

# **Scarlett: The Sequel to Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind Study Guide**

**Scarlett: The Sequel to Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the Wind by Alexandria Ripley**

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## Plot Summary

Scarlett O'Hara Butler is living separate from her husband, Rhett Butler, following the death of their daughter Bonnie and of Scarlett's best friend, Melanie Wilkes. Scarlett only realizes how much she cares for Melanie and for Rhett after she's lost both and sets out to regain Rhett's love and trust. Scarlett, however, is a social creature by nature and her outgoing ways earn her the scorn of many until she has few friends remaining. Scarlett believes Rhett will return to her, based on the fact that he is willing to pay the bills on her expensive, elaborate house in Atlanta. When time passes and Rhett doesn't return, Scarlett becomes anxious and decides to go to him in Charleston where he is staying with his mother.

There, Scarlett immediately wins the affection of Rhett's mother, Eleanor, but finds she doesn't fit in well with Charleston society. When Rhett offers to spend the social season as her escort and to give Scarlett a half million dollars, Scarlett agrees to his terms - that she will leave him alone and never return. A brief sexual encounter after the pair almost drowns leaves Scarlett pregnant. She is now certain that she will be able to draw Rhett back to her side by telling him that she's pregnant but has met with several O'Hara cousins by this point and decides she'll make a trip to Ireland to visit her O'Hara grandmother before she returns to the confines of Charleston society and Rhett's arms. While in Ireland, Scarlett receives the news that Rhett has filed for divorce. Before she can make the return to America, she discovers Rhett has married a young woman named Anne Hampton.

Scarlett is initially devastated but takes control of her life, sells off the majority of her property and puts the remainder of her business in the hands of others. Returning to Ireland, she buys property that once belonged to the O'Haras and quickly makes a name for herself both in her willingness to work at any job in order to make the property prosper and her courage in standing up to the military. She is soon caught up in the cause of the Irish people who oppose the English rule, but Scarlett can't resist the draw of the social life and is soon socializing with the very people her Irish relatives fear and hate. As the clash between the two factions seems inevitable, Scarlett raises her daughter and wars with her abiding love for Rhett. Scarlett learns that Rhett's wife died in childbirth and that the infant died shortly after, a point that means Rhett is again free, though Scarlett believes him to be a continent away. When the two meet by chance, Scarlett is certain Rhett has come back for her. As the story draws to a close, Scarlett witnesses the clash between the military and the Irish, a clash that results in the death of a young officer who had proposed to Scarlett and of whom she is very fond, followed by the death of her cousin, Colum, who is her daughter's godfather. Rhett and Scarlett escape the fighting and Scarlett reveals to Rhett that he has a daughter. The townspeople search for the family, intent on their hatred for Scarlett who has, in their opinion, crossed the line with her loyalties. Scarlett and Rhett agree that they will leave Ireland and Rhett explains to Scarlett that she has no need of a home because she belongs with him.



# Chapters One through Eight

## Chapters One through Eight Summary

In chapter one, Scarlett is watching at the graveside of Melanie Wilkes, thinking that Melanie was her only true friend. Scarlett has tended the myriad of details associated with Melanie's death as no one else was capable of dealing with them. Near Melanie's grave in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery is the tiny grave of Scarlett's youngest and most-beloved daughter, Eugenie Victoria Butler, also known as Bonnie. As the mourners stand by, Melanie's husband, Ashley, tries to throw himself into the grave. Scarlett, believing he will hurt himself, grabs at him and tries to stop him, causing a stir among the mourners.

At home, Scarlett and her maid, Pansy, rush to pack and go to the train station where Scarlett catches a train for the plantation of her childhood, Tara. She's met by her brother-in-law, Will Benteen, and goes to the plantation house where her sister, Suellen, is waiting with her own three daughters and Scarlett's two children, Ella and Wade. The face that's missing from the greeting party is Mammy and Scarlett asks about her before greeting her children. She rushes to Mammy's sick room where the old Negro is dying and begins a vigil through the coming days and nights.

In chapter two, Scarlett wishes desperately for the presence of her estranged husband, Rhett. When Mammy asks for him, Scarlett jumps on the opportunity to send word of Mammy's condition. As Mammy is nearing the end, Scarlett tells her that Rhett was unable to come but just before she dies, Rhett arrives. Mammy tells Rhett that she wants to be buried in her red petticoat and that Rhett is to take care of Scarlett. Rhett makes both promises and Mammy dies just moments later. Rhett tells Scarlett that he has no plans to keep his promises and that he'd only said what was necessary to set Mammy's mind at ease. Scarlett insists that Mammy be buried in the red petticoat, as Mammy requested. She is hurt that Rhett leaves her when she needs him but seems more hurt that he tells her he's leaving while Suellen listens.

In chapter three, Scarlett notes that the graveyard and the house are in need of attention, but Will says there are no workers to be hired, even if Scarlett were to give him the money to do repairs. Scarlett later tells Suellen that she's willing to pay a stipend if Will and Ella can remain at Tara and Suellen agrees.

In chapter four, Scarlett and the family pay a visit to neighbors. Scarlett stays longer at Tara but soon says she can't stand to be with the racket created by the children of the house - including her own - and prepares again to leave. She leaves Pansy behind to teach another maid how to arrange Ella's hair and Will drives her to the train station. On the way, Scarlett says she hopes Suellen won't gossip to others about Rhett's abrupt departure after Mammy's death and Will assures her that Suellen won't spread family gossip around.



In chapter five, Scarlett returns to Atlanta and discovers that Rhett has left instructions that all her household bills are to be paid by his attorneys. Scarlett uses this as proof that he loves her, saying a man would never spend money like that unless he loved the recipient. Scarlett goes to visit Ashley but finds the house closed up and knows Ashley and Beau must have gone with Ashley's sister, India, to their Aunt Pittypat's. India almost refuses Scarlett entry to the house but Ashley hears her and comes to the door where he says he can't go on without Melanie. Scarlett rails at him, reminding him of his duty to Beau but isn't certain she reaches him. She then goes to Uncle Henry Hamilton's office to check on her financial accounts. She learns there's a financial crisis going on and that the ladies of Atlanta are teamed up with India against Scarlett for her rash action of trying to keep Ashley from throwing himself into Melanie's grave.

In chapter six, Scarlett goes to her store, Kennedy's Emporium, and arranges for India to have a credit account at the store in order to buy things for Beau, but warns India that Ashley isn't to know. She then visits Ashley at his lumber yard and sees there's an overstock, indicating that the business is in trouble. She comes up with the idea of building some houses anonymously in order to get Ashley some business.

In chapter seven, Scarlett convinces contractor Joe Colton to take on the job of building the houses using supplies bought from Ashley's business. He agrees to keep her role a secret, which is why she chose him. Scarlett throws a party and invites that segment of society that hasn't abandoned her. A man named Bill Weller tells of a scam he's running in order to make money and the story upsets Scarlett so that she throws out all her guests.

In chapter eight, Scarlett learns to her relief that the children at Tara have chickenpox so she can't go for a visit at Christmas. She then hears of a masquerade ball and pays an entry fee in order to obtain tickets because she is not invited. She attends as the Queen of Hearts and is delighted to find Rhett there. He says he recognized her immediately as the most flamboyant person in the room. Scarlett believes there will be a reunion but he goes to bed alone.

## Chapters One through Eight Analysis

The story isn't clear on the relationship between Melanie and Scarlett other than to point out that the two had been friends and that Scarlett hadn't realized Melanie's value until her death. There have been rumors about Scarlett and Ashley Wilkes, Melanie's husband, and Scarlett made a death-bed promise to Melanie that she will take care of Ashley and of Melanie's son, Beau.

Scarlett's relationship with her two older children, Wade and Ella, is strained at best. She notes that Ella wants Rhett to come visit and that she can't blame the girl because Rhett seems to genuinely care for her while Scarlett can barely stand to be around the child. She notes that Ella "gets on my nerves" just as her father had, and that she can't bring herself to care for Ella.



Scarlett's love of the land, specifically the plantation Tara, is evident from the beginning of the story. As she is grieving the loss of Melanie, she says she can withstand the pain for awhile longer and will then go to Tara. The land seems to work as a restorative for Scarlett. Scarlett is tight-fisted with her money and does not typically hand out money unless she has a compelling reason, but she wants to give her brother-in-law money to help with needed repairs and maintenance for Tara, even though it doesn't belong solely to Scarlett. She also notes that she's going to find a way to ensure that her son, Wade, inherits the property as his own. After she's been at Tara for several weeks, Scarlett comes to realize that she wants to return to Atlanta, and that she now considers Atlanta her home though she still loves the land and the plantation at Tara.

The incident involving Ashley trying to throw himself into Melanie's grave is interesting because the mourners are doing nothing to stop him and react with anger when Scarlett does. Some of this anger is apparently aimed at Scarlett because of rumors that have circulated about Scarlett and Ashley. Rhett says later that Scarlett has always wanted Ashley's attention and affection. The situation is interesting in that Scarlett has obviously evoked anger from many of these women long before the scene at the cemetery, and her actions there - though arguably justified - are the proverbial icing on the cake. It seems this is also an effort to justify their anger at Scarlett.

Scarlett thinks about ways to help Ashley's floundering lumber yard business, considering her death-bed promise to Melanie and the fact that Ashley won't accept her forthright help. With those facts in mind, she sets out to find a way to help him and comes up with the idea of buying the lumber business back from him. The writer indicates that the business apparently belonged to Scarlett before Ashley owned it. Scarlett toys briefly with the idea of the outright purchase, but discards it because she believes that it will hurt Ashley when she turns the business around to make it a success. This is an example of Scarlett's self-confidence. She has no thought that she might also fail at the lumber business in the current market conditions and knows only that her inevitable success might not be good for Ashley. This incredible ego seems to erase any good feelings the reader will build for Scarlett as she tries to find a way to help Ashley.



# Chapters Nine through Seventeen

## Chapters Nine through Seventeen Summary

In chapter nine, Scarlett drives out to the site of the new houses being built with Ashley's lumber and encounters Ashley there. Joe Colleton tells Ashley that Scarlett is visiting the area because she's considering building a store there. Scarlett reads a letter from a relative in Charleston who tells Scarlett about Rhett and his mother, Eleanor. Scarlett has begun drinking and is in terrible shape when she realizes that she has a problem and puts her energies into quitting the drinking. She comes to realize that she will have to go to Rhett.

Chapter ten is the first chapter of the second section, "High Stakes." She purchases new clothes and catches a train for Charleston. Scarlett arrives in Charleston with Pansy and finds a large number of Yankee soldiers there. No one meets her at the train station and she hires a hackney to the home of her aunts, Pauline and Eulalie. The next morning, the aunts announce that they'll be going to visit Eleanor Butler. It's here that Scarlett learns that Charleston is occupied by many soldiers, that there are no carriages and that they have to walk everywhere.

In chapter eleven, Scarlett immediately likes Eleanor Butler and Eleanor immediately takes control so that Scarlett's possessions are moved to the Butler home. The next day, Eleanor wakes Scarlett early and the two go to the market. Eleanor asks Scarlett if she's considered another baby. Scarlett says she wants another child very much and that she'll depend on Eleanor to help convince Rhett that it's a good idea. Scarlett later learns that Eleanor has a group of people coming over who work in support of the Confederate Home for Widows and Orphans. The group includes Emma Anson, Margaret Butler who is the wife of Rhett's brother Ross, Sally Brewton, Edward Cooper and Anne Hampton. Rhett arrives home while the meeting is underway and is very angry at Scarlett's presence.

In chapter twelve, Rhett tells Scarlett that he won't make her leave because he would have to explain the reason to his mother but predicts Scarlett won't remain in Charleston long. He demands to see all her clothes, correctly predicting that she has an entirely new wardrobe, and tells her that she has to do away with the trimming, lace and gold buttons if she wants any of those clothes to fit in with Charleston society. After Eleanor's meeting breaks up, Sally says that there's little doubt in her mind that Scarlett is in love with Rhett, and Emma says that she saw that same look of love in the eyes of Anne Hampton.

In chapter thirteen, Scarlett hears Eleanor telling about years gone past, including the fact that Rhett was just a baby when Scarlett's mother was born. One evening when Rhett isn't at home, Ross arrives. He's drunk and grabs Scarlett, forcing a kiss on her. Scarlett is horrified and angry that she didn't fight back more quickly. Eleanor's servant



makes Ross leave and Eleanor apologizes, saying Ross has been drinking more since Rhett's return to Charleston.

Chapter fourteen details the attitudes of the Charleston people who have become aloof. Because of the Civil War and the northerners who now occupy the city, outsiders are no longer accepted. In chapter fifteen, Scarlett goes out to the market with Eleanor. They leave at a very early hour and Scarlett struggles to remember the names of the women she meets. Scarlett knows nothing about the various ocean fish at the market but tells Sally Brewton that the onions she's about to purchase are likely no good, explains why and earns Sally's respect. Scarlett continues to battle with her realization that she hasn't lived up to the expectations of her mother with regard to her actions.

In chapter sixteen, Scarlett attends Mass with her aunts and visits her sister, Carreen, who is living in a convent and is now known as Sister Mary Joseph. The invitations pour in based on Sally's endorsement. Scarlett then finds herself bored with the gatherings and longing for time with Rhett, who has gone back to the plantation to work. There are stories about a Yankee soldier breaking into the bedrooms of women. Scarlett rushes to Rhett for help. In chapter seventeen, Scarlett learns from Rhett that he's going to stop paying her bills for the house in Atlanta but that he'll start paying again if she'll go back to Atlanta. Scarlett realizes that she could help Rhett on the plantation but then learns that he's growing only flowers there and is disgusted that he's wasting land that could be used for crops. Rhett calls Scarlett a "barbarian" for her attitude. Rhett returns to Charleston with Scarlett but stops by his phosphate mine where Scarlett again sees the potential for earning more money by increasing output, but Rhett refuses to listen.

## Chapters Nine through Seventeen Analysis

Scarlett learns through the letter from her relative that Rhett has told people that Scarlett feels she can't leave her business interests, specifically her store, and that is the reason she has remained in Atlanta while Rhett is in Charleston. Scarlett's immediate reaction is anger, and she hates the fact that Rhett would have put their separation off as her fault. Then she realizes that he could have told her the truth, that they have separated and that he no longer wants to live with her. Scarlett says she would rather have people believe that she's overly interested in her business than to have them know that Rhett has asked for a divorce.

Scarlett's immediate reaction upon meeting Eleanor Butler is one of relief. She's overly tired from the rigors of trying to prepare herself to meet Rhett and of the trip but has also been traumatized by the encounter with so many of the Yankee soldiers, one of the few things that has the power to frighten Scarlett. As she deals with all this emotional upheaval, she meets Eleanor Butler for the first time and notices a scent that reminds her of her own mother and of home. This scent prompts tears and Scarlett begins to cry. Eleanor's reaction is that of mothers everywhere as she takes Scarlett into an embrace and tells her that everything is now going to be alright. Scarlett, under Eleanor's tutelage and care, feels secure.





Scarlett asks Eleanor to help her become a lady as her mother had taught her and had intended. Eleanor reassures her somewhat but tells Scarlett that she'll provide guidance. Scarlett quickly realizes that Eleanor's promise to help her is an indication that Scarlett does need help in this arena. To give her credit, Scarlett accepts the advice of both her mother and later, of Rhett, who tells her to eliminate the lace and gold buttons from her new outfits. Scarlett's naturally flamboyant attitudes and actions continue to make people believe the worst of her, though she suddenly realizes in Charleston that she wants to be socially accepted.

Scarlett knows about the onions at the market place because she grew onions at Tara during the war and came to learn many things about crops through that experience. She tells Sally that she'd grown onions hoping they would improve the flavor of the raccoons and squirrels her family was eating during those difficult times. Scarlett goes on to say that she later realized that they'd dug the onions too early and that they'd needed more time in the ground in order to develop the flavor sought. She tells Sally that the early onions, such as she's about to buy, will be edible but points out the onions that will be more flavorful.

Eleanor is worried about Scarlett, fearing that Scarlett's outgoing ways will alienate her with the society of Charleston. Sally, however, takes Scarlett under her wing and Sally's acceptance means that everyone else accepts Scarlett, too. Sally explains her acceptance by telling people that Scarlett is "almost totally lacking in education," but that she's a survivor, obviously referring to Scarlett's story of growing her own food during the war. Sally then tells people that survivors like Scarlett are needed in Charleston and that she expects her own friends to make Scarlett welcome.

Rhett and Scarlett disagree on the subject of money. For Rhett, money is only a way to accomplish an end, and he is more than willing to spend money on whatever he wants. Furthermore, Rhett is not overly anxious to make more money and takes time to enjoy life without constantly worrying about how to increase his holdings. Scarlett looks at the plantation and sees land that could be used to grow crops rather than being "wasted" on flowers. She also looks at the phosphate mine and sees the potential for increasing production. Rhett's only real interest in the phosphate mine is that the mine means the people of Charleston can believe that Rhett's money comes from that mine. Before the reader condemns Scarlett, it should be noted that her attitude about money comes from her insecurity during the war. Scarlett talks about the way she toiled at Tara just to put food on the table for the family. She sees money as the only real way to be safe.



# Chapters Eighteen through Thirty-Two

## Chapters Eighteen through Thirty-Two Summary

In chapter eighteen, Rhett offers Scarlett a half million dollars in gold if she'll leave Charleston without making a scene. She pretends to consider then says that she will, but not until after the upcoming social season passes. Upon arrival in town, Rhett goes to visit Alicia Savage, one of the women who claims to have seen the Yankee soldier in her bedroom. The two are good friends and Alicia says that she believes the man to be a boy, Tommy Cooper, who is a friend of her son. Tommy's father has died and Rhett believes Tommy is fighting with emerging emotions. Rhett tells Tommy's mother that he wants to take Tommy to a tailor to help choose clothes for Rhett's nephew but takes him instead to a house of prostitution that specializes in the first sexual encounter for young gentlemen. Rhett returns home convinced that the Yankee soldier will not be seen again.

In chapter nineteen, Rhett goes to pick up his sister, Rosemary, from the train station. Ross arrives as the family is eating dinner; he is injured and tells a story of having shot a Yankee. Rhett leaves with Ross, headed for the plantation to hide. Eleanor and Rosemary are quietly in control of themselves but Scarlett is very afraid of the Yankee's presence when they search the house for Ross. The next day, there is talk of rebelling against the Yankee presence, but Scarlett, ever fearful of the Yankees, says the only thing to do is to let it go. Rhett and Scarlett argue and Rosemary overhears, later confronting Rhett about how he could be so unfeeling to his wife and asking who might be Rhett's next victim.

In chapter twenty, Rhett explains the details of his relationship with Scarlett and Rosemary seems to accept his version. Rhett confides the deal he made with Scarlett for her to leave soon, saying that he has to get away from her or risk becoming so angry with her that he kills her or so enamored with her that he falls in love again. Rosemary suggests that Scarlett might "grow up," but Rhett dismisses the possibility.

In chapter twenty-one, Scarlett and the family go to the Confederate Home carrying greenery from the plantation for Christmas decorations. Later they attend a ball, Scarlett's first of the season. She's initially disappointed, notes the peeling paint and other signs of neglect about the home but dances with many young men and has an overall good time. In chapter twenty-two, Rosemary wants to go to the plantation but Eleanor refuses, citing the lack of a chaperon. Scarlett volunteers to go along, imagining time she'll have time alone with Rhett. On the way, they stop to visit Miss Julia Ashley at Ashley Barony. The plantation reminds Scarlett of Tara and sends her into daydreams of running Tara herself again. Rosemary and Miss Julia talk at length about Rosemary's upcoming tour of Europe, a plan Rhett agreed to with some reluctance.

In chapter twenty-three, Rhett, Scarlett, Rosemary and their maids arrive at the plantation and are greeted by groups of angry blacks and whites. Rhett tells Rosemary



and Scarlett to wait upstairs but Scarlett can't stand the strain and wants to leave. Rosemary refuses to allow it, eventually telling Scarlett that Rhett has said he doesn't want Scarlett. In chapter twenty-four, Rosemary tells Rhett about her argument with Scarlett, and Rhett tells the women that the gathering had been an attempt to get higher wages from both Rhett and Miss Julia. Scarlett is quiet, thinking about Rosemary's remarks. The next day, Scarlett and Rhett have breakfast together and Scarlett believes she has made some progress toward reconciliation.

In chapter twenty-five, Scarlett realizes that Rosemary loves the plantation just as she loves Tara and searches for some common ground on which to establish a friendship. Rosemary talks at length about the plantation, taking Scarlett on a tour and describing what the place was like prior to the war. As the parties resume, Scarlett spends a great deal of time with a man named Middleton Courtney, seeking to make Rhett jealous. Middleton's wife is upset and everyone talks about the budding romance, but Rhett does nothing and doesn't seem to notice.

In chapter twenty-six, Scarlett encounters a Georgia man named Sam Forrest who recalls Scarlett from her days of nursing the wounded soldiers in the hospital. Rhett reveals that he's planning to revive the stables at the plantation. In chapter twenty-seven, Eleanor tells Scarlett to be careful, apparently referring to Middleton Courtney. She then talks about Scarlett's grandparents and says that both Scarlett and her grandmother have a quality that makes them seem "more alive" than most people. Later, Sally comes for a visit and tells Scarlett that she has to stop her public dalliance with Middleton, adding that Scarlett can slip away for an hour in bed with him but has to stop the public display. In chapter twenty-eight, Scarlett and Rhett argue and Scarlett agrees to leave Charleston and Rhett if he will help her purchase the one-third interest in Tara Carreen gave the convent.

In chapter twenty-nine, the Butler's cousins, the Elliots, arrive from the north and the entire family attends a ball where Scarlett meets the famous seamstress, Sheba, who Rhett says also owns a house of prostitution. In chapter thirty, there's a dance reserved for sweethearts and married couples meaning Scarlett gets to dance with Rhett. When the ball ends, Scarlett asks Rhett to catch the trolley with her, leaving his mother and sister to go on, and he does. They walk from the streetcar stop, both slightly inebriated, and Scarlett begs Rhett to take her sailing. He agrees, saying to himself that she'll soon be gone and that the weather is perfect. In chapter thirty, Scarlett and Rhett go sailing, but the boat capsizes. It's warm but still February and the water is very cold. They take refuge under the capsized hull but Scarlett keeps slipping into near-unconsciousness. Rhett slaps her, chides her, calls her a weakling and sings with her until the tide takes them near the shore. When they reach the beach, there's a sudden onslaught of passion between them and Scarlett believes that Rhett does love her after all. In chapter thirty-two, Rhett finds a cottage and builds a fire but tells Scarlett that he won't make love to her again. He goes for help and she's taken back to his mother's house after some time under the care of army doctors. Scarlett then receives a letter from Rhett, saying that he'd transferred the money as agreed and that he hopes she'll leave Charleston immediately adding that he won't return until she leaves.



## Chapters Eighteen through Thirty-Two Analysis

Scarlett is apprehensive about the arrival of Rhett's sister, fearing Rosemary will take the spotlight. Scarlett wants to have Rosemary out of the house quickly and resolves to help the girl catch a husband. Scarlett is quiet as the dinner starts but is listening to most of the conversation as her mind wanders through possible ways to keep Rhett's attention while his little sister is in the house. Then Scarlett hears Rosemary say she wants to visit friends in Rome and Scarlett says she can certainly send letters of introduction with Rosemary and urges Rhett to let her go. Scarlett then discovers that Rosemary was talking about Rome, Italy, while Scarlett thought she was talking about Rome, Georgia. Scarlett is embarrassed and silently berates herself for not having thought of that. The differences between the two girls is obvious from the first descriptions of Rosemary, who is a much deeper person than Scarlett.

When Rosemary tells Scarlett that Rhett no longer wants her, Scarlett is shocked and angry but her reason for the anger is very interesting. Scarlett is mad that Rhett told his sister, seemingly more so than she is angry that he doesn't want her. She fumes for hours over the situation, wondering if Rhett has told other people as well and if people are laughing at her because she left Atlanta, chasing her husband who had left her. Appearances mean so much to Scarlett that it's amazing that she doesn't pay more attention to her actions in order to maintain her social standing. Whenever someone talks about her, Scarlett is angry that they talked when it seems she should have been working harder to retain her good name.

When Scarlett and Rhett are talking about their relationship, Rhett tells her that she crowds him. Scarlett tells him that she wants their time together to be just like that breakfast and that she knows they can have some good times if Rhett will just be nice to her. Rhett tells her that she doesn't want him to be nice; she wants him to love her. Then he tells her that he has no more feelings for her. He tells her that he wants to put it into terms she can grasp and says that he had a "thousand dollars' worth of love" for her, but that he's spent it all. Scarlett then seems to give in, telling him that she understands, that it had been worth a shot and that all she wants is for him to show her a good time over the rest of the social season before she goes back to Atlanta. Rhett agrees and Scarlett believes she's won a point. She says that Rhett's guard is now down so that she now has a better chance with him. It's interesting that Scarlett continues to believe that she has a chance of winning Rhett back when Rhett seems determined that she doesn't. By now the reader has probably figured out that the romantic conclusion to this story is for Scarlett and Rhett to reunite, and they will.

Scarlett is visiting with her aunts, and they berate her for her lack of communication with their father, Scarlett's grandfather. She stands up to them, telling them that he's never been nice to her and that she doesn't care to have anything to do with him. She then says that she's never read an entire letter from the aunts because they are all pleas for more money. Scarlett immediately realizes that she's gone too far, done the unthinkable and been unpardonably rude. She also looks around the room and realizes that she should have been sending the aunts more money than she did so that they could have



been more comfortable and that she could easily have afforded it. While this could have been a horrific family rip, the aunts' social training takes over and they change the subject, asking about a man who is rumored to have his eye on Rosemary. Scarlett picks up the cue, going on to tell an animated account of the young man and Rosemary's lack of excitement over the suitor.

Scarlett is shocked over Sally's admonitions regarding Middleton. She seems genuinely appalled that anyone would actually go past the public dalliance and is angry at Sally for having spoken about it so forthrightly. Scarlett's anger is interesting in that she seems genuinely innocent of the fact that some people would take this flirtation to the bedroom but once given the idea, she's convinced that the reason Rhett isn't jealous of her is because he has many women of his own. Sally reassures her that Rhett has turned down all offers, but Scarlett doesn't really believe her.

There's a very complicated scene between Rhett and Scarlett when Rhett tells her that she will no longer carry on the public flirtation with Middleton Courtney. Rhett says that a cousin offered to serve as his second when Rhett challenges Middleton to a duel, as the cousin says is the only thing Rhett can do now to protect Scarlett's honor. Rhett tells Scarlett that having a duel with Middleton would be "inconvenient" and that he has no intention of doing so. Scarlett seems to suddenly realize that Rhett means it when he says he doesn't love her and that she may as well leave. But now Rhett refuses to allow her to leave, saying that she has to stay for the remainder of the season in order to help smooth over the situation with Middleton Courtney. Scarlett is so angry she wants only to leave and begins planning where she'll go. In times such as this, she always thinks of Tara and this time is no exception. Scarlett knows that Carreen has given her one-third of Tara to the church and tells Rhett that she'll do whatever he tells her in order to smooth over the situation if he will in return help her buy Carreen's one-third of Tara. This obsession with Tara is constant with Scarlett whenever she feels threatened or insecure. Having just become aware of her love for Rhett and coming to realize that she may not get her way qualifies as one of those situations, and all Scarlett can think is that she wants to go home. She's failing to realize that Tara isn't the home of her childhood. She always romanticizes the place and forgets that she's not really at home there any longer.

Scarlett's immediate reaction to Rhett's letter is anger and she tells Pansy to pull out the clothing that he'd told her was inappropriate for Charleston society, putting on these clothes in an apparent attempt to do as she pleases despite what Rhett may want. Scarlett decides that she'll leave immediately and plans to go first to her grandfather's birthday party. As she is preparing to leave, she learns that Eleanor has gone to church and Scarlett writes a letter, saying that Rhett can explain and ending with, "I love you." Scarlett then leaves and Rosemary reads the note. Rosemary adores Rhett and is angry with Scarlett again because Rhett left in a hurry immediately after having returned from the shipwreck ordeal. All Rosemary can think as Scarlett is also leaving is that Scarlett is the reason Rhett left. Now Rosemary's own jealousy shows through and she burns the note.



# Chapter Thirty-Three through Forty-Six

## Chapter Thirty-Three through Forty-Six Summary

In chapter thirty-three, Scarlett finds that she's intimidated by her grandfather though she doesn't want to be. She imagines that Rhett will come get her any time, but he doesn't come. She visits the convent, hoping to have better luck at buying Carreen's part of Tara but is denied an audience with the Mother Superior. In chapter thirty-four, Scarlett arrives home late for dinner and her grandfather is angry until she stands up to him, which makes him laugh and dismiss her to go have her own dinner. Scarlett realizes that she hasn't brought her rosary with her and goes to the store run by her uncles, James and Andrew O'Hara. She finds her cousin Jamie running the store with the news that Andrew died along with both their wives. Scarlett is invited to tea which is really a birthday party for Jamie's daughter.

In chapter thirty-five, Scarlett meets James's family and several other O'Hara families as well as spending time with her Uncle James who immediately points out that the last time he'd seen Scarlett she'd been in mourning for a husband and asking whether she'd married again. She says she has but wonders what he would say if she told him she'd been married twice since then. She notes that her uncle's words about Scarlett's father makes her tear up with longing for her father. Scarlett wants to leave but gets caught up in a song that was her father's favorite. As Scarlett settles in, she realizes she doesn't want to leave even when it's time for her to be home. She asks if she'd be invited for another visit and is assured that these are her family and that there's no invitation necessary.

In chapter thirty-six, Scarlett tries again to see the Mother Superior but is again turned away. With Lent underway, Scarlett is forced to obey the house rules of one meal per day but supplements those with goods from the bakery. When she sees the servant coming with her grandfather's tray, she demands that he return the tray to the kitchen, add butter to the plain mashed potatoes and put a piece of ham on the plate. The servant is angry but does what Scarlett demands. As he leaves with the plate, Scarlett says that no one should go hungry, ever.

In chapter thirty-seven, Scarlett sees the Mother Superior who promises to have Scarlett an answer on a sale price for Tara "very soon." Her grandfather's birthday dinner is horrible. He refuses all the food so that her aunts follow his lead in an effort to avoid his disapproval. When Scarlett later tells Jamie's wife Maureen about it, Maureen sees the humor of the old man plotting to make the aunts miserable and says the servants probably brought him generous portions of the food later. In chapter thirty-eight, Scarlett receives a letter from Henry Hamilton who says he's had inquiries from Rhett as to her whereabouts, that he hasn't told him she's in Savannah, Georgia, and that Rhett has sent her a half million dollars. She later receives another telegram from Uncle Henry vowing that he would have nothing to do with handling that money, and Scarlett asks Jamie to go with her to the bank. When she's introduced as Pierre





Robillard's granddaughter, the president of the bank makes a great fuss over her. When she asks for a safety deposit box and announces her plans to transfer a half million dollars into it, she's treated with great deference. Scarlett knows that having money opens doors and paves pathsm but she now expects that her grandfather is richer than she'd thought.

That evening she goes to Jamie and Maureen's but promises her grandfather she'll be home by nine o'clock. In chapter thirty-nine, Scarlett has a good time with her cousins and is wakened the next morning by Pansy who says her grandfather is demanding her presence. He says he doesn't like what was served to him for breakfast and seems to expect that Scarlett will tend to the chore of ordering him a new breakfast. He then demands that she go to church with him but she says she's going to Mass. She considers going to stay with the O'Hara's but wants to stay where Rhett and the Mother Superior can find her. In chapter forty, her grandfather goes to church alone and at lunch time asks that Scarlett be sent to his room only to find that she hasn't returned. When she does, he derides the O'Hara clan and tells Scarlett that Maureen was a barmaid which horrifies Scarlett. In chapter forty-one, Scarlett accompanies her grandfather to a social event but hates every minute of it and escapes as soon as they are inside, going to the O'Hara's house instead. She battles with her desire to do as her mother had taught her against her desire to be with the O'Haras. When she arrives at the O'Hara house, she discovers that Colum O'Hara has returned home and that he's a priest.

In chapter forty-two, Scarlett is summoned to her grandfather's room where he tells her he will settle his entire fortune on her if she remains with him until his death, and that she is to give up any idea of a divorce. When Scarlett realizes that her grandfather had ordered servants to go through her mail, she's furious but then quietly tells him that there's no amount of money that would keep her there and pledges that she'll be gone the following day. In chapter forty-three, Scarlett sends Pansy home on the train. Scarlett learns that Colum speaks to groups in search of money for aiding the Irish people. Maureen and Scarlett share stories of hunger, first as Maureen tells about the famine in Ireland when she was a child and then with Scarlett talking about her own hunger during the war when Tara was barely supporting her family. In chapter forty-four, Scarlett and the family go on a picnic and Scarlett learns that one of the young women, Katie, is horribly homesick for Ireland. She talks with Colum who says that Rhett is waging a battle within himself. He advises Scarlett to wait for Rhett's return, saying that if she goes to Rhett he won't accept her. Colum assures Scarlett that Rhett will eventually come to find her and that she must be kind and forgiving when it happens.

In chapter forty-five, Scarlett participates in the Saint Patrick's Day festivities though she doesn't immediately catch the excitement of her Irish relatives' plans for the lengthy celebration. In chapter forty-six, Scarlett learns that Colum is returning to Ireland soon and that the timing is vital because it will soon be Scarlett's grandmother's one hundredth birthday. Scarlett impetuously decides to go to Ireland with Colum.



## Chapter Thirty-Three through Forty-Six Analysis

Scarlett is taken by the construction going on at the convent. There is the smell of lumber which makes her "itch" for some time at the lumber yard in Atlanta and to be involved with projects. This is Scarlett's nature and anytime she is not occupied with something, she finds herself bored. The problem is that Scarlett often doesn't recognize this as boredom with her overall situation but instead finds some minor issue - such as attending a tea party - boring.

Scarlett's first impression of Jamie is that he's handsome, but when she sees him outside the store she realizes that Jamie's suit coat doesn't fit well and that he looks somewhat seedy. She compares him to her father who Scarlett remembers as always looking like a gentleman, even when his clothing was somewhat ruffled. Scarlett has a similar reaction to Jamie's family. There are no servants and the family is somewhat beneath what Scarlett believes to be her social level. When Jamie offers Scarlett a glass of whiskey, she grows angry, believing that a true lady should never drink hard liquor. This kind of snobbery is typical of Scarlett. She does, however, get caught up in the family's activities when there is music and claps along with the others.

Henry then says that Rhett asks if she wants a divorce and says that Scarlett must have something important to blackmail Rhett with in order to get him to offer a divorce and to send her a half million dollars. He then bluntly tells Scarlett that if she seeks a divorce, she'll have to find another lawyer to do that and to handle her future business dealings. Finally, he tells her to leave Ashley Wilkes alone, a statement that makes Scarlett very angry, especially when Uncle Henry says Ashley is doing fine because Scarlett knows Ashley is fine because of her scheme to give him lumber business. Scarlett is very upset at the letter, mainly because she has discovered from the letter that Rhett has been looking for her and that Uncle Henry didn't reveal her whereabouts. Scarlett then sends Uncle Henry a telegram, telling him that her location is not a secret, that she doesn't want a divorce, and asks whether the money is in gold. As she looks back over the telegram she notes that she should not have to ask about the money but that Uncle Henry hadn't had the good sense to tell Rhett where to find her and therefore might not have had the good sense to change the currency into gold. Scarlett doesn't stop to think that Uncle Henry might have needed instruction on these points. If she'd been truly hiding from Rhett and Uncle Henry had told her location, she'd have been equally as angry.

Scarlett recalls her father's investment into Confederate currency and the financial blow when the currency became worthless. What she doesn't realize is that her father was buying into an ideal and lending his financial support to a cause.

It's while Scarlett is visiting with Maureen and her family one night that she realizes she's been welcomed into their home without demands or restrictions and that this is something new for her. She finds that it's okay to tease other members of the family and that she's teased in return. In this setting Scarlett somehow finds out how to be happy with herself as she is and to realize that she can be someone other than the genteel





woman her mother groomed her to be. When Scarlett later finds out that Maureen had been a saloon girl, Scarlett is mortified all over again and struggles to come to terms with the "common" family. Scarlett continues to battle with the teachings of her mother that the boisterous happiness of the O'Haras is not proper as it rages against her desire to join them and her feeling of belonging when she's there.

Scarlett's grandfather is indifferent to her presence except on the point where he believes it might benefit him. This point is the smooth operation of his home. He was once a domineering person but the household staff are somewhat indifferent now to his demands and he hasn't the strength to insist. In Scarlett, he sees someone who can force the issues and insist on obedience from the servants. Scarlett knows her grandfather is up to something but doesn't figure it out until he proposes that she remain with him until his death in return for inheriting his estate.

Scarlett begins to learn some of her family history during her stay in Savannah, including the fact that her grandfather was apparently a traitor to the southern cause, though Scarlett doesn't get a great deal of detail on this point. Another interesting fact is that Scarlett's O'Hara relatives are heavy into the cause of raising money for the Irish who are fighting with a "clandestine group" called the Fenian Brotherhood. The group opposes English rule over the Irish and it's noted that most of the men, including Colum, have fought on the side of the Irish and that Colum raises money to support the military.

Scarlett's decision to go to Ireland seems out of character considering the fact that she has held to the hope that Rhett will return to her and that the church will sell her Carreen's share of Tara. Scarlett seems to be now fully certain that Rhett will return to her and she has stopped worrying about the possibility but now is faced with the realization that when he does she'll have to return to Charleston. She hates that thought and so decides to travel to Ireland, apparently not at all doubting that Rhett will continue to search for her regardless of where she is or how long he has to wait somewhere for her. It's unclear whether this is sheer confidence on Scarlett's part or if she is looking for something to do to take her mind away from the waiting, but it seems likely that she is simply certain that Rhett will come and that he will do whatever it takes to find her once he realizes that he loves her.



# Chapters Forty-Seven through Fifty-Seven

## Chapters Forty-Seven through Fifty-Seven Summary

In chapter forty-seven, Scarlett, Colum and Colum's half sister Kathleen take the ship the "Brian Boru" to Ireland. Soon after they set sail, Scarlett wakes with an upset stomach and first fears she is seasick like Kathleen but then realizes that she's pregnant. She's excited and happy and realizes that she should be headed to Charleston instead of Ireland to be with Rhett. Then she realizes that the moment she arrives in Charleston, she'll be confined for the duration of her pregnancy. Unable to bear the thought, she decides to continue her trip to Ireland instead. When they arrive, Scarlett gives Colum the money she'd won playing cards against other passengers so that he can trade it for the correct currency. Kathleen is amazed that Scarlett has two-hundred, forty-seven dollars in winnings. The two women, armed with some money from Colum, go to a street market and Scarlett is immediately enamored with the clothing.

In chapter forty-eight, Colum, Kathleen and Scarlett stay at the Railway Hotel but Scarlett convinces Colum to forego the extensive evening meal in favor of an evening on the town. There's a dance outdoors and Scarlett is soon caught up in the excitement. The next morning, the three catch a train for the first leg of their journey to their destination, the County Meath. In chapter forty-nine, they make the final leg by coach but are stopped along the way when Colum jumps out and rushes to the side of a woman standing on the porch of a cottage with small children. Colum goes to them and soldiers force the coach driver to move on. Scarlett, fearing they'll leave Colum behind and unable to decide what's going on, jumps out in time to see the cottage roof go up in flames and collapse. Colum explains that the woman has been evicted, that her husband was arrested when he tried to resist the eviction order, and that the woman and her children are going to stay with the woman's sister.

Colum and Kathleen continue to explain the family members and their relationships, including that they are half-siblings and that Scarlett will be staying with another of their half-siblings, Molly. In chapter fifty, they arrive at Molly's house where Scarlett is bored by the talk of cattle. The next day she visits her grandmother with Colum and is pleased with the old lady's demeanor. Scarlett meets several other people over the course of the day, many of them relatives. She considers that she'll tease Rhett about one of the Irish farmers who complimented her but feels an intense longing for him and knows she won't really tease him about anything. In chapter fifty-one, Molly throws a tea party in Scarlett's honor. Molly's family seeks to be English rather than Irish and Scarlett hates the way all the guests compete to be the most refined. Scarlett eventually tells Colum that she can't stand to stay with Molly any longer and Colum says he believes Molly will agree to lend them her trap and pony indefinitely if Scarlett goes somewhere else to stay. Scarlett quickly adjusts to Daniel's home and fits in well there.



In chapter fifty-two, Scarlett and Colum visit the Tara of Ireland, the place for which the Tara plantation is named. She's not initially impressed but then gets a view of the true beauty of the place. Colum and Scarlett visit a fair and when a fight erupts, Colum places a wager on the O'Hara's. Scarlett is upset that they consider fighting a fun and natural part of the festivities, but the women of the family patiently patch up their men later.

In chapter fifty-three, Colum borrows horses and he and Scarlett go for a ride to the river Boyne. There Colum tells about their ancestors when the O'Hara's owned the land around the river, a place called Ballyhara. In chapter fifty-four, Colum says he's leaving for the day to avoid the preparations for Scarlett's grandmother's birthday. Scarlett doesn't expect much activity but finds that her grandmother insists that everything be scrubbed and polished though the house is already clean. Scarlett should be preparing to leave but enjoys herself so much that she decides to stay in Ireland a little longer. She has now come to believe that the pregnancy means she can "claim Rhett any time she wants him." In chapter fifty-four, Scarlett receives a letter indicating that Rhett has filed for divorce. She's very upset and tells Colum that she's pregnant. Colum suggests that she tell Rhett about the pregnancy and Scarlett feels confident that when Rhett knows, he'll forget the idea of a divorce. In chapter fifty-five, Scarlett and Colum arrive at the dock where the Evening Star is moored. The ship has mail from America and Scarlett faints when she reads a clipping from a newspaper indicating that Rhett has married Anne Hampton. In chapter fifty-six, Scarlett begins to recover but has a horrible dream. She then comes to realize that she has to take control of her life and asks for breakfast. In chapter fifty-seven, Scarlett tells Colum that she's decided she won't return to America but plans to stay at Ballyhara. She then gives Colum three letters - one to her Aunt Paulie saying that she'd received the clipping of Rhett's marriage, one to her attorney giving him control of her business and her assets, and one to the bank in Savannah with instructions to allow Colum to take out the contents. Colum tells the young cousin accompanying them that Scarlett fainted because she received word of her husband's death.

## Chapters Forty-Seven through Fifty-Seven Analysis

Colum has quickly come to realize Scarlett's nature with regard to money but he is holding out some hope that she will be generous with her money once she sees the poverty of the Irish, many of whom are Scarlett's relatives.

Scarlett sees soldiers in Ireland but notes that they look very young. It's interesting that she sees them, recognizes them as military figures but isn't particularly frightened of them. She says that one of the best things she's seen about Ireland is that there are no Yankees. It's interesting that Scarlett doesn't feel this same threat from any other group of soldiers, only the Yankee soldiers that she dealt with personally. However, when Scarlett sees the woman's house being destroyed, she realizes the cruelty of the soldiers in this case and she seems to realize that these soldiers are also cruel. In fact, Scarlett says that the Yankee soldiers at least had the excuse of being at war during their atrocities.



Scarlett is confused by the fact that the cottage of the woman being evicted is burned. She says that it makes no sense to burn the building because the landowner could simply rent to someone else. Colum explains that the burning is done to keep the family from returning. He also tells Scarlett that the landowner doesn't want to rent the house to anyone else because the landlord now wants to use all the land for grazing and raising crops.

When Scarlett goes berserk after receiving the letter of Rhett's decision to file for divorce, she rushes to Colum and tells him the entire story. Colum tries to talk to her, but she doesn't respond. When someone comes to look for Scarlett, Colum tells them to spread the word that Scarlett's husband is gravely ill, which prompts a flurry of prayers from the family members.

Scarlett faces up to her lifetime of selfishness that has brought her to this place, alone in Ireland with her husband having divorced her and married another woman. Scarlett plans to have the baby and to be a good mother, better than she had been to her other children. She then considers raising the child to love her implicitly and then show Rhett what he missed by divorcing her. However, on the heels of that thought is the realization that she created the situation by choosing to go to Ireland rather than going home to Rhett as soon as she knew she was pregnant. She admits that she's been concerned with her own happiness, with her own thirst for fun and parties and dancing, and that she has to drop any ideas of revenge. Scarlett seems to have aged dramatically with the news of Rhett's marriage and to finally accept that maybe she is solely responsible for where her life has taken her.



# Chapters Fifty-Eight through Sixty-Five

## Chapters Fifty-Eight through Sixty-Five Summary

In chapter fifty-eight, Scarlett makes an offer of the equivalent of fifty thousand dollars for Ballyhara, and the offer is accepted. Colum sends Scarlett a telegraph which raises a stir since telegraphs are unheard of. Scarlett then receives another telegraph accepting her offer which prompts several business owners to close their doors and go to Daniel's where Scarlett is staying, though she's gone to look over the land when the visitors arrive. Everyone reads and holds the rare telegraphs.

In chapter fifty-nine, Colum returns but fails to go immediately to Ballyhara as Scarlett demands. He stops first to visit with a friend, Jim Ryan and explains that Ballyhara is a prime place for to establish a camp for the Fenian men. When he arrives at Ballyhara at the appointed time, he brings along a blacksmith. There is soon a great deal of work going on. Scarlet is paying wages higher than most local employers but the workers hate answering to Scarlett because she is a woman and is domineering. The workers stay only because Colum asks and because of their dedication to this cause of having Ballyhara for the Fenian Brotherhood. In chapter sixty, Scarlett is delighted when the men arrive to begin clearing the land but is upset that they're taking so long to get it started. Scarlett has held to dreams of having all the O'Hara family live at Ballyhara but they refuse. There are soon working families living in most of the houses, and the town is remodeled completely but Scarlett finds that her joy in the project is lost after the cousins refuse to move to Ballyhara. One day Scarlett takes some pipe tobacco to her grandmother. Soldiers arrive while she's there, and Scarlett happens to have the cash she'd planned to use for the workers' wages with her so that she's able to pay the soldiers the back rent they say is due.

In chapter sixty-one, the woman hired to help Scarlett with the house, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, tells Scarlett that she needs to hire a cook as well. The two women tour the large house on the property and Scarlett finds it's in need of a great deal of repair. Mrs. Fitzpatrick takes over the renovations which include a great deal of cleaning and Scarlett tells Colum that she's spending a lot of money. Scarlett tells Colum that she wants him to be the baby's godfather; Scarlett visits Kathleen who says that her grandmother believes her death is near and that she has her shroud ready. Scarlett admits that she probably won't be able to ford the river again until after the baby is born. Colum makes Scarlett promise to remain inside on All Hallows' Eve and she does so.

In chapter sixty-two, Scarlett goes into labor during a storm and Mrs. Fitzpatrick goes for Colum who finds he cannot get to the doctor. He returns with a midwife who tells Colum he should stay to perform last rites. The woman then puts her hand into Scarlett's womb but announces she'll have to use both hands. At that word, Mrs. Fitzpatrick has Colum take the midwife away and sends for the blacksmith who doctors animals. He initially refuses to help, but Colum orders him; he is just about to cut Scarlett's belly open when the old woman, known as the wise woman who lives near a tower, arrives. She



performs a caesarean, breathes into the mouth of the infant who immediately shows signs of life, and gives Colum and Mrs. Fitzpatrick additional orders while she cleans up the blue-eyed, dark-skinned baby girl.

In chapter sixty-three, Scarlett names the child Katie Colum O'Hara and asks Mrs. Fitzpatrick to serve as godmother. Kathleen attends the baptism, held in Scarlett's room because she is too weak to go anywhere, and everyone agrees not to tell Scarlett that her grandmother has died. The blacksmith, Joe O'Neill, tells the story of the delivery including the fact that he saw the child's "manhood" before the old woman had turned to wash the child, and that the child the old woman returned with was a girl. The next story is from a midwife who insists the child inside Scarlett's womb was dead already when she arrived. Colum wants to warn Scarlett of the rumors circulating about the little girl born on All Hallows' Eve but can't find the words. In chapter sixty-four, Scarlett has a great deal of time to reflect during her forced convalescence. She decides to call the girl Cat and notes that her eyes are turning green. In chapter sixty-five, Scarlett goes to find the wise woman. The woman tells her that people are saying that Cat was delivered by a witch and must therefore be bewitched. Scarlett takes Cat with her when she goes out. People perform the sign of the cross at the sight of the dark baby with green eyes which pleases Scarlett because she believes they are blessing the baby.

In chapter sixty-five, Scarlett decides that her place is in Ireland but that she wants to feel the heat of Georgia one more time before she settles in. Scarlett says that she plans to sell off all her property in the United States with the exception of Tara, which she will keep for Wade and Ella. She plans to bring Ella and Wade with her to Ireland and hopes they can believe she wants them.

## Chapters Fifty-Eight through Sixty-Five Analysis

Scarlett tackles the question of how to make Ballyhara profitable the same way she tackles every other project in her life. She follows Daniel around his farm, learning about cows, figuring out how everything works and working hard herself. She then goes to Molly because Molly's husband is very prosperous and there she charms Molly's husband and foreman into teaching her everything she wants to learn about the Irish methods of farming. Scarlett tucks away information including ways she believes she could make her new land more profitable. It's important that the reader understand that Ballyhara is not vacant land. There are cottages and larger dwellings on the land as well as a literal ghost town that includes a church, stores and a bar. Scarlett is making plans for the town, not just the land that can be planted and cultivated.

Scarlett is known to be an American and many of the people believe she's a little crazy, especially when they learn what she paid for the land and know that the landowner would probably have sold it much more cheaply to avoid the taxes. Colum points all this out when he's talking to his friend Jim Ryan about the possibility of using Ballyhara as a camp for the Fenians. When Colum goes to the little town for the first time after Scarlett moves in, he tells Scarlett that he's impressed at her industriousness, then finds a handgun and tells her she could be arrested for being in possession of the gun. Scarlett



says a military officer gave her the gun and would have posted a guard if she'd allowed it. This strengthens Colum's idea that the military have no suspicions of Scarlett. Colum and Mrs. Fitzpatrick try to convince Scarlett that there's a need for an inn, but Scarlett can't imagine that it'll be used. Colum's idea is that the members of the Fenian Brotherhood need a place to stay when they come to the town, which has now become a place for the Fenians.

Colum convinces Scarlett that she needs to hire a woman to help around the house and Scarlett agrees. Colum recommends a woman named Mrs. Fitzpatrick. He doesn't give Scarlett the details of the woman who is one of the staunchest of the innermost ring of Fenian Brotherhood supporters because of family losses to the English. It's interesting that Colum is so willing to put Scarlett at risk without telling her anything of his actions or his plans. Colum, who by now has come to know some things about Scarlett's personality, should know that she's going to be devastated if she finds out that Colum deceived her. In fact, it's not too long before Scarlett notes that she's not quite as comfortable around Colum as she's been since they first met, though she doesn't really explain this feeling.

Scarlett comes to learn that she's being referred to as "The O'Hara." Though she flushes with pleasure at the sound of the title, she also seems somewhat concerned about it and one day asks Colum about it. He tells her that she's earned the respect of the Irish people, especially when she stood up to the soldier about to evict her cousins. Colum also says that she's being talked about as if she's something larger than life and that the story of her standing up to the soldiers has become somewhat romanticized so that the telling of the story now includes that she put out the eye of one of them.

Scarlett does some serious soul-searching while she is recovering from Cat's birth. It's during this time that she comes to realize that she never felt that she loved Rhett until after he left her and she suddenly wonders if what she feels for him is truly love or if she's just caught up in another situation in which she wants what she can't have. This is another case of Scarlett's coming of age as she learns to be more grown up and honest about herself.





# Chapters Sixty-Six through Eighty-Nine

## Chapters Sixty-Six through Eighty-Nine Summary

In chapter sixty-six, Daniel dies and Scarlett again puts off her trip to America. In chapter sixty-seven, Scarlett learns about the Fenian Brotherhood and tells Colum she'll help. In chapter sixty-eight, Scarlett arrives in America, leaves Cat with Maureen so that no one will see her and goes to Atlanta. She has an amiable parting with Uncle Henry who knows about her divorce and suggests she find another attorney. She meets with Ashley, who proposes, but Scarlett turns him down. She suggests that she might go to London, hoping to keep anyone from finding her later. She learns that the houses she'd built to help Ashley are selling as fast as they're completed. She sells all her property though the market is declining and leaves instructions for future profits from the sale of the little houses to be sent to Stephen O'Hara. In chapter sixty-nine, Scarlett arrives at Tara and learns that Wade and Ella are settled in and don't want to leave. Scarlett hides her hurt, picks up Cat and sets sail for Ireland on the Golden Fleece which stops in Charleston. There she goes on a tour and sees Rhett's plantation which has seen some improvements over the past year.

In chapter seventy, Rhett escorts several women who board the Golden Fleece, and he and Scarlett look into each other's eyes as the ship pulls away. Scarlett later overhears women talking about Rhett and is gratified to learn that the gossip is that Rhett's beautiful wife left him and that he married Anne Hampton on the rebound. In chapter seventy-one Scarlett arrives home to a bountiful harvest and has to stand up to soldiers in order to avoid military presence, a step that earns her more respect from the community.

In chapter seventy-two, Scarlett wants to hire more workers, but Colum objects on the grounds that the presence of outsiders would harm the Fenian movement. They compromise by planning to hire seasonal help and plan to do that at the Drogheda fair. There, Scarlett encounters Rhett who is buying horses and outbids him for a large horse. In chapter seventy-three, Scarlett attends a hunt also attended by Rhett. A mutual friend tells Scarlett that Rhett was forced to marry Anne. In chapter seventy-four, Scarlett attends a party, feels outclassed and grows angry when some of the people in attendance talk bad about the Irish. Scarlett meets Mrs. Montague and in chapter seventy-five, Mrs. Montague tells Scarlett that she can make Scarlett into the most sought-after woman in the country. Scarlett learns that Rhett's wife is pregnant and it hurts her to think of him with a child other than Cat. In chapter seventy-six, Scarlett demands that Colum get rid of the guns he has hidden in the church and he agrees but admits to himself that he lied. Scarlett begins attending parties and is a tremendous success. In chapter seventy-seven, Scarlett spends some time in Dublin. Colum sees that the effect of the Brotherhood is flagging and begins to doubt his own motives for being involved. He is drinking heavily. In chapter seventy-eight, Scarlett and Rhett meet again and Scarlett notes a tone of finality in his parting words.





In chapter seventy-nine, Scarlett sees a man who has been whipped to death by the military. In chapter eighty, the man's wife, Harriett Kelly, comes to live with Scarlett to be a governess to Cat. Harriett's son, Billy, becomes Cat's constant companion. Scarlett learns that her grandfather died and left his estate to her aunts. Ballyhara suffers a complete loss of a season's crops. In chapter eighty-one, Scarlett is concerned about money, a thought that continues into chapter eighty-two. Scarlett says she has to get a grip on the household expenses but declines to fire anyone from her service because of the number of people who are already without jobs and hungry. She admits that she has enough money and that she really doesn't have to worry so much. Scarlett has a sexual encounter with a young military man named Charles Ragland but realizes that she can't love him and that she only wants him to be Rhett.

In chapter eighty-three, Scarlett meets the Earl of Fenton, a man named Luke. Scarlett sets out to make him fall in love with her simply because he's over-confident and self-satisfied, though she admits to being a little afraid of him. In chapter eighty-four, the romance grows and Luke meets Cat. He is immediately entranced and Scarlett enjoys the attention he pays her daughter. In chapter eighty-five, Luke proposes but tells Scarlett only that he wants to marry her so that she can produce an heir for his family line. He says that he wants a son as fearless and wonderful as Cat. Scarlett is angry and refuses.

In chapter eighty-six, Scarlett learns that Cat has been tormented by the village children who believe she is bewitched. In chapter eighty-seven, there are uprisings against landlords. A friend tells Scarlett that Rhett's wife lost the first baby and is expecting again. Scarlett accepts Luke's proposal and begins wedding preparations. In chapter eighty-eight, Scarlett encounters Rhett in Dublin, but he runs away before she can talk to him. She is convinced he'll come for her at Ballyhara and so she rushes home. There she discovers a military force led by Charles Ragland searching for Colum. Charles is shot and Scarlett rushes to him. As more shots are fired, Rhett appears and pulls her to safety.

Colum is shot and killed trying to reach the church where all the weapons are hidden. Rhett and Scarlett go to her house and she calls for Cat, finally stopping to explain to Rhett that Cat is his daughter. They find her and go to a tower where Cat sometimes plays. A mob of farmers from Ballyhara come to the place but are afraid to come inside because they believe the place to be haunted. Rhett, Scarlett and Cat spend the night with plans to leave through a back woods path the following morning. Scarlett says she can no longer stay in Ireland, and Rhett says he can't return to Charleston to live. He says that Scarlett simply hasn't yet realized that her place is with him, and that they need no home.

## **Chapters Sixty-Six through Eighty-Nine Analysis**

Scarlett's immediate response when she learns that Ballyhara has become a harbor for members of the insurgency and that Colum has engineered it to be so, is anger. She yells at Colum and calls him a liar and traitor. Scarlett seems on the verge of breaking



ties with Colum, but then he reminds her of her own struggles against the Union Army in order to save her family and Tara. This is impressed too deeply on Scarlett's memory for her to dismiss the similarities, and she has to think about it only a few minutes before she realizes that she will help Colum and their cause.

Scarlett realizes that Ashley is proposing at least partly out of duty. He knows that marriage to him will redeem her at least somewhat in the eyes of Atlanta society and wants to do that for her. Scarlett admits that there was a time she would have given anything to hear Ashley propose, but she now just wants to get on with selling her property and get ready to head back to Ireland.

When Scarlett arrives at Ballyhara, she discovers that there's an incredible harvest, showing the extent of the work that's been done on the farm during her absence. She also finds that Seamus, Daniel's son, is angry at her as is his wife. They are mad that Scarlett didn't stay for their wedding and Seamus demands that Scarlett pay their rent, approve living arrangements and arrange for a larger house for his family. Seamus says that Scarlett has the right and the responsibility to oversee all this because she is "The O'Hara." Scarlett is just now getting a small taste of the responsibility that comes with being at the head of the family clan and she tells Kathleen that she isn't certain she's going to like it.

At ten months, Cat is already walking and says her own name. Scarlett says that Cat should say "mama" first and Cat subtly turns and says "mama." Scarlett is pleased but the scene seems to be a foreboding omen of something to come.

Scarlett's re-emergence into the social scene is probably inevitable considering her nature and her constant thirst for excitement. In this case, it puts her back in contact with Rhett, though he's married to Anne. Scarlett seems to feel somewhat better about Rhett's marriage after she learns from a common acquaintance that Rhett had gone out with Anne in search of an orphan that had gotten lost and that he and Anne had spent a night without a chaperon. The friend says that Rhett felt obliged to marry Anne in order to protect her good name.

Mrs. Montague is an interesting character. She tells Scarlett that she is paid to sponsor, advise and, in short, be the perfect houseguest. Mrs. Montague helps people gain attention, and she is quietly paid for her services in less-than-traditional ways. For example, when Scarlett goes to Dublin and starts shopping, the shops pay Mrs. Montague a commission for showing Scarlett the way to them. Her reason for attaching herself to Scarlett is, according to the conversation between the two women, that she believes she can become wealthy from this venture. She does, in fact, achieve that and retires after spending more than a year of her time with Scarlett. Colum and Mrs. Fitzpatrick are angry about Scarlett's decision to put herself under Mrs. Montague's wing because Scarlett's emergence into the social scene will mean English people - including military officers - will come to Ballyhara to visit. Their fears will turn out to be justified as the people of Ballyhara come to believe Scarlett has deserted them in favor of the English society.



The role of the "wise woman" who delivers Cat becomes a vital part of the story in that she and Cat form a friendship, Cat being one of the few people who doesn't fear the old woman. When Cat burns her hand, the old woman "takes" the burn from her. It's also the old woman who tells Scarlett that the children of the village are tormenting Cat.

Rhett tells Scarlett something of his life with Anne and questions her plans to marry Luke. Rhett says that Anne had deserved much better than he'd been able to give her. Anne died during childbirth. Scarlett admits that she had only planned to marry Luke in order to get money for Cat. There's an interesting point on that subject as well. Luke says that he wants a son or at least a daughter that he can marry to a man who'll change his name and carry on the family name. Scarlett, however, has learned from the wise woman who delivered Cat that Scarlett cannot have more children. The old woman tells Scarlett that she removed the womb and that perhaps a doctor could have done better, but Scarlett knows that the old woman saved her life as well as Cat's and holds no ill will for the deed. It's not explained how Scarlett plans to handle Luke's demand of an heir.



# Characters

## Scarlett O'Hara Hamilton Kennedy Butler

Scarlett is a young woman who is very self-centered and self-confident, usually to the point that she truly cares little for others. It seems her selfishness is sometimes her overpowering emotion and that at least some other people understand this about her. For example, Rhett explains to his younger sister that Scarlett only believes that she wants to reunite with Rhett because he has decided not to. He says that Scarlett tends to want only those things denied her, and that she selfishly destroys anything she has in her possession. This certainly seems an apt description, but Scarlett truly seems to come to realize that there are some things important in her life, such as her love for Rhett.

An interesting point about Scarlett is that she is willing to work for whatever it is that she wants and loves the challenge of attaining the unattainable. When she's told by a dressmaker that her costume can't possibly be ready in time, she ignores that and focuses on what she'll order from the dressmaker, believing that no one can deny her once she's made her demands. Scarlett believes in her ability to get what she wants through charm and pours that on whenever she sees a need. There is also another side to Scarlett - the side that's afraid of Yankees, as she cannot erase the memory of having killed a Yankee soldier and wishes she could be a lady as her mother had instructed. Another interesting aspect of Scarlett is her overwhelming desire for money, which is a security blanket for the brash young woman. Scarlett seems to believe that money will bring security as nothing else possibly could. Though she is wealthy in her own right, she allows Rhett to pay the bills. She constantly seeks ways to make her own money more secure, refusing to depend on paper money; instead, holding gold and silver. While this seems another selfish aspect of Scarlett's personae, it's really a way she has used to cope with her fear from her experiences in the civil war and of those who she believes has let her down.

## Rhett Butler

A self-proclaimed scoundrel, Rhett is a caring son and brother and wants nothing more than to care for his mother and sister while attaining the respectability he scoffed at as a younger man. Rhett is much older than Scarlett, more her mother's age, but is attractive in both looks and charm. He is the center of attention at every gathering and has the undying love and affection of many, including his mother and sister. Rhett has given up his scandalous ways to a great degree in his quest for respectability but is willing to bow to the dictates of the elite only on certain points in order to achieve this. In some ways, he continues to lead his life as he sees fit without regard for what others think. It's obvious that Rhett is also somewhat self-centered, though probably not to the degree that Scarlett is.



Rhett tells his sister that Scarlett hurt him deeply and this seems to be true. He also admits that the one thing he wants to be certain of is that he doesn't fall for her again, putting himself back in the position to be hurt. Rhett truly believes Scarlett wants him only because she can't have him and because he's asked for a divorce. It takes a great deal of time before he comes to believe in her again and to trust her sufficiently for a reunion. Rhett believes in the beautiful side of life and seeks to enhance his life on this point. When Scarlett sees his plantation, she's immediately excited, realizing that she knows about growing crops and believing that she can help Rhett make his plantation prosperous. What Scarlett doesn't realize is that Rhett is interested only in growing flowers and has no interest in making the plantation pay by growing cash crops. When Rhett realizes this is what Scarlett has in mind, he tells her that she has a lack of appreciation for beauty. This difference in the two makes them clash often with Rhett seeing money only as a way to get the things he wants from life and Scarlett holding to it like a lifeline.

## **Eleanor Butler**

Rhett's mother, she is something of a rogue herself, finding humor in places that social etiquette probably forbids. Eleanor is a strong woman and refuses to be bullied or pushed by anyone, though she is also a lady who bends to the dictates of society for the most part. She is mother to Rhett, Ross and Rosemary, a widow, active in the organization that works to provide for Civil War veterans and is strong in the face of adversity.

## **Pierre Auguste Robillard**

Scarlett's grandfather, he is a pushy tyrant who demands his own way and is used to getting it. When Scarlett comes home late one day, her grandfather berates her and tries to bully her into feeling bad. She apologizes but then stands up to him so he finds he cannot force her to bend to his will. When he realizes this, he laughs at her. Pierre is an angry, bitter man.

## **Katie Colum O'Hara**

Scarlett's daughter born after Scarlett and Rhett break up, the baby is called "Cat" by her mother because of her startling green eyes. Cat is a precocious child and headstrong. Scarlett determines from Cat's birth that she will let her daughter grow and develop into her own person without insisting that Cat adhere to what Scarlett wants for her. This is particularly telling of Scarlett's nature considering that Cat's older sister, Bonnie, had died after an accident involving a horse.



## **Colum O'Hara**

Scarlett's cousin from Ireland, Colum is a priest and is dedicated to the Fenian Brotherhood movement, a group set to oppose the English rule of Ireland. Colum uses Scarlett's travels to help smuggle arms to the movement and later uses the land Scarlett buys as a safe place for members of the Fenian Brotherhood. Colum is a serious and dedicated man who questions himself almost to the point of destruction. Colum is killed as the story comes to a close, shot by soldiers as he tries to reach the weapons hidden in the church at Ballyhara.

## **Daniel O'Hara**

One of Scarlett's Irish cousins, Daniel is the recognized head of the clan until his death at which time the members of the family turn to Scarlett in her role as owner of Ballyhara for guidance. Daniel is prideful, and when the landlord raises his rent, Daniel refuses to ask Scarlett for help. Daniel respects Scarlett and is apparently the first to refer to her as "The O'Hara," a point that pleases Scarlett.

## **Luke, Earl of Fenton**

The man who initially pursues Scarlett as nothing more than a sexual conquest but who proposes after he spends some time with Cat. Luke makes no mention of love or even of desire but tells Scarlett that he wants an heir and wants Scarlett to produce an heir just like Cat. Scarlett eventually agrees to marry Luke but is set only on getting his money.

## **Mrs. Fitzpatrick**

The woman Scarlett hires as a housekeeper on Colum's advice, Mrs. Fitzpatrick is very knowledgeable about the business of running Scarlett's house and her estate but is also a member of the Fenian Brotherhood. While her motives are initially aimed at furthering the cause, it seems Mrs. Fitzpatrick does become at least someone fond of Scarlett. When it seems that Scarlett and her unborn child will die, Mrs. Fitzpatrick intervenes, seeking a way to save Scarlett.

## **The Wise Woman**

A woman who has some supernatural powers, the woman arrives at Scarlett's house as she's trying to give birth to Cat. The woman performs a cesarean to deliver Cat and save the lives of Cat and Scarlett but tells Scarlett much later that she was unable to save Scarlett's womb. It's the woman who tells Scarlett that the children of the village harass Cat and believe the child to be bewitched.

## **Anne Hampton**

A mousy young woman who is clearly in love with Rhett, Anne is involved with the orphanage dedicated to the children of the Confederacy. When Anne and Rhett are alone together one night, Rhett marries her to save her reputation. Scarlett is angry over the marriage but less so when she learns the circumstances. Anne has an unsuccessful pregnancy and dies during the next birth, as does the baby.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery**

Where Melanie Wilkes is buried.

### **Tara**

The plantation Scarlett calls home.

### **Atlanta**

Where Scarlett and Rhett live until Rhett leaves her and where Scarlett maintains a house prior to her move to Ireland.

### **Charleston**

Where Rhett lives with his mother after his separation from Scarlett.

### **Kennedy's Emporium**

The store Scarlett owns in Atlanta.

### **Savannah, Georgia**

Where Scarlett's grandfather lives and where she stays for awhile after Rhett tells her to leave Charleston.

### **Dunmore Landing**

The name of Rhett's plantation.

### **The Brian Boru**

The ship that Scarlett, Colum and Katherleen take to Ireland.

### **Ballyhara**

The land Scarlett buys in Ireland.



## Dublin

Where Scarlett goes for the social season and where she learns that Rhett has returned to Ireland.



# Themes

## Coming of Age

Scarlett is a self-centered spoiled girl when the story begins, set on having her way regardless of who is hurt in her quest for her goals. As the story progresses, Scarlett begins maturing emotionally and socially. She initially believes she can win Rhett back by playing at the social games that have always garnered the attention of men and is angry when Rhett seems immune to her charms. As the months pass and Scarlett realizes she is carrying Rhett's baby, she believes she has the card that will win his undying devotion and further believes can play that card any time it suits her. With that in mind, Scarlett sets out for Ireland, intent on visiting her family and having some fun before settling down into live with Rhett.

When Scarlett learns Rhett has divorced her and remarried, she begins to see herself for what she has been, a spoiled child. She spends a great deal of time then looking at her life and admitting all the times she'd sacrificed the feelings of others in order to gain her own ends. With this realization comes the determination to change, but Scarlett soon discovers that change doesn't come easily. In fact, it's only a short time later that she begins to plot revenge but realizes what she's doing and drops the idea in favor of dealing with her new situation in a way that's more positive. Scarlett continues to have difficulty finding and holding onto this newfound maturity and often slips back but usually seems to realize what she's doing.

## Loyalty

Scarlett's loyalty to her mother is one of the foundations of her life up to the time she meets her O'Hara cousins. Scarlett's mother was born to an influential family with higher social standing than the O'Haras, which Scarlett doesn't really realize until she spends some time with both her paternal grandfather and several of the O'Hara families. It's during her early visits with the O'Haras that Scarlett realizes that her mother's expectations may not have been as important as she'd always believed. This tears into Scarlett's loyalty to her mother, and she hates that she has doubts about her mother's teachings but can't let go of the idea that she doesn't have to live up to her mother's expectations.

Another case of Scarlett's torn loyalty is seen as she takes the Dublin social season by storm. Scarlett has begun to identify with her Irish cousins and their fight against the English rule. However, many of those gathered for the social season are English or side with the English against the Irish. Scarlett finds herself torn, desiring to be a part of the social scene but also wanting to stand with the Irish. It's interesting that she takes on all things Irish except their social standing. However, this could be true because Scarlett, known as "The O'Hara" and respected as a leader of the community and important landlord, isn't accepted well into the daily society of the common Irish. When the



moment comes for Scarlett to stand with the Irish against the English military, she does so. But when a young English officer she knows is killed, she can't help running to his side, an act that brands her a traitor among the Irish.

## Expectations of Society

Scarlett is very well aware of the expectations of society because her mother drilled the details into Scarlett and her sisters. The problem for Scarlett is that she felt overly constrained by those expectations and often did what she wanted, regardless of what the socialites deemed acceptable. Scarlett comes to question these expectations as she meets various members of the O'Hara clan, but when her grandfather points out that one of the female cousins once worked in a saloon, Scarlett is mortified and quickly falls back on her teaching. She takes a careful look at the O'Haras - one obviously pregnant and the women going to the market without a maid to carry her purchases - and is horrified at what she sees.

The important point is that Scarlett is willing to condemn others for not following what she believes to be proper behavior but is unwilling to see that these people are happy doing what they believe to be acceptable without worrying about what the higher-class social cliques believe is acceptable. Scarlett, however, is angry when she's similarly judged for her actions by the ladies of Atlanta. She's also willing to travel to Ireland despite the fact that she knows she's carrying Rhett's baby and that she should return to him in Charleston. In fact, it's the expectations of Charleston society - that she would remain confined for the duration of her pregnancy - that makes her decide to continue her trip to Ireland despite the pregnancy.



# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in third person from a limited omniscient point of view, though the reader's perspective is most often limited to those things Scarlett knows and sees. The few exceptions are apparently aimed at provoking suspense. For example, Scarlett doesn't know that Colum plans to use her purchase of Ballyhara as something of a safe harbor for the members of the Fenian Brotherhood. The reader knows this aspect of the story long before Scarlett, and the purpose of letting the reader in on that fact is apparently an effort by the author to build suspense for the final and inevitable showdown. There are few instances in which Scarlett is not at the heart of the point of view, and those few times are all similarly aimed at providing some piece of information to the reader. Even the perspective from Scarlett's point of view is somewhat limited. For example, she doesn't tell Luke she cannot have children and so cannot produce the heir he seeks but gives no reason for not telling him this. It seems likely that it's because of Scarlett's pride, but it's left to the reader to decide.

## Setting

The story begins in September of 1873, the specific date established by the author through a question posed by Scarlett to determine how long she'd been at Tara following Melanie's death. The answer, October 11, 1873, is followed by Scarlett's realization that she's been at Tara for three weeks. The physical setting during the early part of the story is the South, mainly Atlanta and Charleston, during those time periods. The physical setting later changes to Ireland. The various settings are, at least in general, as real as are the events. The Civil War, though over, plays an important role in setting the stage for the story. The reader will find the majority of the settings explained and described thoroughly. The reader who is already familiar with the setting may find these details tedious though the reader who is interested in historical facts woven into the tale will likely find the descriptions ultimately interesting. The details offered - such as the fact that her grandfather's home in Savannah is pink or the details about the layout of the town of Ballyhara - lends a level of believability to the setting. Readers may find these details an important aspect of the credibility of the story.

## Language and Meaning

The story is written at a reasonable reading level for the topic and genre, and most readers will have no trouble understanding the story. The story is divided appropriately between dialogue and narrative and both are reasonable to the subject matter and setting. The dialogue includes phrases that are apparently meant to make the characters more believable, such as "fiddle-de-dee," a word used by Scarlett on several occasions. While the story is fairly direct, the story line is somewhat convoluted and the



outcome overly predictable. The ending is pure epiphany with Rhett's new wife conveniently dying without leaving a surviving child behind. The story goes on to cover a great deal of Scarlett's life, and some readers may feel the author simply came to the place where the book should end and threw the characters back together. The way Scarlett and Rhett reunite makes little sense but it was, as has already been mentioned, inevitable.

The story is a work of fiction set against a historical backdrop. This lends a level of believability, but that is crushed by several points, especially the fact that the old wise woman who delivers Cat later "takes the burn" from Cat's hands so that her hand is healed after a few minutes of the old woman's incantations. Some readers may find this disappointing in an otherwise believable setting.

## Structure

The book is divided into three sections and eighty-nine chapters. The sections are titled, "Lost in the Dark," "High Stakes" and "The Tower." The chapters are not named but are merely numbered. Both the sections and the chapters are of varying lengths. Chapters tend to end without teasing the reader on to the next chapter, though there are a few instances in which the author does leave the chapter on an uncertain note.

The book is the sequel to the well-known novel, "Gone with the Wind," by Margaret Mitchell. While the book could stand alone, most readers will find there are aspects of the storyline that are better understood if the person is at least nominally familiar with the prequel. For example, Rhett's sister overhears a conversation in which he and Scarlett are arguing with Rhett insisting that she leave him alone. His sister is horrified at this aspect of her brother's personality, but he is unrepentant and tells her the whole story of his life with Scarlett. While the reader knows that Rhett tells his sister this story, the reader doesn't have the benefit of also hearing this story. While it's not absolutely necessary that the reader know the entire story, there are details that would add to the reader's understanding. A reader who wants the full benefit should consider reading the prequel. It should also be noted that the prequel was made into a movie, but this movie does is not completely true to the book. Reading the prequel will certainly clear up some aspects of the book, but as already stated is not vital to a general understanding.



## Quotes

"Rhett would come back. He had to, because she wanted him to, and she always got what she wanted. All she had to do was set her mind to it." Chapter Four, Page 52

"When the deprivations of war reduced the staffs of thirty or forty to one or two, the demands on women increased exponentially, but the expectations remained the same. The battered houses must continue to welcome guests, shelter families, sparkle with clean windows and shining brass, and have a well-groomed, imperturbable, accomplished mistress at leisure in the drawing room." Chapter Eleven, Page 131

"It can be a great handicap, being beautiful and having been a belle. Lots of women never recover from it." Chapter Twelve, Page 151

"I had in my heart a thousand dollars' worth of love. It was in gold, not greenbacks. And I spent it on you, every penny of it." Chapter Twenty-Two, Page 269

"Fiddle-dee-dee! My soul is just fine, thank you very much. It's making me gag at the smell of incense, that what it's doing, all this church stuff." Twenty-Eight, Page 307

"And she would cause Monsieur Robillard's death if she continued to insist on adding butter and gravy and sweets to his meals. She was the answer to the old man's prayer." Chapter Forty, Page 418

"She'd waiting for him long enough in Atlanta, but things were different now. The baby in her womb made Rhett hers any time she wanted to claim him." Chapter Fifty-Four, Page 546

"All the impetuous, unconsidered errors of her life crowded around Scarlett in the black silence of the night, and she forced herself to look at them." Chapter Fifty-Six, Page 560

"People crossed themselves when they saw the dark-skinned baby with the green eyes and Scarlett was pleased. She thought they were blessing the baby." Chapter Sixty-Five, Page 689

"Colum promised to 'put his mind on it.' He went out that night and walked for miles, trying to decide what was best for Scarlett, and what was best for the Brotherhood, and how they could be reconciled." Chapter Seventy-Five, Page 780

"I used to work like a mule to be charming, Scarlett thought, now I don't have to do anything at all. She couldn't understand it at all, but she accepted the gift of it with simple gratitude." Chapter Seventy-Eight, Page 764

"Her voice was so small, so poignant with despair that Charles reached out to comfort her, then drew back in full knowledge that there was only one comfort he could give. He moved quietly as he gathered his clothes, and he shut the door behind him with only the slightest sound." Chapter Eighty-Two, Page 808

"I've got to find Cat - Katie O'Hara, called Cat. She's your daughter." Chapter Eighty-Nine, Page 872



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Scarlett's personality. Is she an effective character for this story? Support your answer.

Present a character analysis of Scarlett. Compare that to an analysis of Rhett. What are the common aspects that draw these two together? What are the differences that seem to drive them apart? Offer a prediction as to the future of the two after leaving Ireland.

Scarlett refers to her great longing for Tara, but when she arrives there she admits that she doesn't really feel like Tara is her home after all. Using the adage, "It's impossible to go back home," describe what Scarlett is facing. How can this be a "coming of age" theme?

Scarlett is invariably drawn to the social scene. Who is Mrs. Montague and what role does she play in Scarlett's social aspirations? Does it seem Scarlett could have attained the same goals on her own? Support your answer. Compare Scarlett's acceptance to the social scene of Ireland to the acceptance of her presence in Atlanta and Charleston.

Scarlett discovers she is pregnant after she is already on her way to Ireland. What is it that makes her decide to go on to Ireland before telling Rhett of her pregnancy? What is the outcome of that decision? When does Scarlett realize that her decision was a mistake? What makes her realize it?

Scarlett stays briefly with two aunts in Charleston and then with Rhett's mother. She later stays with her grandfather in Savannah. Compare these relatives with the O'Hara relatives. What is it about the O'Haras that catches Scarlett's attention? What are some of the things that makes her loyalties to the various family members waver?

Who is Ashley Wilkes? Ella? Wade? Bonnie? Uncle Henry? Anne Hampton? Kathleen? Mrs. Fitzpatrick? How are each of them connected to Scarlett and what role do they play in her life?

Scarlett's grandfather offers her a great deal of money if she will remain with him until he dies. How does Scarlett react to that proposal? How does that differ from her relationship with her O'Hara grandmother?