

Salem Falls Study Guide

Salem Falls by Jodi Picoult

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Plot Summary

Salem Falls by Jodi Picoult is a fiction novel about a man named Jack St. Bride who is released from jail after being convicted of statutory rape. He arrives in Salem Falls and gets a job at the Do-Or-Diner. He starts to fall in love with the owner, Addie Peabody, who lets Jack live with her dad, Roy. She needs Jack to watch Roy since Roy has become a heavy drinker. Addie had a daughter, Chloe, who died, and Addie copes with this by pretending Chloe is alive. Gillian Duncan is a local teenager and daughter of Amos Duncan, the richest man in town and owner of Duncan Pharmaceuticals. Gillian and her friends Whitney O'Neill, Meg Saxton, and Chelsea Abrams practice Wicca or witchcraft. They keep this a secret from their parents. Jack and Addie begin to fall in love.

Wes, a police officer who also likes Addie, is jealous and run a police check on St. Bride. He finds out Jack is a sex offender who was convicted of sexually assaulting a student, Catherine Marsh, while he was a teacher at Westonbrook Academy. The town soon finds out and Jack is threatened and beat up. Addie tells Jack that she was raped when she was young. Gillian Duncan, however, develops a crush of Jack. She sets up a Wiccan celebration with her friends in the woods. Gilly steals atropine, a hallucinogenic, from her father's lab for the celebration. Addie and Jack are spending the night together when they have a fight. Jack leaves and goes out drinking. When he leaves the bar, he starts to walk home, but ends up in the woods at Gillian and her friend's party. Amos Duncan, Gillian's father, and Charlie Saxton, police detective and Meg Saxton's father, soon find the girls. Gillian tells them she was raped by Jack St. Bride.

Jack is arrested and put in prison to await trial. Jordan McAfee is his lawyer. Jordan doesn't believe Jack is innocent at first, since Jack can't remember what happened that night, but starts to believe Jack as the truth comes to light. Charlie finds evidence that the girls had atropine that night, and might have been hallucinating. The tests also can't prove Jack raped Gillian, but they also can't rule them out. Despite the girl's efforts to hide the fact that they were doing a Wiccan ritual, Jordan gets enough of the truth out during the trial. Jack regains his memory and remembers the girls brought him into the ritual, but he didn't rape Gillian. The jury finds Jack not guilty and he is released. He and Addie plan to move away and go see Jack's mother. Gillian is revealed to have an incestuous relationship with her father at the end of the novel.



Prologue, March 2000, North Haverhill, New Hampshire and Chapter 1, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Prologue, March 2000, North Haverhill, New Hampshire and Chapter 1, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Salem Falls by Jodi Picoult is a fiction novel about a man named Jack St. Bride who is released from jail after being convicted of statutory rape. In Salem Falls, Addie Peabody is having problems with the appliances at the diner she owns, the Do-Or-Diner. She gets her cook, Delilah, and the customers to help gather snow from outside to put in the refrigerator so the food won't spoil. While they are working, Orren, a police officer, comes to tell her that her father, Roy, has been arrested. Addie goes to the police station and meets with Officer Wes Courtemanche, who tells her Roy was arrested for driving under the influence after he was caught driving a lawn mower down a highway breakdown lane while drunk.

Gillian Duncan pretends to be sick so she can stay home from school. Her friends Meg Saxton, Chelsea and Whitney O'Neill come to visit her. The girls hang out in Gillian's room and begin to practice a Wiccan, or witchcraft, ritual. At the diner, Addie Peabody returns with Roy and asks Delilah if her daughter, Chloe behaved,. Delilah sighs and says yes. Addie takes Roy to his room above the diner. She tells him she wants him to work the register in the diner, and he figures it is because she wants to keep an eye on him. Jack St. Bride is driving in the taxi through the towns of New Hampshire. When they get to Salem Falls, Jack knows this is the place he wants to stay. Addie finds Harlan Pettigrew from the Department of Health has come to inspect the diner. Addie stalls and when Jack comes into the diner, she pretends he is a repairman. Jack plays along and Harlan decides to come back after the appliances are fixed. Addie thanks Jack and gives him a job as a dishwasher. Jack visits the police station and registers with Detective Charlie Saxton as a convicted sex offender.

Prologue, March 2000, North Haverhill, New Hampshire and Chapter 1, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

Jack St. Bride has nowhere to go when he is released from prison. His family has apparently deserted him, and there is no one left to help him. His only choice is to try to find somewhere to start his life over. He stops at the first town that appeals to him, Salem Falls. He manages to secure a job almost immediately, with no other references



besides helping Addie out. Jack demonstrates that he is able to think on his feet, and is willing to help someone in need. Addie shows that she is an unconventional woman, both by this and the fact that she has the customers make snowmen to keep the freezer working. It is clear Addie is dedicated to the diner and will do anything to keep it open. Addie seems to be a pleasant woman; however, she does have her problems. Her father, Roy, appears to be an alcoholic, and Addie must take care of him. Jack's reason for going to prison is also revealed: he is a convicted sex offender and must register at the police station. The police detective, Charlie, is nice to Jack until he learns the reason Jack is there, foreshadowing how people will treat him once they find out. Gillian Duncan is also introduced as a manipulative young girl, who is deceives her father and hides her witchcraft from him.



Chapter 2, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 3, September 1999, North Haverhill, New Hampshire

Chapter 2, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 3, September 1999, North Haverhill, New Hampshire Summary

Jack St. Bride returns to the diner to begin work as a dishwasher. While cleaning in the diner, Jack finds one table with a plate of untouched food on it. He takes some fries and eats them, but Addie comes up and tells him not to eat 'her' meal. Jack asks who 'her' is, but Addie walks away. Thomas McAfee is a freshman in high school. He is in love with Chelsea Abrams, one of Gillian Duncan's friends. Detective Charlie Saxton wants to find out more about Jack, but when he finds out he must wait a few days to get information, he decides to keep it to himself for a few weeks. Addie has a date with Wes, but she is reluctant to go. She finally agrees and they go for hot chocolate. On the way back, Wes asks her questions about what she wants to do with her life and tries to come on to her, but she rebuffs him and leaves him. Delilah tells Jack that Addie's mother died when she and Roy had a fight in the kitchen, and Roy blames himself for it. She also tells Jack that Chloe died at the age of ten, several years ago. That night, Jack is eating while Addie closes up. He watches Jeopardy and knows many of the answers, impressing Addie. He takes some of the food from his plate and puts it on Chloe's, telling Addie he owes Chloe. After they lock up, Addie offers to drive Jack home, and discovers he doesn't have anywhere to live. She tells Jack he can stay with her father, Roy.

After being convicted in Loyal for assaulting Catherine, Jack moves into the minimum security section of the prison. One of the other prisoners, Aldo LeGrande, tells him not to put his belongings in a certain tub, but Jack thinks it's a test and doesn't listen. Jack later sees Mountain, who controls the remote every night as the toughest inmate. That night, he wakes up when Mountain grabs his throat and threatens him. Jack is eventually assigned to work on the prison's farm. Mountain finds him and beats him up. Jack goes to the infirmary. He returns to the common room, where Aldo is arguing with another man about a word used during a Scrabble game. Jack confirms that 'ocher' is a word and Aldo tells the other guy that Jack is smart and they should listen to him. Mountain attacks Jack again and prepares to rape him. However, Aldo tells Mountain that some of the men have a bet that Jack will know all the answers on Jeopardy, and they won't be able to collect if Jack is in the infirmary. Mountain agrees not to hurt Jack as long as Jack gets the answers right. Jack gets every answer right for a week before getting one wrong. Mountain comes for Jack, who tells him he knows he lost, but Mountain will never break him down. Mountain gets angry that he can't get to Jack and



tells him he's letting him go. Jack says that he is leaving. When Mountain leaves, Jack takes over control of the remote each night and the inmates watch Jeopardy.

Chapter 2, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 3, September 1999, North Haverhill, New Hampshire Analysis

The Peabody family has its share of ghosts. Roy is haunted by his wife. He didn't actually kill her, but he feels responsible for her death since they were fighting when it happened. Roy has become an alcoholic to cope, and Addie is forced to deal with him and try to take care of him. Addie is haunted by the memory of her daughter, Chloe. It is revealed that Chloe had died several years ago. She deals with the loss of her daughter by pretending she is alive, and those close to her go along with it. When Jack places more food on Chloe's plate, it tells Addie he understands her pain and would not make fun of her for how she deals with it. Addie takes to Jack and seems to trust him, since she asks him to live with and watch her father. Addie and Jack perhaps recognize something in each other's souls.

While Jack is in prison, he wants to keep control of himself. Whenever he is transferred to a new section, the other prisoners test him to see how far he can be broken. Mountain is used to having people bend to his will, and when Jack defies him, Mountain targets Jack. Mountain wants to break Jack's will. He plans to rape Jack, not because of sexual desire but because it will break down his will and strength. Jack stands up to Mountain, and lets him know that if he takes advantage of Jack, he won't be breaking Jack's will, because Jack is stronger than that. Mountain backs down, and when he is released, Jack takes over as the prisoner in charge. This shows Jack is able to persevere through adverse situations. It also shows that he is a smart man and is obsessed with trivia and the television show Jeopardy.



Chapter 4, Late March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 4, Late March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Jack is living with Addie's father, Roy. Roy works at the register in the diner, since he still refuses to work in the kitchen. Jack notices that Stuart Hollings, one of the regulars, hasn't walked his dog or come into the diner as usual. Addie tries to call Stuart but he doesn't answer, so she goes to his house. She finds him lying on the floor and calls 911. When she returns to the diner, she tells everyone Stuart had a stroke. Starshine is the owner of the Wiccan Read. Gillian, Whitney, Chelsea and Meg frequent the store. The girls come in to buy supplies for a spell to heal Stuart. At Stuart's farm, Jack shows Addie how to milk a cow. He tells her they will trade one truth for another, and tells her he used to be a teacher and soccer coach at a girl's school. Jack asks Addie what happened to Chloe, but she doesn't answer. Jordan McAfee is Thomas McAfee's father. Thomas tells his dad about how he feels about Chelsea, and Jordan encourages his son to go after her. Meg Saxton is in gym class, which she hates. She is picked second to last by the more athletics girls. When they play soccer, Meg accidentally kicks the ball too hard and it goes out of bounds. A man standing near the field tells her how to correctly kick it. Gillian sees the man walking away and tells her friends that he's cute. At the diner, Jack catches Roy drinking cooking sherry in the basement. He doesn't tell Addie, but she realizes what's going on when Roy comes upstairs smelling like alcohol. Jack deliberately placed his hand on the grill to break the tension.

Chelsea sits on a bench next to Thomas, making him very happy until he realizes her friends are coming to sit there as well. They talk about the man at the soccer field, and Meg says she thinks he's a pervert. Gillian goes to the diner to see the new man. Jack is nervous around her and rebuffs her when she asks his name. Jack walks out of the diner and Gillian goes home. Gillian, Whitney, Chelsea and Meg do a spell to make Stuart better. They talk about what would happen if they tried to hurt someone, like Hailey McCourt. At the diner, Addie is angry Jack left and tells him that when he returns. Wes comes in to ask Addie out, but Addie says she is tired. Wes tries to insist and advances on Addie, but Jack stops him. Wes gets angry, shoves Jack and leaves. Addie tells Jack it is dangerous to get Wes angry since Wes is a policeman. Jack leaves again. Addie thinks about Chloe, and when Chloe was sick in the hospital just before she died. At the hospital now, Stuart is miraculously recovered and soon goes home. Charlie Saxton still plans to tell the rest of the police force about Jack being a sex offender, but gets too busy and forgets to send the memo. Hailey McCourt falls ill in class. Addie tells Jack that Chloe died of bacterial meningitis. Jack tries to comfort her, and she leans forward and kisses his chest.



Chapter 4, Late March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

After his time in prison, Jack is afraid to touch a woman. For the past year, he's been living with everyone hating him for what they think he did to Catherine Marsh. Jack is afraid of becoming a man who would do that, so he keeps his distance from women like Addie. However, he and Addie have a connection, and they seem to be drawn together. Addie confides in him how Chloe died and Jack is there to comfort her. Jack is also winning Roy over. At first, Roy is resentful of Jack, his babysitter, but he begins to enjoy spending time with him and discovers Jack is a noble man. Jack also notices that Stuart has not come to the diner as usual, and ends up saving his life. He also goes with Addie to help milk the cow at Stuart's farm, not telling her he knows how to do it because he learned in prison.

Wes and Jack also have some animosity between them. Wes wants to pursue Addie and Jack stops him. Wes will probably want to get back at Jack, and, since he is a police officer, it seems only a matter of time until he finds out Jack is a sex offender. Jack also offends a customer by preparing his meal before he orders. Addie tells him people don't like having assumptions made about them, which could apply to both of them. Gilly and her friends go to a Wiccan store, where they buy supplies to cast spells. Their spells seem to be successful, since Stuart does recover and Hailey McCourt does fall ill. However, one of the principals of witchcraft is to do no harm, and by hurting Hailey McCourt the girls violate that. Gillian is shown as wanting to have control in her life and controlling other people. She is also the ringleader of her group of friends, and they must do everything she says. Chelsea and Thomas also have a budding romance, but Gillian doesn't approve, so Chelsea hides her attraction.



Chapter 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Gillian is waiting for her dad, Amos, at his office at Duncan Pharmaceuticals. Gillian steals some pills while her father isn't looking. Addie and Jack go to visit Chloe's grave, the first time Addie's been there for seven years. They walk back to Jack's apartment, where Addie kisses him. Jordan McAfee walks into the county courthouse. He has been taking a break from the law, but he tells one of the clerks that he thinks he is ready to jump back into action. At the diner, Addie calls Jack out to the garbage corral where they kiss again. Wes passes by and catches them. Gillian is sitting in the diner with her friends. Gillian knocks over a soda, spilling it on Jack's pants. She tries to help clean it off him, but he moves her hand away. Jack goes into the bathroom to clean up and Gillian sneaks in the bathroom after he leaves. She uses a piece of paper towel that he touched and does a spell to get Jack to love her. The spell involves Jack loving whoever keeps two roses used to perform the spell. Addie catches her and Gillian tries to pretend she is just washing her hands. Addie takes the roses off her.

Wes looks up Jack St. Bride's information and finds out about his prior conviction. Gillian is at home getting ready for a dance. She makes tea for her father, Amos, and slips in several of the pills she stole from the factory. Thomas is also getting ready for the dance. Jordan asks his son if his date is hot. Just then, his date arrives, a woman named Selena. Amos gets very sick, and Gillian says she will stay home to take care of him instead of going to the dance. Jordan is shocked Thomas is going to dance with Selena, Jordan's ex-lover who used to be his private investigator. Selena says they are going to make Chelsea jealous. At the dance, Wes asks Charlie about Jack St. Bride, and Charlie says Jack came into register as a sex offender. Thomas dances with Selena, which gets the attention of all the other kids, including Chelsea. Chelsea comes over to talk to Thomas, and he asks her to dance. Both Selena and Chelsea thinks he's talking to them, but Selena tells them to go ahead and dance. Chelsea says she should get back to her friends and leaves. Jordan McAfee arrives drunk at the diner. Addie gives him some coffee and they and Jack all watch Jeopardy.

Wes comes in for coffee and sees Jack. He tells Addie she should stay away from Jack, and tells Jack to tell Addie what he hasn't told her. Wes tells Addie it was because Jack raped a woman and Addie asks Jack if it's true. Jack doesn't answer and Addie leaves. Wes threatens Jack before leaving himself. Jordan tells Jack that people can't threaten him and harass him to get him to leave. Jack goes to Addie and tells her he didn't do it. He says the reason he doesn't want to touch her is that he doesn't want to become the man everyone thinks he is. He says he would never rape a woman. Addie tells her she never thought the boys who raped her would rape a woman, either. When she was



sixteen, three athletes who were drinking near the playing fields called her over. They gave her a drink and then took advantage of her. Addie tells Jack one of them is Chloe's father, but she doesn't know which one, and that one man died, one moved to Florida, and one stayed in Salem Falls. Addie agrees to give him the benefit of the doubt and they have sex.

Chapter 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

Gillian has become infatuated with Jack. She does a spell to try and get his love, but it backfires when Addie takes the roses. If the spell is successful, this signifies that Addie will have Jack's love. This seems to come true, since Addie and Jack find themselves drawn to one another and are soon sharing a bed. Wes jealousy of Jack comes to a head and he discovers Jack's conviction. Charlie and Jordan both tell Wes nothing can be done because Jack has served his time and has not committed another crime. Wes, however, is still possessive of Addie and he confronts Jack, telling him to tell Addie the truth. Addie is a victim of rape, and tells Jack she knows the pain a rape victim goes through. However, she is able to accept Jack's word and goes to bed with him, showing once again they have a connection and Addie can easily trust him.

Gilly poisons her dad, Amos, with pills from the factory. As first it appears she wants the contraceptives because she is having sex, but she uses them to make her father sick. Her reasoning behind this is not clear. Because she poisoned her dad, she must stay home from the dance. She needs to stay and take care of her dad. Her ultimate goal in doing this is not clear. Gilly may want to punish her dad. She may want her dad to need her, and she thinks she needs to take care of him. by doing this, Amos may feel he is in Gilly's debt. She may also have more sinister means, if she was intending for the pills to kill her father. The purpose of her slipping pills to her dad will remain unknown until more about their relationship is revealed.



Chapter 6, July 1999, Loyal, New Hampshire and Chapter 7, Late April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 6, July 1999, Loyal, New Hampshire and Chapter 7, Late April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Jack is teaching at a girl's school when his friend, Jay Kavanaugh calls and asks him to come to the police station. Kavanaugh is a cop, and he tells Jack that a student, Catherine Marsh, has said that she and Jack are having an affair. Jack tells Jay it isn't true, and is outraged his friend doesn't believe him. Jack goes to the Marsh's home to straighten things out, but Catherine's father, Rev. Ellidor March, punches him. A week before, Jack is teaching a class on ancient Greece. Catherine is in the class, and she asks why they have to learn about ancient wars. Jack decides to make the lesson fun and takes them to get tablecloths. The girls put them on like togas, and they go outside to fight an imaginary war. Jack notices Catherine hasn't put on her bathing suit underneath, like he told the girls to do. Herb Thayer, the headmaster, comes over and tells Jack the girls need to stop. The girls go in to get dressed, and Jack picks up a bra that Catherine dropped by accident.

Jack goes to see a lawyer named Melton and asks him to defend him. Jack tells Melton that he is innocent, and Melton pretends to agree for Jack's sake. Jack meets with Herb, the headmaster, who tells him everyone has noticed he and Catherine are close. Jack's mother, Annalise St. Bride, doesn't believe he is innocent. Melton tells Jack it looks bad since he has Catherine's bra and took Catherine for birth control pills. Jack says he took her because no one else would, especially her father who is a minister. Jack confronts Catherine in secret and asks her why she would do something like this to him. Catherine says she loves him. When meeting with the prosecutor, Loretta Winwood, Catherine tries to retract what she's said, but the prosecutor and her dad don't believe she's lying. The prosecutor doesn't tell Melton Sprigg that Catherine is unwilling to testify and offers Jack a plea bargain. Melton advises Jack to take it, since he will probably be convicted if the case goes to court. Jack pleads guilty and gets eight months in prison. Catherine tries to protest but her father stops her and she is removed from the courtroom.

Addie and Jack wake up after having sex and talk. Addie leaves the room and Jack soon catches her and her father, Roy, arguing outside. Jack sees a bucket of water and Roy tells him they are washing the windows. Jack offers to help and goes outside. He sees someone has painted 'Go Home' on the door. Gillian wakes up and finds her dad and his friends talking about what they must do to keep their children safe. Jack goes to see Charlie Saxton, who tells him the list is public. Jack asks how many people have



asked to see it, and Charlie says none. Jack says he knows one of the officers let the information get out. Charlie says they will uphold the law so no one threatens him, but Jack also needs to keep away from young girls. Gillian is in school, where they are reading *The Crucible*, a story about a group of girls in the 1800s who accused others of being witches to hide their practicing of voodoo.

At the diner, Jack is cleaning the counter when Wallace and Stuart talk to him about how young girls are asking for it these days. Jack grabs Stuart by the neck and lifts him off the stool until Roy stops him. He apologizes to Addie for doing that when the diner was busy and everyone saw. Gilly and her friends discuss how their spell on Hailey McCourt was successful. Amos meets with a group of residents at a church to discuss the threat Jack presents to the community. Jordan defends Jack, since they are accusing him before he's actually done anything. Gilly casts a spell in her room to protect Jack. Gilly goes to see Starshine at the Wiccan Read and asks for belladonna, a plant that is supposed to cause hallucinations. Starshine says she doesn't have it, but urges Gilly to celebrate Beltane instead, a Wiccan festival. Starshine also tells her about handfasting ceremony, which binds a man and woman for a trial marriage period.

Gilly goes to visit Amos' lab, where she finds out her father is using belladonna for a medicine. After her father goes to his office, she tells one of the lab techs that Amos wants a sample of the belladonna. Gilly takes the sample and hides it. Addie takes Jack to her house, where he will stay from now on. He offers to stay in Chloe's old room, which has been untouched, but Addie won't let him. Selena and Jordan eat breakfast at the diner. They discuss how the townspeople want Jack to move away. Gilly tries to convince Meg to go to the diner with her, but Meg won't go. Gilly goes and corners Jack by the garbage corral. Gilly implies that she wants Jack, but he rebuffs her again. Wes comes back and sees them and tells Gilly to leave. Wes meets up with Amos later and tells him to watch out for Gilly, since she was talking to Jack. Amos goes to see one of his friends, Tom O'Neill.

Chapter 6, July 1999, Loyal, New Hampshire and Chapter 7, Late April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

The story behind Jack's conviction is beginning to be revealed. Throughout an unfortunate set of coincidences, Jack looks incredibly guilty, and his lawyer feels he has no defense. Because of the way he taught a class, he ends up with a bra of Catherine's. He also apparently took Catherine to get birth control pills. Jack was apparently aware of Catherine's crush on him, but he figured it was harmless and so never told anyone about it. If he had, Catherine's accusation may have been taken more lightly. Jack knows it looks bad for him, so he takes a risk and confronts Catherine. He makes her understand how serious her allegations are, and she tries to take them back. Unfortunately, those who have been involved in many rape cases, like Catherine's lawyer, know the victim often gets scared to testify, and recants. It is too late to stop



what she has put into motion. Jack listens to the advice of his lawyer and goes to prison.

In Salem Falls, the word is out about Jack's conviction. The diner is busy because many people want to get a look at Jack. Stuart and Wallace make derogatory comments about young women to Jack, when Stuart says the girls are asking for it, Jack gets angry and grabs him. Many of the townspeople see this, but Addie says it will end up OK because the people will remember he took the girl's side, not joked with Stuart. However, the people still want Jack to leave their town. Someone throws a brick through his apartment window, and everywhere he turns he is met with animosity. Gillian is more intrigued by Jack now, however. She goes to the diner to meet him again, and confronts him by the garbage dump. It is unclear why she should be so attracted to him in the first place, except that he represents a danger, and she wants a dangerous man. Jack, however, doesn't want to get caught again, so he rebuffs Gillian. Wes sees them and tells Amos, but he doesn't hear their discussion. Wes assumes Jack may have been coming onto to Gilly, or, knowing Gilly, thinks she doesn't know when to stay away from a dangerous man.



Chapter 8, April 30, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 9, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 8, April 30, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 9, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Addie and Jack are at her house, watching Jeopardy. Addie starts to touch him and he tries to resist, but he soon gives in. They stop when they hear a noise outside and Jack goes to see what it is. Jack gets beat up by several men. Gillian thinks how mad she is that Jack rebuffed her and treated her like a child. She plans to meet with her friends later to celebrate Beltane, and she takes the atropine out to use at the celebration. She lies to Amos that she will be sleeping over Meg's house. After Addie falls asleep, Jack goes into to Chloe's room and starts to put Chloe's things away. Addie comes in and Jack says she's trying to help her to get over Chloe's death. Addie tells him to get out. Jack goes to the Rooster's Spit, a bar, and drinks with Roy. Gillian, Meg, Whitney and Chelsea are in the woods, performing rituals to celebrate Beltane, the Wiccan holiday. The girls have taken off some of their clothes, and have strung streamers and satchels from the trees. At her house, Addie takes the sheets off of Chloe's bed and throws them in the washer. Amos Duncan finds he can't sleep, and goes to the Saxton home to get his daughter.

At the bar, the bartender lets Roy sleep in the back room. Jack leaves to walk home. Charlie and Amos figure out Meg and Gillian lied and are out with Whitney and Chelsea. Jack finds himself in the clearing with Whitney, Chelsea, Gillian and Meg. Charlie and Amos eventually find the four girls near the town cemetery, and Gillian tells her father that Jack has raped her. Gillian goes to the emergency room, where the doctor takes evidence samples from her body. The doctor finds some dried semen on her leg. After the exam, Charlie interviews her about what happened that night. Ed Abrams and Tom O'Neill come to the hospital to wait with Amos. They are afraid that Jack realized they and Amos were the ones who beat him up, and he attacked Gillian in retaliation. Jack returns to the diner, where he finds Addie asleep in one of the booths. She apologizes for fighting with him, and says that she does need to get past Chloe's death. Meg Saxton sneaks out of her house and returns to the woods where the girls met to take down the streamers and sachets. She also takes Gillian's thermos. However, a little piece of streamer gets stuck high in a tree. Charlie and Wes go to Addie's house and arrest Jack for raping Gillian. They take Jack to get hair and blood samples at the hospital. Jack says he was nowhere near Gillian that night.



Chapter 8, April 30, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 9, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

These two chapters make up the turning point of the novel. Jack is staying at Addie's home now. Addie tries to seduce him while they are watching Jeopardy, but it takes her a little time to get Jack's attention. This demonstrates again Jack's addiction to Jeopardy, and may become important later on. Jeopardy is soothing to Jack, and gives him control over his life. He wants to give Addie control over her life as well, and free her from the hold the memory of her daughter Chloe has on her. Jack tries to help her by cleaning up Chloe's room, so Addie can let Chloe go. Addie doesn't think she is ready and they fight. After Jack leaves, Addie thinks about what Jack was trying to do and takes Chloe's sheets to wash them. She says good-bye as she does so, indicating she is ready to let her daughter go.

Gillian is still angry that Jack rebuffed her, indicating she may want to get revenge on him. Jack gets beat up by several men, who turn out to be the girl's parents, Amos, Ed, and Tom, which indicate he may want to get revenge on them or their families. She meets with her friends and takes the atropine. It is not clear at this point if they actually took it, since the narration skips over exactly what happens after Jack runs into the girls in the clearing. Whatever happened, Meg still goes out to remove the witchcraft items, knowing that the girls would probably get in trouble for trying to do spells. She also grabs the thermos Gillian brought to the celebration, which may become important evidence if Gillian mixed the drink in the liquid it held. A small bit of streamer is also left in a tree, and it is logical that the streamer will allow someone to reconstruct the events of the nights. Now, as both Gillian and Jack's lawyers prepare for trial, the facts of that night will come out and show who is telling the truth.



Chapter 10, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 11, November 1998, Loyal, New Hampshire

Chapter 10, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 11, November 1998, Loyal, New Hampshire Summary

Charlie tries to interview Jack, but Jack refuses to respond to him. Jack goes back to his cell and Charlie calls Matt Houlihan, a county prosecutor, to tell him about the rape case. Gillian, Meg, Chelsea and Whitney get together. Meg tells them she took down the streamers in the woods, and Gillian gives Chelsea the Book of Shadows to hold onto. Gillian goes with Charlie, Matt and her father to the woods and shows them the spot where Jack allegedly raped her. After she leaves, Charlie and Matt discuss what they have so far. Gillian has told them the girls made a fire in the woods and were hanging out. She claims she scratched Jack while he was attacking her. Jack claims he wasn't there, but the police find a boot print that matches his. Selena is at Jordan's house, painting Thomas' room. They bicker and flirt, until Jordan gets a call and is appointed Jack's lawyer. Jordan meets with Matt and then with Jack. Jack tries to convince Jordan that he's innocent, but Jordan has heard many defendants claim that.

Jack is coaching the girls soccer team at Westonbrook Academy. One of his best players gets hurt during a game, and Catherine Marsh is put into the game. Catherine scores the winning goal by doing a bicycle kick. After the game, Jack congratulates her and shows her how to do the kick correctly. At Catherine's house, she has dinner with her father Ellidor, who doesn't approve of her being on the soccer team. After a practice, Jack talks to Catherine when she is leaving for a date. He asks about the guy to make sure he's good for Catherine. A few days later, Catherine does badly at practice. When Jack asks her what's wrong, she says she needs to get birth control but no one can take her. Catherine starts to do badly in class, and Jack agrees to take her for the pills. She goes to him a few days later after class and tells her the boy broke up with her after they had sex. Jack comforts her and Catherine thinks about how she wants Jack.

Chapter 10, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 11, November 1998, Loyal, New Hampshire Analysis

Charlie and Matt are starting to build the case against Jack, and it looks like they will have evidence to back up their story. Jordan, a seasoned defender, doesn't believe Jack is innocent either. Most people who are convicted of a crime try to say they are



innocent, even when they are not. However, Jordan is a professional and plans to defend Jack to the best of his ability. Gilly and friends are worried about the Wiccan items they left in the woods, but Meg tells them she took them down. The girls are pleased because this means Gilly won't have to make up an explanation for why they are there. Gilly also reveals her version of events, saying that the girls were just hanging out and Jack attacked her when she went to put out the fire. The boot print that matches Jack's indicates he was there that night, and may be lying that he is innocent.

Jack and Catherine's relationship is also established here. Jack had never really paid attention to Catherine before putting her in that game, and Catherine had never really thought of Jack as more than a teacher. However, Jack is a kind person and a good teacher, and soon begins to help Catherine with her game. Catherine becomes a strong player, but her father, Ellidor, is a minister and doesn't permit Catherine to live like a normal teenager. Jack understands this and takes pity on her. He doesn't want to get involved too closely in her life, especially when it comes to birth control pills. He knows though, that she has nowhere else to turn, and so he agrees to take her. When Catherine and the boy break up, Jack tries to comfort her. He doesn't realize that his kindness had made Catherine fall for him, and this indicates the beginning of her obsession with him.



Chapter 12, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 12, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Jack is taken to prison. He refuses to put on the prison clothes since he is not officially a prisoner until he is convicted. Addie tells Roy that Jack was arrested for rape. Roy tells her he was drinking with Jack the night before, but Roy passed out. The bar closed at midnight, he tells Addie, so Jack must have left then. Addie says she didn't see Jack until 1:30 a.m. Jack is taken to the superintendent of the prison, who remands him to solitary since Jack won't wear the prison clothes. Matt meets with Amos and Gillian. He tells them Gillian should testify and asks if she was a virgin at the time of the rape. Gillian, looking at her father, says no. Gillian tries to do a spell to call her mother, but it doesn't work. Gillian cuts her hair, butchering it, and thinks that it will keep him from wanting her. She doesn't specify who 'him' is. Jordan meets with Jack at the jail, and recommends he cooperate. They talk about that night and Jack says he was scratched by a branch, not Gillian. He tells Jordan about drinking with Roy and getting beat up by the men in ski masks.

Matt Houlihan tries to get Charlie to get Addie's statement, but Charlie doesn't want to do it, claiming he's too busy. Matt does it instead, and goes to the diner to talk to her. Addie tells Matt that Jack was drinking with her father Roy that night. She goes to visit Jack in prison, but she can't see him since he's in solitary. The guards tell Jack this. Jack meets with Jordan, who recommends Jack wear the clothes and behave himself. Jack asks Jordan for a pen, and gives him a note to give to Addie. When Addie opens it, she sees he has written the word 'Loyal.' Jack calls Jordan back to the prison and tells him he remembers seeing things hanging from the trees. Jordan thinks it's not important. Addie tells Roy and Delilah she is leaving town for a few days. As Jordan is shaving the next day Thomas startles him and Jordan cuts his cheek by accident. Jordan realizes it looks like the scratch on Jack's face.

Chapter 12, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

Jack can't believe this is happening to him again. He tries to resist his fate by refusing to put on the prisoner's clothes, arguing that he is not a prisoner until he is convicted in court. The warden does not want to argue with him and throws Jack in solitary. Jack is still proclaiming his innocence, and some of Gillian's claims don't match up with the evidence. Jack claims he saw streamers hanging from the trees, but Jordan thinks he is making them up. It is not until the next morning, when he thinks about the scratch

and realizes Gillian's story doesn't match up with Jack's one scratch. Jordan is beginning to believe Jack might be telling the truth.

Gillian meets with the prosecutor to go over the prosecution plans. Gillan seems to be truly upset about the rape. She gets nervous admitting she is not a virgin when her father is there, which is typical for a young girl. She also cuts off all of her hair, hoping it will keep 'him' away. This could indicate Jack, but since Jack is in prison, there is a chance it could be someone else. Gilly may have more secrets than have been revealed so far. Similarly, Charlie tries to get out of interrogating Addie. Since there doesn't seem to be any reason he should not want to see her, it indicates he may have a secret as well. Addie decides she needs to get to the bottom of the issue, and plans to take a trip to Loyal to find out what happened between Jack and Catherine.



Chapter 13, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 14, 1989, New York City

Chapter 13, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 14, 1989, New York City Summary

Charlie interviews Chelsea, who tells him about the night in the woods. She says Gillian went a different way from the other girls, but Chelsea offered to walk her home. Then Gillian came running up to them a few minutes later, saying she was raped. When Charlie talks to Whitney, she says she yelled to Gilly right after they left her. Charlie next talks to his daughter, Meg, who says Gillian insisted on walking home alone. Neither Chelsea or Whitney have the exact same story, which Matt points out when Charlie shows him the transcript. Addie is in Loyal visiting Jack's old school, Westonbrook, on the pretense of wanting to send her daughter there. Addie meets with the headmaster, Herb Thayer, and asks about Jack, who confirms there was an incident. Charlie takes Gillian to pick out the type of condom she claims Jack used, but her choice doesn't match the brand found in Jack's house. Jordan talks to Selena and tells her there are holes in the case.

In college in 1989, Jack is part of the soccer team. The team frequently chooses a girl, gets her drunk, and then several or all of the players have sex with her. Jack doesn't like this that much, since he doesn't like to share. One night, Jack takes a girl to his room and has sex with her. His friends knock on the door and he thinks they want their turn, but they tell him his mother, Annaliese, is there. Annaliese tells Jack that his father, Joseph, has died. At a get-together after the funeral, Jack overhears men gossiping about how his father died. He confronts his mother who tells him that his father had a heart attack while having sex with a prostitute. Annaliese and Jack go to visit the prostitute, Rose. Rose gives them Joseph's watch, and tells Annaliese that she, Annaliese, made Joseph happy. Annaliese thanks her and asks Rose to become their housekeeper. Jack returns to his dorm, where another party is going on. His roommate tells him he should sleep with a girl there to get his mind off things. He takes her to the front door and tells her to leave.

Chapter 13, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 14, 1989, New York City Analysis

The girls are telling their versions of what happened that night in the woods. However, their stories have some discrepancies. Chelsea says she offered to walk Gillian home, but Whitney doesn't mention this. Whitney says she yelled out to Gillian, but Chelsea doesn't mention this. Matt points this out, but Charlie claims the girls are just confused



and traumatized, which is a plausible explanation. However, it is a hint that the girls are trying to cover up what really happened in the woods. Gillian also doesn't pick out the brand of condom that Jack had in his house, indicating she may be lying or may have forgotten. Her story still makes sense at this point, as most of these issues can be explained away. Addie is in Loyal, trying to find out the truth about what happened when Catherine Marsh accused Jack of sexual assault. She learns most of the people there seem to believe the affair really happened.

When Jack is in college, he and his soccer teammates were clearly involved in using and date-raping women. This is the first real proof presented that Jack has taken advantage of women in the past. He almost seems to find this wrong, but he goes along with his friends and teammates. When his mother, Annaliese, takes him and they go to visit Rose, the prostitute, Jack seems disgusted by her. However, his mother's kindness towards the prostitute reminds him that all people, including women, deserve to be respected. When he returns to school and goes to the party, he escorts the girl there out and tells her to leave, showing that his experience with Annaliese and Rose has changed his attitude.



Chapter 15, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 16, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 15, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 16, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Matt meets with Frankie, the woman from the lab, who tells him the blood on Gillian's shirt from that night is Jack's. However, she can't prove or disprove that the sperm found on Gilly's leg is Jack's. In *Loyal*, Addie finds a picture of Catherine Marsh at Westonbrook Academy. Matt meets with Gilly and her father to go over her statement, and tells them they did find a semen sample. Gilly and her father are surprised at this, and Matt assumes it's because a rape conviction seems more likely now. Jordan meets with Jack, angry that Jack said he wasn't there that night when the evidence shows he was. Jack says he was, but he didn't have sex with Gillian. Althea Justice learns she will be the judge presiding over the trial. Jordan goes to the woods where the rape supposedly took place, and Selena finds him there. They realize Gillian's friends were close enough to have heard a struggle if a rape actually took place.

At the diner, Delilah gets sick and Roy is forced to take over as cook. Addie meets with Catherine Marsh and Ellidor Marsh. As soon as she mentions Jack, the reverend gets angry and throws her out of his house. Selena finds Gilly's credit card number and calls customer service pretending to be Gilly. She learns about a purchase Gilly made at the Wiccan Read. Thomas and Chelsea are hooking up under the bleachers at the high school football field. Chelsea tells him she is a witch, and so are Gillian, Meg and Whitney. Thomas thinks it may have some bearing on his father's case. Jordan returns to the crime scene and finds a piece of ribbon in a tree. He goes to Jack, who confirms the ribbons were there and tells him the girls were dancing around, in varying degrees of undress.

Chapter 15, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 16, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

The prosecution is collecting DNA evidence against Jack. The blood on Gilly's shirt is almost certainly Jack's, but the semen cannot be shown to be his. This indicates that Jack was there that night, but does not mean he raped Gilly. Jack confirms this when Jordan comes to see him, but Jordan isn't sure if he should believe his client now. However, when Jordan is in the woods, he learns that Gilly must be lying about what



happened since the timing she suggested is not right. He also finds a piece of ribbon in the tree, which also supports Jack's story. Jordan's faith in his client is renewed. Chelsea also tells Thomas that she and her friends are witches, something he takes back to his father. Addie's faith, however, seems to be disappearing. She visits Catherine Marsh, who confirms that Jack assaulted her. She is finding it harder and harder to believe in Jack.



Chapter 17, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 18, The last week of June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire

Chapter 17, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 18, The last week of June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Summary

Addie runs into Jay Kavanaugh, Jack's former best friend in Loyal. Jay seems to believe Jack really had an affair with Catherine, since Jack would never come over at 7 p.m. Addie, defeated, prepares to leave, but a commercial for Jeopardy makes her realize that was what Jack did every night at 7 p.m. Selena goes to the Wiccan Read, where she learns Gillian was asking for belladonna. She tells Jordan this, and he thinks she may have got the drug from her father's lab. He lets Charlie know the girls may have been doing drugs that night. Selena goes to Duncan Pharmaceuticals and learns that they manufacture atropine, a derivative of belladonna. Addie goes to see Catherine, who admits she never had sex with Jack. Charlie searches Meg's closet, and finds the thermos with atropine residue that Gillian brought that night. Addie goes to Jordan's house once she gets back to Salem Falls to tell them what she's learned.

Addie goes to see Jack in prison to tell him she loves him and believes him. Charlie confronts Meg about the drugs, and Meg faints. Matt meets with Gillian and tells her about the drugs. She denies bringing them. Matt asks her if she drank any of the iced tea that the atropine was in. When he steps out of the room, she checks to make sure her blood sample doesn't show atropine. She tells Matt she didn't drink anything. Addie goes to see Roy and tells him that Jack is innocent. Gilly meets with her friends and tells them Meg must say she brought the drugs, but Meg doesn't want to. Jordan and Selena argue about how to best bring up the fact that Gillian could be lying about taking the drug. Jordan realizes the blood taken from Gillian would have been saved, and they can now test it for atropine. They do find the drug in the blood, at a very high concentration. Addie goes to visit Chloe's grave. She sees Meg there, who tells Addie she thinks Jack touched her too. Jordan and Selena finally admit their feelings for each other and have sex. Addie goes to visit Jack in prison the day before the trial is scheduled to begin.



Chapter 17, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire and Chapter 18, The last week of June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire Analysis

Addie begins to doubt Jack is telling the truth after visiting Loyal. Everyone in Loyal seems so sure that he assaulted Catherine Marsh, even his best friend, Jay. Addie doesn't see any reason to doubt what happened, especially since Catherine herself says Jack assaulted her. However, she realizes there is a major hole. Everyone thinks Jack was meeting with Catherine after soccer practice every night, but Addie realizes Jack was watching Jeopardy every night and refused to miss it. She confronts Catherine, who admits it was all a lie. Addie tries to convince her to help Jack now, but Catherine is scared and refuses. Addie now knows in her heart that Jack is innocent, and is prepared to do whatever she can to help him. Jordan and Selena have also been brought together by this case, and are rekindling their romance.

The fact that the girls consumed atropine is learned by both sides. Gilly lies to the prosecutor that she doesn't know where it came from, and that she didn't bring it. However, it is clear from past chapters that Gilly was the one who obtained it. Gilly is still trying to control her friends and keep their stories in check. Meg tells her that Charlie has found the drugs, and Gilly tells her that Meg must pretend they were hers. Meg doesn't want to listen, but Gilly insists. She doesn't want anyone to find out and think badly of her. Meg decides to tell Addie that she remembers Jack touching her too. It is not clear whether this is a true memory or a hallucination. It may also be a ploy to take some of the attention away from Gilly, although Meg does not seem to be as manipulative as Gilly. Charlie is hurt and disgusted that his daughter may have been violated. Chelsea is also second-guessing their decision to lie, but Whitney and Gilly try to keep her in check.



Chapter 19, 1979, New York City and Chapter 20, June 29, 2000, Carroll County Jail, New Hampshire

Chapter 19, 1979, New York City and Chapter 20, June 29, 2000, Carroll County Jail, New Hampshire Summary

Jack is a ten-year-old boy living with his parents in New York City. His mom frequently brings home abused women, usually prostitutes, so they can heal and she can help them. On one occasion, Annaliese brings home a young girl, Emma, who has been sexually abused by her uncle. Emma is distant and tries to escape the apartment, but Jack watches over and eventually befriends her, although she remains skittish. It is the first day of the trial against Jack. Addie, Gillian, Jack, Matt, Amos, Charlie, Selena, Jordan all arrive for the trial. The courtroom is full and many people are looking at Jack with hate. Matt and Jordan give their opening arguments. Matt contends he has enough evidence to prove Jack did rape Gillian. He takes the jury through the events of that day, including that Gillian and her friends sneaked out to the woods. He claims Jack approached Gillian and her friends, they told him to leave, and he left. When the girls left, Gillian turned back to make sure the fire was out, and Jack attacked and raped her, Matt tells the jury.

Jordan says that he can provide enough doubt to show the alleged rape never took place. He tells the jury to remember things aren't always what they seem, and he will give them Jack's side of the story. Gillian takes the stand, and points out Jack as her attacker. Gillian points out the trail she took on a map, and that it took her a few minutes to catch up with her friends after the rape. Jordan questions Gillian, trying to point out the holes in her story. He brings up the fact that Gillian tried to scratch Jack with her whole hand, but only one scratch mark is on his face. He also shows it would take nowhere near as long as Gillian claims to reach her friends after she was raped. Gillian also denies taking drugs. Whitney O'Neill testifies next that she called out to Gillian when they were leaving the woods, and that she didn't hear Gillian call for help. Jordan demonstrates that the girls and Gillian would have been so close, they would have heard each other. Jordan questions Chelsea Abrams about Beltane, but she pretends not to know what it is. He points out that her necklace is a pentagram, a Pagan symbol.

Chapter 19, 1979, New York City and Chapter 20, June 29, 2000, Carroll County Jail, New Hampshire Analysis

Jack has been exposed to his mom's helping nature ever since he was a young child. His mom has been bringing battered and abused women to stay with them for some



time, and his father doesn't participate but supports her. She brings home a little girl, Emma, the first time that it's a girl close to Jack's age. Jack helps the girl to assimilate by playing with her and protecting her. He helps to prevent her from escaping, and uses his toys to make her comfortable in the house. His efforts seem to succeed. There are many similarities to her demeanor and that of Jack's when he is put in prison while awaiting trial. Both are uncomfortable in their surroundings and don't seem to know how to regain control of their lives.

At the trial, both sides are presenting their cases. Gillian testifies first and lays out her version of events. She appears to be convincing, and it is not clear whether she knows her story is false or she did hallucinate the attack and believes it to be true. However, Jordan soon begins to point out the things Gillian is leaving out, whether the attack happened or not. He brings up the idea of the girls practicing witchcraft, and although Chelsea denies it, the idea has been planted. Jordan will probably follow with more evidence along this vein in future days. He also disputes Gillian's account of scratching Jack, and the amount of time it took to reach her friends. He shows Gillian is twisting the events of the night to suit her own purposes.



Chapter 21, Later that day, Carroll County Courthouse and Chapter 22, 1969, New York City

Chapter 21, Later that day, Carroll County Courthouse and Chapter 22, 1969, New York City Summary

Addie is taken to the witness stand. Roy comes in and gives the court muffins. Matt objects, but the judge allows it. Addie testifies that she and Jack fought that night, and he left her home, eventually returning a few hours later. She also mentions that Jack was beat up. That night, Meg goes to see Gilly. Meg says Matt decided Meg shouldn't testify. Meg tells Gilly she remembers Jack touching her, and Gilly gets angry and says Jack only touched her, not Meg. Frankie, the DNA expert testifies next, distracting some of the male jurors since she is so good looking. She tells the court the blood is Jack's, but the semen cannot be proven to be his or not to be his. Chelsea has been having a bad time since she testified. She decides she needs to do some good, so she mails something.

Jordan questions Frankie, showing she can't tell if Jack's blood on Gilly's shirt and skin under her fingernails got there as the result of a struggle. Jordan demonstrates that just because it's Jack's blood does not mean it's Jack's semen. Charlie testifies next, stating he arrested Jack, and that no condom was found at the site in the woods. Jordan questions him about the ribbon and the drugs. Charlie testifies that the scratch on Jack's face isn't consistent with someone using all five fingers to scratch, and that Gillian's shirt was messed up, even though she says she never took it off. Matt enters a copy of Jack's prior conviction into evidence, and the state rests. In 1969, Annaliese St. Bride goes to the hospital to have Jack. She is unable to go to the nice hospital she planned on going to, and instead must go to one that's lower class. A woman names Maria Velasquez is in the next bed, delivering her baby. Maria has been beaten by her husband. Maria's labor is hard, and she and the baby both die. Annaliese witnesses this. After the room is quiet, she looks at Maria's body and sees her bruises. Annaliese names her son Jack, in honor of Maria, who wanted to name her son Joaquim.

Chapter 21, Later that day, Carroll County Courthouse and Chapter 22, 1969, New York City Analysis

Gillian's friends are starting to realize the consequences of their actions. Meg tries to tell Gilly that she remembers Jack touching her, and Gilly gets angry. She does not want Meg taking away power from her accusation, and does not want Meg to get the attention she is getting. Whether or not Gillian was telling the truth, she seems to be a disturbed girl. She still tries to call her mother using witchcraft, even though her mother



is dead and she has not had success before. This seems to suggest that Gilly has more problems than she lets on. Chelsea also realizes their actions have had consequences when her cat dies and her brother breaks his arm. She fully believes the Wicca rule that what you do comes back on you three times as strong, so she decides she must do something before her family gets hurt even more.

The evidence is starting to become clearer. The DNA cannot prove that Jack raped Gilly, since his semen is not a close enough match. The scratch also doesn't match up with Gillian's story. It is becoming clearer that Gilly has not told the truth about what happened that night. Unfortunately, Jack cannot remember either, and unless he does, the defense may have a tough time convincing the jury there is an alternate version of events. The jury is also swayed by Frankie's charm, a fact Matt uses to his advantage. Jack's birth is also shown to be the catalyst for Annaliese to begin helping battered and violated women. This suggests that, since Jack was exposed to Annaliese's mission all his life, it would be an unlikely environment for a rapist to come from.



Chapter 23, July 3, 2000, Carroll County Jail and Chapter 24, July 5, 2000, Carroll County Courthouse

Chapter 23, July 3, 2000, Carroll County Jail and Chapter 24, July 5, 2000, Carroll County Courthouse Summary

Addie and Jack are sitting together in the jail's visiting room. She vows to stick by him. Thomas gets the mail and finds an envelope addressed to his father, in care of him, containing a Book of Shadows. In court, Jordan calls Starshine, who surprises everyone when she does a protection spell. She testifies that Gillian came in looking for belladonna, and that the girls are regular customers at the Wiccan Read. She explains Beltane is a holiday to celebrate sex, and can involve a maypole, handfasting, and a bonfire. A toxicologist specialist testifies next that Gillian had a high level of atropine in her body and would have been experiencing hallucinations. He also says atropine can cause short-term memory loss, and it comes from belladonna. During a recess, Matt goes to see Gillian and admonishes her for lying to him about not drinking anything. Gillian apologizes, saying she didn't want people to think she was a drug addict. Back in court, Matt gets the expert to testify he can't say if Gillian had hallucinations that night, and Matt compares the drug to Rohypnol, the date-rape drug. He insinuates Jack could have drugged Gillian.

Jordan has a psychiatrist testify that someone with Gilly's early psychiatric history usually turns out to be a liar, but Matt discredits her by getting her to admit she can't prove Gilly would show that pattern. Meg, who is at home, is beginning to remember that night. She remembers Jack was there, but he only touched her to help her up, not to molest her. Roy testifies that he saw Gilly come to the diner and corner Jack by the garbage corral earlier that day, and Gilly stomped away angrily. Matt gets him to say he can't be sure if Gilly was mad because Jack told her to go away or because Jack touched her. Thomas arrives at the courthouse and gives Jordan the Book of Shadows. Jack takes the stand in his own defense. He tells how he came upon the unclad girls standing in a clearing around a fire. Jack says he can't remember much else, and Jordan shows him the Book of Shadows to jog his memory. Jack remembers Gillian was writing in it that night. When she saw Jack, she went over to him. She used her discarded shirt to wipe the blood off Jack's face. Gillian makes him leap the fire with her, and tells him he is bound to her for a year. Meg falls in his lap and he helps her up. He sees that all of the girls want to have sex with him, and he flees. Gillian comes after him and tells him she needs help putting the fire out. Gillian kisses him there and Jack pushes her away.



Jack says he did not rape Gillian. He says the scratch on his face was from a branch. Matt asks Jack if he could have blacked out and raped Gillian, but Jack says he probably would have been incapable of sex then. Matt tries to hammer home the evidence against Jack again. Jordan goes home, angry because he thinks Matt has won the case. Addie is at the diner. Charlie comes to see her and apologizes for raping her so long ago. He also reveals Amos was one of the other boys who raped her. Charlie leaves and Catherine Marsh walks into the diner. Before the closing arguments are given, Jordan says he needs to call another witness. Catherine tells the jury that her relationship with Jack was innocent, and it was only wishful thinking that led him to be convicted. She tells them Jack never touched her inappropriately, and she tried to take it back, but no one would listen to her. Matt asks her if she was there the night Gillian claimed to be raped, and Catherine says no. Jordan and Matt present their closing arguments, a wrap-up of each of their cases.

Jack waits for a verdict in his cell. Addie sneaks in to see him and offer comfort. Jack is called back into hear the verdict, and he is proclaimed not guilty. He is ecstatic, but soon realizes the people of Salem Falls will still hate him. Jordan and Selena celebrate with Thomas, who is happy they have gotten together. When Jordan and Selena start kissing, Thomas goes inside and removes two satchels hidden in the bed pillows. Chelsea gave him the satchels to make Jordan and Selena fall in love again. Charlie speaks to Meg, who admits that Gilly lied and she lied about Jack molesting her. Charlie comforts her and they agree to speak to a psychiatrist together. Jack and Addie make plans to leave Salem Falls and to go see his mother, Annaliese. Amos tells Gilly everything will be OK and tells her he loves her. He takes her hand and kisses her on the mouth, "sealing their deal."

Chapter 23, July 3, 2000, Carroll County Jail and Chapter 24, July 5, 2000, Carroll County Courthouse Analysis

In the final chapters, we learn the true events behind the alleged rape. The evidence that Jordan has collected more closely matches Jack's testimony. Jordan's defense of Jack is shown to be effective, as he reveals enough of the truth to prove that Jack is innocent. Catherine's testimony vindicates Jack of the earlier charge of sexual assault, which is the primary reason everyone believes he raped Gillian. Matt tries to show Catherine's testimony has no bearing on the current case since Catherine was not there that night, but it seems to ring true with the jury just the same. Jack is freed, but he knows the townspeople will never trust him and he must leave town. Addie, who is now sure of her love and trust for Jack, agrees to leave her hometown behind and go with him, showing she has finally let go of her ghosts, including the ghost of Chloe. Charlie visits her and apologizes for raping her, revealing him and Amos as two of the boys who raped Addie when she was a teenager. Addie appreciates the sentiment and finally seems to be able to let it go. She now has closure in her life, and is free to begin anew with Jack.



Selena and Jordan can also begin their relationship anew. Thomas removes two satchels Chelsea made to bring his father and Selena together; this is another instance showing that witchcraft can work. The final sentence of the book shakes the very foundation of the plot as we have seen it so far. Amos kissing Gilly indicates that he and his daughter have an incestuous relationship, and this has been going on for sometime. This sheds new light on several events in the book. For example, when Matt first asks if Gilly was sexually active, she looked at her father when she said yes. This could be taken that she is embarrassed to admit it, but in light of the novel's final sentence, it indicates her father has had sex with her. The semen on her leg would also appear to be from her father, which would account for the similar DNA structure. Also, when Gilly cuts her hair, she hopes it makes 'him' not want her anymore. At first read, it appears she means Jack, but it more clearly means her father. Gilly's accusation of Jack may be a cry for help in actuality, and Gilly may be looking for something to prevent her father from taking advantage of her anymore.



Characters

Jack St. Bride

Jack St. Bride is the protagonist of the novel and the son of Annaliese St. Bride. He is released from Grafton County prison in New Hampshire after serving time for sexual assault of a minor and comes to Salem Falls. Jack was accused of having an affair with a student, Catherine Marsh, although this was only wishful thinking on Catherine's part. When he arrives in Salem Falls, he falls in love with Addie, but is soon accused of raping Gillian Duncan. His case goes to trial and he is vindicated when his lawyer, Jordan McAfee, proves the Gillian and her friends were lying about what happened that night in the woods. Throughout Jack's life, he sees his mother help women who have been badly used by men. His mother turns against him when he is first accused of sexual assault.

Addie Peabody

Addie Peabody is a waitress and owner of the Do-Or-Diner. She is the daughter of Roy and the late Margaret Peabody. She had a daughter, Chloe, who died. Addie copes with Chloe's death by pretending she is still alive. The other workers at the diner patronize her and pretend to help her with Chloe. She falls in love with Jack St. Bride, who helps her get over Chloe. She stands by Jack when he is accused of rape, and helps vindicate Jack. Addie was raped when she was a teenager by Charlie Saxton, Amos Duncan, and another boy who later died. Chloe was conceived during this rape, although Addie doesn't know who the actual father was. Addie also tries to keep her father, Roy, from drinking.

Gillian Duncan

Gillian Duncan is the seventeen-year-old daughter of the richest man in town, Amos Duncan, who owns Duncan Pharmaceuticals. She is involved in Wicca with her friends Whitney O'Neill, Meg Saxton, and Chelsea Abrams. She frequently tries to call the spirit of her mother, who died when she was younger. Gillian and her friends spend a night in the woods celebrating Beltane. Gillian puts atropine, a hallucinogenic, in iced tea that the girls drink. Jack St. Bride stumbles onto the party. Gillian later accuses him of raping her to cover up the girl's involvement in witchcraft, although he did not do it. At the trial, Gillian's lies are uncovered and Jack is freed. Amos and Gillian are revealed as having an incestuous relationship at the end of the novel.

Roy Peabody

Roy Peabody is the husband of the late Margaret, father of Addie and grandfather of Chloe. He has problems with drinking ever since his wife died after they were fighting.



He is arrested for driving under the influence when he is caught riding a lawn mower down a highway while drunk. Roy lets Jack St. Bride live with him and slowly grows fond of him. When Jack is on trial for raping Gillian Duncan, Roy supports Jack and testifies on his behalf. He brings food from the diner for the court.

Jordan McAfee

Jordan McAfee is the father of Thomas McAfee and a public defender. He is the former lover of Selena Damascus, and there are still some feelings between them. Jordan defends Jack St. Bride when Gillian Duncan accuses Jack of rape. Jordan does not believe Jack is innocent at first, but slowly comes around to Jack's side. He is able to get Jack acquitted when he proves Gillian lied about the events of the night.

Selena Damascus

Selena Damascus is the former lover of Jordan McAfee and a private investigator. She comes to Salem Falls to go a dance with Jordan's son Thomas, but she is stuck there when her car breaks down. She helps Jordan as he defends Jack St. Bride in his rape trial.

Meg Saxton

Meg Saxton is the daughter of police officer Charlie Saxton and friends with Gillian Duncan, Whitney O'Neill, and Chelsea Abrams. She is involved in Wicca with her friends. She is present at their celebration for Beltane where Gillian claims to be raped by Jack St. Bride. Meg goes back to the site of the celebration to hide evidence that the girls were doing witchcraft, including a thermos of Gillian's that contains traces of atropine, a hallucinogenic substance. Her father, Charlie, finds the thermos and turns it over for evidence, allowing Jack's lawyer to prove the girls were hallucinating that night. Meg tries to claim Jack touched her as well, but after Jack is acquitted, she admits to her father that Jack didn't come on to her.

Chelsea Abrams

Chelsea Abrams is friends with Gillian Duncan, Whitney O'Neill and Meg Saxton. She is involved in Wicca with her friends. She is present at their celebration for Beltane where Gillian claims to be raped by Jack St. Bride. She falls for Jordan's son, Thomas McAfee. During the trial, she sends Thomas the girl's Book of Shadows so Jordan can use it to help acquit Jack.



Whitney O'Neill

Whitney O'Neill is friends with Gillian Duncan, Chelsea Abrams and Meg Saxton. She is involved in Wicca with her friends. She is present at their celebration for Beltane where Gillian claims to be raped by Jack St. Bride.

Charlie Saxton

Charlie Saxton is a detective in the police force and the father of Meg Saxton. He is the first in town to learn that Jack St. Bride is a convicted sex offender. He is an integral part of the investigation when Jack is accused of raping Gillian Duncan. He also finds the thermos containing atropine in his daughter's room, allowing Jack's lawyer to prove the girls were hallucinating that night. Charlie is one of the three boys who raped Addie Peabody as a teenager. He apologizes to Addie near the end of the novel for doing this.

Chloe Peabody

Chloe Peabody is Addie Peabody's daughter and Ray Peabody's daughter. She died at a young age and Addie pretends she is still alive for some time until Jack St. Bride helps her get over her loss. She died from bacterial meningitis.

Catherine Marsh

Catherine Marsh is the girl who accuses Jack St. Bride of having a sexual affair with her while he is teaching at Westonbrook Academy. She has a crush on Jack and wants to believe the affair is real. Her father finds her diary, where she has written about Jack. She later tries to convince her father and lawyer the diary isn't true, but no one believes her. When Gillian accuses Jack of rape, Catherine comes to the trial and testifies that Jack St. Bride never touched her.

Thomas McAfee

Thomas McAfee is the son of Jordan McAfee and a high school student. He has a crush on Chelsea Abrams. Chelsea sends him the girl's Book of Shadows to help prove Jack is innocent.

Matt Houlihan

Matt Houlihan is the prosecutor who tries the case against Jack St. Bride. He frequently thinks about his daughter, Molly, and wants to put away scumbags like Jack in an effort to protect her from the evils of the world.



Delilah Piggett

Delilah Piggett is the cook at the Do-Or-Diner. She goes along with Addie when Addie pretends her daughter Chloe is alive. Delilah is kind and a friend to Addie.

Reverend Ellidor Marsh

Reverend Ellidor Marsh is Catherine March's father. He finds a diary where Catherine has written about her feelings and fantasies regarding Jack St. Bride, and assumes they have had sex. He brings charges up against Jack.

Annalise St. Bride

Annalise St. Bride is Jack's mother. She doesn't believe Jack when he tells her he is innocent of sexual assault. Throughout Jack's life, Annalise has worked to help women who have been badly used by men. This stems from the experience she had when Jack was born, when she was forced to have him in a low-income hospital and had a chance to experience how the lower class lives. She is selfless in her mission, even taking in her husband's mistress after her husband dies.

Melton Sprigg

Melton Sprigg is the lawyer who defends Jack when he is first accused of sexual assault. He convinces Jack to take a plea bargain and serve some time, even though Jack didn't do the sexual assault.

Mountain

Mountain is a prisoner who serves time with Jack St. Bride. He tells Jack that as long as Jack gets every answer on Jeopardy right, he won't rape Jack. Jack does get one wrong eventually, but he tells Mountain he can't break Jack. Mountain decides to leave Jack alone and is soon released from prison.

Starshine

Starshine is the owner of the Wiccan store, the Wiccan Read. She testifies that Gillian came to her store to try and buy belladonna, and that she told Gillian to celebrate Beltane.



Wes Courtmanche

Wes Courtmanche is a police officer in Salem Falls. He wants to date Addie Peabody but she doesn't like him. He finds out Jack St. Bride is a registered sex offender and spreads it throughout town.

Stuart Hollings

Stuart Hollings is a regular at the Do-Or-Diner. He has a stroke and Gillian Duncan, Meg Saxton, Chelsea Abrams and Whitney O'Neill perform a spell to make him better.

Margaret Peabody

Margaret Peabody is the wife of Roy Peabody and the mother of Addie. She dies after a fight with Roy in the diner, and Roy feels guilty because he thinks the fight may have caused her death.

Jay Kavanaugh

Jay Kavanaugh is a police officer in Loyal, New Hampshire. He arrests Jack St. Bride for sexual assault the first time he is accused.

Tom O'Neill

Tom O'Neill is Whitney's father. He helps Gillian's father, Amos, beat up Jack St. Bride.

Ed Abrams

Ed Abrams is Chelsea's father. He helps Gillian's father, Amos, beat up Jack St. Bride.

Dr. Horowitz

Dr. Horowitz is Gillian's psychiatrist. She first treated Gillian after her mother died, when she was about nine. She talks to Gillian after the rape and testifies at the trial.

Frankie

Frankie is a lab technician who goes over the DNA samples obtained from Gillian. She is very beautiful, and when she testifies she distracts the men in the jury.



Joseph St. Bride

Joseph St. Bride is Jack's father. He dies while Jack is in college. Joseph has a heart attack while having sex with a prostitute.

Loretta Winwood

Loretta Winwood is the prosecutor who prosecutes Jack when he accused of sexually assaulting Catherine Marsh.

Herb Thayer

Herb Thayer is the headmaster of Westonbrook Academy.

Aldo LeGrande

Aldo LeGrande is a prisoner who does time with Jack St. Bride. He seems to like Jack and saves him from being raped by Mountain.

Hailey McCourt

Hailey McCourt is an athletic girl who Meg Saxton resents. Gillian, Whitney, Chelsea and Meg cast a spell on her to hurt her, and Hailey soon becomes very ill.

Giles Corey

Giles Corey is a man who was executed for being a witch during the Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts. There is a statue of him in the center of Salem Falls.

Harlan Pettigrew

Harlan Pettigrew is from the Department of Health. He comes to inspect the Do-Or-Diner, and Addie Peabody gets Jack St. Bride to help fool Harlan.

Orren

Orren is a police officer in Salem Falls. He comes to tell Addie Peabody that her father, Roy, has been arrested for driving his lawn mower down a highway while drunk.



Darla Hudnut

Darla Hudnut is a waitress at the Do-Or-Diner.

Homer Ludlow

Homer Ludlow is the chief of police.

Wallace

Wallace is a regular at the Do-Or-Diner.

Arielle

Arielle is a girl on Jack's soccer team at Westonbrook Academy.

Maria Valasquez

Maria Valasquez is the woman who has her baby in the bed next to Annaliese when Annaliese is delivering Jack. Maria and the baby die soon after delivery.

Rose

Rose is a prostitute. She was having sex with Joseph St. Bride when he had a heart attack and died.

Althea Justice

Althea Justice is the judge who presides over Jack St. Bride's trial.



Objects/Places

North Haverhill

North Haverhill, New Hampshire, is the town where the prison is located and which Jack walks through in the beginning of the novel.

Salem Falls

Salem Falls, New Hampshire, is the town where Jack St. Bride moves to after being released from prison. He meets Addie Peabody here, who owns the Do-Or-Diner.

Do-Or-Diner

Do-Or-Diner is the diner owned by Addie Peabody. Jack St. Bride gets a job here after he is released from prison.

Duncan Pharmaceuticals

Duncan Pharmaceuticals is owned by Amos Duncan, father of Gillian Duncan. Gillian steals the atropine from the labs here that she and her friends take during Beltane.

Grafton County

Grafton County prison is where Jack St. Bride serves time before coming to Salem Falls.

Book of Shadows

The Book of Shadows is a witch's book that hold spells and rituals.

Wiccan Read

The Wiccan Read is a store owned by Starshine.

Carroll County

Carroll County is where Salem Falls is located.



Westonbrook Academy

Westonbrook Academy is the school Jack teaches at when he is first accused of sexually assaulting a student.

The Crucible

The Crucible is a play by Arthur Miller about people being falsely accused of being witches in Salem in the 1800s.

The Rooster's Spit

The Rooster's Spit is a bar where Jack St. Bride and Roy Peabody get drunk the night Gillian accuses Jack of raping her.

Beltane

Beltane is a Wiccan holiday.



Themes

Persecution

Witchcraft plays a large role in propelling the action of the novel. The name of the town, Salem Falls, is a reference to Salem, Mass., the location of the notorious witch trials of the 1600s. The novel also has similar themes and references to *The Crucible*, a play by Arthur Miller about the witch trials. Witches were frequently persecuted in past centuries, and the prejudice against them lingers today. Gillian, Meg, Whitney and Chelsea are afraid that people will find out they are witches, and do what they need to do to hide it. Gillian's accusation that Jack raped her shows the lengths she is willing to go to hide their activities. However, one of the main rules of Wicca is that anything the witch does will come back on her three times as strong. Witches must be careful in their actions; however, Gilly disregards this and she is revealed as a liar.

Jack is persecuted when the town finds out Jack is a convicted sex offender. The townspeople immediately decide that Jack is dangerous and should leave the town. They do not wish to hear an explanation or listen to reasoning, just as witches were persecuted once they were found out. Jack's record speaks against him, and despite his claim that his lawyer gave him bad advice, even Addie doubts his truthfulness. However, she is one of the only ones in town who is willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. Jack also faces persecution in Loyal, when he is accused of sexually assaulting Catherine Marsh. Even his best friend, Jay Kavanaugh, chooses to believe Catherine over him. This shows that the power of accusation can overcome the power of truth, and innocent people can be hurt when others are not careful.

Control

Characters in the novel attempt to keep control of their lives in different ways. Control is taken from Jack when he is falsely accused of rape. Rape is such a terrible crime that most people would not want to disbelieve a woman who said she has been raped, especially if it is a young girl. Even though Jack is found innocent at the conclusion of the novel, he can see the townspeople would rather take the word of a girl they know over his. He is free to leave Salem Falls, and he must, because he will only be persecuted if he continues to live there. Throughout his life, Jack uses Jeopardy to keep control of himself. While he is imprisoned in solitary, he asks himself trivia questions to keep from having a breakdown. He cannot believe this is the second time he's accused of something he didn't do, and struggles to keep control of himself.

When a woman is raped, control is taken from her. When Addie is raped, she also loses control, but she seems to regain some when she has Chloe. Instead of dwelling on Chloe's conception, she embraces her daughter and treats her like a gift. This allows her to regain control of her life. She loses control again when Chloe passes away, but regains it by pretending Chloe is alive. She continues to use this as a coping



mechanism until Jack comes along and gives her something else to have faith in. Gillian also tries to gain some control over her relationship with her father, although its true nature is not revealed until the end of the novel. She hopes that by cutting her hair, her father won't find her attractive anymore and will leave her alone. She and her friends also use witchcraft to try and gain control of the world around them, whether it is to help heal an old man or punish a mean classmate.

Truth

The absence of truth can cause many problems, something that is evidenced throughout the novel. The main storyline concerns Gillian Duncan's accusation that Jack raped her, and many characters, including Jordan McAfee, Selena Damascus, and Addie Peabody are determined to find out the true events of that night and determine what kind of man Jack St. Bride truly is. Gillian is eventually shown to be lying about the events of that night. We can see through her discussions with her friends that she may have hallucinated what happened, but the differences in their stories show that she wasn't raped. Gillian seems to realize this, and she wants to punish Jack for having the will to resist her. She accomplishes this by lying, and once again Jack learns the power a lie can have over his life.

The purpose of a trial is to find out the truth behind an accusation and determine whether the defendant is guilty or innocent. Unfortunately, the system doesn't always work that way. When Jack is accused of having sex with Catherine Marsh, his lawyer tells him to take a plea bargain, since the case is strong and Jack will likely lose. Milton does not believe Jack is telling the truth. He also doesn't know the whole truth, since the prosecution doesn't tell him that Catherine is recanting her accusation. Without the truth, Jack makes a bad decision and agrees to plead guilty. During Jack's trial, Jordan succeeds in bring out the truth about what happened between Jack and Gillian. Even so, the townspeople aren't prepared to accept Jack. They are unwilling to believe a young girl could be capable or orchestrating such a lie. The novel demonstrates that perception and reality are very different things. All characters are limited to what they personally see and feel, and two people looking at the same situation can draw very different conclusions.



Style

Style

Point of View

The novel is told from a third-person omniscient point of view. The narrator is able to reveal the actions and thoughts of all the characters involved. This style of narration makes the reader aware of more events than the characters in the novel, since we are privy to more information than they are. For example, Jack St. Bride is the main character, and most of the narration involves events that affect him. During his rape trial, different characters learn about certain pieces of evidence at different times. The reader also learns facts that the characters never learn, including the true nature of Gillian Duncan's relationship with her father, Amos. Overall, the narration is objective and does not make judgment calls about the characters, instead remaining distant and only documenting the character's thoughts and actions.

Setting

The setting of the novel is primarily a town called Salem Falls, New Hampshire. It is a small peaceful town, and most of the people know each other. There is a very low crime rate, and it is basically considered a safe place to live. This accounts for the townspeople's reaction when they learn about Jack St. Bride's conviction for sexual assault. Small town people have a tendency to circle the wagons when one of their own is threatened or endangered and shun the outsider. Also, as a New England town, most of the inhabitants are stereotypically more conservative and uptight. There are some main landmarks in Salem Falls that are pivotal to the story, including the Do-Or-Diner, where Jack meets Addie, and Duncan Pharmaceuticals. Jack's upbringing in New York City is also featured. The city is a large contrast to the quiet solitude of the small New Hampshire towns. Salem Falls is also fairly rural, which is evidenced by the abundance of woods, where some of the action takes place. The setting is pivotal to the theme of the novel; if Jack chose to go to New York City, he would be much more anonymous and the story wouldn't be as effective.

Language and Meaning

The language used in the novel Salem Falls is primarily typical American English. Although the main events of the novel take place in New England, there is no evidence of local accents or local sayings used in the novel. The majority of language used is easily understandable and would require no special knowledge on the reader's part. There are two instances where specialized terms and phrases are used. First, several characters in the novel are involved in the practice of witchcraft, or Wicca. The names of rituals and holidays may be unfamiliar to most people, such as the holiday of Beltane or the meaning behind a maypole. Those practicing witchcraft also use romantic or



ritualistic words and language in their spells. Medical and scientific terms are also used in the novel. This occurs in scenes at Duncan Pharmaceuticals and also when tests are being performed on Gilly after the alleged rape. Experts testifying during the trial against Jack St. Bride also use this language; however, since the lawyers have the experts explain the terms to the jurors, the average reader will be able to comprehend what the general meaning is of those words.

Structure

The novel *Salem Falls* is told in a non-linear fashion. Events start in the present of 2000 and go back to the beginning of Jack St. Bride's life in 1969. Throughout the novel, the chapters alternate between future and past events. This technique shows how current events are affected by past events, and allows the reader to make their own connections as to why something occurs. The main purpose of this structure is to show the events that have shaped Jack's life and permits conclusions to be drawn about his character.

Specifically, the novel starts in March 2000 in Salem Falls, New Hampshire, as Jack is released from prison after serving time for sexual assault. This includes the Prologue, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. It jumps back to September 1999 in Chapter 3 to show Jack's time in prison and how he made it through even though he knew he was innocent. The novel returns to late March 2000 in Chapter 4 and continues to April 2000 in Chapter 5. The next shift in Chapter 6 is to July 1999 in Loyal, New Hampshire, and details Jack's arrest for the sexual assault of one of his students, Catherine Marsh. The novel returns to Late April 2000 in Chapter 7, April 30, 2000 in Chapter 8, and continues through May 1, 2000 in Chapters 9 and 10, detailing the day the alleged rape took place and the day after. Going back to November 1998 in Chapter 11, the relationship between Jack and Catherine and how it develops is shown. Next, it returns to the present in May 2000 for Chapters 12 and 13, before jumping back to describe Jack when he is college-age in 1989 in Chapter 14. It returns to June 2000 in Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18. In Chapter 19, it goes to 1979, when Jack is a ten year old boy. It returns to the present, June 29, 2000, to detail the rape trial in Chapters 20 and 21 before jumping to the day of Jack's birth in 1969 in Chapter 22. This is the final trip to the past, and the final chapters, Chapter 23 and 24, concern the beginning of July 2000 and the final days of Jack's trial.



Quotes

"Several miles into his journey, Jack St. Bride decided to give up his former life." Prologue, March 2000, North Haverhill, New Hampshire, pg. 1.

"In his blue uniform, his badge glinting like a third eye, Wes Courtemanche was handsome enough to make women in Salem Falls dream about committing crimes. Addie, however, took one look at him and thought—not for the first time—that some men ought to come with an expiration date." Ch. 1, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 7.

"As a child, she had believed that breathing in the diner had rooted it in her system, making it as much as part of her as her blood or her bones. Her father had been like that, too, once. But it had been seven years since he'd voluntarily set foot behind the stove. She wondered if it caused him some phantom pain that came from losing a vital limb—if he drank to dull the ache of it." Ch. 1, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 13.

"Jack pressed the cloth against his cut so hard he could feel his pulse. He thought about the plate he'd stolen fries from today, heaped with food no one had touched. He thought of all the times he'd heard Addie talking to a girl who didn't exist." Ch. 2, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 29.

"I think ... that all of us have got our ghosts." Ch. 2, March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 29.

"With a roar that set three sparrows in the rafters to flight, Mountain wrenched away. He had never tried to force someone who had given in yet refused to give up. And that one small distinction made Jack every bit as mighty as the bigger man." Ch. 3, September 1999, North Haverhill, New Hampshire, pg. 42.

"She died at 5:07. I remember, because the news was coming on TV, and I thought, 'What could they possibly tell me about the world gone bad that is more awful than this?'" Ch. 4, Late March 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 69.

"As Gillian watched her father schmooze on his office phone, words dripping from his lips like oil, she wondered what it would be like to shoot him in the head." Ch. 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 71.

"But suddenly it did not matter than she was trying to gain access to a graveyard in the darkest part of the night, that she was going to see her daughter's grave for the first time in seven years. All she knew at that moment was that someone would be there when she took that monumental step." Ch. 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 72.



"The stench of refuse rose around them like a dark jungle, but all Jack could smell was the vanilla that seemed to come from the curve of Addie's neck. He closed his eyes and thought if he could hold onto one moment for the next fifty years, this might be it." Ch. 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 77.

"As a kid, his favorite toy had been a snow globe, that held a small town of gingerbread buildings and peppermints streets. He'd wanted so badly to live there that one day he'd smashed the glass ball—only to find that the houses were made of plaster, the candy stripes painted on. He had known that this existence he'd carved in Salem Falls was an illusion, that one day it would crack open just like that snow globe. But he'd hoped—God, he'd hoped—that it wouldn't just yet." Ch. 5, April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 88.

"He ran two miles, four, six. Sweat poured into his eyes, and he gasped great drafts of air. He passed the town line and kept running. He ran the perimeter of a pond, twice. And when he realized that no matter how hard he tried he could not outrace his fear, he collapsed at the edge, buried his face in his hands, and cried." Ch. 6, July 1999, Loyal, New Hampshire, pg. 101.

Jack could feel the Reverend Marsh's eyes on the back of his neck. He opened his mouth in denial, only to choke on words that had been lodged in his belly, fed to him by his own attorney. 'You finish your sentence, and then you go on with your life.'" Ch. 6, July 1999, Loyal, New Hampshire, pg. 112.

"Well, at first they didn't want to get caught for practicing voodoo. So they tried to take the heat off themselves by telling a lie. But this lie... it turned out to be the one thing that brought all these other truths out into the open." Ch. 7, Late April 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 120.

"Gilly could not get Jack out of her mind. She relived the moment outside the diner a hundred times, playing different scenarios like a slide show—things she should have said and done instead, images of Jack grabbing her and kissing her so hard her lips bled. Every time she stumbled over the part where Jack had treated her like a child, her stomach clenched, and she'd start to cry, dying a hundred deaths all over again. A moment later she'd be spitting mad, itching for the next opportunity she might have to show him she wasn't a child after all." Ch. 8, April 30, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 144

"'He raped me,' Gillian sobbed, the words shredded raw. 'Jack St. Bride.'" Ch. 8, April 30, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 159.

"Addie wanted to throw up, to crawl into bed and die. She did not want to see Jack St. Bride, never again. She wanted to hold him close and tell him she believed in him." Ch. 9, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 172.

"You see before you a man whose first amendment rights have been stripped away by the force of rumor and conjecture—a man who has committed no crime but in reality has been victimized. Your Honor, the town of Salem Falls has been out for Jack St.



Bride's blood since the moment he arrived." Ch. 10, May 1, 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 187-188.

"Still Jack and Catherine moved quietly around each other, like two magnets of the same pole who are forced into close contact and cannot help but shy to the side." Ch. 11, November 1998, Loyal, New Hampshire, pg. 198.

"I think the girl's lying. And I don't know where you were that night, but it wasn't with her." He watched Jack's eyes darken with surprise. "I would have gotten you off no matter what," Jordan said brazenly. "But now I actually want to." Ch. 13, May 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 246.

"Addie did not know nearly as much as Jack did about geography or presidents or even potent potables. She did not know if a discrepancy like this would have ever stood up in a court law. But she did know that for one half hour a day, nothing would come between Jack and a television trivia show. Not even Catherine March." Ch. 17, June 2000, Salem Falls, New Hampshire, pg. 288.

"Jack knew about rape; it was hard to live with his mother, the queen of crusaders against violence against women, and not know about it. Rape had to do with sex, and sex was too gross to even think about. He tried to picture Emma, the girl who'd been carried kicking and screaming upstairs, doing that with a grownup. It made him gag." Ch. 19, 1979, New York City, pg. 322.

"But they didn't know about the Law of Three; they didn't understand that all it took was one pebble to start an avalanche of dynamic proportion. What you did came back to you triplefold—both the good ... and the bad." Ch. 21, Later that day, Carroll County Courthouse, pg. 366-367.

"It took Addie a long time to speak. 'You didn't ruin my life, Charlie. You raped me. There's a difference. One I couldn't keep from happening ... but the other, I did.' She thought of Chloe, of Jack. 'The more you get past pain, the more it goes from coal to diamond.'" Ch. 23, July 3, 2000, Carroll County Jail, pg. 418.

"By the time I tried to take back what I'd said, it was so big and so ugly, I couldn't swallow it down. I was a little girl playing with dolls who turned out to have feelings and real lives that could get ruined.' She looked in her lap. 'My father and the prosecutor and the judge—they all thought I was protecting a man I loved.'" Catherine turned, addressing the jury. "The last time I told the truth in court, nobody believed me. I need you all to believe me now." Ch. 24, July 5, 2000, Carroll County Courthouse, pg. 422.

"Amos held out his hand, and she placed hers in it. Then he pulled her into an embrace, an old, old dance. Gillian closed her eyes, years past tears. Her mind was already a million miles away by the time her father's mouth settled over hers, sealing their deal once again." Ch. 24, July 5, 2000, Carroll County Courthouse, pg. 434.



Topics for Discussion

Jack St. Bride is falsely accused of rape twice in the novel. How does the writer foreshadow the second accusation of rape? Does the fact that one man could be falsely accused of rape twice seem plausible? Why or why not? Considering what is revealed about Jack's past indiscretions in college, does he deserve to be punished in some way for how he treats women? Why or why not?

Addie Peabody has trouble dealing with the loss of her daughter, Chloe. Do the circumstances of Chloe's conception affect Addie's reluctance to let Chloe go? Why or why not? How does Jack break down Addie's barriers and allow her to love again?

Gillian's true relationship with her father is revealed in the last paragraph of the novel? How does this alter your perception of Gillian? Do you find her a sympathetic character throughout the novel? Why or why not? How is this revelation foreshadowed throughout the novel? Is her accusation of Jack an attempt to get back at her father? Why or why not?

Throughout the novel, many allusions are made to Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*. How does this earlier work influence the novel? How are the events in the novel similar or different? What themes do the two works have in common?

Gillian and her friends try to hide the fact that they are practicing Wicca from their parents. Why do the girls feel the need to hide their activities? How is Wicca perceived by people in the modern age? Are witches, or Wiccans, still persecuted today? How does Picoult's portrayal of Starshine affect the other character's view of Wicca?

One rule of Wiccan practice is the idea of karma, that whatever a witch does will come back to her three times stronger. How do the events of the novel support or disprove this rule? Do Gillian, Whitney, Chelsea and Meg get what they deserve? Does this rule influence any of their actions in the novel? Describe how it does or does not.

The women in the novel tend to have complicated relationships with their fathers. Analyze the relationship between Addie and Roy Peabody, Amos and Gillian Duncan, Charlie and Meg Saxton, and Catherine and Ellidor Marsh. What obstacles are present in each that prevents the fathers and the daughters from connecting? Which relationships seem to be healthy? Why or why not? How do the daughters in the unhealthy relationships cope with their fathers?

Rape is one of the central themes of the novel. How does the subject of rape come up throughout Jack's life? Does Jack get what he deserves? Who does the burden of proof fall onto when a woman accuses a man of being raped?

Many of the characters in the novel have their own "demons" or problems to work through. Which characters are able to find peace with themselves by the end of the

novel? How do they accomplish this? Are there any characters in the novel who don't seem to be haunted by insurmountable issues? Why or why not?