

Sarum: The Novel of England Study Guide

Sarum: The Novel of England by Edward Rutherfurd

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Contents

Sarum: The Novel of England Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Journey to Sarum, The Barrow.....	4
The Henge.....	6
Sorviodunum.....	8
Twilight, The Two Rivers.....	10
The Castle.....	12
The Founding.....	14
The Death.....	16
The Rose, A Journey From Sarum.....	18
New World.....	20
The Unrest.....	22
The Calm.....	24
Boney.....	25
Empire.....	27
The Henge II, The Encampment.....	29
The Spire.....	30
Characters.....	31
Objects/Places.....	34
Themes.....	36
Style.....	38
Quotes.....	40
Topics for Discussion.....	42



Plot Summary

Sarum by Edward Rutherford is an epic historical novel about the area of England known as Sarum. This lengthy novel of more than one thousand pages spans more than ten thousand years, covering the span of English history from primitive times to modern times. The novel looks at the different events and issues that the people dealt with.

The novel opens in primitive times, 7,500 years before Christ. There is a very primitive society of hunters with small groups banding together and living in huts. One of the hunters, Hwell, his woman Akin, and their children migrate to the south for better hunting. They meet another family led by Tep, who leads them to Sarum, where they settle. Their descendants remain in the area for centuries.

This epic novel is basically the saga of five families. These are the Wilson, the Masons, Porteus with its different name variations, the Shockleys and the Godreys with their name variations. Some of them descended directly from Hwell and Tep, while others descended from the ancient Romans, Saxons and other groups that came to the area and remained. As Britain changes, the families change with their fortunes coming and going. Their lives and intertwined through events and marriage.

Sarum explains how places like Stonehenge were built as a great temple to the gods so the great chief Krona would have a male heir. During Christian times, the great cathedral at Salisbury is constructed, filling the lifetime of Osmund the Mason. The reader watches then as Porteus, a Roman soldier who marries and remains in Sarum, constructs a Roman style villa with its rich mosaics and introduces Roman farming methods to the area, which improves the quality and quantity of the estate's output.

The reader also sees the religious and political development of Britain through Sarum. There are the days of paganism with its human sacrifices and the building of the temples and the barrows. There is the gradual transition to Christianity with the pagans practicing their rites in secret, a practice the Protestants followed many years later. There is the burning of the heretics under Mary Tudor and the Puritan burning of witches. The different Protestant sects struggled until they all came to live together peacefully.

The political development of England gradually changed from the great chiefs into a constitutional monarchy. The reader sees how the institutions like the Magna Charta, jury trials, and Parliament came into being and watches how various wars, both internal and external, are fought.

Through all of this change, life goes on for the five families, as they adapt and cope with their changing world in Sarum.

The reader will thoroughly enjoy this lengthy saga. It is long but well worth the time spent reading it.



Journey to Sarum, The Barrow

Journey to Sarum, The Barrow Summary

Sarum by Edward Rutherford is an epic historical novel about the area of England known as Sarum. This lengthy novel of more than one thousand pages spans more than ten thousand years, covering the span of English history from primitive times to modern times. The novel looks at the different events and issues that the people dealt with.

It is 7,500 years before the birth of Christ. Hwll and his woman Akun talk of leaving the area where they live. The hunting is poor now in what will one day be known as the north of England. They and their two children begin the journey to the south to the rich forest lands of legend. They reach the North Sea. They follow the coast and reach the estuary of the Thames and then the English Chanel, looking for a land bridge. The family turns inland and begins traveling through southern Britain looking for other hunters to join. They come upon the camp of Tep, who eventually leads them to Sarum. Both families settle there.

The families lived together for three years until Tep rapes Akum. Tep leaves the camp and returns to the river. They only come one month a year to hunt bison with the other hunters in the area. Two years later, Tep is killed in a hunting accident and his wife, Ulla, and her children come to live in Hwll's camp. Hwll has four children with Ulla over the next seven years.

The Barrow is 3,500 years later. Farming is now a common practice in Europe but not in Britain. Krona the Warrior and others come to Britain from across the English Chanel. Krona is a farmer whose family has been killed, and he now leads a group of settlers to the area around Sarum. They meet a group of hunters led by Taku, who agrees to let Krona's group settle in the valley as long as they don't hunt.

The hunters and farmers live in peace for six years until they have a war over which god to worship. They solve the problem by worshipping both the sun and moon gods.

Taku is building a trade in furs and pelts. When Krona and the farmers needed more livestock, Taku gives them pelts to trade and they agree to take Taku and his son across the Chanel with them.

When Krona dies, Gwilloc is elected chief, and he orders a sealed tomb honoring Krona to be built at Sarum. This is the beginning of tomb building in England around Stonehenge and Sarum.

Journey to Sarum, The Barrow Analysis

This section looks at the formation of England and the lives of the primitive people. They were hunters like Hwll who moved from the north and settled the area of Sarum. The people remained hunters for 3,500 years until settlers arrive from across the Chanel and introduce farming. The hunter and families learn to work together to improve the living conditions of both and trade begins with the people across the Chanel.



The Henge

The Henge Summary

The time is now 200 BC. Dluc is the high priest at Stonehenge. Sarum and the sacred grounds around the area will be destroyed if the gods are not pacified. The henge is eight hundred years old and is where the priests make ritual sacrifices to the gods. The ruling chief of the area is Krona, an eightieth generation descendant of Krona the Warrior, and Dluc is his half brother. Krona rules over a vast wealthy area within which three thousand people live.

Krona's two sons were killed at sea and he is frantic to produce an heir. Dluc tells him that they must build a great temple and then sacrifice Krona's first born. After that he will have a son. Nooma the stonemason is chosen to build the new Stonehenge based on Dluc's design. During the years of building, Nooma marries Katesh.

After two years, the priest named Omnic returns with a bride for Krona. They marry on the eve of the Winter Day feast and she soon becomes pregnant but dies in early childbirth.

Katesh also has a son at this time. Nooma, one day, finds a carved figure of a woman that he takes home with him. It is the figure that Kwll made of Akun thousands of years earlier. One day while Katesh is by the river, the baby falls in. She jumps in after him and becomes tangled in the weeds. She and the baby are rescued by Tark, a trader and riverman. When Nooma is away, Katesh finds herself attracted to Tark and becomes involved with him.

Krona has gone mad over the loss of his wife and child. He wants Omnic killed but Dluc has him sent away. Krona turns against the sun god. He would stay with young girls for three months. If they didn't become pregnant, he had them sacrificed to the moon god. Nineteen girls are sacrificed over a five year period.

Katesh has a daughter a month early. Nooma notices that the child has long fingers and toes like Tark. He knows the child is Tark's but says nothing to either of them.

The priests bring Krona a blond girl they obtained from a trader. She makes Krona happy, even though the work on the henge is falling behind schedule. The blond girl, Menona, becomes pregnant as the citizens work to complete the temple in time for the dedication. Dluc reminds Krona that the first born must be sacrificed.

As they are finishing the temple, Nooma tells Tark that he knows the baby is Tark's. Before Tark can react, the scaffolding and four tons of rock fall on him, killing him. Stonehenge is finished five days ahead of schedule, even though there is a flaw in one of the rocks.



Krona is gored by a boar on a hunting trip and asks Dluc not to sacrifice Menona's baby. As they discuss this, Menona goes into labor and has twins, a girl and a boy. The girl is sacrificed.

Nineteen victims are sacrificed at the dedication. Katesh is one of them. Word of Krona's death comes as the ceremony begins.

The Henge Analysis

This chapter takes place in 2000 BC. Descendants of Krona the Warrior have been the ruling chiefs for eighty generations. Krona has two sons who died at sea. He has no heir and is frantic to produce one to continue his line. The people are pagans at this time, and the ritual of animal and human sacrifice is part of the religion. This chapter explains the building of Stonehenge as what the god's demand to allow Krona to have an heir. Nineteen girls are sacrificed because they don't become pregnant. When Menona becomes pregnant and has twins, the girl is sacrificed as the first born. Krona dies as the temple is being sacrificed. Katesh, who has a child by her lover, is also sacrificed at the dedication. The priests select the victims. Pagan priests are very powerful in this way.



Sorviodunum

Sorviodunum Summary

The year is 42 AD and the Emperor Claudius of the Roman Empire decides to conquer Britain. Claudius hated the Druids because they practice human sacrifices.

In 44 AD, the people of Sarum know the Romans will eventually be coming and they move into the dune, which is a fortress. Tosutigus is to lead the force of one hundred men to defend Sarum. Sarum is no longer powerful but maintains its independence from seven powerful tribes.

Many of the tribes surrender to the Romans, and Aulus Plautius is appointed governor of Britannia.

Tosutigus' plan is to surrender to the Romans, even though he promised the tribes that he would fight. He becomes known as Tosutigus the Liar for this deception. Tosutigus wants to be a client king and citizen of Rome and tells this to the Romans when they ask what he wants. He basically wants to rule over the lands of the Durotriges, a competing tribe. Instead, he has to surrender most of his kingdom to the Romans. They call the area Sorviodunum.

In 60 AD, the Iceni and Trinovantes tribes revolt against Rome in the eastern colony of Comulodunum. The first Roman legions to arrive are massacred. The revolt is eventually put down.

Caius Porteus is given the assignment of destroying a village that refused to pay taxes. He tries to negotiate with the people, but they attack and are slaughtered. When he complains about the policy, he is labeled a traitor and transferred to the procurator's office and sent to Sorviodunum.

The Romans build a road called the Ackling Dyke through Sorviodunum. The only thing Tosutigus receives from the Romans is tax exemptions, but his fifteen-year-old daughter Maeve decides that she wants to marry a prince. She is attracted to Porteus and marries him. When she shows no interest in going to Rome and becomes pregnant, Porteus decides to reorganize the estate according to Roman standards. He gives up the idea of returning to Rome, realizing that his life is in Britannia.

Porteus eventually has an affair with a Judean slave girl named Naomi. He knows that Tosutigus knows about the affair because he stops dining with the family. Maeve also knows but does not let him know that. She has a spell cast on them and the relationship soon ends.



Sorviodunum Analysis

In this chapter, Britain is conquered by the Roman Emperor Claudius and becomes part of the Roman Empire. The descendants of Krona are no longer strong and powerful as they had been in the past. The chief is Tosutigus, who surrenders Sarum to the Romans, hoping to be made king of the area and a citizen of Rome. Instead, he receives tax exemption. When his daughter marries the Roman Porteus, he reorganizes the lands according to Roman standards and the family prospers.

Britain was ripe for the Roman conquest because there was no one strong central authority. There were tribal chiefs but no one strong enough to fight the might of Rome.



Twilight, The Two Rivers

Twilight, The Two Rivers Summary

The time is 427 AD and Sarum fears an invasion by the barbarians. The Roman legions have been gone for twenty years. Constantius Porteus is a Christian and a follower of Pelagius. He has many disagreements with his wife Placida and son Petrus. They are the descendants of Caius Porteus.

Petrus and his father quarrel about defending Sarum. Petrus wants them to use German mercenaries, but his father refuses. Petrus hires the Germans on his own.

Paganism still exists and Petrus is a secret pagan, even though his father is a Christian. He hopes to restore Sorviodunum to the pagan gods. Placida and the steward Numincus know that Petrus has hired the Germans. The three of them tell Constantius.

Two years later, the Saxons arrive and are easily beaten by Petrus and the Germans.

Constantius attends a meeting at which the Pelagians, who believe in free will, are called heretics.

In 432, Petrus agrees to join a militia to fend off a possible invasion. They arm the local population.

Petrus travels to the estate of Flavia's family. She is a possible bride for him. On the way, he meets a Christian missionary. This meeting results in his conversion to Christianity. He returns home, tells his family of his conversion and his intention to go to Ireland as a missionary. Placida has him locked up to keep him from leaving. Before they can resolve the issue, word comes that the Saxons are coming and Petrus decides to stay and help.

When the Germans see how large the Saxon army is, they desert. Constantius is killed in the battle and the Saxons are defeated.

In the Two Rivers, the time is 877 and the Anglo Saxons settled the island for the last four centuries. Alfred is king of what is now called Wessex and they are fighting a Viking invasion.

In Wilton, Port, a descendant of Porteus, has lost a hand in a brawl and receives compensation from the court. He promised his sister, Edith, the money for her convent but wants to purchase land so he can become a thane.

At a dinner, Thane Aelfwald announces that he plans to build a stone church. Port announces that he will give a gold cross to the nunnery.



The Vikings attack the monastery and kill the monks, including the son of Aelfwald. This being the Viking attack in 878. Port's wife is killed but his two young children are spared.

The Vikings soon surrender and leave Wessex.

Twilight, The Two Rivers Analysis

It is 427 and the Romans have been gone for twenty years. The people live under the rule of the king of Wessex. There is now a primitive code of law for the settling of grievances but the people are pretty much on their own in defending against attacks. Paganism still exists but not openly. England is now Anglo-Saxonized since the Saxon invasion. Now they face an external threat from the Vikings, who they successfully fend off in this chapter.

The descendants of Porteus still live in the villa. They are well off but not wealthy.



The Castle

The Castle Summary

The year is 1139. England has been conquered by the Normans in 1066 and castles were built all over the land. Stephen is now king.

Two women are quarreling when Richard de Godefroi says if they break the peace again, they will be punished. William atte Brigge has the long fingers and toes of the river people. He is angry at his wife Herleva for making a fool of him. John Shockley tells his wife that she must make peace with Herleva.

Godefroi knows the country is on the brink of a feudal civil war. He wants to travel but knows that his lord William of Sarisberie won't allow it if there is war.

Godric Body is poor and at the bottom of the feudal scale. He wants to be a shepherd and his Uncle Nicholas asks permission from Godefroi. He doesn't receive an answer. Godric is courting Mary, the daughter of the blacksmith.

As the political situation worsens, Godefroi asks John of Shockley to take his wife and children to London where they will be safer. He finishes his work then goes to sit at his favorite place near the barrow.

In summer, Godric is working in the sheep fields. He has been trapping animals in the forbidden royal Norman forest and feeding Mary when he invites her to his hut.

Political troubles for King Stephen begin on June 24, 1139. This is the beginning of the period known as the Anarchy. Trouble began with an argument between the men of some of the lord's while at a council meeting called by the king. When the knights wouldn't prove their loyalty by giving the king the keys to their castles, he went after them. The rebel knights finally surrender to the king.

In September, civil war begins. At this time, Godric is caught taking a deer from the forest. His uncle pays a bribe so Godric won't be found guilty, but Mary tells about the pig. Godric is hanged.

The Castle Analysis

The section looks at the area during the years of feudalism, in 1139. England had been conquered by the Normans seventy years earlier and they built castles throughout the land. The Normans brought with them their legal system, which included trial by jury. The Norman descendant Stephen is a weak king and there is a great deal of unrest. The period is known as the Anarchy.

The descendants of Porteus are now called Port and work for the king. The descendants of Tep are given by William atte Brigge, whose family has had a fifty-year feud with John of Shockle,y who is a descendant of Aelfwald.



The Founding

The Founding Summary

The year is 1244 and the city of New Salisbury is being built. After the reign of Stephen, medieval England is prosperous and great cathedrals are built. Canon Stephen Portehor is overseeing the construction of the cathedral at New Salisbury. Osmund is one of the masons working on the structure and is a descendant of Godric Body.

William atte Brigge is on the brink of ruin. He is selling his goods from a cart in the new city. Alan le Portier, the aulrager, is also there and tells him that he can't sell his cloth there. Edward Shockley is a well-to-do merchant with a cloth business in the new city. Aaron of Wilton is a Jewish money lender in the city and makes loans to Shockley and Jocelin de Godefroi to build a mill.

Both Church and state need each other at this time. The king needs the moral authority of the Church and the Church needs the protection of the king.

It is assumed that Alicia le Portier will marry Peter Shockley, but the two quarrel. Her family hopes she will marry Geoffrey de Whiteheath, a knight who will join them for dinner that evening. She marries him.

Osmund is happy to be working on the cathedral and to be an apprentice in the mason's guild. He is eager to learn and loves the work.

When the king raises taxes on the Jews, the loan to Shockley and Godefroi is in danger. Aaron manages to raise the money for the loan at the interest rate he had agreed to.

In 1248, Osmund is admitted to the masons' guild. They shorten the time period in recognition of his talent. He has to prepare a work of art to be admitted. When his work is almost completed, he discovers that it is missing. He suspects another apprentice named Bartholomew and makes a sculpture of him. He is accepted into the guild.

By 1264, the mill is completed and the Shockleys are wealthy. At this time, a parliamentary government is introduced and many people feel that King Henry is unfit. This leads to four years of political unrest. The two sides agree to arbitration by the King of France, who rules in favor of Henry. Hugh de Godefroi tells his father that he refuses to submit to the king. They battle the king and his men at Lewes on May 14, 1264. Godfrey de Whiteheath is killed in the battle. Alicia returns to Sarum and meets Peter Shockley. They marry the next month, even though de Godefroi wants to marry her.

Simon de Montfort had formulated the parliamentary plans and calls a meeting in London. Peter is disappointed in the meeting. Aaron has warned him not to protest the persecution of the Jews. The meeting settles many differences.



Shockely's children, Mary and Christopher, are in their twenties. Mary will inherit the farm while her brother will receive the business.

King Edward comes to visit the cathedral. As he walks in, Osmund hears the pillar groaning and creaking. They are beginning to bend from the stress. The king orders Osmund to do carvings for him at Clarendon. He is no longer allowed to work on the cathedral.

One day Osmund finds the carving of Akun. He places the sculpture in a niche in the cathedral tower. The cathedral is nearing completion in 1310. Osmund's son, Edward, works on it.

The financial problems of the king continue as he needs money to finance his wars. Eventually he taxes wool. This forces John Wilson to work for Mary Shockley, who buys his farm.

The Founding Analysis

This chapter covers the period 1244 - 1310. The feudalism of medieval England is slowly turning into a constitutional monarchy. The Church is still very powerful and both the Church and the king need each other. The Church needs the protection of the king for their growing land holdings and the king needs the moral authority of the Church.

The relationship between the king and the knights is slowly changing. They consider Edward unfit to rule and slowly chip away at his power, which results in the establishment of a parliament despite the arbitration of the king of France. The king needs money to finance his expenditures and wars and he obtains it by taxes and favors. This eventually causes Wilson and de Godefroi to lose their lands.

The city of New Salisbury with its great cathedral is built during this time. Osmund the Mason spends his life working on the cathedral. His battle with the seven deadly sins continues through his life and is representative of the power of the Church over the people.



The Death

The Death Summary

The year is 1348. A ship from France docks at Christchurch, bringing with it a sewer rat and fleas infected with the plague, known as the Black Death. Young Peter Wilson is bitten by an infected flea. Gilbert de Godefroi receives a letter from a friend telling of the plague. He orders an intense cleaning of Avonsford. They decide to bring their son home from school.

Godefroi agrees to rent his sheep house to the Mason family and then goes to see William Shockley. As a merchant trader, Shockley always receives news of events in other places. When Shockley arrives home, he finds that Peter Wilson is ill.

Agnes Mason decided that animals spread the plague and is determined to keep all animals out of the sheep house. This is why they left the city and moved to the high ground. Her stepson Nicholas disobeys her orders not to leave and goes into the city, which is strangely quiet. He learns that the plague has arrived. When he returns to the sheep house, Agnes will not let him enter, so he returns to the city but comes daily to exchange news.

Rose de Godefroi becomes ill. She and Gilbert decide not to bring their son home. Gilbert agrees to allow the cook, Margery Dubber to try her cures. Rose eventually dies, as does Shockley, his wife and two of their children.

The plague quickly spread through the city. Nicholas decides to live in the tower of the cathedral where he does maintenance work. He notices the stones shifting. Then he realizes that he is sick with the plague. Instead of suffering, he jumps from the tower. Without news, the Mason family leaves the high ground after six weeks.

The surviving Wilsons make a deal with Stephen Shockley to work the land. The Wilsons profit from the arrangement and soon purchase the farm. They soon rent land from Gilbert de Godefroi and his son.

Sarum recovers from the plague and slowly prospers. The manufacture of cloth begins. Wages rise so high that they are regulated in 1351.

When Thomas de Godefroi goes to war in 1355, Wilson makes a loan to Godefroi to outfit his son for war. After Walter Wilson's death, his son continues their business.

Martin Shockley, son of Stephen, attends Oxford, where he becomes a follower of Wycliffe. After causing a disturbance at the church, a young priest named Portehors comes to talk to the family. Stephen is warned to control his son and his Lollard views.



The Death Analysis

In 1348, the plague comes to the Sarum area, as it did to many other parts of the world. The people did not know what caused it or what precautions to take. The result is panic and many deaths. The number of deaths resulted in labor shortages though the country, and people like Walter and Edward Wilson profited from this. People like de Godefrois and Shockley lost because of it. The result of the higher wages was government regulation.

The power of the Church is also under attack as the Protestant Reformation begins. Martin Shockley, educated at Oxford becomes a follower of Wycliffe and the Lollards, which causes problems for his family.



The Rose, A Journey From Sarum

The Rose, A Journey From Sarum Summary

The time is 1456. Eustace Godfrey, Michael Shockley, Benedict Mason and John Wilson all leave their homes as the cathedral clock strikes six. The battle between the Lancasters and the Yorks, known as the War of the Roses, is taking place.

The area of Sarum is prosperous and not concerned with outside events. Godfrey, a descendant of Godefroi, plans to marry off two of his children that evening. He needs money and tries different investments. He wants to restore the position of his family. He wants his son Oliver to go to Parliament.

Shockley is hoping to be elected to the forty-eight that evening. The forty-eight is a local government council. The family is prosperous due to the mill and cloth business. Shockley and Godfrey haven't spoken for ten years.

Mason has a bell founder business and wants to make a bell for the cathedral. He decides to enlist Godfrey's help since he is friends with the bishop.

John Wilson is a merchant. He trades silk and has a son named Robert.

Godfrey has to wait several hours to see John Wilson. He is trying to arrange a marriage for his daughter Isabella and Robert Wilson. Wilson rejects the offer. Godfrey then goes to the house of Curtis the butcher to try to arrange a marriage between Lizzie Curtis and his son Oliver. He finds she is promised to Robert Wilson.

Shockley does not obtain the seat on the forty-eight. John Wilson does.

In A Journey From Sarum, the year is 1480. John and Robert Wilson moved to the old Godefroi estate and now use the surname of Forest. They lease the land from the Bishop of Salisbury. Will Wilson is forced out of his hut on the land. He is a cousin of Robert.

Will goes to the cathedral. He has decided to leave the area and is looking for a sign of where to go. While there, he sees Godfrey taking his vows to become a hermit. Benedict Mason is also there. Will leaves, without receiving a sign. He is caught in a massive thunder storm where Sorviudunum once lay. A lightning strike leaves a burn mark to the east, pointing toward London.

The Rose, A Journey From Sarum Analysis

This section looks at the different generations, how their financial position change and how they intermarry. The area of Sarum is prosperous and pays little attention to the outside world. People like Godfrey, Shockley and Mason are jockeying for position in

the social structure through marriage and business dealings. The Wilsons have become very wealthy and change their name to Forest.

Will Wilson is thrown off the land by the steward of the Forests. He decides to leave the area and looks for a sign from God of where to go. A lightning strike points towards London. He is on the ground covering the ruins of Sorviodunum at the time, but he knows nothing about them.



New World

New World Summary

The year is 1553 and many of the ornate furnishings of the churches and cathedrals are being removed. Abigail and Peter Mason remove a stain glass window that Benedict Mason had designed many years earlier. This is the period of the Reformation and King Henry VIII is the spiritual head of the English Church, which broke with Rome.

Edward Shockley marries Katherine, who is Catholic. He says that he and his family are Catholics. In 1547, young Edward VI becomes king. Ruling with regents, he embraces Protestantism. In Sarum, things quickly change and Katherine is very affected by the changes. Edward favors the changes but tells his wife he is a devout Catholic. He soon tells Katherine to stop teaching their young daughter Catholic doctrine for fear she will say something in public.

Edward is hoping to enter into a business deal with Thomas Forest. Edward travels to Antwerp to find an agent. He brings a man called the Fleming to Avonsford to meet Forest and the deal is made. After leaving the manor house, the Fleming meets Nellie Godfrey, who is a prostitute in the town. They are rather loud, and the next day Peter and Abigail Mason complain to the alderman.

Nellie is warned about the complaint and leaves for Bristol instead of being publicly whipped.

King Edward dies and Mary becomes queen. She is Catholic but promises religious toleration, but many of the churchmen who had adopted the reforms are imprisoned. Edward Shockley adopts Catholicism again. The Masons with her brother and six children and others secretly meet for their Protestant services. Edward Shockley soon joins them despite attending mass with his wife and Forest.

In 1554, England returns to the Church of Rome. Mary, who becomes known as Bloody Mary, tortured heretics to death. There are many executions. Shockley sees the executions along with the Masons.

Nellie marries Captain Jack Wilson in Bristol. She has a house in Christchurch.

Peter Mason is arrested as a heretic and this makes Edward Shockley nervous.

Nellie Wilson arrives in Sarum just as Peter's burning begins. After the burning, she is seen by Abigail, who demands her arrest. Jack says she is his wife.

Queen Mary Tudor dies in November 1558 and Elizabeth I becomes queen. She is a Protestant and there are many changes by 1580. England fears invasion by Spain in an attempt to put the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots on the throne.



Shockley and Forest's business deal was not successful and they haven't spoken in years, so Shockley is surprised when Forest wants to see him. Nellie and Jack Wilson are there when he arrives. Wilson proposes a shipping deal. He needs investors from Sarum. Forest will invest but wants his son Giles to learn the business with Wilson and Shockley.

Shockley discovers that his wife is involved with the Catholic plots against the queen. When Shockley refuses to support Giles for a political position, his business deal with Wilson ends.

New World Analysis

This chapter looks at the religious upheaval in England. The country has been Catholic until Henry VIII broke with Rome. The country becomes Protestant under Edward VI. This causes many Catholics, like Katherine, to worship in private. A few years later, Mary Tudor, a Catholic, becomes queen and England returns to the Church of Rome. Heretics are burned at the stake and the queen becomes known as Bloody Mary. After her short rule, Elizabeth I becomes queen. She is Protestant and implements reforms as England is again Protestant.

Edward Shockley adhered to Protestant principles yet he said that he and his family are devout Catholics in order to marry Katherine. She eventually learns his true beliefs and this affects their marriage, which is based on lies. During the reign of Elizabeth I, he discovers his wife is secretly supporting the Catholics in their plots against the queen. Both of them lie about their religious beliefs and this ruins their relationship.



The Unrest

The Unrest Summary

It is August 1642. The Godfrey and Shockley families are close friends. Margaret Shockley, twenty years old, is raising her two-year-old step-brother, Samuel. Her brother Edmund is now head of the family. Brother Obadiah is a Presbyterian minister. The other brother is Nathaniel.

The country is on the verge of civil war over the issue of divine right. The king could not levy taxes without Parliament. The Stuart King Charles has been forced to flee.

The Shockleys discuss the situation. They decide to leave Samuel with Margaret as to their father's will. They return to their discussion of politics. Sir Henry Forest is a Baronet and not sure who he will side with. If the Shockleys are divided, he might secure the water meadows.

The brothers are split by the war. Margaret remains neutral. Edmund sides with Cromwell against the king. In October 1644, she finds him at the farm. Nathaniel arrives and is looking for the Parliament men. He does not take Edmund.

One day, in January 1645, Margaret and Samuel go to Salisbury. They are caught in the fighting. Samuel is separated from Margaret, who eventually finds him. They return to the farm and find the house has been ransacked by the Royalists. Margaret organizes a small fighting force to defend against the soldiers of both sides. This led to the formation of a bigger local defense force of which Margaret is a part.

Edmund kills his brother Nathaniel in battle. When he realizes it is his brother, Edmund walks away. He returns to the farm and doesn't tell Margaret how their brother was killed. Obadiah remains committed to the Puritans, who are growing stronger, and occasionally visits from London.

Charles Moody brings Nathaniel's sword to Margaret and tells her that it was Edmund who killed him.

The king is executed and Cromwell rules Parliament, whose members are from Presbyterian congregations.

Edmund leaves and works on a farm near London. He is a Digger, a group that believes in freedom for all men. He soon dies.

Margaret and Obadiah clash over Puritanism. He wants Samuel to live with him in Salisbury so he can be schooled. She forbids Samuel to see Obadiah and makes a deal with Forest. He will educate Samuel as a ward with his own children and will receive ownership of the farm, which she can live on until her death.



Two of Forest's sheep die and Obadiah has Margaret accused of witchcraft. Samuel watches the sheep house and sees Obadiah feed pellets to the sheep. He retrieves some of the pellets and tells what happened at her trial and saves his sister.

In 1688, Samuel is a physician with a wife and three children. Charles II has been restored to the throne.

The Unrest Analysis

Religion and politics again divide England in the seventeenth century. The Puritans are becoming a strong movement and want religious freedom. The big political issue is the divine right of the king, and the country is divided on the issue of whether the power should be with the king or with Parliament. The issue divides families like the Shockleys. Obadiah is a Puritan minister who spends the war in London. Nathaniel is a royalist and Edmund fights on the side of Cromwell and Parliament. Edmund kills Nathaniel in battle.

Religion further splits the Shockley family. Margaret refuses to accept the Puritanism of Obadiah and refuses to allow him to educate Samuel. He accuses her of being a witch and she is only saved by Samuel. Margaret acted according to her own principles and did what she thought was best for Samuel.



The Calm

The Calm Summary

In 1720, Samuel Shockley and the family are financially ruined by investing in the South Sea Bubble. England is at peace and ruled by Queen Anne and joined with Scotland and Wales.

Jonathon Shockley inherits the Salisbury house when his grandfather and father die. He manages the estates of George Forest and has a son, Adam. In 1753, Adam tells his parents that he wants to be a soldier. His mother, Elizabeth, wants him to be a clergyman. Adam wants to be commissioned to India. Jonathon has Baron George Forest make the arrangements and purchases an ensign's commission.

Adam has a letter of introduction from George Forest to Fiennes Wilson in Madras. He is an official with the East India Company. His first battle in Calcutta results in an English victory.

In 1767, Lieutenant Adam Shockley is in the West Indies in Dominica. In October 1777, he is a captain fighting the American rebels. He has earned his promotion to captain when fighting in Canada. They capture an American boy named John Hillier, whose family is from Wiltshire. He and Adam discuss the issues and Hillier gives him a copy of Common Sense by Tom Paine. Adam thinks about the discussion and knows that the Americans will win. He returns to Sarum in 1779.

Adam is amazed at the changes that have occurred when he stays at Bath. Sarum is as it always was and he is greeted by his father and half brother and half sister. In March, he meets Eli Mason, who prints the local newspaper. Mason takes him to meet his brother Benjamin. They visit several times in the coming months.

Adam attends a dinner with Sir Joshua Forest and other prominent men. They discuss the situation in America and what problems it can cause in other British colonies. The next morning Forest offers him the position of agent in charge of his estates.

Adam and Eli capture a highwayman and split the reward. Eli uses his half for his sister's dowry. She marries Adam and they go to Pennsylvania.

The Calm Analysis

The eighteenth century is peaceful in England, but they are fighting battles in other parts of the world. Samuel Shockley's grandson, Adam, disappoints his parents by wanting to be a soldier, but they help him secure a position. While fighting in America, he discovers the issues with a captured soldier, John Hillier. He thinks about the discussion and the American deals. He is impressed and knows that the British will lose the war. Several years later he marries Mary Mason and they move to Pennsylvania.



Boney

Boney Summary

The year is 1803. Peter Wilson is a smuggler. He is watching his contraband being unloaded at Christchurch. Dr. Thaddeus Barnikel is a Salisbury physician who is waiting to see Canon Nicodemus Porteus. Porteus is married to Frances Shockley. Frances' brother Ralph and his wife Agnes are staying with them while their house is being redecorated. The canon arrives and the two men go to talk in his study. At dinner, their discussion turns to politics. They try to keep Nicodemus and Ralph from clashing. They don't succeed and Nicodemus tells Ralph to leave and Ralph stays at the doctor's house.

Lord Forest is a governor of the school that Ralph teaches at. When Ralph refuses to lie about his views, he is relieved of his position. Ralph believes in equality for all men. Forest hires him as a tutor for his grandchildren.

William Pitt forms an alliance with other countries against Napoleon, who has his army and transports waiting at Boulogne to attack England.

Peter Wilson has been taken by a press gang to serve in the British Navy on the ship Euryalus. He had planned to marry the week after he was taken. When Austria declared war on France in 1805, Napoleon moves his army from Boulogne, which makes it impossible for the French to invade England. The Euryalus and other ships wait off Cadiz for the French fleet. When the fleet moves, the Euryalus signals her movements to the British, commanded by Nelson. The British win the battle and Peter returns home in 1806.

Mechanical inventions are changing the cloth industry. Ralph Shockley sees child labor in the factories. He returns to Sarum.

In 1830, there is a labor uprising at Sarum. The workers want higher wages. Hundreds, including children, are tried and sentenced. Many, including Daniel Godfrey, are transported to Australia.

William IV becomes king and the Whigs' Lord Grey is prime minister.

Boney Analysis

The early and mid eighteenth hundreds are a tense time for England. Napoleon has been fighting Europe and is threatening England. The Shockley and Porteus family is torn by conflicting political beliefs. Ralph believes in the precepts of the French Revolution and equality for all men. He supports the poor. His views cause him to lose his teaching position for a while due to the interference of his brother-in-law, Nicodemus Porteus. The French fleet is defeated by the British and the threat of invasion from France ends.



By 1830, changes are occurring due to mechanical inventions in the cloth industry. The invention results in the employment of children, who work more cheaply than adults. There are no laws to protect them or adult workers. The results are labor riots and the offenders are dealt with harshly by the courts.



Empire

Empire Summary

It is October 1854. Jane Shockley is leaving Sarum and is waiting for the train. She wants to serve as a nurse but is rejected by Florence Nightingale. She must train at a hospital first. Jane is twenty-three, and both her parents and grandfather are dead. She inherited from them and has no financial worries. Her brother invites her to visit his family in India but she decides on nursing and begins writing letters to hospitals.

Joseph Porter calls on her. He is an engineer who is working on Salisbury's drains. They discuss the Chartist movement of one man, one vote and the reform movement. He asks for her hand but she says she is determined to be a nurse. But her plans are altered when her uncle returns home from Africa.

By 1861, Salisbury is a rail hub. Jane teaches school and spends the summers working as a nurse. She is active in community service. Daniel Mason and his Methodists work on causes together. His interest now is temperance. Daniel uses the drunken Jethro Wilson and his children as a reason for her involvement.

Jane talks Jethro into sending his children to the temperance hotel. They stay with a Methodist farmer until Jethro puts his life in order. Jane rides out to see Jethro's farm and finds it run down. Jethro shows her around and they discuss the changes that must be made.

Several months later, when Jethro stops sending money for the support of his children, she revisits the farm. He is out of money. Jane invests in his farm and they make improvements. On one of her visits to the farm, they end up in his bedroom. She does not return to the farm for three weeks. When she does, she tells him that they must forget what happened.

When Jethro's cousin in the north dies, Jethro inherits the farm. He repays the loan to Jane. Daniel Mason gives her the money, since Jethro has already left town. She rides out to the farm and the housekeeper says his new farm is near Edington. Jane begins to ride there and gets lost in a thunderstorm. She is given shelter by gypsies and returns home the next day.

In 1889, Jane, Mason and Porter go to see the bishop to discuss schools. Mason wants non-denominational schools. Porter supports the bishop for Anglican schools.

Jane tells Porter that she is starting a suffrage movement in Sarum. If he won't support it, he should call on her again. He is the only one who comes to her meeting.

Empire Analysis

The age of mechanical inventions and industrialization resulted in labor abuses. It was also hard on small farmers who couldn't afford the new equipment. The abuses of the age and the predicament of the poor result in the reform movement. This is what Jane Shockley and Daniel Mason were involved in. Jane Shockley spends her life doing different kinds of community services in Sarum, trying to help others. She decided at a young age that she wanted a life of service and she followed her principles.



The Henge II, The Encampment

The Henge II, The Encampment Summary

It is September 21, 1915 and World War I is in progress. An auction is taking place in Salisbury. Included in the estate that is being auctioned is Stonehenge. It is purchased by

Cecil H.E. Chubb, who gives it to the nation. He is made a baronet.

In The Encampment, it is May 1944 and preparations are being made for D-Day. The Sarum Plain is a training ground and major encampment center. Lieutenant Adam Shockley is an American pilot. Brigadier Archibald Forest-Wilson has a staff position.

Patricia Shockley is the driver for Forest-Wilson. She meets John Mason for lunch to tell him she is not in love with him and that they shouldn't see each other for a while.

There are many Americans in Sarum. The American soldiers are well paid by English standards and they have money to spend. The British realize that they are poor compared to the Americans. They view the Americans as wasteful. When Patricia leaves the restaurant, she goes to visit a friend at the Red Cross and meets Adam Shockley. They talk and think they might be distantly related. She shows him the sights and they begin an affair. They spend as much time together as possible since they both know that D-Day is approaching.

The Henge II, The Encampment Analysis

These two chapters cover World War I and II. Stonehenge is purchased at an auction by a private citizen who donates it to the nation. With all of its history, the area should belong to the public.

In World War II, the Americans and British learn about each other and how their lives differ. The British feel poor compared to the Americans. They look at all the waste in terms of the food the Americans leave on their plates.

Adam Shockley meets Patricia Shockley and they think they may be distantly relatives. They begin an affair that is interrupted by D-Day.



The Spire

The Spire Summary

It is April 10, 1985 and Salisbury is awaiting the visit of the Prince of Wales. Lady Forest-Wilson is waiting at the station. Her daughter Jenny visits on and off since Archibald's death. She is married to Alan Porteus. Patricia is thinking of marrying Kersey Godfrey.

The train arrives with Adam Shockley and his daughter Maggie. Patricia and Adam kept in touch after the war, and this is the first time that Adam has visited England since the war.

The prince is coming to Salisbury because the cathedral spire is in danger of collapse and he is involved in a fund raising effort.

Adam tells his daughter that Salisbury is like a museum. To the people that live there, it is not a museum but a place where life goes on as normal.

The Spire Analysis

After the war, Patricia marries Forest-Wilson, but she and Adam correspond yearly. In 1985, he and his daughter Maggie come to visit Salisbury. The Americans, who are used to things being new and modern, consider Salisbury to be a museum, a place full of antiquities that is stuck in time. To the people who live there, it is a living and breathing place where life goes on as normal. This different in attitude suggest that neither Patricia nor Adam would have been happy living in the other's country.



Characters

Krona the Warrior

Krona the Warrior had been a farmer in what is probably now France. He was a peaceful man with a farm and a wife and four children. One day, he returns to his home and finds that it has been attacked by a brutal tribe of marauders. He finds his wife and children dead and all of his livestock taken. Krona vows revenge. Krona banded together men and fought off the invaders for several years. Eventually the men would wear war paint and attack the invaders. He is known for the weapon he carries - an oak club with a spike flint sticking out. Krona and his men fought the invaders for twelve years and the people of the area live under his protection. Krona remarries and has two boys. When he is forty, a group of men come to him and ask him to lead a group of settlers to the island across the channel. Krona is tired of fighting at this time and the area where he lives is becoming overcrowded because of the number of people seeking his protection, so he decides to lead the settlers. They cross the Channel and travel to the area of Sarum, where they meet the hunters, who agree to allow them to farm in the area. The two groups are able to work out their problems, such as the worship of two different gods, so that they both prosper. Krona's people take the leader of the hunters, Taku and his son across the Channel so they can trade the fur and pelts that they catch. When Krona dies at the age of fifty-four, Gwilloc is elected to succeed him. He builds a sealed tomb to honor Krona, which was the beginning of the barrows and the sacred areas around Sarum. Krona's descendants are the high chiefs of the area for many hundreds of years.

Krona

Krona is the great chief of Sarum in 2000 BC. He is a descendant of Krona the Warrior and is an eightieth generation chief. He has more than three thousand subjects in his realm which is one of the largest and most prosperous in Britain. Krona is married to Ina and has two sons. As is the custom, his half brother, Dluç, is the high priest. Ina and Krona had two sons who died in a storm at sea when they escorted a merchant ship from their land. This incident left Krona without an heir, which would mean an end to the house of Krona. Krona and Dluç felt that they were being punished by the gods since Ina could not give Krona any more children. Since they needed a male heir, they begin a search for wives for Krona and sacrifice many animals to the gods in the hope that one of the girls will become pregnant. When Krona couldn't perform with one of the girls, he orders Dluç to use her as a human sacrifice. Dluç would examine the insides of birds to ascertain the wishes of the gods and tells Krona that the gods demand the building of a great new temple made of stone and also the sacrifice of his first born. After that, he would have a son and heir. The mother's head would be crowned with gold. They searched for girls for over five years with each girl being sacrificed if she didn't become pregnant in three months. The priests finally find a blond slave named Menona, who becomes pregnant and has twins, a girl and a boy. The girl is sacrificed at the dedication



of Stonehenge, the great temple, and the boy becomes the heir to the house of Krona. Krona dies as Stonehenge is being dedicated.

Caius Porteus

Caius Porteus is a young Roman officer in 60 AD. He is sent to serve in Britannica. When he criticizes his superior, he loses his fiancé, Lydia, and is sent to serve in Sorviodunum where he marries Maeve, the daughter of the chief Tosutigus. He realizes that he will never return to Rome and that his life in Sorviodunum and builds a Roman style villa on the estate. He and Maeve have two sons and a daughter.

Edward Shockley

Edward Shockley lives in sixteenth century England during the years of the Protestant Reformation. He is a Protestant but lies about his beliefs to marry Katherine, a devout Catholic. They have a daughter, Cecilia. Shockley has on and off business deals with Forest but none that are successful. He discovers his wife secretly supporting the Catholics in their plots against Elizabeth I.

Osmond the Mason

Osmond the Mason lives in thirteenth century Sarum and is married to Anna and has a son, Edward, and two daughters. He spends his life working on the great cathedral at New Salisbury. He is accepted into the mason's guild three years earlier than normal because of his talent. He battles the seven deadly sins throughout his life and is eighty years old when the cathedral is completed.

Margaret Shockley

Margaret Shockley is the daughter of Edward in seventeenth century England. She never marries but raises her younger brother Samuel. She makes a deal with Forest to educate the boy to save him from the Puritanism of his Uncle Obadiah, who then accuses her of being a witch. She is tried and young Samuel testifies for her, saving her from burning.

Jane Shockley

Jane Shockley lives in nineteenth century Salisbury. She decides she wants a life of service, becomes a teacher and then trains to become a nurse in the Crimean War. She remains in Salisbury and is active in social reforms. She never marries.



Adam Shockley

Adam Shockley is the grandson of Samuel Shockley and son of Jonathon in eighteenth century England. He becomes a soldier and serves in India, the West Indies and America. When he returns to Sarum, he marries Mary Mason and moves to Pennsylvania.

Thane Aelfwald

Thane Aelfwald is an Anglo-Saxon in ninth century Sarum, whose family settled around Wilton. He has two sons and is a daughter and owns numerous estates. His descendants were in the merchant and knightly class.

Tosutigus

Tosutigus is the young chief of Sarum in 42 AD when the Romans invade. He is an ancestor of the Celt Coolin the Warrior, who married Alana, the last heiress of the house of Krona.



Objects/Places

The Salisbury Plains

The Salisbury Plains is an area in south central England where five rivers meet.

Sarum

Sarum is an area in south central England on the Salisbury Plains.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a sacred area located to the south of the Salisbury Plains.

Sorviodunum

Sorviodunum is the area of the Sarum kingdom that is surrendered to the Romans in 46 AD.

Wilton

Wilton is a town in 877 located where the Nadder and Wylde Rivers come together.

Sarisberie

Sarisberie is the name of the Sarum area in the twelfth century.

New Salisbury

New Salisbury is the city built south of Sarum in 1244.

Christchurch

Christchurch is a town located down the river from New Salisbury that used to be known as Twyneham. It is located where the Rivers Stour and Avon converge.

India

India is an Asian subcontinent where the British East India Company is active.

Antwerp

Antwerp is a city in Holland on the continent of Europe.

Themes

Change

One of the most prevalent themes of the book is the role of change. This is to be expected in a novel covering ten thousand years of English history, but it is accentuated by the novel being told in terms of the five families and the fact that most of the action of the novel takes place in the area of Sarum, in south central England. All of the changes that take place in English history are reflected in this small area. It begins when the primitive hunters Hwll and Tep and their families settle the area. Their descendants become the great chiefs and build the temples and arrows. The invasion of the Romans introduces Roman culture and methods into the area just as do the Saxons, Germans, French and other invaders. Many of the invaders, like Porteus and de Godefroi, marry locals and make Sarum their home. The area develops and changes through the years just as the situations and fortunes of the different families do. Some generations are rich and powerful, others are poor. Sarum is a cloth producing center and the effects of mechanical inventions and the industrial revolution and the effects on the different classes are seen through the five families. Jane Shockley exemplifies the reform movement that followed the Industrial Revolution. During World War II, the British see the differences between themselves and the Americans. Adam Shockley, in 1985, describes Salisbury as a museum. To the locals, Sarum isn't a museum stuck in the past. It is a place where life goes on.

Religion

Religion is another dominant theme of the book. All of the characters have practiced some kind of religion, from primitive times to modern times. Religion often caused problems within families as well as in society. Before Christ, religious practices were based on paganism. These were conflicting gods as seen in the days of Krona who ordered the worship of the moon god as he tried to produce an heir, and then switches back to the sun god. The change to Christianity occurred slowly, with some people practicing their pagan rites in secret. When England begins to break with the Church of Rome, they place the ruling monarch as head of the English church, even though they remained Catholic until the rule of Edward VI in 1547. England broke with Rome and becomes Protestant for several years until the reign of Mary Tudor, who restored the Church of Rome. These are the years of persecution for Protestants, as many were burned. Elizabeth I restored England to her brand of Protestantism. These flip flops are shown in the lives of the different characters as some of them try to do what is politically correct for business reasons, like Edward Shockley. Britain is now more tolerant of different religions, but the puritan movement caused many problems and at one point, member to Parliament could only be nominated by Presbyterian congregations. Families like the Shockley's are divided over the issue of religion. Eventually all of the religions come to co-exist peacefully.



Development

Development is another theme of the book as the reader watches the development of English society from primitive times. The early society was based on hunting where families like Hwll and Tep banded together and pooled their efforts for purposes of survival. This was followed by the era of the great chiefs like Krona. By the time of the Roman invasion, the chiefs weren't so powerful and the Romans easily conquered England, introducing Roman culture and methods into the Sarum area, as Porteus did. After the Roman legions left the area, Sarum faced invasion by the different barbarians. They had no central governmental authority, which is why they were easy to conquer by the Anglo-Saxons and others. The Normans brought with them the institutions of feudalism. This was the time of castle building and knights. In the thirteenth century, the city of Salisbury and the great cathedrals were built. Trade guilds were formed at this time and people begin to move back and forth between the city and the countryside as the urban population develops. Throughout this time, manor houses are rebuilt incorporating the latest standards. The Parliament has been formed giving the upper classes some say in the ruling of the country. The period of English imperialism is represented by Adam Shockley and his army service. Advances in technology led to mechanical innovations and factories and all of the social problems that resulted in the following reform movement. The British, who always thought they were well off, learned about Americans in World War II and felt poor compared to them.

Style

Point of View

Sarum is written in the third person point of view, with the narrator being the author Edward Rutherford. This allows the author to provide the background detail and information that is required. This is very important in a historical novel of this kind. The novel covers ten thousand years of English history and tells the saga of five families. The author selects different points in time to write about and provides information about what has occurred during the intervening time periods. In this way, Rutherford is able to provide a continuum by always bringing the reader up to date on what has taken place in religion, wars and politics. He is also able to provide background details about what has happened to the circumstances of the different families during these periods. This would be difficult to do without the use of the third person, especially with the amount of background and historical material the author has to provide. There is enough dialogue between characters to allow the reader to become familiar with their personalities. The use of the third person perspective is appropriate and necessary for this kind of novel.

Setting

The action of the novel centers on the area of south central England known as Sarum, located below the Salisbury Plains. It is here that the hunting families of Hwll and Tep settled. There are scenes at the great ancient temple of Stonehenge during the days of Krona. During the Roman occupation, the area is known as Sorviodunum, whose ruins are eventually buried over time. The area is known as Sarisberie in the twelfth century. There is a neighboring town of Wilton and other small villages in the area of the five rivers, the Nadder, Wylde, Avon, Rebble and Bourne. The city of New Salisbury is built below the area of old Sarum and the area is known as New Sarum. Christchurch is a town located down river from New Salisbury that was known as Twyneham. There are many scenes in the countryside and in the homes of the different characters in addition to many scenes in the great cathedral of New Salisbury. There are scenes in Antwerp, Holland, where Shockley travels to hire an agent. When Adam Shockley is in the army, the setting shifts to India, Dominica in the West Indies and America.

Language and Meaning

Sarum is written in an easy to understand writing style. There are few difficult words and the meaning of the language is clear. There are no hidden meanings and very little in the writing style to slow down the reader. The novel is written in the vernacular of everyday modern American English. There are a few places where the author uses the 'thee' of the Puritans, which helps identify the characters and adds to the realism of the situation. At the same time, the use of the modern American English vernacular does not detract from the characters and situation in the novel. It results in an enjoyable



reading experience for the reader without the use of the Queen's English. There are also no foreign language words or terms in the novel, which adds to the ease of reading the book. The author explains terms, like enclosure, that pertain to a certain time period in English history. The writing style of Rutherford and his use of modern vernacular makes the book an enjoyable reading experience for the reader also does not have to reread sentences and passages trying to figure out the meaning.

Structure

Sarum: the Novel of England is divided into two parts of Old Sarum and New Sarum. There are chapters in each of the two parts. The chapters are designated by a title without the use of chapter numbers. The novel is written in a chronological manner with the author providing the information about the history and events that occur between chapters. The chapters vary in length from two pages to over one hundred pages.

There is a Table of Contents showing the chapter titles and page numbers. This is followed by an informational Preface that the reader should read. It explains the use of the different names for Sarum, the origin of family names, topography and other interesting information. The Preface is followed by three maps of the area which the reader will refer to numerous times during the course of the novel. These maps show the location of different places in the area of the five rivers. Following the maps is a Family Tree categorized by chapter. The reader will find this very helpful in keeping track of how the characters related to one another, since this becomes somewhat confusing. The reader will refer to the Family Tree many times while reading the novel.



Quotes

"The land that Hwll's ancestors had crossed was all gone, and for the whole of his short life, he had no longer been living on a peninsula of Eurasia, but on a new island. Because of that arctic flood Britain was born, and for the rest of her history, her people would be separate, protected from the outside world by a savage sea."
Journey to Sarum, p. 13

"He had good reason to be preoccupied. For some time now it had been clear that - unless the gods could be pacified - the ancient territory of Sarum and its sacred grounds were doomed to destruction."
The Henge, p. 80

"I'll make Sarum greater than it has ever been before; and my family shall be powerful kings again, as they were in ancient times."
Sorviodunum, p. 171

"To Petrus, it seemed to encompass everything the civilization of Greece, the virtue and grandeur of Rome; and as he thought of his Christian father's morose inaction, he decided to rebel. Courage, stern patriotism, the old Roman code of honour - it seemed to him that these were the only qualities he admired; so he became a pagan convert."
Twilight, p. 284

"On St. John's Day, 24th June 1139, the crisis that had so long been threatening Stephen's reign at last broke, and the period of English history known as the Anarchy was begun."
The Castle, p. 408

"And now, at the place where the five rivers met, there was a new presence in the valley: in the gentle curve of the river a mile below the castle hill, a large area had been cleared and there, where before had been only broad meadows dotted with trees, a huge building site, several hundred acres in extent, was slowly rising."
The Founding, p. 433

"He arrived alone - except for his companion. His coat was black. He had come in a crate, into which, at the French dock, he had accidentally strayed; now, as soon as it had been deposited on the quay, he left it immediately. For he did not care for the company of men."
The Death, p. 578

"The excitement in the city of Salisbury had nothing to do with events in the outside world to which, for over half a century, its citizens had consistently paid as little attention as possible."
The Rose, p. 645



"Mary's burnings were over, and it was time for England to find a compromise in this new world between the dangerous extremes that had destroyed so many people of conscience."

New World, p. 740

"When she thought of the causes of this great storm that was about to engulf them, to Margaret at least it seemed that the whole matter was the fault of the king - the king and his terrible doctrine of divine right."

The Unrest, p. 764

"That no man should be taxed without representation, sir. That all men should be free and entitled to vote. These are both English common law, I believe, and written in Magna Carta. These liberties were denied us by the king."

The Calm, p. 859

"There are things here that seem to me, more than ever, to be a crime against human freedom and dignity: I see conditions that are worse, I believe, than slavery."

Boney, p. 930

"A British empire that stretched all round the globe; a British empire that, directed by strong men like Palmerston, would swiftly humble any who failed to show respect to her citizens; an empire where Englishmen grew rich, thanks to free trade and Mr. Gladstone's low taxes. Empire and free trade: this was the combination that most English towns, even sleepy Salisbury, favoured."

Empire, p. 950

"Faced with this spending power, the people of Sarum were simply flabbergasted. It was for most of them the first time they had realized that their island, at the heart of the mighty British Empire, was poor."

The Encampment, p. 1,012

"But if he thought about the matter at all, he supposed that here, at the place where the five rivers met, life would go on, as it had always done before."

The Spire, p. 1,033

Topics for Discussion

What is the significance of Stonehenge? Why was it constructed?

How did Britain come under Roman rule? Why did Claudius want Britain to be part of the Roman Empire?

Why were the Jews persecuted in medieval England? What is the form of the persecution?

How did the plague affect the Sarum area? In what ways did the area prosper in the years following the plague?

In what ways did politics and religion cause problems in England during the seventeenth century? How did the Shockley family deal with the issues?

What is the effect of industrialization on Sarum?

In what way did Sarum change over the years and in what ways didn't it change? How is this illustrated in the last chapter when Adam visits Patricia?