

A Sparrow Falls Study Guide

A Sparrow Falls by Wilbur Smith

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Plot Summary

A Sparrow Falls by Wilbur Smith is a riveting tale that begins with the war in France, and follows three combatants back to Africa. Mark Anders and Fergus MacDonald are a crack sniper team in France, but when Mark is shot, the war is over for him. He goes home, looking forward to being with his grandfather, only to find that he is dead. As he looks into the death, he becomes a target himself, and the closer he looks the more foul the story of his grandfather's accident is. After two attempts on his life, Mark realizes his grandfather was murdered so that a group of men could gain access to 'Andersland' and the water on it. Dirk Courtney's greed knows no bounds as he tries to gain access to land slated as a National Park so that he can dam a gorge and flood the Bubezi Valley creating more farmland and increasing his net worth. Mark is forced to flee Ladyburg, and stays for a short time in Fordsburg with his old partner Fergus MacDonald and his wife Helena but they have become deeply involved in the Marxist/Communist movement, supporting the uprising of the workers against the bosses and government in general.

Mark leaves and takes a job at a car dealership where he crosses paths once more with his old General from France, Sean Courtney. In a quirk of fate, Mark winds up in Sean's employ and helps him to bring down the civil uprising led by his old partner Fergus, killing Fergus and his wife Helena in the process. When martial law is lifted, Mark is still seeking the truth surrounding his grandfather's death, and wants to find his grave. Sean Courtney wrangles a position for Mark that he can't turn down, making him warden of the newly ratified National Park at Chaka's Gate, which just happens to be the last place his grandfather was seen. He falls in love with the General's daughter, Storm, and their secret affair results in a pregnancy that Storm keeps from Mark because she and Mark fight over his plans for the future. Storm leaves to save face, and marries but her husband is only interested in her father's money, and the marriage is short lived. When Mark hears that she is married, he loses hope, and marries someone else. Marion is more in love with her rising status than she is with Mark, but she goes with him to Chaka's Gate.

The twists in this story continue, as the fight over Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley seems all but lost to Mark and Sean when Sean's son Dirk takes over Sean's seat in Parliament and works to push through the development of the area. He almost succeeds, but nature wins out, and love prevails when Marion is killed by a lioness and Mark and Storm find each other again. The story doesn't end there, and in an explosive finish Mark and Sean both believe they've lost everything, and the Courtney family ends up ensuring the permanent security of the natural beauty of Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley.



Chapters 1 - 5

Chapters 1 - 5 Summary

A Sparrow Falls by Wilbur Smith is a riveting tale that begins with the war in France, and follows three combatants back to Africa. Mark Anders and Fergus MacDonald are a crack sniper team in France, but when Mark is shot, the war is over for him. He goes home, looking forward to being with his grandfather, only to find that he is dead. As he looks into the death, he becomes a target himself, and the closer he looks the more foul the story of his grandfather's accident is. After two attempts on his life, Mark realizes his grandfather was murdered so that a group of men could gain access to 'Andersland' and the water on it. Dirk Courtney's greed knows no bounds as he tries to gain access to land slated as a National Park so that he can dam a gorge and flood the Bubezi Valley creating more farmland and increasing his net worth. Mark is forced to flee Ladyburg, and stays for a short time in Fordsburg with his old partner Fergus MacDonald and his wife Helena but they have become deeply involved in the Marxist/Communist movement, supporting the uprising of the workers against the bosses and government in general.

Brigadier-General Sean Courtney arrives at the second Battalion mess - the envy of the brigade because of its location thirty feet underground. Anders and MacDonald, a well-known sniper team, arrived earlier that morning. Mark Anders is honored to meet Sean, having heard the stories of his history at the gold fields of Witwatersrand, and his legendary chase of General Leroux across Southern Africa.

Chapters 1 - 5 Analysis

Sean Courtney prefers to be in the field with the men rather than in an office as his stature as Brigadier-General suggests. He heads for the farmhouse that is the mess for the second Battalion, and loses his subaltern, Nick van der Heever to a crack shot by a German sniper. He takes the loss personally, and is informed the services of the crack sniper team of Anders and MacDonald have been secured.

Anders is honored to meet Sean, but MacDonald is immediately jealous of the common bond they find, as Sean is acquainted with Mark's grandfather. Though Sean directs his questions to Mark, the older MacDonald interjects, claiming how difficult his part in their sniper team is. After all, he has to manipulate the dummy, Cuthbert just right to entice the enemy sniper to give away his position. Sean is not impressed.



Chapters 6 - 10

Chapters 6 - 10 Summary

Mark moves through the line cut through the wire in front of 'A' Company. The snow stops, and he waits near the ruins of the farmhouse in fear. He hears a voice ask in German, 'Bist du da?' (Are you there?). The voice says they are going back, so Mark follows and pushes into a tangle of roots, checking his rifle carefully to ensure the sight hasn't moved. At dawn, he flexes his fingers. A blanket of snow covers him. MacDonald moves into position with Cuthbert and, when a shot rings out, the dummy kicks in his hands. Fergus curses. The German is in the same stand as Mark.

Mark's ears buzz. Using periphery vision, he sees the Mauser barrel. He imagines the shape of the body, using the Mauser as a reference point to locate his hips. He can't risk removing the safety. It has to be done in one smooth motion. He sees the impact of his shot, and shoots again before the German cries out. He waits until he hears him sobbing in German, 'Oh my God... the blood. Oh God, the blood.' Mark approaches warily to find both shots having gone through the German's hips. Something in Mark snaps and his feet are running, but none of it seems real. A German machine gunner takes careful aim and fires a burst that hits Mark in the back, taking him down immediately. Fergus asks permission to take out a patrol to retrieve Mark and it is granted. Taking volunteers, he finds Mark shortly after eight. It takes nearly an hour to carefully cut him out of the wire.

Chapters 6 - 10 Analysis

Mark works his way carefully to the abandoned farmhouse, but he knows he can't stay where he is. He hears a German voice call out. Another one answers and Mark realizes his good fortune and his fear immediately subsides as he follows them, his nerves now steady. He makes his way to the spot he and MacDonald chose with binoculars earlier, working his way into the root system of a fallen oak. He checks his rifle, eats and sleeps. When he wakes, a light snowfall covers him, and he is careful not to disturb this camouflage as he scans the area for his adversary.

Fergus gets into position with the dummy Cuthbert. When the shot rings out, Fergus curses, realizing the sniper has chosen the same stand of trees. Mark calculates the body size, and stares until he makes out the material of the German's uniform. Then he rolls and fires two shots in succession. After a moment, he hears cries, so he goes to his adversary, finding him in a pool of blood. Mark snaps and runs for the British lines, but before he gets there, a German machine gunner cuts him down. MacDonald chokes back a sob and asks for permission to take a patrol out to retrieve him. It takes more than an hour to cut Mark free of the wire.



Chapters 11 - 15

Chapters 11 - 15 Summary

Months later, Mark heads back to Andersland, excited at the prospect of seeing his grandfather again. A distant thud and voices take him to men falling heavy timber and approaching he asks what they are doing. One man says the land is owned by a Ladyburg company that intends to put in sugar crops. Mark realizes his grandfather is dead. This is something he would never have allowed. He finds his grandfather's hiding place, and his prized possessions are still there. Now there is no doubt. He walks to his Uncle Fred's who explains his grandfather was hunting with Piet Greyling and his son at Chaka's Gate when he fell on his rifle, shooting himself in the stomach a year ago.

He finds the Land Deeds Registrars office to look at the deed for Andersland, which states Dennis Petersen was authorized as power of attorney for John Anders, and declared the property legally sold to Ladyburg Estates Ltd. He finds the principle is Dirk Courtney, and witnesses were Piet Greyling and his son. The directors of Ladyburg Estates are listed as Dirk Courtney and Ronald Pye. Most of the shares held by the Ladyburg Farmers Bank are owned by Dirk Courtney, Ronald Pye, and Dennis Petersen. He later discovers that Piet Greyling and his son quit their jobs and left for Rhodesia.

Chapters 11 - 15 Analysis

Mark returns to Andersland to see his grandfather. He finds a huge crew of men cutting down the trees his grandfather loved, and approaches the foreman to be told the land was sold to Ladyburg Estates. Mark returns to the homestead, and finds the secret hiding place in the floor that still holds his grandfathers' most prized possessions. Now he knows his grandfather intended to return, but something stopped him. He goes to his Uncle Fred's and gets the story of his grandfather's death. A hunting accident, he says, in Chaka's Gate, where he supposedly lost his footing and fell on his rifle shooting himself in the stomach. The next morning he heads for Ladyburg and the Lands Deeds Office and learns who sold the property, and who bought it. Three names keep coming up. Dirk Courtney, Ronald Pye and Dennis Petersen all profited from the sale of Andersland. He learns that Piet Greyling and his son quit their job with the railroad.



Chapters 16 - 20

Chapters 16 - 20 Summary

Hobday informs Dirk Courtney of his encounter with Mark Anders. Dirk listens, and asks Hobday to wait while Ronald and Dennis voice their panic, accusing Dirk of having jumped too soon. He reminds them of the wealth he's brought into the Farmers Bank, and tells them to leave it to him.

Mark approaches the bank but they are closing so he camps along the Stroom Banks, and finds himself hunted by a group of men. He runs for his life. The train is just leaving Ladyburg, and he grabs the last rail as it passes. He crawls towards the front and notices a Zulu man who shares his blanket, and Mark dozes until the train slows. Uneasily, Mark looks ahead to see a truck with lights on and men waiting. He hops off as the train slows, and hears the men telling the driver they seek a fugitive from justice. The Zulu darts out and they shoot him dead before realizing he is the wrong man. The train pulls out, and Mark gets back on. In Fordsburg, he finds Fergus's house, meets Helena and tells them what happened.

Chapters 16 - 20 Analysis

Hobday tells Dirk Courtney about his encounter with Mark Anders. Having thought he was long dead, Dirk and his compatriots had eliminated John Anders to gain control of the only property with water, a necessity to the expansion of the sugar mill. Mark heads to Fordsburg, goes to Fergus's home and tells them what happened. Mark is surprised to discover that his old friend is a Bolshevik and a practicing communist, but they insist that it is the workers against the bosses now. Fergus is convinced that one day they will be called upon to serve as a sniper pair again.



Chapters 21 - 25

Chapters 21 - 25 Summary

Fergus is popular at the communist meetings, though he admits to Mark that much of it is rhetoric to motivate them for the coming battle. Mark asks Fergus what they plan to fight with, and is taken down to a cellar that has more weapons than Mark has ever seen before. He feels sick and hardly sleeps that night. He knows he must leave. When he returns one day, he finds Harry Fisher, the Chairman of the party, announcing that Fergus is a new member of the Central Committee and will be gone for two weeks to coordinate other groups. Harry tells Mark they have decided to issue him a party card as well. Mark goes to see Fergus off, and heads to work. When he walks into the office, the supervisor tells him he is late and Mark smiles, announcing he has come to clean out his desk. Returning to the MacDonald household, Helena greets him eagerly, wearing her best dress. She serves him a special supper of goose, and he opens up to her in a way he hasn't to anyone. When the time for bed comes, Mark is relieved that she goes into her own room, but moments later, he hears the latch and she is standing in front of him. She drops her negligee and Mark stares, shocked and aroused. She encourages him until he can't hold back.

Chapters 21 - 25 Analysis

Mark listens to the enthusiasm of his hosts, and when he asks how they plan to go to war, Fergus shows him their storehouse of weaponry. Mark hardly sleeps that night. One evening he finds the Chairman of the Party, Harry Fisher, in the MacDonald residence and Fergus tells him that he is a new member of the Central Committee. As such, he will travel to the various local committees to co-ordinate their efforts, and Mark realizes that for two weeks he will be alone with Helena, feeling a strange mixture of fear and desire. Harry Fisher has one more surprise. They have decided to issue Mark his party card. When Fergus gets on the train, Mark spends the day walking, and returning to the MacDonald residence, Helena greets him, dressed in her best dress, and feeds him. When bedtime comes, she continues on to her own room, but comes to him moments later. She drops her negligee and stands naked in front of him. All reason leaves, he forgets about Fergus, and about their friendship.



Chapters 26 - 30

Chapters 26 - 30 Summary

For five days, most of their time is spent in bed. On the fifth, a letter arrives from Fergus, and guilt hits him like a fist. He goes to the station and buys a ticket to Durban. Mark knows he can't return to Ladyburg until he finds out who put a price on his head. It can only be because of Andersland. He pens a letter to the woman he met in the Ladyburg Companies office, without a word as to the information he wants yet. The next morning he goes to the library and finds the first mention of Dirk Courtney in 1900. The article refers to the return of Colonel Sean Courtney, with his ten-year-old son, Dirk. It surprises Mark to find out Dirk is the son of his old General, Sean Courtney. He looks for a job and at one interview realizes the man is looking for a kick back commission. Mark says he'd think of them as equal partners, and Dicky Lancome is thrilled. Told to report the next morning, he goes to the nearest tailor. Mark stalls telling Dicky he'd prefer to have him point out the features first of the Cadillac before he drives it. Then he pays close attention to Dicky's use of the pedals and the steering wheel. When Dicky leaves Mark to watch the car lot, an elderly couple comes in and asks for a test drive. He obliges, and returning to the lot, Mark is still shaking, but makes the sale.

Chapters 26 - 30 Analysis

Mark and Helena never leave the cottage. On the fifth, a letter arrives from Fergus changes everything. He buys a ticket to Durban and packs what little items he's accumulated, while Helena begs him to take her along. He refuses. Mark knows returning to Ladyburg is dangerous, so in Durban he looks up everything he can find about Dirk Courtney. An article tells of the return of General Sean Courtney, and his purchase of the Lion Kop Ranch with his son, Dirk. He wonders if the General has anything to do with the price on his head. Mark is hired at a car dealership, but not before promising the manager fifty percent of the commissions he earns. Dicky Lancome is thrilled by Mark's offer of a fifty-fifty split, and when he arrives the next morning, Dicky takes him around the block once in the Cadillac. Mark tries to remember everything he sees, having never driven before. Then Dicky leaves. His first customers come in and he takes them for a test drive, surprisingly managing to sell them a Cadillac afterward.



Chapters 31 - 35

Chapters 31 - 35 Summary

Dicky is thrilled - his commission is ten pounds. That night, Mark continues his research of the Courtney line. The landlady has a letter for him, and surprised he opens a note from Marion Littlejohn of the Companies Office in Ladyburg. He asks for a photograph of her, and the next letter that comes includes not only a picture, but twenty-five pages as well. She asks him for a photo as well.

Mark draws out the family trees of the Courtneys, the Pyes and the Petersens. He maps out properties that link them and shades in the Courtney's. When he shades in Andersland, he can see the boundary follows the river. On his next trip to Ladyburg, Mark will play the part of Cuthbert. Marion writes that her brother and wife are coming to Durban on the fourteenth and Mark is excited by the prospect. He borrows the Cadillac and Mark initiates her but there is no pleasure on Marion's part. He finds himself proposing to her and she accepts. Mark returns to work, and Dicky leaves just as new customers come in. General Courtney remembers Mark's name with fondness. He tells Mark he hasn't seen him at the parades, and Mark says little, watching Storm while Sean admits that he'd like to win the Africa Cup this year.

Chapters 31 - 35 Analysis

Dicky is happy with Mark's performance, assuring him that he has a future. Mark continues to research the names involved in the sale of Andersland. He gets a letter from Marion in Ladyburg, telling him her last name is Littlejohn, and she is very receptive. He can't bring her face to mind, so he asks her for her photo, and casually mentions the research he is doing, claiming it is for a book he wants to write. Mark continues to pour over old newspapers, and when he shades business holdings onto a map, he sees how Andersland plays into their plan as the only land with water. Marion writes him to tell him that her sister and husband are coming to Durban and she has been invited to join them. When she arrives, Dicky lets him use the Cadillac. Impulsively, Mark proposes and she accepts. When Mark goes back to work, he winds up taking General Sean Courtney and his daughter Storm for a test drive. Sean tells him about the Africa Cup and their parades, but Mark has had enough of the Army.



Chapters 36 - 40

Chapters 36 - 40 Summary

Storm is thrilled about the Cadillac. The General is still thinking about taking the Africa Cup this year. Mark drives the Cadillac to Emoyeni, and when Storm finally walks over, she asks for the keys, insisting he fetch them. Mark tells her he'd be happy to - if she says please. Dicky has to fire him, but tells him to wait a month for the dust to settle and if he isn't employed to come back. He pawns his suit and his Military Medal for gallantry, buys a P.14 and a military haversack and leaves. After five miles of walking, Mark knows how soft he's become. He keeps his distance from Andersland, crossing the river miles upstream. On the third day, he makes thirty miles and by dusk can see Chaka's Gate.

General Sean Courtney tells the Prime Minister, General Jan Smuts, that the book Colonel Garrick Courtney has written is his finest work yet. It is a tribute to his son Captain Michael Courtney D.F.C., killed years earlier, and Garry asks the Prime Minister to write a short forward. The Prime Minister is honored.

Chapters 36 - 40 Analysis

Storm gets the Cadillac she wants, and when Mark delivers it, she behaves like a spoiled princess, demanding he fetch the keys. Mark tells her to say please and leaves when she won't. Dicky says he has to fire him, but he should return in a month when things have died down. Mark pawns his suit and his Military Medal and purchases a haversack and a P.14. He is soft and the second morning hobbles for much of the first mile, and makes thirty miles the third.

General Sean Courtney tells the Prime Minister his brother's new manuscript is his best work yet. Titled *The Young Eagles* is a tribute to Garrick Courtney's son, Captain Michael Courtney D.F.C., who is in reality Sean Courtney's son. When asked to write a forward, Smuts is honored.



Chapters 41 - 45

Chapters 41 - 45 Summary

Sean goes into his office and comes across the invitation he sent to Mark Anders. Disappointed, he finishes and goes out to greet his guests. Jan Smuts mentions the latest lay offs of two thousand mineworkers, and explains that the figures support the decision. When Sean presses, he admits he needs Sean's support at an upcoming meeting with the Cabinet. The workers are organizing with modern weapons. They are training, and Sean knows that the future will see the land he loves ravaged by war again. He agrees to support Smuts, and throw his regiment behind it.

Marion Littlejohn reads the letter from Mark twice, and later hurries to the shop on Main Street. She puts another half-sovereign gold piece on the counter, and then asks Miss Lucy if she can take one pair of sheets home to begin the embroidery. That evening, Marion and Lynette work on opposite ends and Marion asks Lynette's husband him to help Mark on her behalf. Peter is reluctant, but finally agrees. The next day, Peter broaches the issue and when he mentions who it's for, a look crosses Dirk's face that scares Peter.

Chapters 41 - 45 Analysis

Sean answers correspondence, and finds the invitation he sent to Mark Anders returned. When he sees the note that explains Mark has moved on, he is angry because Mark is his hope for winning the Africa Cup this year. He joins his guests on the lawn. Jan Smuts explains the mines lay off of two thousand workers and Sean unhappy. Jan assures him it is unavoidable and adds they are arming themselves for war, and solicits Sean's support.

Marion Littlejohn reads the letter from Mark twice. After work, he makes it to Miss Lucy's shop just as the store is closing. She convinces her to allow her to take a couple of the sheet sets home with her to begin embroidery. Sitting with her sister Lynette later, Marion asks Peter for help to get Mark an interview with Dirk. Usually impatient with personal requests, Dirk is oddly congenial when he discovers who it is for.



Chapters 46 - 50

Chapters 46 - 50 Summary

Mark heads north in peace, broken only by the sting of a Tsetse fly. His grandfather once explained that without this fly, cultivation would have taken over the land. He retraces the old man's steps searching for his final resting place. On the tenth day, he sees his first larger game but is reluctant to disturb the small herd of Impala. He thinks about how game has dwindled, and remembers grandfather telling him the great emptiness is coming.

Dirk Courtney hosts a dog-fighting event that brings out blood lust in all involved. Charles and Dirk wager ten thousand pounds. Dirk's dog wins.

Dicky Lancome recognizes General Courtney and thinks the General has come to discuss the insult to his daughter but Sean asks the whereabouts of Mark Anders. Dicky assures him he is black marked from employment but Sean has no idea what he is talking about. The General listens, and asks what was said to Storm. Sean tells him when he sees Mark again, to give him the envelope, and to tell him of their conversation.

Chapters 46 - 50 Analysis

Mark has a month to find the remains of his grandfather and it is ten day before he sights his first big game. He puts a crippled Doe out of her misery, and considers how game has dwindled, remembering how the old man once told him that the great emptiness is coming. Dirk Courtney hosts dog-fighting events. Charles and Dirk wager ten thousand pounds. Dirk's dog wins.

Dicky Lancome is alone when Sean strides in and asks him where Mark Anders can be found. He assures him that he personally fired him. Sean is surprised, gives him the envelope containing his invitation, telling Dicky that when Mark returns he is to tell him about their conversation.



Chapters 51 - 55

Chapters 51 - 55 Summary

Ronald Pye is summoned by Dirk. His brother in law Dennis has a large gambling debt and Ronald reluctantly agrees to pay. He wants to sell his shares in the bank and leave, but Dirk refuses. Their bond includes the murder and he tells Ronald he wants six hundred thousand pounds as well. When Ronald refuses, he pulls out a pistol, claiming he'll take out Ronald's children if necessary, reciting a story of the deaths of ninety-six innocent people.

Mark finds snares and footprints. Twenty-two days after his exposure, malaria sets in. He hears a day owl and heard the same calls before the attack in Ladyburg. He sees a man he recognizes. He can't run, so he makes the sound of an owl, and brings one man close. Hobday shoots and Mark falls into the river, but the shot hits his rifle. Seventy-two hours later Mark is conscious. Near him are a pot of medicinal liquid and a pot of cold porridge. He eats half before falling asleep again. It is days before he can get to the river. The pots are gone, and he takes it as a sign he is healthy enough. He leaves his hunting knife in gratitude and returns to Natal Motors. Dicky gives him a dozen letters from Marion, and tells him of Sean's invitation. Mark goes and the General introduces him as the one who will win them the Africa Cup. Sean offers Mark a job. Mark accepts.

Chapters 51 - 55 Analysis

Ronald Pye is summoned to Dirk's lair and finds his brother-in-law. Dirk forces him to pay his brother in law's gambling debt and Ronald tells him he's leaving, but Dirk tells them a story at gunpoint about being solely responsible for the deaths of a hundred men, women and children.

Mark's finds evidence of snares, and footprints of a man. On the twenty-first morning, he has the chills and fever of malaria, and hears the call of an owl, answered in kind on the other side of him. Weak and disoriented, he imitates the owl, drawing one of them to him, and shoots him. He forgets about the second man who shoots him without warning and Mark falls into the river. The shot hits the stock of his rifle. He wakes seventy-two hours later, confused, in a rock shelter. He finds medicine and food nearby, and dimly realizes someone is helping him. Well enough, he returns to Natal Motors. Dicky gives him his mail, and the invitation, convincing him to go. Before the evening is over, he is offered a job by Sean, which he immediately accepts.



Chapters 56 - 60

Chapters 56 - 60 Summary

Mark works long hours and Sean throws a party after Mark helps win the Africa Cup. Part way through Ruth confides an unwanted guest arrived - Sean's estranged son, Dirk. Mark goes down when Dirk learns his name Mark realizes he is the man responsible for John Anders death, the attempts on his life, and the theft of Andersland. Sean enters and Dirk makes a proposition. If Sean gets Parliament to release Chaka's Gate, Dirk will dam the river and farm what remains. Mark tells the General he is leaving, and wants Sean to know that he will fight him and his son, but then he sees the General is crying. Soon, life revolves around the Parliament session and they move to Table Mountain for the duration. Storm returns and doesn't recognize Mark at first, but when she does she threatens to talk to her father and then remembers his reaction when she had Mark fired. It led to the first spanking she'd had since the age of fourteen.

Sean and Mark often ride and during one ride, Sean asks Mark if he knows the Bubezi Valley. Mark says that he and his grandfather found much peace there. Sean realizes the importance of its preservation. He intends to ratify the sanctuary of the Bubezi Valley, and Mark feels a sense of destiny. On the way to Cape Town, Sean and Mark stand at the rail, and Mark watches Storm below. He goes back to his cabin to write to Marion, still having had no opportunity to break their engagement. Afterward, Irene knocks and pushes her way in. Drunk, she flirts until Mark can deny her no longer.

Chapters 56 - 60 Analysis

Mark wins the Africa Cup and part way through the party, Ruth asks Mark to take Dirk to the study. When Dirk learns his name, his face confirms that he is the one responsible for his grandfather's death, the theft of Andersland and the attempts on his life. Sean enters and Dirk tells him about his proposition. Mark is horrified and is ready to quit until he realizes that Sean considers it an abomination as well. Soon the entire family relocates to Cape Town, and Storm returns from her trip with Irene. She doesn't recognize Mark at first, but her first instinct is to have him fired, until she remembers how angry her father was after she got him fired from Natal Motors.

Sean tells Mark that in this session of Parliament, he intends to ensure that the land around Chaka's Gate is permanently protected and Mark feels a sense of destiny. When they are on their way to Cape Town on the Dunottar Castle, Mark watches Storm dancing on the deck beneath. He goes back to his cabin and gets a visit from Irene, who pushes her way inside. She flirts until Mark weakens.



Chapters 61 - 65

Chapters 61 - 65 Summary

Irene leaves Mark's cabin and goes to Storm. She blabs that Mark 'bounced her like a rubber ball'. Storm's face gives Irene great satisfaction.

Fergus MacDonald stirs up the union workers, saying they will be out of jobs and Harry tells them their executive recommends they go on strike. 'Slim Jannie Smuts' has an army intent on holding the workers back he says, but they have an army of their own.

The Prime Minister tells his guests the workers are organized and Sean intervenes, hoping the Prime Minister has exaggerated. Mark remembers the cellar of weapons and contemplates his loyalties. Overwhelmed with guilt, he must betray his friend once more. He tells the General about the weapons and then leaves, wandering for hours before finding himself in front of the post office. He goes inside and sends a telegram to warn Fergus they know about the cellar without signing it. Then he leaves, conflicted about both decisions.

Chapters 61 - 65 Analysis

Irene shares her conquest with Storm going directly there to brag about where she's been.

Fergus is in his element, stirring the Union brotherhood into a frenzy. Then Harry Fisher tells them their executives have recommended a full strike.

At Sean's home, Prime Minister Smuts tries to impress upon them the danger of violence from the workers and Sean hopes the workers are much less organized. Mark remembers the stash of weapons, and knocks on the adjoining door to Sean's office to tell him about the weapons. Then he leaves, and wanders the streets for some time before finding going into the post office. He sends a telegram to Fergus warning him and racked with guilt over both decisions, leaves deep in conflict.



Chapters 66 - 70

Chapters 66 - 70 Summary

When Fergus gets home, he calls an emergency meeting. The police arrive at dawn and Fergus commands them to stop. The lead officer announces they have a warrant and will come in by force. Fergus is so eager to fight that he pulls his revolver and fires the agreed upon signal, then shoots the officer in cold blood. In Johannesburg, the only one to slip out is Harry Fisher. He climbs to the roof and counts twenty prisoners.

Mark gives the chauffeur instructions, waiting for Sean who tells him he'll want to see him directly after Jan Smut's speech. When the Rolls pulls away, he sneaks up to Storm's studio to steal a glimpse of her latest canvass, and is so engrossed he doesn't hear her come in. She demands to know what he is doing, and he says she will be a great artist one day. She thanks him, the first civil words she has spoken to him since their arrival in Cape Town, and asks for a lift to hear the P.M.'s speech. The Prime Minister announces a state of martial law through South Africa. The strikers have taken to the streets, killed three police officers, and taken over police stations, forcing the government's hand. Sean tells Mark they leave that night.

Chapters 66 - 70 Analysis

Fergus sees the telegram as a sign. The police arrive at dawn and Fergus himself kills the disabled Captain he's captured in cold blood. Fordsburg has the only advanced warning, and in Johannesburg Harry Fisher manages to get out before being arrested. He sits on the roof and watches as the strikers are rounded up.

Mark helps the General into the Rolls. The General wants Mark to attend the Prime Minister's speech later, and when he is gone, Mark goes back into the house and lets himself into Storm's studio. When she walks in, flustered he blurts out that he believes she'll be a great artist one day. The Prime Minister announces a state of martial law and Sean tells Mark they will leave immediately after he gets home.



Chapters 71 - 75

Chapters 71 - 75 Summary

Mark gets ready Storm shows up, asking how she is supposed to see him off. He suggests a kiss, and a moment later, she is in his arms. He drives as fast as he can, listening to the conversation of the two men in the back. Sean tells Mark not to stop in any of the major towns so that the PM is not recognized, although at a roadside pump the proprietor notices them and warns the Action Committee in Johannesburg anyway.

Fergus is watching the Newlands Police Station through binoculars. He sees that the telephone lines have been cut, and the windows and doors are sandbagged. The police station is isolated. In Dunswart Station, the Transvaal Scottish get off the train, but the strikers are waiting for them. The troops are caught under fire from over a hundred locations and are forced back on the train with twelve dead and thirty wounded.

Chapters 71 - 75 Analysis

Mark and Storm reach a truce of sorts when she comes to see him off. She gives him a kiss goodbye that leaves him weak kneed. He drives and listens to the General and the PM talking in the back. Sean tells Mark not to stop in any of the major centers for fear that they are recognized, but the strikers have spies everywhere. Fergus and his group bomb the police station in Fordsburg, and isolate the Newlands station before throwing grenades in until they beg. He tells his men that by morning, the flag of communism will fly from every public building in Johannesburg.

The Scottish Transvaal company gets off the train at Dunswart Station, but are overcome by fire from a hundred locations and forced back on the train. They leave with twelve dead and thirty wounded.



Chapters 76 - 80

Chapters 76 - 80 Summary

Harry Fisher charges a shopkeeper as a traitor, and says they should shoot him. Two men drag him out, but neither is able to carry out the sentence so Helena does. Fergus tells them the Prime Minister is traveling by road without escort. The Prime Minister is so anxious to get into the action, he refuses to take a circuitous route into Johannesburg for safety. Sean relents on the condition the Cadillac act as decoy out front. Before long, the Cadillac is under fire, forcing its way through a barricade, for Mark to follow. Damaged, the Cadillac might have continued, but the assault from a Vickers gun that follows leaves all three men in the Cadillac cut to ribbons before the car hits a wall. Mark takes evasive action, but the Rolls is stopped. He takes the hunting rifle and runs back to stop the Vickers gun from doing any more damage. Fergus, believing the Prime Minister is dead determines that it's more important to protect the gun so they dismantle it, and run, but Mark takes two of them down as they are escaping. Sean and Jan change the tire, and they make their way to headquarters in Marshall Square.

Within two days, the government regains control of all but the rebel stronghold at Fordsburg. A DH.9 is sent in to drop leaflets to announce martial law, and inform the general populace that they have until eleven that morning to leave, or be considered part of the rebel factions. Gratefully, Sean and Mark see the women and children leaving shortly afterwards, most of them carrying their most important possessions.

Chapters 76 - 80 Analysis

The fighting is complicated by feelings that arise when men who have known each other most of their lives are faced with the possibility that they will be forced to kill each other. Fergus tells Harry that Prime Minister Smuts is coming and is so anxious to get into the action that he opts to take a direct route into Johannesburg. Sean and Mark relent on the condition that the Cadillac goes first, and Smuts rides behind in the Rolls. The Cadillac takes the brunt of the attack killing all aboard. Fergus sees the bodies and thinks Smuts is dead. He runs to save the Vickers, still losing two men.

Two days pass before the government regains control of all but Fordsburg. A plane drops leaflets explaining there will be no consideration given to anyone who remains behind after eleven that morning, and women and children begin filing out almost immediately.



Chapters 81 - 85

Chapters 81 - 85 Summary

Sean ensures the attack is made by horse artillery batteries. Mark takes his men to the Trades Hall, and Harry watches from inside knowing they are defeated. Mark makes his way up to Harry's office and Harry turns the gun on himself.

Sean moves his men up the Crown Mine's haulage. The strikers dynamited the railway lines so instead, an assortment of other vehicle transports is commandeered. When the soldiers are bunched up Fergus opens fire, and kills many. Sean is struck, and Mark hauls him to safety before after Fergus. Fergus leaves the Vickers with Helena, and Mark takes his shot, hitting her. Fergus is stunned, and Mark runs right into him. In the scuffle, they are thrown over the rail and Mark pleads with Fergus to hold on, but he raises his weapon, leaving Mark no choice but to drop him.

Ruth notices changes in both men. Sean reads that one of the strikers is to be hanged. Storm reminds him they murdered many but Mark counters they are all murderers.

Chapters 81 - 85 Analysis

Sean uses horse artillery batteries to avoid killing any of their own men captured by the strikers. Mark takes his company to the Trades Hall, and they take the strikers without incident.

Sean commandeers trucks to transport his men out. Six hundred men gather at the Crown Mine's main haulage. Fergus opens fire. Sean is hit, and Mark drags him to safety before making his way to the tower. Fergus leaves Helena with the Vickers, and Mark shoots her. Fergus is numbed by her screams as Mark races up the stairs. They struggle, and end up over the railing, dangling by Mark's legs, but Fergus is intent on killing him and Mark has to let him go.

When Sean and Mark return home to Lion's Kop, they are changed men. Ruth and Storm are unable to reach, or soothe them.



Chapters 86 - 90

Chapters 86 - 90 Summary

Mark goes to Marion to break their engagement, but she insists she'll wait for him. He heads back to Lion's Kop.

Dirk asks Sean to meet with him, and Sean chooses the place where their properties adjoin. He goads Sean relentlessly, but Sean keeps control until Dirk tells him that they are the same. Sean tells Dirk he will be sure to see to it that Dirk never gets any property past the Bubezi River. Dirk tells his father it may be the fight of their lives, refers to Sean's wife as a whore, and gallops off. Sean walks his Stallion to where Mbejane is buried, and greets his old friend. He knows Dirk killed him, but can't prove it.

Mark makes an appointment to speak to Sean, and Sean knows Mark is thinking of leaving. He tells Mark he needs him to go to Chaka's Gate to survey before the next session in Parliament, and then act as warden to implement and protect the area. Mark feels the surge of purpose and meaning. He has three weeks before he has to leave and is truly happy, but the reason is not just the job. It is also because of Storm, and their secret affair.

Chapters 86 - 90 Analysis

Mark tells Marion it's over and she tells him she'll wait for him, no matter how long it takes.

Dirk asks for a meeting with Sean, and he agrees to meet him where their properties share a boundary. Dirk goads Sean until Sean finally tells him that he will do all he can to prevent Dirk's plan. Dirk promises his father he'll kill him and gallops off. Sean rides sadly up to the site where his old friend Mbejane is buried. Dirk killed him although Sean can't prove it.

Mark asks to speak with Sean, but Sean is one step ahead of him. Sean asks Mark to survey Chaka's Gate for Parliament so they can implement an act to protect the area. Mark feels a sense of destiny and purpose. The only thing that makes him happier is his secret affair with Storm.



Chapters 91 - 95

Chapters 91 - 95 Summary

Storm convinces Mark to pose for her but he refuses to completely disrobe. He slowly relaxes and opens up to her, but Storm is so entranced by her painting that she doesn't hear the words. He tells her of the house he'll build but all she hears are his final declaration that they will be happy. They smile in total misunderstanding. Sean tells Ruth of his plans for Mark, and she gets him ready. Mark is used to traveling with a bedroll, a pan and a spoon, so this is luxury. Sean salts two mules against the tsetse fly and readies a 9.3 Mannlicher. Each day, they discuss the information to be collected. Mark is only sad he has to leave Storm.

Lying together one afternoon Storm announces he is not going. She tells him it's time to settle into making real money. Mark tries to explain and Storm loses her temper, insisting she has no intentions of living in a grass hut. She wants him to sell timber to the mines and live with her in Johannesburg. She leaves, the next day telling Ruth she may be gone Saturday, the day Mark is leaving.

Chapters 91 - 95 Analysis

Storm convinces Mark to pose. He tells her about his plans to build them a home in Chaka's Gate, declaring how happy they'll be. She agrees, having heard nothing and they smile in total misunderstanding. Ruth gets Mark ready. Mark hates to leave Storm. Sean prepares two mules exposing them to tsetse fly, and readies a 9.3 Mannlicher. Each day, they discuss Mark's responsibilities.

One afternoon, Storm tells Mark he can't go. She wants Mark to start making money like a man selling timber, and live with her in Johannesburg. Storm insists she won't live in a grass hut and rides home. The next day, she leaves for Irene's, not intending to return until after Mark leaves on Saturday.

Chapters 96 - 100

Chapters 96 - 100 Summary

Dirk manipulates a meeting with Mark. He offers Mark a thousand pounds to submit a report that states Chaka's Gate as a National Park is not practical. Mark wants three thousand pounds - his rightful inheritance and Dirk hands it over. Sean is livid until Mark explains. Then Mark decides to tell Sean about the death of his grandfather, the theft of Andersland and the attempts on his life. Soon after, Mark leaves riding Trojan and leading Spartan. He hears the warning call of a leopard and notices a leopard caught in a trap. The leopard leaps and Mark shoots just in time, killing it. He hobbles the mule and sets off on foot, tracking the poacher he names Pungushe (jackal). By the time he returns, the leopard is stripped, and the trap and chain are gone. Trojan is also gone. Mark can see from the tracks that he has headed home. It is a fifteen-mile trek and Mark can only promise to get even.

It rains soaking Mark to the skin. Carrying the saddlebags, he reaches the Bubezi River again and smells bacon. He sees Sean sitting comfortably with Hlubi, the old Zulu cook. Sean grins Mark describes the events that left him walking, giving Sean and his servants a good laugh. They spend days riding and nights discussing the plans and sites Mark has chosen. Sean tells Mark there has been an election in Transvaal. A fifteen percent swing to the Hertzog Party means the legislation they were hoping for cannot be introduced for another year. Sean tells him he's decided to fund the efforts.

Chapters 96 - 100 Analysis

Mark is amazed Dirk already knows of the job he is to complete meaning he must have friends in high places. He wants Mark to submit a report stating it is a wasted effort to declare the area as a National Park, and in return gives him three thousand pounds in cash. Sean is mad, but Mark explains his intention to create an African Wildlife Society with Sean as its patron. Sean warns Mark he's created a dangerous enemy. Mark tells him about the killing of his grandfather which led to the theft of Andersland, and the attempts on his life.

Mark leaves riding Trojan and leading Spartan, and finds a leopard caught in a Zulu's trap. The cat lunges and Mark shoots him. He tracks the Zulu and returns to find the trap and chain are gone, and the mules are freed and heading home. Mark walks until he finds Sean sitting in one of his old camps. He tells him the story, and they spend time finalizing details. Sean tells Mark they've lost a seat in Parliament, and the Hertzog Party gained control of Transvaal.



Chapters 101 - 105

Chapters 101 - 105 Summary

On his last day, Sean tells Mark about the lifetime membership he sent Dirk along with his receipt, and just as Sean is leaving, Mark works up the courage to ask about Storm. Sean tells Mark Storm got married a month ago, but he hasn't seen her.

Derek Hunt rides his pony hard, and when he hops down, to Storm's unending embarrassment he heads for her. Sweating, he grabs her around the waist and kisses her full on the lips. Storm is close to vomiting, and Derek gives her breast a hard squeeze in front of everyone before going back down. When she missed her second period, she was ready to tell Mark but then they had fought. Her pride wouldn't let her back down, so she went to Irene. Irene was gleefully brutal, taking her to a doctor who told her she was beyond his help. They drew up a short list of names. Six men each with position and wealth, each having expressed interest in Storm but Irene told her secret to all. Derek Hunt had not been on the list. Twice married, he had seven children, and no scruples. He was happy to marry her, and they drove to Swaziland, lied about her age, without telling Sean or Ruth. When Derek gets home, she wants to run, but has nowhere to go. He stomps into the bedroom, strips, tells her it's time to do her duty, and uses her painfully. At breakfast, she tells him she wants a divorce. Then he tells her he married her to get access to Sean Courtney's money. He has no money of his own.

Chapters 101 - 105 Analysis

Sean tells Mark of the progress he's made with the new Protection for African Wildlife Society. He gave Dirk a lifetime membership for his 'donation' and describes the advertising campaign and office space already set aside. It is taking on a life of its own. Finally, Mark works up the courage to ask about Storm, and barely controlled he says he hasn't seen her since Mark left, though she was married a month earlier. Mark is too stunned to even respond.

Derek Hunt is Storm's husband, but it isn't a joyous marriage. Storm realizes she is pregnant, but before she can tell Mark, they fight and consumed by pride, she chooses marriage instead. Too ashamed to face her parents, she tells Irene who is so overjoyed at her superiority that she undermines every effort Storm makes to find a husband of any caliber. Derek has seven children and is a pig but with nowhere else to turn, she goes to him. Her belly grows with her disgust as he drinks to excess, fondles her in public, and embarrasses her until finally she asks for a divorce. Then he laughs, telling her he doesn't want her, he wants her father's money. The simple truth is that he's broke.



Chapters 106 - 110

Chapters 106 - 110 Summary

Mark goes to see Marion. He tells her about the progress he is making in Chaka's Gate, and Marion encourages him. Inside she is making plans. The ceremony is held soon after, and Marion is thrilled that Sean and Ruth came, knowing it elevates her status. Afterward, her possessions are loaded onto Trojan and Spartan, and she throws herself into the life, working as hard and long as any Zulu. Her platitudes are far from the natural warmth and enthusiasm he wants, and before long, he is looking for ways to escape. A new herd of buffalo moves into the reserve, and he going on patrol. Without protest, she packs his gear.

When he sees vultures, he tethers Trojan and finds the buffalo. He turns him over, finding a broad bladed stabbing spear. Backtracking, he again sees the tracks of the man he's come to call Pungushe. He finds evidence that the bull hit Pungushe also, and follows. When he finally catches up to him, Pungushe is down. The buffalo hooked him low behind the hipbone. Looking closely, Mark greets him with the name Pungushe, and the man responds with his own name for Mark, Jamela meaning Seeker and Ngaga. Put together, the names describe someone who runs around in circles but sees nothing. He makes a litter and puts him on it, and the man heals quickly, escaping one night from the shed Mark locked him in. Six weeks later, he returns with his wives, children and possessions in tow. He tells Mark that he has heard Mark was a warrior, and deserving of great honor and respect, but that he is also a warrior. Mark understands that he wants employment, and they banter back and forth for some time, Mark hardly able to keep from laughing while the man explains that he will of course need enough money to feed his many wives and children.

Chapters 106 - 110 Analysis

Mark returns to Marion, and they wed without fuss. He takes her to Chaka's Gate and she settles into the lifestyle, working as hard as the Zulu's. Mark misses Storm, and finds himself making excuses to go out on patrol to be alone. Marion doesn't mind. On one patrol, he sees a flock of vultures, and following it finds a dead buffalo. The animal has been speared with an assegai and he sees the tracks of Pungushe. The man is wounded by the buffalo, but when Mark finds him, he is far from dead. Defiant he has an equally derogatory name for Mark, Jamela - Ngaga. Used together, the names mean someone who looks at everything but sees nothing. He dresses the wound, intent on taking the man back to face poaching charges, but as soon as Pungushe heals, he escapes, and Mark is unable to find him. Six weeks later, he strolls back to Mark's with all of his possessions, his wives and his children in tow. He announces that he is there to help Mark, and their conversation is one of great entertainment to them both. They come to an agreement.



Chapters 111 - 115

Chapters 111 - 115 Summary

Dirk speaks with eloquence and confidence about Ladyburg's politics. He knows these men are politically faithful and committed. Sean Courtney has held the seat since 1910, one reminds him, but Dirk assures them that as their party representative, he is willing to put his own money in to assure victory. He gives them his vision of fields supplied with unending water, and their interest grows. It will mean the repeal of the proclamation on the Bubezi Valley, but none bats an eye of concern. He refers to his father as the Butcher of Fordsburg and when one man stands up and voices his opinion to the contrary, he is quickly removed, and Dirk continues.

Pungushe works with Mark. He sights two lions, an old male and a young female. Mark wants to herd them into the protected area. Pungushe, on foot, leads the way while Mark follows on Trojan. The female comes into her first heat, and after mounting her many times, they are hungry. They find the Ladyburg Sugar Company's seventy-two oxen, and the male stampedes them to the female waiting on the other side. When the news reaches Dirk, he invites the men to join him the next morning for the hunt. The eight white men are so excited by their kill that they don't notice Mark and Pungushe until they are among them. The older male is dead. Dirk laughs telling Mark that this is one animal he can cross off his list. He asks about the female, and one man assures him that she is already wounded. Mark and Pungushe move away from the group, hoping they can outrun the hunters, but before long, Dirk's voice is behind him. Dirk and his men follow Mark and Pungushe until the men begin to lose interest. When Dirk accuses them of leading his men astray, Pungushe shows them a track. They follow until just after noon when Pungushe tells Mark he's lost the spoor. Angry, Dirk knows he's been had again, but isn't sure how. He leaves, and Pungushe tells Mark he left the lioness behind two hours earlier, and shows Mark how he made the tracks.

Chapters 111 - 115 Analysis

Dirk Courtney competes against his father in the Ladyburg election. He describes his vision to four of the more influential men and as farmers, they recognize the potential for financial gain. He tells them of his goal to flood the Bubezi Valley by damming Chaka's Gate. They don't flinch. His father has held the seat since 1910 and believing it's time for change, he is even willing to put his own money in.

Pungushe tells Mark about a pair of lions headed their way, and they ride to search for them, but hungry, the pair finds the newly kraaled oxen owned by Ladyburg Sugar Company first. The commotion gets the attention of the Dirk, and he tells the men that anyone interested can join the hunt. When Mark and Pungushe catch up with the lions, the older male is already dead, and the female on the run. They try to slip away, but Dirk and his men insist on joining them, still filled with liquor and eager to hunt. Pungushe



tracks but makes no effort to catch up with the lioness. When the hunting party begins to lose interest, Dirk confronts Mark and Pungushe accusing them of misdirection. Pungushe shows them a track to prove he is still on the spoor, but soon even Dirk leaves. Then Pungushe confesses he left the lioness two hours earlier, and has falsified the tracks since.



Chapters 116 - 120

Chapters 116 - 120 Summary

Pungushe and Mark backtrack. Dirk has not given up and with dogs, they now search in earnest. Pungushe asks Mark to waylay the dogs and Mark mixes snuff with dried meat, laying it in their path. A good snout full will make them useless. Pungushe calls her in the tomcat's voice. The sound gets her to her feet again and she follows towards the Bubezi Valley. The dogs stop and mill about, unable to continue and Dirk and his hunters are stymied. Mark follows Pungushe, covering their tracks as he goes. They lead the wounded lioness to the Bubezi River to the water she needs. Later Mark tries to explain the miracle he has just witnessed, hardly able to put into words the depth of his feelings. Marion just asks when he'll go to town next for curtains for the kitchen.

The lioness has six cubs. Every few evenings, Mark goes to Pungushe's cluster of huts. He tells him he's looking for his grandfather's grave and Pungushe leads him to where he is buried. Mark erects a small cairn of rocks in the depression, sends Pungushe home, and gives his grandfather the eulogy he should have had. Then he goes to Lion's Kop but finds Sean has returned to Emoyeni. He goes there and is stunned when he sees how much the General has aged. They embrace like father and son for the first time, and Mark tells him of the progress he has made at Chaka's Gate. Sean describes what he has managed to do with the Wildlife Society, and finally Mark tells Sean the real reason he came. They talk for some time, but both know that there is little that can be done with just the word of one Zulu. Finally, Mark asks Ruth what is wrong with Sean, and she tells him that after years of giving himself to the area, to have the newspapers call him the Butcher of Fordsburg, his estrangement from Dirk, and the unhappy marriage by Storm and then her divorce has taken its toll. Mark can't believe Storm is divorced!

Chapters 116 - 120 Analysis

The lioness stays in the valley, and gives birth to six cubs. Mark goes to Pungushe's huts often, Pungushe tells him about his grandfather's death, describing the men responsible. Pungushe shows him where, and Mark says a prayer for his grandfather, erecting a small cairn of rocks over his grave, and leaves shortly after to see Sean. A servant tells him that he and Ruth went back to Emoyeni two weeks earlier. Mark continues there, and Ruth is overjoyed to see him. She takes him up to see Sean, and Mark is floored to see how much he's aged. They talk for some time about the progress Mark has made and the lack of progress Sean has made with the Wildlife Society, before Mark finally tells Sean why he came. Sean asks if he thinks Dirk is the fourth man involved and tells him that with only one Zulu man for evidence, there is little they can do. Mark asks Ruth what ails Sean. She explains that Sean suffers mostly from a broken heart. The people he served for many years now call him the "Butcher of

Fordsburg", he's lost both his sons, and Storm's marriage and divorce took its toll. Sean is stunned especially by the news that Storm is divorced.



Chapters 121 - 125

Chapters 121 - 125 Summary

Mark rides to Umhlanga Rocks and finds Storm's cottage. He knocks on the door and she tries to shut him out, but he persists. He follows her inside, and sees the baby, feeling jealousy for the father. It takes a few moments before he realizes this is his son. Storm has matured and is more beautiful than he remembers. He can see that she has passed from a child into a woman. He holds her, all of his love flooding to the surface again. For two days, he stays with Storm in her cottage, marveling at their son, reveling in their company. Storm tells him about the fancy friends who deserted her and the fancy clothes that she sold to survive. He tries to convince her to go to her father, who still doesn't know about baby John, but Storm is adamant it would be a mistake. They make love often, but never the same and never without the deep sense of peace and belonging together that neither of them felt or feel with their marriages. After two days, Storm tells Mark he should leave in the morning before she wakes so that she doesn't have to see it. He doesn't understand, still convinced that they belong together, and even telling her that he'll divorce Marion, but she tells him that she could never go to her father that way, and what of baby John. How would he hold his head up and what kind of noble life could they build on the misery of the wife that he would leave. The next morning at dawn, he dresses quietly. He kisses his son and stoops over her to kiss her thinking she is asleep until he hears her muffled sobs in the pillow.

Chapters 121 - 125 Analysis

Mark makes his way to Umhlanga Rocks and finds Storm's cottage easily. When Storm opens it and he says hello to her, she is mortified. She tells him to go away, but Mark is persistent. His second surprise is the baby. At first, he feels an unrestrained hatred and it takes several minutes before he recognizes the eyes. He looks at Storm questioningly and she nods her assent. This is his son. Everything changes. He goes to her and holds her, filled with new wonder at this little life. He watches her feed him, and sees the love she has for him, realizing how much she's grown from a child into a woman. He spends two days with them, feeling more like he belongs than he ever has before, and is naturally stunned when she not only refuses to see her father or tell him about John, but also asks him to leave. He offers to leave Marion, telling her they belong together, but she stubbornly refuses. She doesn't want her life with him to be built on the shame and misery it would cause Marion, or to have their son grow up with the knowledge of their start. She asks him to leave the next morning before she wakes, and he does so, but she isn't asleep when he kisses his son and then her goodbye, sobbing quietly into the pillow.



Chapters 126 - 130

Chapters 126 - 130 Summary

Mark returns to Chaka's Gate and sitting with Pungushe asks him if he remembers the day he pulled him from the water. He asks if he saw the man who shot him, or the body of the man he'd killed. Pungushe tells him it rained so hard that there was no sign.

The Prime Minister loses his seat, and Dirk Courtney wins for the National Labor Party. The only sign of change at first is that Mark submits his paperwork to the new Minister of Lands, but before long, he gets a letter that tells him to consider his post as warden temporary. He writes long letters to Sean, and after Marion retires, to Storm. One morning, the memory of Storm and John are so strong that he leaves Marion a note and goes on patrol. When Marion gets up, she realizes she is pregnant for sure. She decides to go out to pick mushrooms

The lioness senses a change in weather, and knows where she has her cubs in will flood. Getting big, it isn't always easy to convince them to do what she wants. Twice she tried to move them, and one turns for the safety of the thicket. While she retrieves that one, a stampede for home occurs. This time she picks up the one that gives her a hard time, and carries it across the shallow river. It takes a few minutes of determined persistence to convince him to stay there.

Chapters 126 - 130 Analysis

Mark asks Pungushe if he remembers the day he pulled him out of the water, and whether or not he saw the men shooting at him, but the rain washed away the evidence. Both Sean and Prime Minister Jan Smuts lose their seats to the National Party. The first difference Mark notices is that he submits his paperwork to a new Minister, and after a short time, he receives a letter that informs him to consider his term as warden to be tenuous. One morning he wakes unable to sleep and goes on patrol leaving a note for Marion. When she rises, she realizes with joy that she's pregnant, and goes out to pick mushrooms for their evening dinner.

The lioness feels the change in weather coming, and looks for a new place for her cubs, but they are reluctant to move. Several times she starts out, but one of the six loses faith, gets scared and returns to the old thicket, the rest quickly following when she goes back to get him. The third time she is determined, and carries him by the scruff of the neck across the now shallow river. She has to nip it to convince it to stay there while she goes back across for the others.



Chapters 131 - 135

Chapters 131 - 135 Summary

Marion wanders further than before, and something hisses close by. She sees the small cub and creeps closer to it talking softly. The lioness has the second cub in her mouth and Marion hears her when she is only fifty yards away, and screams. The lioness launches and overtakes her in five steps, opening her stomach, crushing her vertebrae and bursting both kidneys. Marion keeps screaming as the lioness, confused takes a full minute to find Marion's throat and kill her. She returns to her cub, and Marion's body stays there until Pungushe's wives find her just before sundown. Mark and Pungushe return to sounds of the Zulu death wail. The women are sitting around a long, wrapped bundle, but are unable to answer questions. Mark opens one end of the kaross. He stares for a moment, and then runs to the forest and retches.

Mark takes her to Ladyburg for the funeral, and stays while her family chastises him. He returns to Chaka's Gate and asks Pungushe what he's learned who tells him the lioness was moving her cubs, and now she has taken her little one's north. Mark packs Marion's things, loads the Mannlicher and tells Pungushe to find her. Reluctantly they follow her most of the day, and at night Pungushe quietly mentions that the cubs, not yet weaned, will take a long time to die and reminds him that while she tasted human blood, she did not feed, acting purely on maternal instinct. For a moment, he wavers, but remembering Marion, full of guilt, insists the lioness must die. Pungushe tells him they will find her the next day adding, "Let us hurry now towards the great emptiness."

Chapters 131 - 135 Analysis

Marion wanders much farther, and hearing a hiss, finds the first cub. She edges closer, and is surprised by the lioness only fifty yards away. Marion screams and the lioness springs on Marion with a mixture of anger and confusion. It takes a long time for Marion to die, but the lioness is spurred on by her screaming. Finally, she finds Marion's neck and ends her suffering. She leaves Marion there, and Pungushe's wives find her at sundown. When Mark and Pungushe return after dark, they hear the Zulu's death wail. Mark is sick to his stomach when he realizes who has been killed.

He takes her to Ladyburg and stays for the funeral. Then he returns to Chaka's Gate, and asks Pungushe to tell him what happened. Afterward, he packs up her things, and loads the Mannlicher. He asks Pungushe to track the lioness and reluctantly he agrees. They follow her until after dark, and stopping for the night, Pungushe reminds him that the cubs are not weaned and tries to explain the lioness did not feed, acting out of maternal instinct. Mark is so filled with guilt he insists they continue. Pungushe tells him they will find her the next day, and quietly adds, "Let us hurry now towards the great emptiness."



Chapters 136 - 140

Chapters 136 - 140 Summary

They find the lioness but she is alert to danger. When she gets up giving Mark the shot, he is unable to pull the trigger. He lies there sobbing while Pungushe waits. Mark goes to Sean who shows him articles in which Dirk is using Marion's death as a reason to develop the area. He takes the clippings and retreats to his room to read the one that caught his eye on the back of one. It extols the virtues of a new artist, Storm Courtney, and her upcoming exhibition. Mark reads and rereads the partial article, then puts it in his wallet and sleeps. The next day, he goes to her home and finds a Zulu nanny with John. John recognizes him and half an hour later, he returns him to the nanny to his wails of protest and heads down to the beach. He walks until he sees a figure in the distance. As it approaches, he recognizes her and breaks into a run.

They talk long into the night, and the next day, all three set out for Chaka's Gate. Storm's only condition is that Sean not know. Mark introduces her to Pungushe, and they fall into a lifestyle of sorts. The first time Mark goes on patrol, Storm straps John to her back and climbs up on Spartan to go with him. They climb to the top of Chaka's Gate, and Storm tells him how rich his is for he truly lives in paradise. They go to his grandfather's grave, and Mark erects stones and a cross. He tells Storm the story and she cries.

Chapters 136 - 140 Analysis

They find the lioness but after waiting for the perfect shot, Mark is unable to take it. His cries while Pungushe waits until it passes. Then he goes to Sean and Ruth. Sean shows him clippings where Dirk is making the most of Marion's death, still trying to push progress on Chaka's Gate. When Mark takes the clippings back to his room that evening, it is not those stories he wants to read. He turns one over and reads the story that tells of Storm Courtney's exhibition and describes her as a promising new talent. He goes to Storm's cottage and a Zulu woman opens the door with John on her hip. He recognizes Mark and even wails when Mark returns him to the nanny half an hour later. He walks the beach, and after some time sees a figure in the distance.

They talk for most of the night, and in the morning, they head to Chaka's Gate together. Storm only insists that Sean not know. Storm sees things through new eyes and now knows Mark lives in paradise. She even goes on patrol with him, riding Spartan with John on her back. It is the life Mark only dreamed of until now. He takes her to his grandfather's grave, and tells her the story. She listens in silence and cries.



Chapters 141 - 145

Chapters 141 - 145 Summary

Storm is as happy as she has ever been, knowing beauty for the first time. Later they hear the sound of an ax against a tree, and Mark races to tell the white man he is under arrest, but Hobday comes out of the shadows and informs Mark he has government's permission. Horrified, they return to the cottage. Pungushe comes and describes the man who shot his grandfather as Hobday. Storm lures him out of the camp and he catches her, hearing Mark at the last moment. Mark swings his homemade club hard, breaking his arm and continuing through to his face. He and Pungushe splint the arm and then shackle Hobday and drag him to the vehicles. Mark sends Pungushe with Storm and John to the cottage, and drives his prisoner to Sean.

At first, Sean and Ruth are horrified, but Mark has a plan. He tells Hobday he has no intention of having him arrested. He plans to call Dirk and tell him that Hobday is going to testify. Once Dirk finds him, he will kill him, and they will have him on murder. Mark dials the number, and Hobday begs him not to, within minutes promising confession. Sean sends for a lawyer to make the confession legal and binding and will witness as Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of Oaths.

Chapters 141 - 145 Analysis

Storm has never been happier. Hearing the sound of an ax, Mark hurries to find the source and arrest him. Hobday comes forward and tells Mark they have government approval and they go back to the cottage. Then, Pungushe describes Hobday, explaining that he is the man who killed Mark's grandfather. Storm volunteers herself as bait and Mark hits him so hard that his arm shatters and the club continues through to his face. Then he and Pungushe strap him into the sidecar. Mark tells Pungushe to take Storm and John to the cottage and stay with her. Mark drives to Sean and Ruth's and when Sean first sees Hobday, he is worried. With only Pungushe as a witness, Mark will be in more trouble for assault but Mark has another idea. He tells Hobday he will call Dirk, and let him know that Hobday turned on him. From there, Dirk will kill Hobday, and they will have him on murder. Hobday waffles, but when Mark dials he panics and it takes only a minute or two before he confesses. Sean sends Mark to get a lawyer so the confession is legal and will witness it as the Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of Oaths.



Chapters 146 - 150

Chapters 146 - 150 Summary

Mark drives to Peter's and Peter follows him back where he sits at Sean's desk, writing swiftly. More than the killing of John Anders, there is forging of documents, bribery of high officials, abuse of public office and two attempts on Mark's life. Afterward, Peter reads it back. Two copies are made, and Hobday signs them both. Sean puts one copy in his safe and tells Peter to keep the other one. Then he asks Mark to call the doctor to look after their witness. By two in the morning, the doctor arrives and Ruth tells Sean he should go to bed. The phone rings, and she picks it up to hear a voice tell her that Storm was in an accident. Ruth's grandson was killed outright, but her daughter is critical. Ruth sways turning white and Mark catches her before she hits the floor. Sean picks up the dangling earpiece and demands answers. In barely controlled panic, Mark drives the Rolls to Durban. They come around the corner to the bridge and headlights are in their path. Mark tells them to hold on, but there is nowhere to go.

Peter drove almost all the way home before changing his mind. He goes to Dirk who listens quietly while Peter tells him all. Dirk hates to respond without time, but knows he can't wait. He tells Peter to call his father's house and play the part of the doctor, telling Peter exactly what to say.

Chapters 146 - 150 Analysis

Mark gets Peter and goes back to Sean's. Peter sits at the desk, and writes Hobday's confession, which includes much more than anyone suspected. When Hobday is done, Peter makes a second copy. Sean puts one in his safe, and sends Peter home with the other. He tells Mark to call a doctor who arrives by two, and Ruth tells Sean he should get some sleep just as the telephone rings. She picks it up and a voice on the other end tells her that her daughter Storm was in an accident, and that her grandson is dead. Storm is not expected to live. Ruth turns white and Mark catches her just before she hits the floor. Sean picks up the phone and asks for an explanation. In barely controlled panic, Mark drives the Rolls to Durban. They come to the bridge and suddenly headlights are in their path. Mark tells them to hold on.

Peter waffles and going to Dirk, tells him everything. Dirk quickly tells Peter to call his father's home and pretend to be the doctor, telling him what to say.



Chapters 151 - 154

Chapters 151 - 154 Summary

Dirk waits in the truck giving Peter a gun to use it as a last resort. Mark tries to avoid the collision, but can't and they go off the bridge. Thrown clear, he drags himself ashore with a broken arm and broken ribs. Sean is half out of the windshield, blood everywhere. Dirk checks Sean's vitals and using the lead pipe, hits first Sean and then Ruth ensuring they are dead. He takes the Sean's keys, and throws both bodies over the falls. Mark finds Peter, knocks him out and takes his gun. Then wrestling with Dirk at the top, shoots and kills him. At first light, Mark finds Sean and Ruth. They are buried together, side by side just a little ways down from Lion's Kop. Dirk Courtney is buried in the forest below the dog ring, and though many are there to watch and stare, no one cries. Sean provides for everyone who ever worked for him in his will and to Mark, a son to him, he leaves all his books, paintings, guns, pistols, jewelry, dogs, horses and cattle - the paintings alone worth a fortune. The rest he bequeaths to Mark as the Trustee of the Wild Life Protection Society, for the development and protection of Chaka's Gate. Hobday is put to death, and Peter leaves Ladyburg.

Now, a Zulu ranger stands by the low concrete bridge, with a Parks Board badge on his hat brim. When you go into the stone and thatch office to sign in, a glass case has a permanent display of photos including one of Mark, lean and tanned with white hair and spiky moustache, and beside him, Storm. Underneath, a legend describes him as Colonel Anders - the first warden of the Chaka's Gate National Park who served on the board from 1926 - 1935. His wife and internationally celebrated artist who painted under her maiden name of Storm Courtney retired with him in 1973 to live in a cottage at Umhlanga Rocks on the Natal Coast. Then, returning to your car, you can go into Eden for a time.

Chapters 151 - 154 Analysis

Dirk gives Peter a gun, and waits in a loaded truck. When he sees the Rolls, he swings into its path, and the crash is deafening. Mark is thrown clear, and watches in horror as Dirk finds Sean and swings a lead pipe at his head to ensure he dies. He does the same to Ruth, and throws them over the falls after taking the keys from Sean's body, and kissing him full on the lips. Mark makes it to the top, finds Peter, knocks him out and takes his gun. When Dirk climbs back up, a scuffle ensues, and Mark shoots him and kills him. The next morning, Mark finds Ruth and Sean. They are buried side by side. Dirk is buried in the forest. Sean's will provides for everyone who ever worked for him. To Mark, he leaves his paintings, guns, pistols, jewelry, dogs, horses and cattle. The paintings alone are worth a fortune. The rest he bequeaths to Mark for the development of Chaka's Gate. Hobday gets a death sentence, and Peter, cleared of charges leaves town.



Mark and Storm lived the rest of their days until 1973 when they retired to the cottage at Umhlanga Rocks on the Natal Coast, as wardens to Chaka's Gate National Park. Now, when you cross the bridge, a Zulu ranger greets you. The stone and thatch office where you sign in contains a display case with pictures of Storm and Mark, detailing their accomplishments and dedicated to their lives work in maintaining and developing the National Park. After signing in, you can drive into Eden yourself.

Characters

Brigadier-General Sean Courtney

After four winters in France, B.G. Sean Courtney is a tough and often unpredictable leader. He enjoys an informal style, where he is likely to show up unannounced even on the front lines unattended by even his own staff. His impromptu visits cause his subordinates much dismay, but Sean enjoys the panic his sudden arrivals have been known to cause. He is a tough and unorthodox leader, who has been compared to a bull elephant, but having survived the Boer War, he is more comfortable with his men than with the leaders of equivalent rank and status.

Sean Courtney has dark, thick curls of wiry hair that is interspersed with grey, as is his short, thick beard. His nose is battered and twisted, but his eyes of cobalt blue are sharp and steady as any young man's. His judge of both weather and men is as unerring as his judge of horses. He easily can pick out the big-hearted, or the ones who are rotten, explainable only by his depth of experience and a deeper insight than most have. A legend, Sean is well known to have made a fortune in the gold fields of Witwatersrand, and single handedly chased and caught the Boer General Leroux in Africa. At fifty-nine years of age, Sean slips easily from the Zulu language and back to English, putting the men under him quickly at ease.

General Courtney is a gentleman, through and through, with a high moral standard and self worth. He spent much of his youth hunting large game, but came to appreciate the wilderness in his later years, becoming a staunch supporter for the African Wildlife Society and champion of the efforts to ratify and protect the African National Forests at Chaka's Gate. He is a man who loves his with fiercely, and is willing to fight for the things he believes in. Taken with Mark Anders, he loves him like a son, while rejecting his own flesh and blood because of his lack of morals and standards of any kind. His legacy is the National Wildlife Society in Africa, and he worked tirelessly to its benefit and inception.

Mark Anders

A volunteer in the French army, Mark Anders is well known throughout the area for his prowess with a rifle. He moves with certain grace not unlike that of an athlete and is younger than his partner, Sergeant Fergus MacDonald. Mark eyes are serene and pale golden brown, with lids that do not overlap the iris, leaving the cornea floating clean and white like a full moon. His gaze is direct and hypnotic, despite his age, which is nearer to seventeen than twenty. Thin and exploited mercilessly by those who relied on his abilities, his skin is spotted with lice bites and his cheeks are hollow. Though his eye sockets are sunken, he is alert and intelligent. He has a slight stutter that quickly vanishes when he is concentrating on the task at hand.



Mark fully appreciates the beauty of his homeland when he returns, and it is this appreciation that fuels much of his actions afterward. A strong and usually silent type, he begins by trying to find out who killed his grandfather while he was away at war, and in doing so, makes some powerful enemies. They try to kill him more than once, but his training, combined with the things his grandfather taught him as a child, save his life more than once. He is forced to flee the Ladyburg area, but returns again, unable to resist the lure that is his homeland. Passionate about the wildlife, Mark Anders becomes the warden in charge of the Chaka's Gate National Park, which he helped to create and administered to for most of his life. Living in the cottage he built, he returns even after carelessness with the wildlife by his first wife costs her his life. His strong attachment to the wilderness keeps him from being able to destroy the lioness responsible, and he goes on to help restore and maintain the natural state of beauty he's come to love.

Having no real use for money, he takes all he has and creates the African Wildlife Preservation Society and encourages others by educating them as to the importance of its existence. His second wife also lives in Chaka's Gate with him, where she also gives up everything (and nothing) to live in the beautiful wilds of their African homeland. Their son John, named for the grandfather who taught him so much, grows up there as well. When he finally retires in 1973, he and his wife move to the cottage at Umhlanga Rocks on the Natal Coast.

Sergeant Fergus MacDonald

Fergus MacDonald is an older man, slim of build and with feature reminiscent of a slum dweller. His eyes are set too close, and his lips are narrow, twisting down at the corners. Resembling a ferret, MacDonald's claim to fame is his association with the young crack shot, Mark Anders, whom he had the distinction of training. He has ginger hair and large freckles on his hands. Fergus is one of the ones intent on the new order of trade unions and Karl Marx. He gave Mark his first Martini Hendry rifle and is jealous of the bond that forms immediately between Mark and the Brigadier-General Courtney.

Fergus is an ambitious man, and takes hold of the ideals of communism. He whips the workers' into a frenzy, lying to them if necessary to get them to strike, and then even take up arms against the 'bosses' and everything they stand for. He promises them a brave new world in which white men won't lose their jobs to black men - just as soon as they take this world down. Armed and dangerous, these men fight with him and he leads them into a bloody battle with government that ends in Fordsburg where it started. Fergus is one of the last to die, after using a machine gun called a Vicker's gun to mow down soldiers as they stood waiting for transport when the fighting was supposedly over. Mark is sent to flush out the unknown man in his machine gun nest, and when Fergus sees him coming, he goes down to intercept him, leaving the Vicker's gun with his wife Helena and encouraging her to shoot for him. She does so, but before too many more are killed, Mark finds a shot and takes it, not knowing who he is shooting until he hears her scream for Fergus. Fergus loses all reason then, and goes after Mark as he climbs the stairs to Helena. They grapple and Fergus ends up hanging over the edge of



the stairs with Mark holding him, but instead of giving in, he raises his gun to shoot Mark, forcing Mark to let him drop to his death.

Dirk Courtney

A large man with wide and powerful shoulders, Dirk Courtney has a strong chin, and perfect white teeth inside a wide and determined mouth. His eyes are dark and intelligent, and he radiates strength. Ruled by greed, Dirk bought his way into the Ladyburg Farmers Bank by making Ronald Pye a deal he could not refuse. Six hundred thousand pounds in cash bought him sixty percent of the Bank's shares, and a piece of Ronald Pye's soul in the bargain. Having left his home in Ladyburg as a young man estranged from his father and family, Dirk returned as a rich man surrounded by dark rumors of his unsavory character.

After gaining controlling interest in the bank, Dirk continues with bigger plans, happily killing anyone who gets in his way. The first victim of his plans of progress is John Anders, the grandfather who raised Mark. Dirk has him killed because he refuses to sell his property to him, and it is the only property with water on it to further his plans of development. Once John Anders is out of the way, Dirk tries to get his father Sean to go into business with him. He tells Sean that with his power in government, he could easily get Parliament to agree to the damming of Chaka's Gate and the subsequent flooding of the Bubezi River Valley for the purposes of farming and irrigation. When Sean instead has the area ratified as a National Park, Dirk shows his true colors, threatening to kill his father as well if he stands in his way.

Instead of taking that radical course of action though, Dirk instead pursues a seat in government. He wants Sean's seat, and runs with the National Party for Hertzog. He wins this seat by publicly denouncing his father as the Butcher of Fordsburg because of his role in the labor strike there, and promises the local farmers that when he implements his plan they will be much better off. He fills them with promises of schools and hospitals, farmland and unending irrigation. The seat is taken from his father by only a few hundred votes, but the whole situation takes a great deal of life out of Sean.

In a new position of power, Dirk is unstoppable. He uses the media to further his goal by loudly proclaiming the unfairness of Marion Littlejohn's death, and telling his constituents that wildlife has no place this close to development. His plans would of course ensure their safety.

Marion Littlejohn

Young and pretty, Marion has a small face with a snub nose that is freckled. She has a quick smile, and a direct demeanor, and is the object of Mark's first proposal. Working at the land registry office, she meets Mark when he first comes to Ladyburg looking for information about his grandfather's death, and the subsequent dispersal of Andersland. She has a strong and unyielding love for Mark, and after their first consummation, she writes him daily - long letters filled with love and promise of their future together. Mark is



so consumed by Storm after meeting her that he can scarcely think of anything else. When their affair begins, he goes to Marion, tells her that he isn't ready for marriage, and wants to break their engagement. She isn't easily deterred and to his dismay promises to wait for him. Much later, when he returns to her after he and Storm have their falling out, she has no problem with the idea of living at Chaka's Gate with him. They quickly wed, and she immediately takes note of the rise in her social status, concerned more with that than with her love for Mark, much as Storm had done.

Living at Chaka's Gate is no easy feat, but she does so with enthusiasm. Sadly, her enthusiasm ends there though. She has little interest in the things that Mark is passionate about, and even when he is enthusiastically telling her about something that is obviously of great importance to him, she is more interested in the drapes she wants to buy. Her attitude does not improve until she discovers she is pregnant, and suddenly she finds a new appreciation for life around her. She goes out to collect mushrooms and stumbles across a cub that a lioness has moved in preparation for the coming season changes. Thinking it is abandoned, she makes her first mistake by approaching it. Filled with the joys of coming motherhood herself, she lets those maternal feelings guide her as she tries to decide how to take this baby home with her. She doesn't hear the lioness until she is just fifty yards away, and then she makes her second mistake. She screams in terror, causing the lioness to panic and lunge for her. The mauling is terrible and Marion's continued screaming only furthers the cat's protective behavior. The lioness doesn't stop until Marion is dead.

Storm Courtney

As dainty as a hummingbird, Storm Courtney almost floats with a grace that is breathtaking. She has large, dark and haunting eyes and a bold brow that is pale and wide. Her hair is deeply black and lustrous and hangs in a tumble of thick waves. She has long and tapered fingers attached to strong hands, and is tall with a tiny waist. Her long legs and poise complete a picture of almost sculpted beauty. Her neck is swanlike, long and delicate, and her mouth is full of small and regular teeth. She has a teasing demeanor, and drives with the ease and confidence of a man, fast and sure. In the sunlight, her eyes are the color of polished sapphires.

Though in the beginning she is full of herself and her position in life, her relationship with Mark is an eye opening experience. Becoming pregnant with his child just before she walks out on him, her sense of pride and the thought that she would lose her dignity won't allow her to return to him, so instead she marries a man who is despised by most who know him, including her father, Sean. Derek Hunt is a pig, and in a very short time, Storm is asking for a divorce. She winds up in a small cottage with the son she names John and it is there that Mark sees her again for the first time since she left Lion's Kop. Stunned by the likeness of the child to him, it takes little time for him to realize it is his, and he is even more amazed at the changes in Storm. No longer the spoiled and self-involved young lady he knew before, she now has a quiet confidence and grace that only adds to her considerable beauty. Sadly, Mark is married to Marion, and Storm won't allow him to disgrace his relationship with her by leaving her to be with them. This all



changes when Marion is killed by a lioness at Chaka's Gate, and when Mark approaches her a second time, she makes the decision to go with him to Chaka's Gate.

Now an up and coming artist, she has already had her first successful exhibition, and looks at life through new eyes. She recognizes beauty where before she hardly saw at all.

Jan Christiaan Smuts

Prime Minister, he is also a General, although he is a small man with hands that are almost fragile. The demeanor of a philosopher or a scholar is accentuated by his neat and pointed beard. Despite his small frame, he carries a vital force and has an awesome presence and power of character. He has a compelling voice, and is a knowledgeable botanist. Actively interested in the preservation of the African wildlife, he is a staunch supporter in Parliament for Sean and Mark while they strive to make the lands at Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley a National Park. Jan Smuts is so impressed with Mark when they first meet that he also gives him the position of warden in the National Park lands once they are ratified.

Though he loses his seat in congress, a strong supporter climbs down from his to put Smuts back into a position of influence, and Smuts gratefully accepts.

Helena MacDonald

Helena is the wife of Fergus MacDonald. She is in her early thirties and still good looking with fine cheekbones and dark eyes that radiate intelligence. She is sure of herself and uses her hands to emphasize her speech. Her hands are strong, the fingers tapered gracefully ending in short and well kept fingernails. Her short hair is dark brown and full of curls, and she is well aware of her sexuality and how to use it. Her skin is creamy olive colored and her breasts are large for her slim frame. She smokes cigarettes, which is uncommon for women in this time period, and her first and second fingers are yellowed with nicotine.

Ruth Courtney

Wife of General Sean Courtney, Ruth is one of Natal's first ladies. A renowned beauty, though well past forty, she has a shrewd eye and is fiercely protective of Sean. Still slim and lovely, she has no trouble arousing her husband with ease, although her body is no longer able to produce children - let alone a son like Sean so badly wanted. Quick and strong in mind and body, she has small, pointed breasts and long shapely legs.



Pungushe

The name given by Mark because of his cunning and hunting ability, Pungushe means Jackal. This Zulu, a warrior who fought with Bombata at the gorge, is a mighty hunter who came to be so when the soldiers came and took away his cattle. He is a man of about forty, who is in excellent physique. His muscles are clearly defined and the skin itself is lighter than that of most Zulu's. He has a broad forehead, and his eyes are dark, fierce and proud. He has just a touch of frosting at the temples of his short dark hair. Pungushe has three wives, seven sons and six daughters.

Derek Hunt

Derek is an overweight and unattractive man, married twice before taking Storm as his third bride. His large belly bulges out over his belt, and his skin is heavily freckled. His arms are long and thick and they are covered with a fuzz of ginger colored hair. His skin has a raw and red look, with the purplish glaze of a heavy drinker. His lack of handsome looks is echoed in his disgusting behavior, belching and groping Storm in public, humiliating her in front of her friends with apparent glee. Already having seven children between two wives, he has little concern for social niceties. He has heavy shoulders, pitted and scarred purple with a myriad of small boils. For breakfast, he enjoyed mixing Black Velvet, and Champagne, giving him a permanent watery and pink-rimmed look.

John Courtney

John is Mark's son by Storm Courtney, a robust young man with a cap of golden hair and penetrating eyes like his father. Good strong lungs and a captivating demeanor earn him the name Phimbo, meaning little man with a great voice. Robust, bold and aggressive, he becomes a quick favorite of the Zulu man and his family.

Ronald Pye

Ronald is an older man whose once prosperous bulges have sagged, and jowls have begun to droop. Once enjoying controlling interest in the Ladyburg Farmers Bank, Ronald had sold controlling interest to Dirk Courtney ten years previously. The deal had been attractive - six hundred thousand pounds in cash for sixty percent interest in the bank, but what had really swung the deal in Dirk's favor was Ronald's desire to get even with General Sean Courtney, Dirk's estranged father. Now, he bitterly regrets the deal.

Hobday

Hobday has a heavy smooth jaw without whiskers, and his teeth appear as though they've been ground down flat into an even line. He is darkly sun tanned, making his white teeth stand out in stark contrast. His head is round in shape like a large cannon



ball, and his neck is small and thick, giving the impression of a heavyweight boxer. He is stocky in build, with thick broad shoulders, and a brusque laugh. He has a nasty demeanor, easily admitting that he likes to 'break a head' now and then. With the look of a killer, he enjoys tormenting, and takes pleasure out of watching other people in pain. He is insolent, and has little or no respect for women. He takes pride in his ability to push every dollars worth out of the men who work for him, and his loyalty is fierce and unswerving.



Objects/Places

Cuthbert

A realistic dummy, from the waist up resembling a rookie complete with helmet riding at a natural angle on it's head. Used to lure a sniper out of hiding, it is nothing more than a broom handle from the waist down, manipulated by Fergus McDonald leaving the younger Mark Anders to take the shot.

Andersland

Eight thousand acres of loamy ground and four miles of river frontage with good water that is owned by Mark's grandfather, John Anders, and was named by him thirty years before. Also, the only home Mark has ever known. A key property as it is the only one in the area with water on it.

Chaka's Gate

Declared a hunting reserve in 1869, Chaka's Gate is a vast wilderness that the men of Zululand and northern Natal saw as their own private hunting reserve. It is the area where John Anders lost his life to an apparent hunting accident after he had 'fallen on his rifle'.

Hooters

Mine employees charged with calling each shift in to work, the hooters are so named for the mournful wailing howl that is their signature summons.

Natal Motors

Mark's first job in Durban is as a salesman for Natal Motors under the direct supervision of Dicky Lancome.

Emoyeni

The Zulu name that graces the town home of General Sean Courtney. Entered via two white gates, the property sits on the crest of the hills that surround the town of Durban. Small herds of partially domesticated game roam the grounds and the driveway is so long that even after the gate is out of sight, the house can't be seen. Half-wild, but still groomed and well looked after, the landscape is like a fantasy with a low bridge that



crosses the neck of an artificial lake. The house is like a Spanish palace, its roof tiled in candy pink and surrounded by vibrant and blazing flowerbeds.

Africa Cup

Name given to the award that represents the finest rifleman and his division. It is an award that has long gone to Colonel Hamilton of the Cape Town Highlanders, but with Mark Anders help, General Sean Courtney is convinced that this coming February they will take the cup from him at last. The Africa Cup stands just about as high as a man's chest, and is on a base of polished ebony.

ZARPS

Zuid Afrikaanse Republick Polisie, used in a derogatory fashion by the striking union workers.

Fordsburg

Hometown of Fergus and Helena MacDonald, and final stronghold of rebel striking forces where a last stand is made.

Sjambok

A long, vicious tapered whip made from the cured hide of a hippo and used to inflict pain and punishment on the men Harry Fisher deems as traitors or cowards. Wielded by a man, it can cut the skin to ribbons with little exertion.

Trades Hall

Located on the corners of Center and Commercial in Fordsburg, it is the stronghold of the strikers, and the center of operations.

Cocoa Pan

Used to truck waste materials to the rock dump by way of rail lines, cocoa pans are small four wheeled tip-trucks coupled together and made of steel. Mark uses one of these to hide behind and avoid Vickers gun fire as he makes his way to the nest Fergus and Helena are holed up in.



Vickers Gun

A machine gun with capability of firing multiple rounds from a belt of ammunition that is fed into it. Used by Fergus, it is a ruthless killing machine.

Lion's Kop

The first home Sean took Ruth to after they were married, and the place she considers to be their special home. Overlooking the Ladyburg Valley, it is the center and fortress of their lives.

Great Longwood

A pretentious name given to the home built by Dirk Courtney on the land that borders that of his father, Sean.

Slag Yster

A killing iron, and the name given to a trap that weighs thirty pounds. The jaws are so strong that it takes a thick branch or more to lever them open, and it is an instrument used by poachers in Chaka's Gate.

Assegai

Designed by King Chaka in the days of Zulu wars, this is a broad bladed stabbing spear which can go into a man with such force that when it's removed, it sucks the life blood out of a man as though it were done by machine.

Ngaga

The Zulu name for pangolin which is a scaly ant eater resembling an armadillo. This nocturnal creature scurries around like a wizened old man stopping to look closely at anything in it's path and then continuing on if caught out in daylight.

Abelungu

Zulu word for white man.

Silwane

Zulu name for wild animals.



Sakubona

'I see you', the traditional Zulu greeting, usually followed by the name.

Tokoloshe

A mythical creature from Zulu magical legend.

Umhlanga Rocks

A small seaside village along the coastline on one side of the main port of Durban across the Umgeni River where Storm and her baby, John live after she leaves Derek. Also the home that Mark and Storm retire to in 1973.



Themes

Preservation vs Progress

This is a story that highlights the constant struggle to maintain a balance between progress and preservation. While one man advocates development and what he perceives as progress, another fights for the preservation of wildlife and the natural resources that he grew up learning to appreciate and love. Dirk Courtney is determined to increase his wealth regardless of the cost to others or to the environment. While he has the money and the means to further development in the Chaka Gate and Bubezi Valley areas, his vision is shortsighted at best. He manages to gain the support of locals by promising them prosperity and unlimited water supplies to further their farming endeavors, but he neglects to take into account the permanent losses that would occur as a result. Though this story is told in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, it is a struggle that is ongoing in all areas of the world today. Dirk's goal is to flood the Bubezi Valley by damming the natural rock faces at Chaka's Gate, and in doing so create thousands of acres of arable land to grow crops and a large lake with which to irrigate them.

The opposition to this plan begins with Mark Anders who first crosses paths with Dirk when he investigates his grandfather's death. Returning from the war in France to the land he grew up on, he discovers it has been sold to a front company owned by three men. The primary investor in this enterprise is Dirk Courtney. Mark digs deeper, and learns that his grandfather was likely killed by Dirk's men, although he has no proof, but by investigating, he finds that he suddenly has a price on his head. He goes back to Chaka's Gate to find his grandfather's grave, and relearns his appreciation for the untouched beauty and wilderness of the area. It is not quite as his grandfather remembered it. Already, the land has seen a change because Chaka's Gate was considered a hunting preserve. As such, there are no elephants roaming the land, buffalo are all but non-existent, and the mighty lion that depends on large game for survival is also gone. Mark's trip to Chaka's Gate restores his deep appreciation for the area, and begins his fight to save the area from development. In a strange twist of fate, Mark finds himself hired as the warden in charge of preserving and protecting the land he loves and his strongest supporter and benefactor is Dirk's father, Sean Courtney whom Mark meets for the first time in France during the war. Their bond is strong and trusting, deepening with their shared distrust of the estranged son, Dirk. It is a fitting legacy for Sean Courtney, who spent much of his youth hunting in Chaka's Gate and is horrified to find that now the larger game in the area that he once knew to be so plentiful is all but eradicated by shortsighted human interference. Building a great wealth for himself by taking from the earth, he finally learns that the value is not in the money but in the preservation of all wildlife and natural beauty in the area he plundered thoughtlessly as a younger man. Now his legacy includes the funding of the preservation efforts that he finds infinitely more satisfying. It is a lesson his son, Dirk cannot grasp.



White Labor vs Black Labor

The mines in Africa are fraught with conflict as the two sides struggle to exist side by side. It is early in the year 1922 when rising costs force mine owners to replace high paid white labor with lower paid and less skilled black men in order to maintain profits and keep from closing mining enterprises. The white man has long considered this their domain, while the black men were nothing more than slaves to be bought and sold at whim. Once equality begins, and slavery is discouraged, the white man begins to lose pace against his counterparts. Demands for higher wages and better working conditions leave mine owners and operators little choice but to close mines or cut costs. In an effort to keep the mines producing, the owners look to black labor willing to work for much less, and complain much less about conditions as anything is an improvement of their former lives of slavery. While the white man has become increasingly greedy, the black man is content to earn a wage of any kind.

This becomes a subject of great conflict as the mine owners try to reduce costs against rising expenses, hiring black labor at a cheaper rate instead of closing the mines outright. White labor rebelled starting a civil war that forced the government to declare martial law. The result was a bloody battle where many lost their lives, largely because of the inflated rhetoric of a few men who adopted a Communist/Marxist ideal. Storing weapons in great numbers, they looked and waited for an excuse to bring the entire matter to a head, and that opportunity presented itself when the government became aware of their weapons cache. Forewarned, Fordsburg became a bloody battleground and the center of the conflict. The needless slaughter that resulted could have been much worse had there not been such cool heads at the helm of the government's response.

Love vs Position

Mark Anders first proposes to Marion Littlejohn largely because he is taken by her willingness to please him, despite how little pleasure she derives. In an effort to keep him interested in her, Marion offers Mark the physical contact she has little interest in, and Mark is the man who takes her virginity. In an act that is more painful than pleasurable for Marion, she still promises to improve her skills in that area, merely to keep him. Her dedication to his happiness at the expense of her own comfort is largely what inspires Mark to propose, as friendship is as far as they have gone at that stage.

When Mark meets Storm Courtney for the first time, chemistry takes over. His mind and heart are completely devoted, and though he has never so much as kissed her at first, he can't stop thinking about her. His feelings for Storm are raw and impulsive, and though Storm fights it at every turn, she feels the same way. When they finally consummate their relationship, they are so taken with each other that they risk the wrath of her father to continue their secret trysts. Storm and Mark have different ideas about where their lives will take them though. Storm is used to wealth and the power of her position. She uses it indiscriminately, even causing Mark to be fired in the beginning



from his job at Natal Motors. It is her position that she is unwilling to lose when she refuses to see Mark's vision of the future. Angry because he won't trade his position as warden of the newly created National Park at Chaka's Gate for one of white-collar position and power, she leaves him. Unfortunately, she is already pregnant by then and in a desperate attempt to keep from disgracing herself, she marries a man she believes has money and position. The fact that she doesn't love him is irrelevant. It is much more important to her at this point to save face. She marries Derek Hunt, who unknown to her is much the same as she is. Having lost his fortune to two ex wives and seven children as well as a variety of bad business decisions, he marries Storm despite her pregnancy to gain access to her father's money and the power it brings. It is not a marriage that brings either happiness.

Knowing Storm is married breaks Mark's resolve. Despite his love for Storm, he approaches the only other woman who has expressed true interest in how he feels - he thinks. He goes to Marion Littlejohn, looking for another chance, and she is only too happy to oblige. They are married quickly, and she has no problems with moving into the wilds of Chaka's Gate with him, but theirs is a loveless relationship from the start. Marion enjoys the newfound status that her marriage to Mark brings her, and is more than willing to play wife and housewife in return. Their lovemaking never improves because there is no love there to begin with, and mutual respect while great for friendship is not something that a long-term marriage can be built on. All Mark can think about is Storm, and he can't help but compare the two women with Marion coming up short by a long shot. The result of both of these relationships - Storm's and Mark's - is that no one is happy. The position these weddings brought each woman brought just that and nothing more.

Style

Point of View

While Wilbur Smith uses primarily the third person perspective as narrator, and switches back and forth between the most important characters. Adeptly weaving this tale, he uses each character reliably and confidently to create a straightforward and enjoyable read. Beginning with General Sean Courtney, the point of view is woven around the war in France, and the contribution of Mark Anders. These are the two main characters, although there are several supporting characters that are of equal importance in the story's development. The narration includes in depth emotions of its main characters, helping the reader to understand the growth and motivation of each. For example, Mark Anders grew up in the Bubezi River Valley and Chaka's Gate areas with his grandfather, John Anders. When Mark returns from the war, he discovers his grandfather is dead, and Andersland, his grandfather's property and his inheritance, has been taken from him. In an effort to trace those responsible, he finds himself in a fight for his life, and realizes the importance of Andersland to the man who engineered its theft.

The other character most important to this story is Sean Courtney. He and Mark meet for the first time on the battlefield in France, and surprisingly again after the first attempt on Mark's life. In a well-scripted tale, Sean brings Mark back into his life, employing him and coming to think of him as his son. This is highly relevant as the story plays out because Sean has disowned and is estranged from his natural son, Dirk, a cunning and ruthless man who thinks nothing of killing to accomplish his goal of greater wealth and power. Dirk is the architect behind the theft of Andersland and the death of John Anders. As the story evolves, and Dirk discovers Mark asking questions, he commissions men to kill him as well. In his pursuit of greater wealth, his history includes the senseless slaughter of over a hundred men, women and children, which enables him to buy controlling interest in a local bank. After engineering the death of John Anders and the appropriation of his land, Dirk approaches his father with a plan that is as horrifying as it is large. Dirk wants to flood the Bubezi Valley by damming Chaka's Gate, and use the land around it to grow crops for profit.

Mark and Sean team up to fight this plan by establishing a National Park, and declaring the area a wildlife preserve. Throughout it all, Mark learns about women and love, falling hard and losing just as hard, and the emotional growth is well articulated and surprising at times. It's an excellent story, well told and easily read.

Setting

While *A Sparrow Falls* begins in France, the story is set mostly in Africa. *A Sparrow Falls* centers on the struggle to preserve the natural beauty and wilderness of Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley. In its stunning descriptions of wildlife and the natural beauty of Africa, it is easy to be swept up into the desire to preserve Africa, and fight



those who use progress as an excuse to lay waste to all in their path. The area of Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley are under threat of destruction by ambitious men who prefer profit to preservation. As the population increases, the wilderness and wildlife therein is pushed further and further back, the loss of their natural habitat threatening their very existence.

Sean Courtney is a central character, owning thousands of acres of land in his property called Lion's Kop alone, and is a staunch supporter of the African Wildlife Protection Society first conceived by Mark Anders. His will and subsequent financial contribution makes it possible for the Society to be administered without government funding, and guaranteeing the survival of the wilderness in the areas of Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River valley.

Mark Anders moves from Ladyburg, the nearest town to Andersland, which is the property his grandfather owned, to Fordsburg when he is chased out by the man who wants control of the land, and then back to Durban where he launches a fight to save the area he grew up in and was taught to love and appreciate. He finally lives in Chaka's Gate until his retirement in 1973 when he moves with his wife Storm to Umhlanga Rocks on the Natal Coast.

Language and Meaning

A Sparrow Falls is written most in English, but Wilbur Smith interlaces the text with many Zulu references, and native African names and titles. This lends to the realism and authenticity of the story, taking the reader right into the wilderness. The Zulu language used is descriptive, with names derived by the behavior of the people. The main characters are fluent in Zulu as well as English, and are therefore understood by the Zulu natives they encounter. Mark Anders for example, refers to the tracks of a barefooted man in Chaka's Gate as Pungushe, meaning jackal. He uses this name for him throughout the story, while the Zulu named Pungushe by him, calls him Jamela, meaning he who looks but cannot see. There are references made to the mythical creature Tokoloshe from Zulu magical legend to describe the mysterious lioness prints that Pungushe creates to lead a hunting party away from the actual animal for long enough to lead her to safety.

Pungushe goes on to name Mark or Jamela's son, John - calling him Phimbo meaning little man with a great voice and Mark introduces his wife Storm to Pungushe by using the Zulu translation of the word Storm, Vungu Vungu. When Jamela and Pungushe speak of Mark's grandfather, he is referred to as Ixhegu. The Zulu man often describes people by their behavior, such as 'the man who laughed all the time and walked with the noise of a buffalo herd' or 'the silent one'. These are just a few examples of the many Zulu words and phrases that bring this story to a realistic light for the reader.

Structure

A Sparrow Falls is divided into a hundred and fifty four sections similar to chapters, but not actually labeled as such. The beginning is centered on the Great War in France and the participation therein of Mark Anders, Fergus MacDonald and Sean Courtney. When they return home to Africa, their interaction takes them from the Bubezi River Valley to the heights of Chaka's Gate. While most of the story centers on the preservation of the area known as Chaka's Gate, there is also a considerable portion devoted to the homes belonging to Sean Courtney, Emoyeni and Lion's Kop.

There are also several 'chapters' devoted to the area around Johannesburg and Fordsburg where civil upheaval surrounding labor and striking workers is concerned. Fordsburg is the center of the striker's stronghold, and the last city to be brought back under control with government having to resort to martial law to accomplish their task. The result loses Sean Courtney a seat in Congress that he held from 1910 forward.



Quotes

"It's damned difficult to give him a nice natural look, like some stupid rooky sticking his head up to take a first look at France." Pg 15 Ch 4

Fergus MacDonald to General Sean Courtney, explaining his prowess with Cuthbert.

"Piet said it looked like he had slipped while he was climbing a steep place, and he had fallen on his rifle." Pg 44 Chp 13

Fred Black to his nephew Mark regarding the death of his grandfather, John Anders.

"The key to the whole thing was here on the Umfolosi - the water, we had to have it or none of it made sense. One stupid, stubborn, uneducated old Bastard - " Pg 62 Chp 16
Dirk Courtney to Ronald Pye and Dennis Petersen after Hobday tells them that Mark Anders is alive and asking questions.

"I leaned that when we was a chasing the Boer. A light in the night brings things other than moths - lions, hyenas and men." Pg 67 Chp 17

Mark's memory of John Anders, and his wisdom which likely saves Mark's life.

"But first we have to tear down and destroy this rotten, unjust and corrupt society. There will be hard fighting, and we will need good hard fighting men." Pg 82 Chp 19

Fergus MacDonald to Mark, explaining his views on a communist future.

"Mark my words, Mark, that young lady has got the brood lust. If you turn your back for ten minutes, she will be up the nearest tree building a nest." Pg 137 Chp 35

Dicky Lancome to Mark after Marion's four day visit to Durban.

"Certainly, Miss Courtney. Of course I'll get them, just as soon as you say please." Pg 151 Chp 37

Mark to Storm Courtney after he drops off her new Cadillac and she demands that he fetch the keys.

"It's serious, old Sean. They are organized, and there is no question but that they are seeking a direct confrontation." Pg 166 Chp 43

Prime Minister Jan Christiaan Smuts to Sean regarding the white mine workers.

"One day they will find some way to kill him, or something to cure the sleeping sickness - the nagana - that he carries. They the Africa we know will have gone, lad." Pg 178 Chp 47

John Anders to Mark when he was a boy in Chaka's Gate regarding the tsetse fly and how it singlehandedly prevented the ruination of the area.

"One of the things that we are going to do during this session of Parliament, Mark, is to make sure that the sanctuary in the Bubezi Valley is ratified, and we are going to get funds to administer it properly, to make sure that nobody, ever, turns it into a sugar cane or cotton field, or floods it beneath the waters of a dam." Pg 289 Chp 58



Sean to Mark, describing his intentions to protect the area that his son Dirk wants so badly to develop and ruin in the process.

"A man gathers horror and fear like a ship gathers weed. It's below the waterline, you cannot see it, but it is there." Pg 395 Chp 85

Sean to Ruth and Storm as he tries to explain the changes in both he and Mark since their return from the battle with the strikers.

"We reared him, you and I. Yet he killed you. I do not know how, nor can I prove it, but I know he killed you - and now he's vowed to kill me also." Pg 414 Chp 88

Sean speaking at the graveside of Mbejane regarding his son, Dirk.

"The one word that describes it is progress! And anybody who tries to stop that is worse than a fool, he's a criminal, a traitor to his country, and should be treated as one. He should be brushed mercilessly aside, by any means that comes to hand." Pg 439 Chp 96

Dirk to Mark as he describes his vision for Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River Valley.

"I will call you Jamela. And when you speak as you have just spoken, I will answer 'Jamela, that is a great stupidity.'" Pg 497 Chp 110

Pungushe to Mark as they are coming to an agreement as to his position and their expectations of each other.

"All white men have faces like boiled yams, red, lumpy and without shape. Except you, Jamela, who are not so ugly as all that." Pg 530 Chp 119

Pungushe to Mark after showing Mark where his grandfather is buried, and explaining to him how it happened.

"Let us hurry now towards the great emptiness." Pg 569 Chp 135

Pungushe to Mark when Mark resolutely decides the lioness must die for killing Marion, despite the fact that she acted out of maternal instinct and did not feed on her.



Topics for Discussion

What does Brigadier-General Sean Courtney like to do that is unlike others of his rank and station, and why does he do it?

Who is Michael Courtney to Sean publicly, and privately? How does this tie in with the greatest disappointment in Sean's life?

Mark Anders is employed by the army several times. What is his specialty, and what costs does he suffer as a direct result?

Mark goes to Chaka's Gate more than once. What are his reasons each time?

Why is Dirk estranged from Sean? What past act can Sean not forgive and what future plan will Sean devote all of his strengths and power to preventing?

How does Dirk, as a nineteen-year-old boy, manage to make himself a million pounds, and use it to buy a bank? What impact does this have on Ronald Pye and Dennis Petersen?

What do Dressel, Kothe and Rochl secretly perfect, and what is its possible impact on the area of Chaka's Gate and the Bubezi River?

What conflict does Mark battle with where the strikers are concerned, and how does he handle it?

How does Mark recover his inheritance for Andersland, and why does it create a mortal enemy? How does he justify the money he receives?

What are Mark's new responsibilities in the Chaka's Gate area? What three things is he tasked to do?

What are Mark's plans for the future in Chaka's Gate and with whom? What bursts his bubble, and why?

What compromise does Mark make to get help with the National Park in Chaka's Gate? Why does he ignore the law created to save the area in this instance?

Why does Storm marry Derek Hunt, and what is the outcome of this union? Why did Derek marry Storm and did he get what he wanted from the union?

How does Mark convince Hobday to turn on Dirk Courtney and what plan does Mark put into place to trap Dirk into committing a felony?

What does Dirk do to avoid the charges that Hobday asserts he is a part of, and who is the traitor that makes the plan possible and why?



What turns the tables on the development of the Chaka's Gate area? Why is the idea shelved once and for all, and who is responsible for the permanent status as National Park?

Sean Courtney's will allows next to nothing for either of his natural children. Why in each case, and what is the response?