of the Danube in the autumn of 1683, Jack stops to wash his sword in a river, and he and Eliza discuss the fact that "since the Papists slew all the decent folk, this is a country of bandits, haiduks, and Vagabonds" (p. 391). Entering Bohemia, they discuss the religious controversy in the country and how the Winter Queen, Elizabeth, and her King ruled in Bohemia for a single winter after the Bohemians threw the Papists out of their country. Jack is very solicitous of Eliza's health during their journey because



her "chief reason for existence was to give him something pleasant to look at" (p. 393). Jack recalls meeting Sir Winston Churchill and how John Churchill intervened to prevent his father from hurting Jack; this foreshadows Jack's future involvement with John Churchill. From his seemingly charitable act, Jack learns that there is a hot spring nearby where he and Eliza might stay warm during the winter. That night, they sleep under the same blanket for the first time because it is so cold. Eliza sleeps soundly, but Jack barely sleeps at all. For the next two weeks, Jack and Eliza talk about little besides the immediate concern of staying alive, sleeping in huts or caves for warmth. They finally reach the spot Jack learned about from the Frenchman. The hot spring emerges from a small cave which Jack and Eliza use as a temporary refuge while they build a hut on the bank of the creek. Once things are not so tumultuous after a month, Eliza asks Jack to tell her stories about his regiment, and he complies reluctantly. While Bob agreed to carry messages across the battlefields, Jack found more intelligent ways to utilize his time by participating in sieges and looting.

When Eliza claims Jack is not as bad as he makes himself out to be, he tells her "my deformity gives me fewer chances to be bad than I should prefer to have" (p. 410). In the stream, Eliza removes the yellow bile of anger and ill-temper by applying pressure to a certain chakra on Jack's body. She asks for a needle and thread to begin making clothes for the fair, and Jack agrees where he refused before she removed the bile. When spring arrives, Jack and Eliza head to Leipzig where they sell a length of yellow silk to a Parisian. While staying at the hot spring, Eliza had befriended Herr Geidel, the employer of the miners, and Herr Geidel had agreed to bring them to Leipzig if Jack would act as an additional escort against potential highway robbers on their journey. At the town gate, Jack and Eliza paid duty on their silks, but Eliza had sewn the ostrich plumes into her petticoats so they were not detected. Deciding they can profit from buying shares in a silver mine, Eliza learns that the Doctor is the only man at the fair selling such shares, so she and Jack go in search of Doctor Leibniz. When they find Doctor Leibniz, Eliza tells him she is interested in buying Kuxen, shares in the silver mine, and he explains Kuxen and dyadic numbers to her. Leibniz invites Jack and Eliza to accompany him to his mine in the Harz Mountains to inspect the works but requests they exchange their goods for coins first. It takes Leibniz over a day to make preparations to leave Leipzig. The Doctor considers whether to publish a journal about an advanced mathematical technique that he developed seven years earlier, and he finally decides to publish it because he does not believe God gave him such a fine mind for naught. In late April 1684, Jack and Eliza leave Leipzig with Dr. Leibniz, traveling through Saxony. While Leibniz makes improvements to his Theory of Matter, Eliza tells Jack about how she was traded to the Vizier in Constantinople. She wants to kill the man who traded her because she will never see her mother again since her mother was very sick with cancer when she last saw her. Jack says he will kill the man "because of my fierce eternal pure love for you, my own Eliza" (p. 440). Leibniz tries to cheer them up by taking them into an old abandoned copper mine. Despite Leibniz's warnings, Jack descends to Bockboden where he enters an apothecary shop and briefly encounters Enoch Root, but after leaving the shop, he witnesses a witch execution in town which affects him as though the young woman were Eliza. Leaving Bockboden hurriedly, Jack gets lost in the woods. In this section, quotations are included from Milton's "Paradise Lost."



Section 8: King of the Vagabonds, pages 450-502

Section 8: King of the Vagabonds, pages 450-502 Summary

In the woods, Jack finds himself among a group of pagan worshippers who are pursued by witch hunters who assume Jack is one of the pagans. He manages to find a tunnel leading to Leibniz's silver mine, allowing him to escape. Back with Eliza, Jack asks if they can leave Germany now. Attracted by the amount of stuff moving to and from the city, Jack and Eliza head toward Amsterdam along with a parade of merchants and various others headed in the same direction. In Amsterdam, Eliza rents out the fourth story of a building in a strange neighborhood while Jack adjusts to the peculiarity of the city's buildings. Jack spends his days roaming the city while Eliza stays in a coffee house, learning about the trade of commodities though Jack does not realize this. When Jack enters the coffee house one day to find Eliza flirting with the sons of rich Genoese and Florentine merchants, he is enraged, and after she extricates herself, Eliza explains how much quicksilver is stored in the warehouses surrounding them. Jack announces he must go to Paris to sell Turk and the ostrich plumes because "I am accustomed to being the one fluid thing in a universe dumb and inert" (p. 483). When he enters Paris, Jack is disgusted with the new stonework at the gate which depicts King Louis as a primordial Hercules. At the House of the Golden Frigate, Jack delivers a letter to Signor Cozzi from his cousin in Amsterdam. In the heart of the Marais, Jack meets and befriends St. George, a professional rat tamer and killer, who helps Jack find lodging.

Section 8: King of the Vagabonds, pages 450-502 Analysis

Jack feels hungry and stupid as he sits on a tree stump for quite some time. He builds a fire and falls asleep but is shocked when he wakes to see several faces peering at him. The group disperses, but several more follow until Jack decides to abandon his fire which the groups soon overtake and begin to use for cooking. When Jack heads back to get food, the stew makers point him in the direction the others are headed, and he finds himself several miles uphill, where he is chased by witch hunters. Jack runs into a wooden building where he finds stairs leading to a tunnel. He follows the air flow since it indicates an exit somewhere, and when he finds a pool of water, he decides to swim for safety. Jack emerges to hear Eliza's voice, and thinking she is being abducted, he jumps from the water to protect, causing a group of people to flee and leaving only a hooded figure who reveals himself to be Enoch. Enoch informs Jack that he has frightened men who were considering buying Kuxen from Leibniz, and for the first time, Jack thinks Enoch's friendly behavior may be well-meant instead of mockery. Enoch tells Jack that Eliza is glowing because he came to her rescue, and when she returns to



the cave, Jack asks if they can leave Germany now. Leibniz offers them a ride to Hanover, and on the journey, Jack notes that the Doctor seems to be doing nothing, though he is always busy. Enoch explains "he's accomplishing nothing- that's very different from doing nothing" (p. 468). They stop at a mine where the miners extract ore that contains very little silver, and Enoch explains how they extract the silver through Alchemy. When Jack relates this to Eliza, she decides they will buy quicksilver in Amsterdam. After parting ways with Leibniz and Enoch, Eliza tells Jack that Leibniz has taught her about binary numbers and how to use them to hide messages in letters so that she can write Leibniz to continue her education. Jack does not understand why she wasted so much time improving her mind without anything to show for it; he expected that she would at least obtain financial backing from the Doctor. In Amsterdam, Eliza learns about the trade of commodities, but Jack, jealous at Eliza's flirtations with various rich gentlemen, informs her he is going to Paris to sell Turk and the ostrich feathers. Eliza tells him to do as he wishes, but she belongs in Amsterdam. Riding west out of Amsterdam, Jack tries to recall the last time he saw the ocean which was in 1678 when he returned from Jamaica and impregnated Mary Dolores. Bob persuaded him to get a steady job under John Churchill so that he could provide for his son. As Jack reaches Paris and heads toward Rue Vivienne, the police want to arrest him for having no business in Paris. After settling into his new room, Jack walks through the streets of Paris and seems to see Eliza struggling to free herself from the stone engravings. "Jack was finally going mad, and it was a small comfort to know that he'd picked the right city for it" (p. 502). This section also contains the family trees of the House of Welf and the House of Hohenzollern. In this section, quotations are included from the following: Milton's "Paradise Lost;" Daniel Defoe's "A Plan of the English Commerce;" and Hobbes' "Leviathan."



Section 9: King of the Vagabonds, pages 502-558

Section 9: King of the Vagabonds, pages 502-558 Summary

During the winter of 1684-1685, Jack wanders through Paris, finding it too cold to travel northward by the time he seriously considers leaving. He bribes a farmer to smuggle him into the horse market in the Place Royale where he can fetch the highest price. He is nearly arrested until he proves his identity. Returning to the House of the Golden Frigate on Rue Vivienne, Jack asks Signor Cozzi if he has any messages to be taken to Lyons where Jack is headed. Jack delivers Signor Cozzi's note to a Genoese banker in Lyons who informs Jack that the English King is dead. Meanwhile, in February 1685, Eliza skates around the Hague where many ambassadors are gathered. She flirts with the Comte d'Avaux, but their discussion of politics is interrupted by Gomer Bolstrood with whom Eliza talks for a while. As Eliza resumes her flirtation with d'Avaux the next day, he introduces her to the Duke of Monmouth who is escorting Mary, the daughter of the new King of England and the wife of William of Orange. The Duke of Monmouth offers to skate with Eliza, and they discuss politics, such as Mary's marriage to William which King Louis of France hopes to break up in order to marry Mary to one of his French bastards. Two hours later, Eliza is with the same group as well as Gomer Bolstrood. When the Duke tells her of his intention to invade England, Eliza suggests he obtain money from Mr. Sluys who betrayed his country thirteen years ago. She believes they can manipulate Mr. Sluys into believing VOC shares will soon rise, causing him to lose money as they make it. Thus, Eliza becomes involved in politics and the trade market.

Jack continues working as a messenger for the bankers in Paris and Lyons. One day, he encounters Monsieur Arlanc among a group of galley slaves on their way to Marseille. He wants to rescue Arlanc, but Arlanc refuses because the other slaves will be punished if he is found missing. By the end of the night, Jack gives up his boots and food since Arlanc is walking while Jack has a mount to ride. After finding himself in the midst of a merry funeral procession, he follows an Admiral to right outside Place Royale where he rudely offers to sell Turk. John Churchill arrives in time to deflect a sword aimed at Jack's heart, but Jack is stabbed in the thigh instead. When Churchill advises Jack that he may be able to prevent him from being tortured to death if Jack shuts up immediately, Jack is silent. At the opera, Eliza is mesmerized by the opera, and the other attendees peer curiously at the Duke of Monmouth and his guest. As d'Avaux stares at Eliza through his opera glasses, she assures the Duke that her plan is working flawlessly. During intermission, Eliza talks to d'Avaux about the market near the door to Mr. Sluys' box, causing Mr. Sluys to react with near outrage at the idea that money can be made so easily. Monmouth, d'Avaux and Eliza attend a party at Mr. Sluys' house after the opera, and while Monmouth talks to Sluys, d'Avaux suggests Eliza make new



friends since her beau will soon be leaving for Hungary. Eliza claims she seeks an unmovable foundation by making money which she can do in Amsterdam. D'Avaux claims he wants her to live a beautiful and interesting life and perhaps talk to him from time to time.

Section 9: King of the Vagabonds, pages 502-558

Analysis

Jack entrusts his Esphahnian neighbors to sell his ostrich plumes for him. By the time Jack remembers Turk, the stable owner is preparing to sell the horse for Jack's debt. After paying his debt, Jack tries to figure out how to turn Turk into cash. In the horse market at Place Royale, Jack is nearly arrested but is released when he proves his identity. Jack begins making money by acting as a messenger for bankers in Paris and Lyons. Jack is shocked to learn the only King he has ever known is dead and England is a completely different country, ruled by Papists. In Amsterdam, Eliza becomes involved with politics through her interactions with d'Avaux, the French ambassador to Amsterdam, and the Duke of Monmouth. She still does not know much about Bolstrood and his schemes. As they discuss politics, the Duke of Monmouth is surprised by Eliza's astute understanding that he will be of no use when he sits on England's throne if he plays so easily into d'Avaux's hands now by diverting his affections from Mary. Eliza comes up with a scheme by which the Duke of Monmouth can profit from VOC shares. After staying up all night with Monsieur Arlanc, Jack has several other misadventures. Hungry and tired, Jack accidentally takes a wrong turn and enters Paris by an unfamiliar route. Various misadventures lead to him staying awake a second night while hiding in the woods from some nobleman's gamekeepers. Entering Paris on the third consecutive day he is awake, Jack sees a mass burial ground and seems to hear voices calling from him from underground. Jack follows d'Arcachon to the Place Royale where John Churchill prevents him from being murdered on the spot. Instead, Jack is arrested. In Amsterdam, the Duke of Monmouth lusts after Eliza and offers to make her a Duchess if she will be his mistress once he is King of England, but she tells him he must first make himself a King. Eliza carries out her plan to profit from VOC shares by allowing Mr. Sluys to accidentally overhear her conversation with d'Avaux about financial matters. After the opera, Eliza talks to d'Avaux while the Duke of Monmouth discusses business matters with Mr. Sluys. When Eliza accuses him of wanting her to be his spy, d'Avaux sadly states he only wants to be her friend. With Eliza's arm trapped in his, d'Avaux walks toward Etienne d'Arcachon, leaving Eliza no choice but to follow as Sluys laughs continuously from a dark corner of the room. In this section, quotations are included from Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Daniel Defoe's "A Plan of the English Commerce."



Section 10: King of the Vagabonds, pages 558-609

Section 10: King of the Vagabonds, pages 558-609 Summary

In the spring of 1685, Jack is imprisoned in the barn of the duc d'Arcachon when John Churchill visits on his way to a ball here at the Hotel d'Arcachon. Recommending Jack leave France as soon as possible, Churchill offers him a purse to keep their past connection concealed, and he leaves after providing Jack with boots and a sword. Escaping his imprisonment, Jack leaves the barn in a stolen cape astride Turk, and the partygoers form two lines to receive him at the masquerade since the lower half of his face is hidden by the cape. As attention and admiration is bestowed upon Jack, a second man dressed as a Vagabond rides into the ballroom, followed by an entourage. Jack charges through the ballroom, destroying the décor and cutting off the hand of the duc d'Arcachon, and manages to escape into the Place Royale. Jack returns to Amsterdam where he tells Eliza he is going into business with Yevgeny the Raskolnik and Mr. Foot. Mr. Foot had learned of a shipping opportunity, and Jack saw it as a way to appear worthy in Eliza's eyes. When Jack shows Eliza that the ship's cargo is primarily cowrie shells, she informs him that the shells are worthless since the Dutch found large quantities of cowrie shells in the island near India. It is obvious Jack is going into the slave trade and needs to walk away now, but Jack worries about wasting his investment. Arguing that he has thrown away things of greater value, Eliza asks him to stay with her in Amsterdam because she has money and will support him, but Jack objects to being supported by a woman and refuses to leave the ship. Eliza throws a harpoon at Jack's heart, but he twists his body so it does not hit its mark. By the time he looks for her on the dock, Eliza has already turned her back on him.

In June 1685, d'Avaux and a pair of valets see Eliza to a vessel on the brink of the canal that runs westward toward Haarlem, and d'Avaux explains the valets will escort her to Brussels; he has convinced her to go to Versailles and supply him with information about the French court. Eliza is relieved to escape Amsterdam because she has been feeling that someone was following her. During her first day on the ship, her valets are murdered and Eliza is taken to a different chamber where William of Orange informs her that he knows about her mission for d'Avaux and of her interactions with Monmouth. William forces Eliza to become a double agent for his benefit and to give him oral sex. As the slaving ship sails along the coast of Europe and Northern Africa, Jack sobs over his falling out with Eliza. Two warships of the Barbary Corsairs approach, and when Jack realizes they intend to make those on his ship into galley slaves, he encourages the men to fight, preferring to die fighting for his freedom rather than as a slave. Unfortunately, their heroic attempts are in vain, and Jack and the men aboard his ship are taken prisoner by the Barbary Corsairs.



Section 10: King of the Vagabonds, pages 558-609 Analysis

When visiting Jack during his imprisonment in d'Arcachon's barn, Churchill insists he was only able to keep Jack alive because Jack's identity is still unknown, and his purpose for doing so is that he does not want anyone to know of his prior association with the now notorious Vagabond scum. Jack manages to break the chain connecting the chain around his neck to the wall, and then uses it to strangle a stable boy so he can find Turk. He rides into the ballroom where he is mistaken for King Louis XIV who is dressed as a vagabond. Silence falls when Jack reveals his face, and d'Arcachon is ashamed that he mistook Jack for King Louis. Destroying the ballroom and removing d'Arcachon's hand, Jack manages to escape. Sitting in a coffeehouse, Eliza peers out the window at an ill-kempt man and asks Jack who he is. Jack explains the man is Yevgeny the Raskolnik, and Jack woke to find Yevgeny snuggled up against him at the Bomb and Grapnel in Dunkirk. They are also traveling with Mr. Foot, the proprietor of the Bomb and Grapnel, and Jack informs Eliza that the three of them plan to go into business together. Jack questions her about her involvement with the Duke of Monmouth, asking if she is interested in a fling with a noble or if she has added political intrigues to her interests. As he tells her about Turk and the ostrich plumes, Jack realizes Eliza never expected to see him again and has long withdrawn from the partnership they formed in Vienna. When Eliza inspects the contents of Jack's ship, she realizes he is going into the slave trade, but since he refuses to lose his investment, she turns her back on him after aiming a harpoon at his heart. Eliza agrees to act as d'Avaux's spy, but on her way to Versailles, she is intercepted by William of Orange who forces her to act as a double agent for him benefit. Jack and his crew are taken as slaves by a fleet of Barbary Corsairs. In this section, quotations are included from the following: John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress;" John Donne's "Breake of Day;" and John Donne's "Elegie XX: Loves Warre."



Section 11: Odalisque, pages 611-688

Section 11: Odalisque, pages 611-688 Summary

Daniel spends much time at Whitehall because King Charles II nominated him as the unofficial secretary for matters pertaining to the Puritans. While he stands on the Privy Stairs, Roger Comstock stops to talk to him after visiting the King's sick chamber. As they walk to the King's bedchamber, they discuss politics and the Royal Society, and Roger reminds Daniel that "in our concern for the previous king we must not forget to maintain good relations with the next" (p. 625). Daniel walks to St. James' Palace where James, the King's brother who is next in the succession, resides. At St. James' Palace, Daniel tells James that his brother will be dead within an hour. At Whitehall, Pepys informs Roger that James is happy with Daniel for not being afraid to speak the truth plainly, and Daniel suggests James trusts him because he kept James' secret of syphilis twenty years earlier. The door to the King's sick chamber open to reveal Charles is dead as the new King of England prays at his bedside. In a letter on July 12, 1685, Eliza chides d'Avaux for hiding letters among her things; however, her innocence was proven by her inability to read the French cypher. Eliza is working as the governess of M. le Comte de Beziers' two children, and she plans to help him with his finances which are in comic disarray. In a letter to Leibniz, Eliza recounts walking along the canal yesterday with her two charges when she saw King Louis XIV with Liselotte. She prays Liselotte does not know her name when the King asks for it, but Liselotte recognizes Eliza as the girl who was duped by d'Avaux and molested by Dutchmen, causing the King to watch Eliza for several moments longer as he has heard the story. On September 1, Eliza writes d'Avaux that many of her visitors have questioned her about her Spanish uncle, but she finally realized d'Avaux had spread the tale when one visitor mentioned the ambassador. Now, half the nobles of Versailles believe Eliza can help them escape their gambling debts, but she cannot manage such investments while governing two children unless she has the freedom to travel to Amsterdam several times a year. Eleven days later, she informs Leibniz that she met the Duchesse d'Oyonnax whose younger sister is married to the Marquis d'Ozair, one of the duc d'Arcachon's bastard sons. At d'Oyonnax's salon, Eliza is surprised to see her employer. The Marquise d'Ozair wants to hire Eliza as her governor's daughter, and when Beziers informs Eliza that he is soon leaving Versailles, she cannot decline the offer. She now writes from her new lodgings in d'Ozair's attic room, but they plan to leave Versailles for Dunkirk by the end of the month. On September 25, Eliza writes d'Avaux about these arrangements, but as she understands it, she is supposed to leave for Amsterdam as soon as she reaches Dunkirk. The King visited her today after hearing his courtiers gambling about who would take her maidenhead or if she even had one. The household attends Mass so Eliza is alone when the King calls. He has heard she is good with money, and he orders her to make sounds of climax as his courtiers listen from the other side of the door. Eliza receives a title of nobility, the Countess de Zeur.

In London, Daniel sits in a coffeehouse with Roger Comstock who watches Hooke who has barricaded himself behind a miniature apothecary shop. Since Daniel is going north



for political reasons, Hooke suggests he visit Newton at Cambridge to clear Newton's name of scurrilous accusations made by jealous rivals. At Trinity College, Daniel visits Newton as he draws architectural designs, "trying to recover what Solomon knew" (p. 683). Newton believes Solomon knew about the elliptical orbits of heavenly bodies because of the design of his temple, and he shows Daniel various diagrams as proof.

Section 11: Odalisque, pages 611-688 Analysis

Odalisque, the third book in "Quicksilver," returns to Daniel Waterhouse in England. Much has happened in the past twelve years, but nothing is really different. Outside of the King's sick chamber, Roger Comstock reminds Daniel that they must not forget to maintain relations with the next King in the concern for the current King. During his walk to St. James' Palace, Daniel thinks that perhaps he was brought into the world to play a pivotal role in the final struggle between the Roman Catholic Church and various other Anglo-Saxon virtues, such as free trade, freedom of conscience and limited government. Reaching St. James' Palace, Daniel briefly discusses what to say with Pepys who advises him to emulate anything but a courtier. Daniel's belief that James trusts him because Daniel kept his syphilis a secret twenty years earlier fulfills the earlier foreshadowing to this effect. All shout "Long live the King!" when the door opens to reveal King Charles II is dead while the new King James II kneels by his bedside. This book begins to use the epistolary style frequently, especially in portions referring to Eliza. In a letter to d'Avaux, Eliza notes that she now sees how she, a common girl, might find her place here as she learned the King is married to a formerly common woman. On August 4, Eliza writes Leibniz a tediously long letter about the styles in Versailles to disguise her use of Wilkins' cypher. She tells him about her daily walks with her two charges, nine-year-old Beatrice and six-year-old Louis, claiming "if these children are any clue as to the future of the nobility, then France as we know it is doomed" (p. 642). When she runs into King Louis by the canal, he takes note of Eliza. He comments on the folly of attaching letters to the bodice of such an attractive woman, and Liselotte warns him not to notice girls of such low birth. D'Avaux spreads rumors about Eliza so that the French nobles take notice of her, despite her common birth. She changes her position to become governess for the Marquise d'Ozoir since Monsieur Beziers is leaving Versailles shortly. When he visits Eliza at the d'Ozoirs' home, King Louis is pleased that Eliza obeys him and informs her she may earn his esteem by pleasing him which means showing discretion. He permits her to tell d'Avaux everything so d'Avaux can feel pride in being the King's friend and fear as he is also the King's enemy. On September 29, Eliza writes to Leibniz that the King is at war with Protestant heretics and his own doctors as he suffers from a toothache. The d'Ozoir family covets their neighbors' lands and found an opportunity when Louis conquered the Franche-Comte. Due to rumors that the Protestants run rampant in Savoy, Father Edouard leads an army to Savoy. Meanwhile in London, Roger is concerned with who is looking after Newton, but Daniel claims he does not care; he failed because he tried to hold Newton back so here he is. Roger does not understand why Newton is interested in Alchemy, the Apocalypse and the elliptical orbits of heavenly bodies as they have nothing in common, but he fails to comprehend when Daniel attempts to explain it to him. Daniel heads north for political reasons, and he decides to visit Newton at Cambridge while he



is in the area. During the journey, Daniel reads "Acta Eruditorum", Leibniz's scholarly journal, and as he runs errands for the King, he ponders Leibniz's theories. At Trinity, Newton is solving the problem of the elliptical orbit of heavenly bodies geometrically, but he believes God is still involved with the world; "I seek God where Geometry fails" (p. 687). Realizing that the inner workings of gravity are beyond Natural Philosophy, Daniel asks if it will appeal to metaphysicians, theologians or sorcerers, but Newton says they are all the same to him and he is one. In this section, quotations are included from the following: Hobbes' "Leviathan;" "John Evelyn's Diary;" Daniel Defoe's "Moll Flanders;" John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress;" and Galileo Galilei's "Il Saggiatore."



Section 12: Odalisque, pages 688-739

Section 12: Odalisque, pages 688-739 Summary

In October 1685 as Eliza leads a horse along the beach north of Scheveningen, she notices a sand-sailor and recognizing him, she pursues and catches William, chiding him for his lack of an entourage. As Eliza rides down the beach after leaving William, a hooded figure jumps from behind a tree, startling her horse and unseating Eliza. When he reveals the face of Jack Shaftoe, Eliza fears she is seeing Jack's ghost until Bob Shaftoe introduces himself. Bob fell in love with Abigail Frome, a schoolgirl who was enslaved after the uprising and now belongs to the Earl of Upnor, so Bob needs money to free her, and he promises to be Eliza's slave in all but name if she will buy Abigail. Eliza objects that Abigail's freedom is not more significant than all those who have been enslaved. She leads Bob to the house where she has been staying which belongs to Christiaan Huygens to continue the conversation, asking why Bob came to her, a stranger. Bob tells Eliza that, through his brother, he knows of her aversion to slavery and hoped she might help him. Eliza seduces Bob as proof of his lack of loyalty to Abigail, but Huygens walks in on them during the act. Eliza tells Huygens to take a purse to Upnor as a down payment, and after Bob leaves, Huygens chides Eliza for her behavior with Bob. At court, Daniel talks to Aphthorp about Leibniz's experiments, and they continue talking about science and politics as Jack Ketch, the executioner, arrives for the Duke of Monmouth. In March 1687, Eliza writes to d'Avaux from Versailles, telling him that the returns for the first quarter of 1687 have been satisfactory, but Eliza fears she will be forced to gamble her clients' assets on the outcome of great events in a few years; she knows William well enough that she cannot gamble against him with certainty. In June, she complains that she is being treated like a whore and assumes it is d'Avaux's doing. Lately, Eliza has been preoccupied talking to French nobles about investing in VOC stock. In August, Eliza writes to Leibniz that she has been busy with the machinations surrounding the "Fall of Batavia". She met Upnor at d'Oyonnax's garden party, and his eagerness to talk about the Protestant girl he has enslaved makes him seem repugnant and makes Eliza more certain that England will soon rise up in arms against such injustices. She writes Leibniz again in October to inform him that since she is now admitted to the presence of nobles, everyone is eager to know about her family; "enough people here now depend on me that my status as a commoner is awkward and inconvenient" (p. 738).

Section 12: Odalisque, pages 688-739 Analysis

Eliza reports to William about French politics, and William suggests that King Louis' admonition to d'Avaux was meant for someone else such as Eliza who could imperil him or his reign. As Eliza leaves William, she is accosted by a figure resembling Jack Shaftoe who introduces himself as Bob Shaftoe. He is on an errand for John Churchill but wishes to speak to Eliza about a private matter on the walk back to the Hague. Bob explains his career has been the reverse of Jack's, but he joined Monmouth's army



using Jack's name. He was astounded when Monmouth deserted his men as they fought and died for him. Bob asks Eliza to help him free his beloved who has been enslaved by the Earl of Upnor, but she seduces him as proof that he is not as loyal to his Abigail as he would have her believe. Huygens catches them in the act. When Eliza introduces Huygens as the "world's foremost Natural Philosopher" (p. 713), Huygens objects that he is not as great as Hooke, Leibniz or Newton. The scene of the Duke of Monmouth's execution is written as an act in a play, instead of in the narrative format of the majority of the novel. In March 1687, Eliza informs d'Avaux that though her charge has been sent to Mme. de Maintenon's girls' school, there is no talk of letting Eliza go from her position. In June, Etienne d'Arcachon escorts her to a fancy ball at Dampierre, the chateau of the duc de Chevreuse, and the men at the ball are surprised by Eliza's knowledge of politics. Eliza writes Leibniz that she has met Upnor and decided to consider him her enemy. Mentioning Alchemy, she asks if Upnor can cast spells on her since she has picked him as an enemy, and she also enquires what Enoch Root is. Additionally, her status as a commoner is awkward since so many nobles depend on her and she receives the title Countess de Zeur. In this section, quotations are included from the following: "The Mischiefs That Ought Justly to be Apprehended from a Whig-Government", anonymous, attributed to Bernard Mandeville, 1714; John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress;" and Daniel Defoe's "A Plan of the English Commerce."



Section 13: Odalisque, pages 739-811

Section 13: Odalisque, pages 739-811 Summary

On the bank of Het Kanaal, between Schevenigen and the Hague in December 1687, Daniel joins William Penn in his carriage and asks how things concerning possessions are going overseas. They talk about religion until they reach a small lodge beside the Hague where they find a petite girl in the parlor who addresses them in French. When Penn suggests Daniel move to America, Daniel objects that he has not given up on England yet. William plans to send Eliza to Versailles where he wants her to give Daniel something to live for so he will be careful, and he suggests arranging to spend time with Daniel through Huygens since both are interested in Natural Philosophy. At dinner at Huygens' home, Daniel asks for a pretext under which he might inoffensively converse or exchange letters with Eliza, but Eliza's flirtatious response is deferred by the arrival of Nicolas Fatio de Duilliers who cannot be ejected since he has genuine merit, though his presence controls the conversation. Fatio tells Eliza that he has come to warn William about a kidnapping scheme, and the next day, Eliza and Fatio, along with the Blue Guard, prevent William from being kidnapped; however, William warns Eliza that d'Avaux was present and may now know about her. William sends Eliza to Versailles to make love to Liselotte, sister-in-law to King Louis XIV, and to learn if Le Roi intends to move his regiments away from William's border toward the Rhine. On February 3, 1688, Eliza writes Leibniz that she has befriended Liselotte who received her after King Louis heard a rumor that Eliza is of noble blood, making her fit to talk to Madame as she is reckoned to be the Countess de Zeur. In April 1688, Daniel wakes in the Star Chamber of Westminster Palace as he is mocked. Daniel is charged with perverting the English language by using the word "revolution", but he objects revolution does not necessarily include violence. After being dumped in a field by Jeffrey's men, Daniel wakes to find a letter from Eliza. Fantasizing about Eliza, Daniel deciphers Eliza's letter to learn she wants to visit Whitehall which will require significant planning on Daniel's part. He knows she is using him to get into Whitehall because the Queen is pregnant and she wants to determine whether King James II has a legitimate heir. In July 1688, Eliza writes to d'Avaux using a new cypher. She has not yet tallied the numbers for the second quarter of 1688, but she is confident they made out better than expected. During the time the Queen was in labor, Eliza admits, she seduced an Englishman to get her into Whitehall. Now that she is known as a countess, Eliza has been accepted into Liselotte's company, and Liselotte plans to test Eliza's riding skills, promising to invite her to St. Cloud if she passes the test.

In the autumn of 1688, Daniel is imprisoned in the same chamber of the Tower of London where Oldenburg was kept twenty years earlier. Since no judicial proceedings are held, Daniel knows his murder will not be judicious, and though he does a lot of soul-searching, he finds nothing there but convinces himself "that having lived a bleak spare life had left his soul no worse off than anyone else's" (p. 795). On the twentieth day of his imprisonment, the King's Own Black Torrent Guard begins tending to Daniel because his prior guard neglected to give him the food his friends brought for him.



When he talks to the master sergeant, Daniel learns he is believed to have conveyed certain letters to William of Orange and is only allowed to receive visits from Bob Carver and Dick Gripp. Though Daniel begs they not be admitted to see him, the sergeant refuses to disobey Jeffreys' order. Sergeant Shaftoe informs Daniel that Bob Carver and Dick Gripp have arrived, but he is not so black-hearted as to admit two "hired killers to spit a helpless professor" (p. 806). Shaftoe held them in cells until they admitted Jeffreys ordered them to kill Daniel. Shaftoe wants to kill Jeffreys and Upnor, and he offers to make a pact with Daniel to do so, pointing out that Daniel was kept alive because he witnessed the birth of the prince and can attest to his legitimacy; Jeffreys' decision to kill Daniel shows he has given up on the King and the dynasty and plans to flee. Daniel agrees to Shaftoe's pact.

Section 13: Odalisque, pages 739-811 Analysis

When Daniel meets Eliza at the small lodge near the Hague, he feels he has met the girl before but cannot recall when or under what circumstances. Later, William of Orange chides Eliza for coming to Amsterdam where so many want to kill her. He asks what she learned from the two Englishmen and wonders why she finds Puritans so fascinating. Realizing William will brand her an enemy if she does not explain her inconsistency to his satisfaction, she claims she finds them interesting. Later, while Daniel and Huygens gaze at the stars, Eliza and Fatio take a walk to discuss politics, and Fatio tells her he has come to warn William of Orange that Count Fenil has been studying his habits. The nobles also know about Eliza's connection to William. The next day, Eliza and Fatio hire mounts to take them to Scheveningen, and on the way, they see a flagship that belongs to the duc d'Arcachon. William has already left, but Eliza warns the Captain of the Blue Guards that the prince is in danger so a squadron is sent to catch and protect him. Eliza and Fatio also set out to "defend the Defender" (p. 763). Several of d'Arcachon's dragoons are in pursuit of William also, but Eliza and Fatio help prevent William from being kidnapped. William sends Eliza to become Liselotte's lover to learn about the French regiment's movement so he can determine whether he will be able to march on England. Additionally, d'Avaux will not be able to crush Eliza once she is Liselotte's mistress. Unfortunately, Liselotte will not tell Eliza about her conversations with Sophie about Alchemy. When Lord Chancellor Jeffreys announces he will preside over this session of the Court of Star Chamber, Daniel objects the court was abolished five years before his birth. Jeffreys pronounces Daniel guilty and admits he had him drugged at a coffeehouse and abducted. Daniel is too afraid to speak as Jeffreys tortures and questions him. Jeffreys' men dump Daniel in the fields upriver from Westminster, and after removing the collar from his neck, Daniel finds lodgings with a porter stationed at the south edge of Westminster. He wakes the next day to find himself across London in front of Gresham's College with a letter for him from France. Eliza continues to write d'Avaux and Leibniz about her political and financial actions. Meanwhile, Daniel is imprisoned in the Tower of London, and Jeffreys sends two mercenaries to kill him. Luckily, Bob Shaftoe will not admit the mercenaries, and he convinces Daniel to agree to a pact: they will kill Jeffreys and Upnor. In this section, quotations are included from Cromwell and Hobbes' "Leviathan."



Section 14: Odalisque, pages 811-852

Section 14: Odalisque, pages 811-852 Summary

On November 21, 1608, Monsieur Bonaventure Rossignol writes His Majesty Louis XIV from Chateau Juvisy to inform the king that he believes the Countess de la Zeur uses a cypher to shield the nature of her correspondence. She writes frequently to Leibniz about Versailles society, but Rossignol does not believe such a woman wastes so much time writing about such superfluous matters. Two years earlier, d'Avaux also studied her epistolary habits and came to suspect Eliza was secretly corresponding with William through Sophie. At the beginning of the year, Eliza engaged in a flirtation with Liselotte which was thought to be a love affair, but soon after her arrival at St. Cloud, Eliza wrote d'Avaux, and the letter found its way to Rossignol's desk. In August 1688, Eliza writes d'Avaux about life at St. Cloud, including her intention to demonstrate bareback riding for Liselotte. While bareback riding, Eliza fell from her horse and was taken to a nearby convent to convalesce. Rossignol believed she was actually pregnant and hiding at the convent to deliver or abort the baby until he received an enciphered letter from d'Avaux several weeks later informing him that Eliza took a boat to the Hague. In the King's service, Rossignol travels to the Hague where d'Avaux tends to his needs and informs him that he has learned, by bribing servants, that Liselotte helped Eliza catch a boat in Nijmegen. Eliza then met for several days with William and his advisors in his forest hut, after which the Prince withdrew his regiments from the South and set in motion his invasion of England. Rossignol also learned Eliza had made her notes on a piece of embroidery with needle and thread, a process less conspicuous than pen and paper for a woman to be seen doing. Since Eliza is staying with Huygens by the time Rossignol reaches the Hague, he pays a thief to steal the embroidery so he can analyze it for several days before paying the thief to return the embroidery. In her journal, Eliza describes befriending Liselotte and catching a boat out of the Seine while bareback riding at St. Cloud. She disembarks at St.-Dizier where she resides at a convent until her escort, Dr. Ernst von Pfung, retrieves her. They travel to Meuse where they are directed to Etienne d'Arcachon, and Eliza allows d'Arcachon to seduce her. She wakes the next morning to find d'Arcachon gone, but a love letter awaits her in his stead. Eliza then separates from her escort as she heads to Nijmegen to take a boat to the Hague where she will try to deliver a coherent report to William from her embroidery.

Section 14: Odalisque, pages 811-852 Analysis

King Louis XIV's cryptologist, Bonaventure Rossignol, writes the King about Eliza's espionage missions. He has evidence from d'Avaux in addition to having deciphered her notes which were stitched into a piece of embroidery. He includes her notes in his letter to the King. Continuing his letter to King Louis XIV, Rossignol has deciphered the codenames in Eliza's letter which was obviously written as much for William as for d'Avaux. Rossignol tells the King about how Eliza left St. Cloud and traveled to Amsterdam to meet with William of Orange. Since he has recently learned about the



use of binary cyphers from Fatio and he knows Eliza regularly corresponds with members of the Royal Society, Rossignol is able to translate the cypher which contains a list of names, regiments and places in addition to some personal narrative which Rossignol includes in his letter. Furthermore, Eliza's narrative includes a description of taking Etienne d'Arcachon as a lover. This leads to the popular belief that d'Arcachon is the father of Eliza's child when it is revealed that she is pregnant. In this section, quotations are included from Liselotte in a Letter to Sophie, 1 May 1704.



Section 15: Odalisque, pages 853-916

Section 15: Odalisque, pages 853-916 Summary

Rossignol informs the King that he will lose England if he attempts to gain the Rhine, and he also notes that Eliza is pregnant. In Sheerness on December 11, 1688, Daniel sees King James in a tavern being beaten. He warns the bartender he will serve as a witness if any serious harm befalls that gentleman before traveling on to an inn where he relates his story and people take victuals to the King; though they want him gone, there is no reason to be inhospitable. Daniel convinces Mr. Bnhh to take him directly to the Tower of London where they are admitted because Daniel is admired by William's Dutch Blue Guards. Bob Shaftoe and Daniel go to Charing Cross to search for Upnor, and Daniel enters M. Lefebure's house of Alchemists where he finds John Locke, Newton, Fatio and the Earl of Upnor. He reports the King turned up at Sheerness and bids them goodnight, slowing backing out of the room as their conversation resumes, and when he runs into Enoch, Enoch accuses him of bursting into houses and conversations uninvited. Daniel and Enoch argue, and Daniel foresees the end of Alchemy before leaving to bid a proper farewell to his old friend Jeffreys. Learning Jeffreys has not yet boarded the Hare, Daniel and Bob go to Wapping where they enter the Red Crow tavern. After realizing the man in the shadowed corner is Jeffreys, Daniel addresses the men in the tavern about Jeffreys' crimes and they capture Jeffreys when he tries to flee.

In July 1689, Leibniz writes Eliza from Venice about how Louis' declaration of war against England has had little effect in these parts, but Leibniz is concerned for Eliza and how she is affected by the recent upheaval in financial markets. He knows Eliza will have delivered her baby by now and prays they are both safe. Leibniz is so annoyed by Newton's mystical approach to force that he is developing a new discipline to study the subject, and he asks her opinion of calling it dynamics, after the Greek word for force. Eliza responds to Leibniz in August 1689. She approves of the name dynamics for his study of force. She is slow to write about herself because it is proof she lives. She includes a tedious description of her labor pains to conceal her encrypted message. Since it is unacceptable to be an unwed mother, Eliza considers giving the baby away if it is born healthy, but she knows she cannot do so after she feels it kick for the first time. She plans to deliver at the home of Princess Eleanor, but her mattress is conveyed to another room where she is tended by Dr. Alkmaar, the court physician. Eliza has problems with her delivery because the baby is turned around, but Dr. Alkmaar administers drugs for pain and turns the baby around before leaving Eliza to the care of the midwife, Marie. Eliza fears Marie has been ordered to ensure d'Arcachon's bastard child does not survive so she convinces Brigitte to take her back to Eleanor where she delivers her son. Eliza is now back at Huygens' house and her son remains with Princess Eleanor who passes him off as an orphan. Soon, Eliza will retrieve her son and travel west to London where she will try to make a life for them. She admits to Leibniz that the father of her child is actually Bonaventure Rossignol, the King's cryptanalyst, who contrived to tell the story with her as d'Arcachon's breeding woman. If Eliza should



die, Eleanor has promised to care for her son. In Bishopsgate in October 1689, Daniel prepares to leave for Boston, but he is feeling very ill because he suffers from an increasingly-worsening case of bladder stones. After Pepys questions Daniel about his pain, members of the Royal Society along with Daniel's family and friends force him to go to Bedlam to have the stones removed by Robert Hooke. Hooke assures Daniel that he will survive, although it will hurt as he reaches for his blade.

Section 15: Odalisque, pages 853-916 Analysis

Rossignol advises King Louis that he cannot gain the Rhine without losing England since William is now in England. He also informs the King that he has learned from d'Avaux that Eliza has not menstruated in two months which means she is pregnant with d'Arcachon's bastard. This fulfills the earlier foreshadowing that Eliza would be rumored to carry d'Arcachon's child. In Sheerness, Daniel witnesses King James II fleeing London. On his way to London, Daniel rides past Castle Upnor where he can tell Upnor is not present but is expected at any time. He convinces Mr. Bnhh to convey him across the river to the Isle of Dogs, and when he sees a boat bound for America, Daniel notes that he plans to go to America someday, but "there is tidying-up to do in this country yet" (p. 866). The King's Own Black Torrent guard accompanied King James to the west until John Churchill and his regiment broke off to join William, but they do not regain their posts which are assumed by William's Dutch Blue Guards who see Daniel as a mascot for evading James and Jeffreys and therefore permit Mr. Bnhh to bring Daniel into the tower. As Bob Shaftoe talks to Daniel about Upnor and Jeffreys, John Churchill approaches Daniel, promising not to injure Daniel as long as they continue to have the same enemies. Churchill does not understand the motives of the Royal Society so Enoch and Newton's presence in London makes him uneasy. Bob Shaftoe and Daniel go to Charing Cross to search for Upnor and Jeffreys. Upnor is safe in the home of M. Lefebure, but Daniel convinces Enoch to direct him to Jeffreys. Enoch points out the messenger who conveyed a box to Jeffreys from Upnor a few hours ago. Daniel incites the crowd at the tavern to capture Jeffreys when he tries to escape, the intent being to execute Jeffreys later. Daniel wishes Bob good luck in rescuing his princess, and when Jeffreys asks why Daniel went to this trouble when Jeffreys was already running away, Daniel tells him "you and I are but earth" (p. 887) before walking out into the city. Eliza writes to Leibniz about her delivery, and she confesses that d'Arcachon is not the father of her child; Rossignol is but he created the rumor in order to save himself and Eliza, as well as their unborn child. Daniel prepares to go to Boston, but his friends convince him to allow Hooke to remove his bladder stones first, thus ending "Quicksilver." In this section, quotations are included from the following: Daniel 5:6; Daniel Defoe's "A Plan of the English Commerce"; and John Donne's "Of the Progresse of the Soule, The Second Anniversarie."



Characters

Daniel Waterhouse

Daniel Waterhouse is the main character of "Quicksilver," although he does not appear in the second interior book. The son of Drake Waterhouse, Daniel is a prominent Puritan and during college at Trinity, he befriends and is roommates with Isaac Newton. Daniel also becomes friends with Gottfried Leibniz through his position in the Royal Society. As he grows older, Daniel becomes involved with British politics.

In the first book, Quicksilver, Enoch travels to Boston to find Daniel Waterhouse because Sophie wants Daniel to return to London to affect a reconciliation between Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz. As Daniel travels to London on the Minerva, he recalls his youth in England. Daniel meets and befriends Isaac Newton while they attend Trinity in 1663, and they spend much time together until the Plague hits London in 1665, forcing Newton to return to his family manor in Woolsthorpe while Daniel returns to his father's house. When Daniel grows bored of his father's Puritanical rhetoric, he travels to Epsom where he studies Natural Philosophy with John Wilkins. Daniel also visits Newton in Woolsthorpe and returns to London during the Fire of London in time to see the King ignite Daniel's father's house. Shortly afterward, Daniel and Newton begin teaching at Trinity. Newton acquires the patronage of Lord Upnor and Daniel acts as secretary of the Royal Society while Oldenburg is held in the Tower of London for active foreign correspondence. Daniel is intensely involved with politics and the Royal Society, and in 1672, he and Newton are fellows at Trinity and build an alchemical laboratory. Daniel convinces Newton to become involved with the Royal Society. In 1673, Leibniz comes to England and Daniel acts as his escort to meetings with important members of British society. Daniel gains the patronage of Roger Comstock by acting as his architect. Meanwhile, in 1713, the Minerva is pursued by Blackbeard's fleet of pirates who seek to kidnap Daniel. With the help of trigonometry, Daniel assists van Hoek in escaping the pirates in the bay.

In the final book, Odalisque, Daniel has become a courtier to King Charles II by 1685 and when Charles dies, Daniel becomes advisor to the King James II. He continues to be involved with the English court. At dinner at Huygens' house, Daniel meets Eliza and Nicholas Fatio, and later, he helps Eliza gain entrance to Whitehall Palace. In London, Daniel is arrested by Jeffreys and later imprisoned in the Tower of London, but he escapes with the help of Bob Shaftoe with whom he makes a pact to kill Jeffreys and Upnor. When Daniel encounters King James II in a tavern after William marches on England, he returns to London where he and Bob incite a crowd at another tavern to capture Jeffreys for trial. Daniel plans to go to Massachusetts, but his friends first force him to go to Bedlam in order to have his bladder stones removed by Robert Hooke.



Eliza

Eliza is a former harem slave whom Jack Shaftoe rescues in Vienna. She was kidnapped from her home in Qwghlm as a child. During the Battle of Vienna, the Janissaries are killing their slave women when Eliza is rescued by Jack Shaftoe and the two travel to Bohemia with their loot. Deciding to wait for the Leipzig Fair to sell their loot, they spend the winter near a hot spring. In the spring, Jack and Eliza travel to Leipzig where they meet Doctor Leibniz who helps them sell some of their wares and invites them to accompany him to his silver mine in the Harz Mountains. Next, Jack and Eliza go to Amsterdam where Eliza learns about the trade of commodities. Leaving Eliza, Jack goes to Paris to sell the ostrich feathers and war horse that he acquired during the Battle of Vienna. Meanwhile, Eliza becomes involved in politics in Amsterdam, helping the Duke of Monmouth manipulate the trade of VOC stock. Eliza is visited by Jack, but they have a falling out when she learns he is going into the slave trade. Due to this, Eliza agrees to d'Avaux's request to go to Versailles as his spy. On her way to Versailles, Eliza is intercepted by William of Orange who forces her to act as a double agent for his benefit.

In the final book, *Odalisque*, Eliza becomes the governess of a widower's children in Versailles and with d'Avaux's aid, she also becomes the broker of the French nobility, creating market trends from which the French court profits and thus gaining the title Countess de Zeur. At dinner at Huygens' house, Eliza meets Daniel and Nicholas Fatio. The next day, Eliza and Fatio prevent d'Avaux from kidnapping William. Upon William's orders, Eliza becomes Liselotte's lover, but on her way to Amsterdam to provide William with her notes, she is impregnated by King Louis' cryptographer who spreads the rumor that the child belongs to d'Arcachon. Eliza gives birth to a healthy son and plans to go to London to build a life for her and her son.

Jack Shaftoe

Jack Shaftoe is a renowned English vagabond who rescues Eliza in Vienna and becomes the enemy of the Duc d'Arcachon. *King of the Vagabonds*, the second book, follows the life of the vagabond Jack Shaftoe. As a child, Jack and his brother, Bob, expedite the deaths of men condemned to hang by dangling from their legs. In 1683, Jack travels to Vienna to assist in the European expulsion of the Turks at the Battle of Vienna. He saves Eliza, a European slave in the sultan's harem, and the two travel to Bohemia with their loot. Deciding to wait for the Leipzig Fair to sell their loot, they spend the winter near a hot spring, and in the spring, Jack and Eliza travel to Leipzig where they meet Doctor Leibniz who helps them sell some of their wares and invites them to accompany him to his silver mine in the Harz Mountains. After visiting the town near Leibniz's mine, Jack gets lost in the woods and is chased by witch hunters, but he manages to find a tunnel that leads to Leibniz's mine where he is reunited with Eliza. Next, Jack and Eliza go to Amsterdam where Eliza learns about the trade of commodities. Jack goes to Paris to sell the ostrich feathers and war horse he acquired during the Battle of Vienna, but he is imprisoned when he insults Etienne d'Arcachon.



John Churchill helps Jack escape from the barn where he is imprisoned, and when Jack rides into the ballroom, he is mistaken for King Louis XIV until the true king arrives. Jack destroys the ballroom and cuts off d'Arcachon's hand, but he manages to escape. Jack visits Eliza with whom he falls out after she learns he is going into the slave trade. Jack's ship is captured by Barbary pirates who take him and the crew as galley-slaves.

Enoch Root

Enoch Root is a mysterious Alchemist who appears sporadically throughout the novel and he is usually seen in the company of other Alchemists. Sophie sends Enoch to Massachusetts to convince Daniel Waterhouse to return to London and convince Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz to reconcile.

John Churchill

John Churchill, the son of Sir Winston Churchill, is a prominent politician and Jack Shaftoe's former employer. When Jack is arrested by d'Arcachon, John Churchill seeks to hide their prior association which is why he provides Jack with the means to escape. As he leads the King's Own Black Torrent Guards, Churchill leaves King James II to serve William of Orange.

Robert Hooke

Robert Hooke is a prominent member of the Royal Society who Daniel helps with experiments. Hooke removes Daniel's bladder stones at the end of the novel.

Jeffreys

Jeffreys, a nobleman, is Daniel's first roommate at Trinity and he constantly mocks Daniel's morals. In 1688, Jeffreys arrests Daniel and later sends assassins to kill him. Daniel and Bob Shaftoe incite a tavern filled with men to capture Jeffreys for execution.

John Wilkins

John Wilkins is a prominent member of the Royal Society whom Daniel studies under. Before Wilkins dies, Leibniz visits him and promises to continue his work.

Gottfried Leibniz

Gottfried Leibniz is a prominent Natural Philosopher who befriends Daniel and Eliza at separate times. Leibniz plans to carry on Wilkins' work after his death. His feud with Isaac Newton is the reason that Sophie summons Daniel to London.



Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton is a prominent Natural Philosopher as well as Daniel's friend and roommate at Trinity. Daniel convinces Isaac to present his work on calculus to the Royal Society. Newton's feud with Leibniz is the reason that Sophie summons Daniel to London.

Bonaventure Rossignol

Bonaventure Rossignol is King Louis XIV's cryptologist. He writes the King about Eliza being a spy, spreading the rumor that the child she carries belongs to d'Arcachon when the father is actually Rossignol himself.

Duke of Monmouth

The Duke of Monmouth befriends Eliza in Amsterdam and Eliza helps him profit from VOC stocks to fund his plan to usurp the English crown. He is executed for treason in 1686.

King James II of England

King James II assumes the English crown after his brother, King Charles II, dies. Daniel acts as advisor to King James II until he flees London when William of Orange marches on England in 1688.

Prince William of Orange

Prince William of Orange intercepts Eliza on her way to Versailles to act as a spy for d'Avaux and he forces her to act as a double agent on his behalf. Obtaining information about King Louis XIV's regiments from Eliza, William marches on England in 1688, becoming King William III of England.

Bob Shaftoe

Bob Shaftoe, Jack's older brother, appeals to Eliza to save his beloved Abigail from slavery at the hands of Upnor. He also rescues Daniel from the Tower of London and persuades Daniel to make a pact with him to kill Jeffreys and Upnor.

D'Avaux

D'Avaux is the French ambassador in Amsterdam. He convinces Eliza to be his spy in Versailles, but when he learns that she is acting as a double agent for William of Orange, he informs Rossignol about her actions.



Objects/Places

Massachusetts

Daniel Waterhouse lives in Massachusetts and this is where Enoch travels to retrieve Daniel when Sophie summons him to return to London to reconcile Newton and Leibniz.

College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity

The College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Cambridge is where Daniel first meets and befriends Isaac Newton while they attend school there starting in 1661.

Woolsthorpe

Woolsthorpe is where Newton's family home is located in Lincolnshire.

Epsom

Epsom, where Comstock's seat is located, is where Daniel studies Natural Philosophy under Wilkins and Hooke during the Plague of 1665.

Minerva

The Minerva is the ship Daniel takes from Massachusetts to London. Captain van Hoek is the captain of the Minerva.

Gresham College

In 1672, Daniel works with Hooke at Gresham College.

London Bridge

Daniel first meets Leibniz at London Bridge.

Gunfleet House

The Royal Society often holds their meetings at Gunfleet House.



Isle of Dogs

The Shaftoes are from the Isle of Dogs.

Vienna

Jack Shaftoe joins the military to expel the Turks from Vienna and this is where he meets and rescues Eliza.

Bohemia

Jack and Eliza spend the winter of 1683-1684 in Bohemia near a hot spring.

Leipzig

Jack and Eliza travel to the Leipzig Fair in the spring of 1684 to sell their ostrich feathers and Turkish war horse. They meet Dr. Leibniz here.

Harz Mountains

Dr. Leibniz's silver mine is located in the Harz Mountains and Eliza and Jack visit the mine with him because Eliza is interested in buying shares in the mine.

Amsterdam

In 1684, Jack and Eliza go to Amsterdam where Eliza learns about the trade of commodities. She stays in Amsterdam after Jack goes to Paris to sell Turk and the ostrich feathers. Eliza meets d'Avaux and the Duke of Monmouth while residing in Amsterdam.

Paris

Jack goes to Paris to sell his wares after leaving Eliza in Amsterdam. He is arrested by nobles, but John Churchill helps him escape.

Whitehall Palace

Daniel spends a lot of time at Whitehall Palace while serving King Charles II.



Versailles

d'Avaux sends Eliza to Versailles to be his spy on the French court, but on her journey, William of Orange intercepts Eliza and forces her to agree to act as a double agent on his behalf.

Tower of London

Daniel is imprisoned by Jeffreys in the Tower of London in 1688, but he escapes with the assistance of Bob Shaftoe.

St. Cloud

Eliza joins Liselotte at St. Cloud to demonstrate bareback riding, and from St. Cloud, she takes a boat to the Hague to tell William of Orange all she has learned at the French court.

Bedlam

Hooke forces Daniel to have his bladder stones removed at Bedlam before leaving London for Massachusetts.



Themes

Freedom of Thought

One of the most important themes in "Quicksilver" is freedom of thought. This theme is especially relevant and notable because it also contributes to two of the other main themes of the novel: politics and science. This novel particularly focuses on the societal requirements in which such new ideas can come into existence as well as how these new ideas are expressed, whether it be verbally, through a written format or in another way altogether. An additional aspect to note is how new ideas are received in various circumstances. The reason this concept is so important is because in this time period, the 17th century, new ideas that contradicted old ideas, especially those pertaining to religion or politics, could result in punishment for the idealist, including death. This fear is seen while Daniel lives with Newton at Trinity; he constantly fears that Newton's work with gravity will lead to their expulsion or imprisonment. Also, the astute reader can see Daniel's constant struggle to reconcile his religious beliefs and his scientific learning throughout the novel. In fact, Daniel believes that he was born to participate in the final battle between the Roman Catholic Church and other important English virtues, one of which is freedom of thought. Eventually, Daniel relocates to Massachusetts so that he can experience a more diverse freedom of thought, though the Harvard professors mock his experiments.

The Royal Society's experiments are often secretive, showing their need to hide their freedom of thought for fear of political reprisals; however, many of the experiments aid in changing views of the world and certain scientific matters, such as Newton's study of gravity and Leibniz's study of dynamics. Newton is often viewed suspiciously for his ways of thinking. In the matter of politics, freedom of thought is seen in the usurpers and their followers who dare to imagine a different leadership for their country. Eliza becomes involved in politics as she hopes to change certain things. She also demonstrates freedom of thought by her lack of a conventional womanly lifestyle for the Baroque period. Jack's life as a vagabond also shows how he ignores social protocol and dares to think freely, often gaining himself a lot of trouble in the process.

Science

Science plays a large role in "Quicksilver" as the Baroque period marks the beginning of the Age of Enlightenment as scientific knowledge shifts to encompass a much larger span. In this novel, many of the main characters are involved with the Royal Society of London, a fraternity focused on experimentation and the seeking of new knowledge. Daniel participates in many of Wilkins' and Hooke's experiments as he desires to be a Natural Philosopher. Newton is the foremost Natural Philosopher of the time, studying light and gravity among other things.



Important to note is that most of these Natural Philosophers find ways to reconcile their religious beliefs with their scientific discoveries, as opposed to modern scientists who often separate the two. Leibniz also pursues many experiments, often seeking to study the same subject matter as Newton through alternate means. Another aspect of science is seen in the study of Alchemy which also indicates a transformation to a new age of more refinement and beauty. Enoch Root is one of the predominant Alchemists mentioned in this novel. The use of binary numbers also contributes to the study of science, which includes mathematics, a principal tool in the study of science.

Politics

Politics are an important theme in "Quicksilver" as the majority of the characters in this novel are involved in the political environment in varying degrees. The two main characters, Daniel Waterhouse and Eliza, become largely involved with politics during the novel. The concept of nobility is also combined with the theme of politics/ Additionally, this is pertinent for the scientists who seek patrons to support their experiments and they often ally themselves with certain political sects as a condition of their patronage. Leibniz travels to London to meet important members of British society, mainly those involved with politics.

Eliza becomes involved with the trade of commodities while in Amsterdam, and this leads to her interactions with the Duke of Monmouth who she helps profit from VOC stock so that he can attempt to usurp the English crown. Eliza also becomes involved with d'Avaux who convinces her to go to Versailles to act as his spy. On her way to Versailles, she is intercepted by William of Orange who forces her to act as a double agent in his behalf. Despite his religious beliefs altering from those of King Charles II, Daniel becomes a courtier to the King by 1685, and when Charles dies, he becomes advisor to King James II, the new crown of England. He continues to be involved with the English court until he leaves for America. In Versailles, Eliza becomes the broker of the French nobility, and her success at helping the French court earn a profit gains her the title Countess de Zeur. In the Hague, she meets Nicholas Fatio with whom she helps prevent the kidnapping of William. Eliza provides William with notes on the positioning of the French regiments, allowing him to march on England in 1688 and assume the throne, becoming King William III of England.



Style

Point of View

"Quicksilver" is mostly told from a third-person point of view, but some portions of *Odalisque*, the third book, are told through a first-person point of view. Though the narrator is omniscient, proven by the fact that he is privy to most, if not all, of the characters' thoughts and emotions, he presents only a limited point of view, sharing only what is pertinent at specific points in the narrative. Generally, the point of view is reliable, but there are some instances where a lie is told by one character only to be refuted at a later point in the novel. An example of this is Rossignol claiming Eliza's child is d'Arcachon's until Eliza later tells Leibniz that Rossignol impregnated her. The narrator's method of providing limited and sometimes incorrect information serves to add suspense to the novel.

The novel is written using a large amount of exposition, although an extensive amount of dialogue also appears in the novel. This distribution is effective as it provides readers with information about the characters, their social class and the political and scientific environment in which the narrative occurs. Many events act as a backdrop against which the narrative plays out, though these events do not play a significant role in the narrative itself except as the circumstance by which certain things occur. The viewpoint of "Quicksilver" is mostly seen through the eyes of Daniel, Eliza, and Jack, but some portions of the novel are seen from the viewpoint of other characters, such as some of the epistolary portions in *Odalisque*.

Setting

"Quicksilver" is set predominantly in Europe with a small amount of the first book occurring in Massachusetts. It is set during the Age of Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries. The characters are mostly English, French and German which ties into the political background of the narrative. Many characters are members of the Royal Society, emphasizing the importance of scientific improvement during this time period, and their social class is also important as many characters are members of the nobility.

Daniel Waterhouse lives in Massachusetts, and this is where Enoch travels to retrieve Daniel when Sophie summons him to return to London to reconcile Newton and Leibniz. The College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Cambridge is where Daniel first meets and befriends Isaac Newton while they attend school there starting in 1661.

Woolsthorpe is where Newton's family home is located in Lincolnshire. Epsom, where Comstock's seat is located, is where Daniel studies Natural Philosophy under Wilkins and Hooke during the Plague of 1665. The *Minerva* is the ship Daniel takes from Massachusetts to London. Captain van Hoek is the captain of the *Minerva*. In 1672, Daniel works with Hooke at Gresham College. Daniel first meets Leibniz at London Bridge. The Royal Society often holds their meetings at Gunfleet House. The Shaftoes



are from the Isle of Dogs. Jack Shaftoe joins the military to expel the Turks from Vienna, and this is where he finds and rescues Eliza. Jack and Eliza spend the winter of 1683-1684 in Bohemia near a hot spring. Jack and Eliza travel to the Leipzig Fair in the spring of 1684 to sell their ostrich feathers and Turkish war horse. Here, they meet Dr. Leibniz. Dr. Leibniz's silver mine is located in the Harz Mountains, and Eliza and Jack visit the mine with him because Eliza is interested in buying shares in the mine. In 1684, Jack and Eliza go to Amsterdam where Eliza learns about the trade of commodities. She stays in Amsterdam after Jack goes to Paris to sell Turk and the ostrich feathers. Eliza meets d'Avaux and the Duke of Monmouth while residing in Amsterdam. Jack goes to Paris to sell his wares after leaving Eliza in Amsterdam. He is arrested by nobles, but John Churchill helps him escape. Daniel spends a lot of time at Whitehall Palace while serving King Charles II. d'Avaux sends Eliza to Versailles to be his spy on the French court, but on her journey, William of Orange intercepts Eliza and forces her to agree to act as a double agent on his behalf. Daniel is imprisoned by Jeffreys in the Tower of London in 1688, but he escapes with the assistance of Bob Shaftoe. Eliza joins Liselotte at St. Cloud to demonstrate bareback riding, and from St. Cloud, she takes a boat to the Hague to tell William of Orange all she has learned at the French court. Hooke forces Daniel to have his bladder stones removed at Bedlam before leaving London for Massachusetts.

Language and Meaning

The language in this novel is generally formal but casual at times as Stephenson writes in the picaresque style, using a combination of period and anachronistic language with frequent references from common usage. The use of 17th century sentence structure and orthography can be seen in his use of italicization and capitalization. The language used in this novel aids comprehension as it provides the reader with the feeling of the Baroque period without leaving the 21st century altogether. The language tends to characterize the characters, specifically in regard to their social classes, as well as the transition into the Age of Enlightenment.

The novel is written using a large amount of exposition, though an extensive amount of dialogue also appears in the novel. This distribution is effective as it provides readers with information about the characters, their social class and the political and scientific environment in which the narrative occurs. The language in "Quicksilver" allows readers to become immersed in the Baroque period while still using modern verbiage so readers do not become too confused. Overall, the language is fairly easy to understand and frequently comical.

Structure

This novel is divided into three interior books in order to make it more approachable as "Quicksilver" as a whole spans 916 pages. The first book, Quicksilver, encompasses 335 pages which contains flashbacks to Daniel Waterhouse's time in London during the 1660s while set in a frame story that occurs in Massachusetts in 1713. The second



book, *King of the Vagabonds*, encompasses 272 pages, and *Odalisque*, the third and final book in "Quicksilver" includes 305 pages. Each of these interior books contains multiple sections which are titled by location and date. The sections vary in length greatly, ranging from one to fifty pages each. The sections are very detailed as they span a short amount of time; however, sometimes, the narrative skips as much as twenty years.

"Quicksilver" by Neal Stephenson is the first volume of a historical fiction series about the Baroque period. The novel follows the life and achievements of Dr. Daniel Waterhouse as he becomes involved in the politics of the period, while maintaining his interest in science and his affiliation with the Royal Society of London. "Quicksilver" is an entertaining novel that liberally includes fictional characters and events within the true historical context of the Baroque period. The pace of this novel is quite slow and can be somewhat challenging to read since the excessive details can be extremely tedious. The novel contains many flashbacks, especially in the first interior book as Daniel recounts his past in England on his journey from Massachusetts. Flashbacks also frequently occur throughout the narrative as past and present events are compared. Overall, "Quicksilver" was an entertaining and enjoyable read.



Quotes

"State your intentions, Muse. I know you're there. Dead bards who pined for you have said You're bright as flame, but fickle as the air. My pen and I, submerged in liquid shade, Much dark can spread, on days and over reams But without you, no radiance can shed. Why rustle in the dark, when fledged with fire? Craze the night with flails of light. Reave Your turbid shroud. Bestow what I require. But you're not in the dark. I do believe I swim, like squid, in clouds of my own make, To you, offensive. To us both, opaque. What's constituted so, only a pen Can penetrate. I have one here; let's go." (Invocation).

"Gold knows things that no man does." (Quicksilver, p. 11).

"No linear indexing system is adequate to express the multi-dimensionality of knowledge." (Quicksilver, p. 36).

"The future is as set as the past, and the future is that I'll climb on board the Minerva within the hour. You can argue that I should stay in Boston to raise my son. Of course, I should like nothing better. I should, God willing, have the satisfaction of watching him grow up for as many years as I have left. Godfrey would have a flesh-and-blood father with many conspicuous weaknesses and failings. He'd hold me in awe for a short while, as all boys do their fathers. It would not last. But if I sail away on Minerva, he'll have a phant'sy of one, infinitely ductile in his mind. I can go away and imagine generations of Waterhouses yet unborn, and Godfrey can imagine a hero-father better than I can really be." (Quicksilver, p. 67).

"What if Newton was right, and all the others wrong? It was a difficult thing to believe. On the other hand, he wanted to believe it, because if it were true, it meant that in failing to attend so many lectures he had missed precisely nothing, and in acting as Newton's manservant he was getting the best education in natural philosophy a man could ever have." (Quicksilver, p. 72).

"Well, God gave us brains for a reason- not to use those brains would be a sin." (Quicksilver, p. 99).

"We fall towards the center of the earth. The same center on which the centrifugal force pivots- like a rock whirled on the end of a string... If you make certain assumptions about the force of gravity, and how the weight of an object diminishes as it gets farther away, it's not improbable at all. It just happens. You would keep going round and round forever." (Quicksilver, p. 154-155).

"His mind has quite run ahead of his quill; his pen has gone dry, but his face is damp. Alone in his cabin, Daniel indulges himself for a minute in another favorite pastime of five-year-olds. Some say that crying is childish. Daniel- who since the birth of Godfrey has had more opportunities than he should have liked to observe crying- takes a contrary view. Crying loudly is childish, in that it reflects a belief, on the cryer's part, that



someone is around to hear the noise, and come a-running to make it all better. Crying in absolute silence, as Daniel does this morning, is the mark of the mature sufferer who no longer nurses, nor is nursed by, any such comfortable delusions." (Quicksilver, p. 162).

"If money is a science, then it is a dark science, darker than Alchemy." (Quicksilver, p. 212).

"The point I am making is that there is no harm- or peril, if that is what you want to call it- in employing tactics. Cromwell used tactics to win battles, did he not? It did not mean he lacked faith. On the contrary- not to use the brains God gave you, and making every struggle into a frontal charge, is sinful- thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (Quicksilver, p. 234).

"All though the play [Daniel] had been trying and trying to suspend his disbelief, but the damned thing just wouldn't suspend." (Quicksilver, p. 241).

"You are the same man as you were- or weren't- ten years ago, Daniel Waterhouse! You were ruled by fear then- and you'd have England ruled by it now! Thank God you are sequestered within these walls, and unable to infect London with your disgusting pusillanimity!" Jeffreys, Quicksilver, page 247

"So, I have complete freedom of action... but God knows in advance what I will do, because it is my nature to act in harmony with the world, and God partakes of that harmony." (Quicksilver, p. 300).

"Daniel, never mind what people say about you- you always have your reasons." (Quicksilver, p. 311).

"Jack has been presented with the opportunity to be stupid in some way that was much more interesting than being shrewd would've been." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 367).

"Years of dangling from hanged men's feet taught me the value of honest dealings." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 387).

"As the Grand Vizier recently learned, all the riches in the world are of no use if you can't defend 'em. This is wealth, and the means to defend it, combined into one-perfection." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 392).

"My deformity gives me fewer chances to be bad than I should prefer to have." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 410).

"I do not believe God put me on this earth, and gave me either the best or second-best mind currently in existence, so that I could spend my days trying to beg money from the likes of Lothar von Hacklheber, so that I could dig a large hole in the ground. I don't want my epitaph to be, 'He brought the price of silver down one-tenth of one percent.'" (King of the Vagabonds, p. 432).



"I reasoned it out myself. Someone has to come up with new ideas." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 442).

"Because, Jack, you volunteered to be taken down into eternal torment in place of her. This is the absolute minimum (unless I'm mistaken) that any female requires from her man." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 464).

"He's accomplishing nothing- that's very different from doing nothing." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 468).

"If you play into the comte d'Avaux's hands so easily, by diverting your affections from Mary- what use will you be when you sit on the throne of England?" (King of the Vagabonds, p. 527).

"You are something of a virtuoso when it comes to manipulating men's mental states." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 531).

"If you shut up, there is an infinitesimal chance of my being able to save you from being tortured to death before sundown." (King of the Vagabonds, p. 544).

"Much had happened in the previous twelve years, but nothing was really different. Daniel's world had been like a piece of caout-chouc that stretched but did not rupture, and never changed its true shape." Odalisque, page 613

"If Daniel had held a mirror up to his own face he'd have seen just the same evolution. He was one of them. Not as powerful, not as highly ranked- in fact, completely unranked- but he was here, now, and for these people that was the only sort of rank that amounted to anything." (Odalisque, p. 632).

"Nobles of France enjoy my esteem and confidence as a birthright, and make themselves common by their failures. Commoners may earn my esteem and confidence by pleasing me, and thereby ennoble themselves. You may please me by showing discretion... You may tell [d'Avaux] everything, so that he may feel pride, inasmuch as he is my friend, and fear, inasmuch as he is my foe." (Odalisque, p. 656).

"In a way, a slave is fortunate, because she has more head-room for her dreams and phant'sies, which can soar to dizzying heights without bumping up 'gainst the ceiling. But the ones who live at Versailles are as high as humans can get, they practically have to go about stooped over because their wigs and head-dresses are scraping the vault of heaven- which consequently seems low and mean to them. When they look up, they see, not a vast beckoning space above, but rather- ... There is no head-room. And so, for one who has just come from Versailles, it is easy to look at these waves, accomplishing so little, and to think that no matter what efforts we put forth in our lives, all we're really doing is rearranging the sandgrains in a beach that in essence never changes." (Odalisque, p. 690-691).

"I've not given up on England just yet, thank you." (Odalisque, p. 743).



"So he spent a while searching his soul, and found nothing there." (Odalisque, p. 794).

"Not so much that I am with you as that we are with most of England, and England with us. You speak of putting Jeffreys to death with the strength of your right arm. Yet I tell you that if we must rely on your arm, strong as it is, we would fail. But if, as I believe, England is with us, why, then we need to do no more than find him and say in a clear voice, 'This fellow here is my lord Jeffreys,' and his death will follow as if by natural law, like a ball rolling down a ramp. This is what I mean when I speak of revolution." (Odalisque, p. 810).

"No matter how strongly I hold to my convictions, I feel my resolve weakening after a few weeks at Court. For the people there are so wealthy, powerful, attractive, and cocksure that after a while it is impossible not to feel their influence. At first it induces a deviation too subtle to detect, but eventually one falls into orbit around the Sun King." (Odalisque, p. 832).

"Indeed, to marry such a man would be a grievous error. But in looking for a lover, one could do worse than a man who is clean, extremely polite, and has a madly vibrating jade phallus for a right forefinger." (Odalisque, p. 846).

"The old schemes by which we reckoned a man's virtue have now been o'erthrown along with Absolute Monarchy. Your Revolution is pervasive. It is tricky, too. I don't know whether you will run afoul of its tricks in the end. But if you do, it shall not be by my hand... Provided you continue to be the enemy of my enemies." (Odalisque, p. 870).

"Each man finds his own sort of rudeness. Some burst into houses, and conversations, uninvited." (Odalisque, p. 879).

"As I came in here I saw a map, lately taken from this house, burning in the fire. The map was empty, for it depicted the ocean- most likely, a part of it where no man has ever been. A few lines of latitude were ruled across that vellum void, and some legendary isles drawn in, with great authority, and where the map-maker could not restrain himself he drew phantastickal monsters. That map, to me, is Alchemy. It is good that it burnt, and fitting that it burnt tonight, the eve of a Revolution that I will be so bold as to call my life's work. In a few years Mr. Hooke will learn to make a proper chronometer, finishing what Mr. Huygens began thirty years ago, and then the Royal Society will draw maps with lines of longitude as well as latitude, giving us a grid- and where there be islands, we will rightly draw them. Where there are none, we will draw none, nor dragons, nor sea-monsters- and that will be the end of Alchemy." (Odalisque, p. 881).

Topics for Discussion

Why does Enoch travel to America?

Who is Daniel Waterhouse and why is he important to England?

How does Jack Shaftoe unwittingly play a role in the English Revolution of 1688?

Describe Eliza's relationships with Leibniz, d'Avaux, and William of Orange.

What role does the Royal Society play in "Quicksilver?"

How does Daniel escape from Blackbeard?

Briefly detail Daniel's education in Natural Philosophy.

What is the relationship between the Royal Society and the politics in England and France in the 1680s?