

Seduced (Book 3 of the Surrender Series) Study Guide

Seduced (Book 3 of the Surrender Series) by Melody Anne

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Seduced (Book 3 of the Surrender Series) Study Guide..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Plot Summary..... | 4 |
| Prologue, Chapters One and Two..... | 5 |
| Chapters Three – Five..... | 7 |
| Chapters Six – Eight..... | 9 |
| Chapters Nine – Eleven..... | 11 |
| Chapters Twelve – Fourteen..... | 13 |
| Chapters Fifteen – Seventeen..... | 15 |
| Chapters Eighteen – Twenty..... | 17 |
| Chapters Twenty-one – Twenty-three..... | 19 |
| Chapters Twenty-four – Twenty-six..... | 21 |
| Chapters Twenty-seven – Twenty-nine..... | 23 |
| Chapters Thirty – Thirty-two..... | 25 |
| Chapters Thirty-three – Thirty-five..... | 27 |
| Chapters Thirty-six – Thirty-eight..... | 29 |
| Chapters Thirty-nine – Forty-one..... | 31 |
| Chapters Forty-two – Forty-four..... | 33 |
| Chapters Forty-five – Epilogue..... | 35 |
| Characters..... | 37 |
| Symbols and Symbolism..... | 41 |
| Settings..... | 42 |
| Themes and Motifs..... | 43 |
| Styles..... | 45 |
| Quotes..... | 47 |



Plot Summary

Seduced, a novel by Melody Anne, traces the love stories of three different couples. Romance abounds as Rafe tries to win back the love of Ari, the woman he has decided that he cannot live without. Lia and Shane find a new spark in their love for one another when they are isolated on an uninhabited island. Rachel and Ian believe their love will be only a week of fun, but an unexpected malfunction could bind them together for life.

Rafe Palazzo returns from Paraguay knowing that Ari Harlowe is the woman for him. Rafe has learned what real love is from getting to know a couple in Paraguay. The man kills himself, no longer willing to live without his wife, when she dies in childbirth. Rafe wines, dines, and romances Ari. However, it is not until he shares his experiences in Paraguay with her that Ari realizes that he is a changed man. Soon after, she accepts his proposal of marriage.

Although Lia Palazzo had pursued her brother's best friend Shane Grayson for years, she's trying to avoid him now. She feels betrayed by Shane because he told Rafe the two slept together. Isolated on an island after Shane's yacht is wrecked in a storm, the two reconnect. Lia finally realizes Shane did not tell Rafe about their affair to hurt her. He told him because Rafe is Shane's only family. Once they are back in the real world, Lia makes Shane visit his mother in the psychiatric hospital where she is serving a sentence for killing Shane's father. Even though Shane is finally able to make peace with his mother, there are more problems for Shane and Lia as she gets angry with him when he tells her he is still serving in the armed forces.

The final couple in the story embarks on a fling that lasts a week. They want to have a good time with one another before they move on to more serious ventures. Ian is to become king when he returns to his country. Rachel will be taking a job in Italy's American embassy, hoping to prove herself to her family. Several weeks later, Rachel realizes that she is pregnant. Ian, who has had her followed, shows up at her doorstep telling her that she must marry him as she is carrying the heir to the throne.

The novel culminates on the day of Ari and Rafe's wedding. Rachel, who is to be one of the bridesmaids, is missing. Her hotel room is searched and a note is found from Ian. He has arranged for Rachel to be kidnapped and taken back to his country. Rafe is angry as he had believed the man was his friend. Ari and Rafe decide to postpone their wedding until Rachel is returned to the family.



Prologue, Chapters One and Two

Summary

In the Prologue, Shane bails Rafe out of jail for the second time in two months. Knowing that he needs to get away, Shane offers to let Rafe tag along on his trip to South America. Rafe considers the option as he thinks of how Ari has avoided him. He believes a trip is what he needs to put her out of his mind.

In Chapter One, two years after the Prologue and her breakup with Rafe, Ari teaches her first college class. At the end of the class, she is surprised to hear him ask her if she will go to dinner with him. She resists even though he seems intent to “woo” her this time. He tells her that the only thing that will keep him from coming to each of her classes and visiting during office hours will be dinner and a conversation.

In Chapter Two, Lia is helping her brother Rafe and his friend, Shane, with their project, a luxury spa. Although she will have to work with Shane, with whom she’d had a one-night stand, Lia feels she can overcome her desire for him. She knows that he will always respect other men more than he would ever respect her.

Analysis

The Prologue of this novel gives some background information as both Shane and Rafe find themselves without a significant other. Rafe goes to South America with Shane in an attempt to get Ari out of his head. Two years later Rafe is apparently still tied up over Ari as he shows up in her college classroom to ask her to talk to him. Rafe claims that he will attend every class and all of her office hours until she agrees to have dinner and a conversation with him. Shane, meanwhile, taunts Lia as they work together at the construction site.

So far, the men and women in this book seem to be fairly stereotypical. The men are the strong and beautiful type who sweep women off their feet but then don’t treat them as a friend or comrade, only a companion for bed. The women, on the other hand, try to be strong but seem unsure of their ability to not give into their sexual desires for the men who have treated them so badly.

Discussion Question 1

For what has Ari worked so hard to accomplish since she left Rafe?



Discussion Question 2

Why did Ari break up with Rafe? Why did Lia not continue to date Shane? What was similar about their relationships? What was different?

Discussion Question 3

Although Lia does not like Shane, why does she agree to work so closely with him?

Vocabulary

Irate, acquisition, liaisons, chortled, meticulously, demeanor, pertaining, banished, horrendous, prerogative, louts.



Chapters Three – Five

Summary

In Chapter Three, Rafe goes home where he studies up on the Civil War until Shane calls, complaining about Lia's unwillingness to give him another chance. Although they are both having trouble with their women, both plan to win them back. When he hangs up the phone after talking to Shane, Rafe thinks of the situation in Paraguay that made him decide to do everything he needed to do to ensure he had Ari's love. While in South America, he had befriended a couple expecting their first baby. He and Shane had worked long and hard to complete a home for them before the baby was born. On the first night the couple sleeps in their new home, Maria dies. Shane tells Rafe the baby had died in her womb a few days earlier. Then, Maria died from complications. Rafe remembers how broken her husband was as he begged Rafe to bring her back. The husband committed suicide the next night. It was this experience that made Rafe determined to win Ari back no matter what it took.

In Chapter Four, Lia and Shane take Shane's yacht to get supplies for building. Shane is thinking about getting Lia alone and does not pay close enough attention to dark clouds in the sky and a storm warning forecast. He tries to make it to a nearby island so they can ride out the storm but hits a reef. The impact knocks Lia unconscious. He gets her onto the life raft and heads toward the island. They have almost made it when two waves converge on the life raft, throwing Lia overboard.

In Chapter Five, Ari is impressed that Rafe has actually studied and is able to intelligently answer her questions about the Civil War. Afterward, he convinces her to come to his house because he claims he has a journal written by a relative who was involved in the Civil War. Ari goes along with him even though he knows that it is a bad idea.

Analysis

In these chapters of the novel both Ari and Shane find themselves making bad decisions because of their emotional states. For Shane, he thinks that he will get Lia alone on an island to woo her when they take off on the yacht together to get supplies. His distraction, however, causes them to get caught in the seas during a storm. As a result of the storm, Shane runs into a reef, sinking his yacht. Lia is knocked unconscious and a wave throws her over board from the life raft.

Ari also allows herself to be persuaded by Rafe into making a bad decision. He has impressed her with his knowledge of the Civil War and now he uses a Civil War journal that he has as leverage to get Ari to agree to visit his house. Ari knows that going to his house is a bad idea but Rafe has really found an interest of Ari's for which she is willing to let down her guard.



The tone of the novel seems a bit lifeless it is the same whether Ari Rafe are discussing the Civil War or Shane is watching Lia get washed by the ocean out of the lifeboat. The author seems more intent on dwelling on how attractive Rafe is than describing the emotion of the book. Again, the women seem very stereotypical as Lia and Ari both allow themselves to be lured into situations that could be detrimental for them especially since they realize how physically attracted they are to the men who are perusing them.

Discussion Question 1

How does Shane's infatuation with Lia allow the two of them to be put at risk?

Discussion Question 2

How does Rafe use Ari's interest in the Civil War against her as she tries to get her back into his life?

Discussion Question 3

Describe the circumstances that have made Rafe decide to pursue Ari. What did he learn from the experience?

Vocabulary

Cynical, impromptu, bereaved, rustic, sumptuous, petulant, simpering, converged, capsized, elicit, instilled, desolated.



Chapters Six – Eight

Summary

In Chapter Six, Lia is dreaming that she has finally given in to Shane, but becomes aware that he is hitting on her chest. He explains to her what has happened. She is in shock as he gathers supplies and leads her across the island. He sets up a tent and finds dry clothes. Lia is unable to get her fingers to cooperate, so Shane helps her undress. They warm each other under the blanket.

In Chapter Seven, Rafe arranges a compromise so that he rides with Ari to his house. He notices in the car on the way to his house that Ari still reacts to him. He feels certain that it is only a matter of time before she will give into him. At his house he serves her an old, expensive wine. As he watches her excitement in seeing the journal, he is glad that he has the book as his way to work back into her life.

In Chapter Eight, Rachel swims deep into the ocean before she changes direction to head for the surface. A man who apparently believes she is drowning pulls her to the surface and onto the beach. She stops him just as he is starting to do CPR. When she gets a good look at the man, she realizes how much she wants him. He invites her to dinner. Rachel wants to have an affair with him, but draws the line at letting him know where she is staying. Back at her house, she realizes they did not set a time for dinner. Wanting to get to the sex as quickly as possible, Rachel goes on to the man's hotel.

Analysis

In this section of the novel, Rafe's second sister named Rachel enters the story. She is on vacation before starting a job at the American Embassy in Italy. She has always thought she was a spoiled baby and now wants the chance to prove herself. First, though, she decides that she wants to have an affair with a handsome man who thinks he is saving her from drowning. Believing that she is protecting herself, she refuses to tell the man where she is staying.

Meanwhile, Lia has realized that she and Shane are in real trouble. Instead of fighting him, she realizes that she needs to work with him. She is frustrated with herself because she has to have his help in undressing from her wet clothes. For the moment, Lia allows herself to fall asleep in Shane's arms, knowing that he will not let anything happen to her.

Ari, also, is fighting against her attraction for Rafe. She lets him know from the start that he is not calling the shots by telling him that she will not allow her car to be delivered to her house as he is suggesting. She insists on driving her own car, but Rafe crushes her victory by insisting that she let him ride with her. Rafe is entertained by the way that Ari reacts to him in the car. At the house, he thanks a relative that he isn't really sure of his connection with, for giving him an in with Ari.



Discussion Question 1

Ari seems to be fighting with Rafe for control of their new relationship. How is control or the lack of control in a relationship important?

Discussion Question 2

In what ways does Lia trust Shane? In what ways does she not trust him?

Discussion Question 3

These are intelligent women. Why do they continue to put themselves into positions where they are so tortured and tempted by a man who will hurt them?

Vocabulary

Ashen, roguish, modicum, wrath, compromise, venerable, indulge, ascent, incredulous, delectable, vestiges.



Chapters Nine – Eleven

Summary

In Chapter Nine, Lia is awakened by Shane's body heat. She realizes her hand is on his private parts and backs away embarrassed. Shane tries to flirt with her as she continues to push him away. Needing to find fresh water and food, the two hike further into the island. They come upon a waterfall and clear body of water. After Shane scouts the area and finds that it is safe, Lia strips and dives in, wanting to get the residue from the salt water off of her skin. Tired of being pushed away, Shane follows, surfacing near her. He grabs her and kisses her.

In Chapter Ten, Prince Adriano of Corythia is asked by his bodyguard if he thinks it is really a good idea to be spending the evening with Rachel. The prince wants to spend the weekend with Rachel as a distraction. His father had just died one month ago, leaving him set to be crowned king in a week. Although it had always been his older brother who was supposed to rule the country, his brother had disowned the family. Now Gianni has resurfaced, wanting the throne. On this night, however, the prince only wants to fulfill his own desires.

In Chapter Eleven, Ari reads the journal until she falls asleep. As Rafe watches her read, he realizes what a romantic she is. He knows that he will have to romance her and spoil her. He carries her to the master bedroom where he tucks her in, then leaves her alone. He promises himself will put all his effort into winning her back, no matter how long it takes.

Analysis

A plot finally develops in this section amid the rampant, but denied sexual cravings of the three main characters. It appears that the man whom Rachael has befriended is a prince who is about to become king. Although both say to themselves their relationship is nothing but a distraction, Rachel from her coming job at the American Embassy in Italy and Ian from his coming kingship, Ian admits that he feels an attraction for Rachael that he has never felt before.

Rachel is mesmerized by the journal and spends most of the evening poring over it and drinking the wine. Because she pays little attention to him, Rafe feels the wine has been a waste, but she finally begins to read passages to him from the book. As he watches her face transformed by the story, he realizes what a romantic she is. Although he'd hoped for more, he feels comfortable just having her in his house. When she falls asleep, he realizes that he could easily take advantage of her but does not because he knows that it would only set their relationship back.

With Shane and Lia, however, Shane is not prepared to take things slowly. His mind is on making the most of things when the opportunity presents itself. Lia had apparently



pursued Shane for years before he had finally given in to her. Once she had him though, Shane had disappointed her by telling her brother of their affair. This had cooled the relationship for Lia though she still feels a strong sexual attraction for the man whom she'd had a crush for so many years.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Rafe jealous of the man who wrote the journal? What does watching Ari read the journal tell Rafe about her?

Discussion Question 2

How do you think that Rachel will react to the news that she is about to have a fling with a crown prince? Do you think Ian will tell her the truth about his identity?

Discussion Question 3

Do you think Shane is wise in surprising Lia with a kiss? Do you think he should approach her differently?

Vocabulary

Delectably, hefted, reciprocal, pristine, cosseted, paparazzi, turbulent, asunder.



Chapters Twelve – Fourteen

Summary

In Chapter Twelve, Rachel is surprised when a man steps up to her and escorts her into the hotel. They go up to the top floor where Rachel is escorted into a suite. Ian has dinner served on the balcony. She is impressed by the food served. After they are finished eating, she wonders what will happen next.

In Chapter Thirteen, Lia tells Shane “no” to his advances even though she believes that he should listen to her body, which is saying “yes.” When he hears the word “no,” Shane breaks away from her and swims to the other side of the waterfall. She gets out of the water angrily. Not able to find Shane, she decides to walk along the path back to their campsite. She has just located some mango bushes when she hears a clap of thunder and rain begins to pour down.

In Chapter Fourteen, Rachel is satisfied with Ian’s lovemaking as she has never been before. They make love on the balcony before he carries her to his bedroom. Rachel is surprised to feel him getting hard again.

Analysis

These three chapters focus on the fling between Rachel and Ian. Although they play a game to try to guess each others’ identities, they find themselves no closer to knowing any personal information about the other than before they started. Rachel does give away the information that her mother was Italian and although she regrets the mistake, she does not think it will cause any harm. She is well pleased by Ian’s lovemaking. The descriptions are fairly graphic.

Meanwhile, Lia is giving Shane mixed messages. Although she desperately wants him to make love to her, she tells him no. He is surprised to hear her refusal but leaves her alone. Lia is angry, believing that Shane should have listened to what her body was saying to him instead of what her words said. This chapter of the book touches on the whole aspect of women being blamed in rape cases because they say they don’t want sex when they actually do. In this case, Shane does the proper thing in responding to Lia’s words and not her body. Lia, as the typical female would do, gets angry with Shane and goes off by herself only to find that she has put herself in a bad situation as a thunderstorm begins.

Discussion Question 1

In what ways are the females in this novel presented as typical ditzy females? How are the males fashioned to fit the stereotype of the traditional male?



Discussion Question 2

Why do Rachel and Ian try to keep their identities secret from one another? Why is it significant that Rachel accidentally lets the information slip that her mother was Italian?

Discussion Question 3

Is Lia justified in her anger toward Shane?

Vocabulary

Hypocrite, defiance, debonair, perception, piqued, succulent, nemesis, snifter, enamored, obsidian, musculature, aureoles, ethereal, apex, sated.



Chapters Fifteen – Seventeen

Summary

In Chapter Fifteen, Ari decides to go on the offensive and see how far she can push Rafe before he returns to his former self. She leaves her scent and discarded clothes in his bathroom. She also leaves him a message on his cell phone mentioning how good the panties he picked out match her skin tone. Rafe is confused by the message and calls his secretary in to see what she makes of it. She tells him that Ari is flirting with him. Rafe flirts in return, suggesting they meet again but Ari indicates to him that she has a date that night. Rafe decides to change his plans for that evening.

In Chapter Sixteen, Shane is frightened when he emerges from the cave in which he has been hiding to find that Lia has disappeared. He hunts for her and finally finds her but is surprised to see how defiant she is. He picks her up and carries her to the cave he has found. He intends to put up the tent and have them make love all night long. He wonders when she intends to stop playing games with him.

In Chapter Seventeen, Rachel and Ian have enjoyed the five days they've spent together. On the final evening, Ian takes her by helicopter to a friend's yacht moored in the ocean. Ian tells Rachel that he does not think that he will be able to let her go as easily as he once thought. He tells her that he had decided that he wants to know her secrets and that he will learn them.

Analysis

Feeling manipulated by Rafe, Ari puts the pressure on him. She knows how sexually attracted he is to her, so she leaves him some reminders of herself in his bathroom. If Ari is really trying to keep herself away from Rafe, it seems that she is playing a very dangerous game by bombarding him with so much temptation. Although Ari is actually trying to push Rafe's buttons and make him show his old colors, an office worker with Rafe tells him that Ari is flirting with him.

Meanwhile, Lia doesn't seem to understand how much danger the two are actually in as she continues to run from Shane. Lia seems very childish and immature in the way that she acts as she puts both her life and Shane's life in danger all because she believes that he betrayed her by telling Rafe they slept together.

Meanwhile, Ian and Rachel's relationship seems to be going well even though they intend it to only be a one-week affair. Ian tells Rachel that he has decided that he wants to learn her secrets.



Discussion Question 1

Do you think Ian is being serious when he tells Rachel that he isn't sure if he will be able to let her go at the end of the week?

Discussion Question 2

Is Ari's campaign to bring out Rafe's old personality a good idea? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 3

How is Lia acting immature considering the predicament in which she and Shane are?

Vocabulary

Absolve, fervent, inedible.



Chapters Eighteen – Twenty

Summary

In Chapter Eighteen, Ari is on a date with a podiatrist who infuriates her by talking about his ex-wife, then indicating that Ari's teaching job is "cute." He gets a page from the hospital calling him for an emergency and he leaves. He tells Ari he's looking forward to another date, but leaves her with the bill. As soon as the doctor leaves, Rafe appears. Apparently, he was the one who arranged for the doctor to get the text. He flirts with Ari, telling her that he wants her as his wife, not his mistress. Ari turns his advances down cold and leaves him with the bill for the wine.

In Chapter Nineteen, Lia finally gives into her desire for Shane.

In Chapter Twenty, Rachel and Ian spend their last night together. Ian does not want their relationship to end. He has an aid copy her contact info but promises himself he will use it only if necessary.

Analysis

Even after a disastrous blind date Ari is still not in the mood to humor Rafe. In fact, she hopes to cool his flame by leaving him the bill for the dinner. This is the same bill that her podiatrist date left her. Shane has better luck with Lia as she finally gives in to her desire to be with him sexually. The sex scene between the two of them is described in detail. As Rafe continues to pursue Ari and Shane finally captured Lia, Rachel and Ian have come to the end of their week together. As in the chapter with Shane and Lia, Rachel and Ian's sexual interactions are described in detail. Although Ian suggests to Rachel that they not end their relationship, Rachel reminds Ian that is not an option.

Note that after Rachel goes to sleep, Ian takes down her contact information. He promises himself that he will use it only if it becomes necessary. It is assumed this would be in the case that some media outlet learned of their affair and Ian needed to get in touch with Rachel for instructions. Notice also how angry Ian gets when he wakes up and Rachel is gone. Although she had told him she intended to make a clean break at the end of the week, he apparently didn't believe how intent she was on making that clean break.

Discussion Question 1

Why might Ian need Rachel's contact information?



Discussion Question 2

In what ways is the podiatrist condescending to Ari? How does his attitude set the stage for her encounter with Rafe?

Discussion Question 3

How realistic are the love scenes in this novel?

Vocabulary

Decadent, abhorrent, conceding, inevitable, enraptured, virile, lissome.



Chapters Twenty-one – Twenty-three

Summary

In Chapter Twenty-one, Ari leaves the restaurant believing that she has finally gotten the upper hand on Rafe. On the street, however, he walks up behind her, then pulls her into a waiting limo. She tries to resist him, but he brings up the subject of the journal. She wants to read more of the journal but since he tells her that he can't promise he will keep his hands off her a second time alone in his house, Ari decides to try to meet him at a public library. Surprisingly, he agrees. Before she gets out of the car, however, Rafe kisses her making her body deny her desire for him. He asks her to invite him into her house, giving her enough time to collect herself. Ari refuses. Once she is alone, she realizes how badly she has done in her attempt to keep Rafe from knowing how much she wants him.

In Chapter Twenty-two, Lia realizes how much she loves Shane. Taking the opportunity, she asks him about his childhood. She'd always known it had been difficult but never knew the details. She learns that his father raped his mother while they were still dating, causing her to get pregnant. Both Shane's mother and father hated him. His father beat both him and his mother. Finally, as an older teenager, Shane decided he'd had enough and beaten his father badly before leaving and never returning. His mother had killed her husband a short time later. She is now in a mental institution. Lia tries to encourage Shane to visit his mother as a way of putting the entire ordeal behind him. As he begins to make love to her again, she thinks briefly about a comment that he has made about not wanting children. She wonders if this is really true because although she does not want children at this point in her life, she knows that she will later on.

In Chapter Twenty-three, Ari meets in the library as planned with Rafe. He has a special lunch on the third floor for them. After they finish eating, she begins reading the journal and gets so caught up in it that she doesn't even notice the library closing. When she does finally notice, she is alone with Rafe. She tells him that she needs to go but he insists on kissing her before she leaves. Believing that she may have been influenced by the emotions of the journal, Ari gives into Rafe and they have sex together.

Analysis

Two chapters of this section are dedicated to Rafe and Ari as Rafe continues to push Ari to give in to his desires. Ari thinks that she has gotten free of Rafe when she walks out on him in the restaurant but he actually gets the best of her when he slips up behind her, forcing her into a limo to take her home. During their ride, Rafe tempts Ari with the journal. He won't let her take it home with her but does agree to meet her at a public library to let her read some more of it. Rafe is smarter than Ari gives him credit as he arranges their meeting at a library to which he gives lots of donations. Because he is a donor, the library personnel let him serve Ari a good dinner and even stay with her after



hours. They are alone in the library before Ari realizes what has happened. Rafe again tries to seduce her and is successful. Ari believes that she gives in to his so easily because of the emotions that the journal entries have stirred in her.

Meanwhile, Lia learns about Shane's traumatic childhood. Before their evening together, Lia had never known much about Shane's background. She'd known only that he really didn't have much family that he talked about. Lia does, however, try to encourage Shane to visit his mother once they are rescued from the island. She believes that the visit will give Shane some closure on their relationship. One comment from Shane that concerns Lia is his insinuation that he doesn't want children.

Discussion Question 1

What does Lia learn about Shane during their time on the island?

Discussion Question 2

How does Rafe trick Ari into spending time along with him?

Discussion Question 3

Why might Shane not want children? Why would this cause a problem between he and Lia?

Vocabulary

Smug, piqued, reprehensible, decorum, traitorous, tamped, irascible, consensual, malleable, inviolable, figuratively, plebeian, uncongenial, appropriated, tome.



Chapters Twenty-four – Twenty-six

Summary

In Chapter Twenty-four, after they spend a few days in their cave hideout, Shane tells Lia they need to move closer to the beach so they'll have a better chance at getting rescued. Shane mentions marriage, which almost incites a panic attack in Lia. After Shane initially asks what is wrong and doesn't get a good answer, he pretends that everything is okay. Lia dreads having to go back to the real world but still helps Shane build a fire pit to signal searchers of their whereabouts.

In Chapter Twenty-five, Rachel begins her job at the embassy. She is bored with the paperwork that makes up her job but steels herself, reminding herself how badly she wants to prove that she is not a spoiled brat. She talks to Rafe on the phone. They share their concern that neither of them has talked to Lia in several days. After she hangs up with Rafe, a man who works in her office offers to meet her for dinner. She accepts.

In Chapter Twenty-six, Lia leaves their tent for an early morning swim. Shane wakes to the sight of her coming out of the water. They make love on the beach even though Shane does not think that he has anything left in him. At the end of the chapter it is noted that the two don't have much time left alone together.

Analysis

Completely unlike any other couple stranded on a deserted island, Lia and Shane are actually dreading being rescued. Their move out the cave is one that they make reluctantly. The two do make love on the beach, both traditionally and orally, with all encounters described in great detail. In one encounter, Shane keeps telling Lia to stop, leaving the reader to wonder if he is just tired or perhaps there is a boat coming up behind them. It is indicated at the end of Chapter Twenty-six that Shane and Lia don't have much time left together on the island. Meanwhile, Rafe and Rachel learn that neither have heard from Lia in several days, a lack of contact that is unusual for the members of the very close family.

Discussion Question 1

How do Lia and Shane plan to signal their whereabouts? Why do the two not want to leave the island?

Discussion Question 2

What causes Rafe and Rachel to get worried about Lia and Shane?



Discussion Question 3

How has their time on the island been beneficial to Shane and Lia?

Vocabulary

Daunting, pristine, impeccable, nymphomaniac, engorged.



Chapters Twenty-seven – Twenty-nine

Summary

In Chapter Twenty-seven, Rafe learns that Lia and Shane have been missing for three days. He goes to tell Ari what has happened and that he is going to Italy to look for them. He is surprised when she announces that she is going with him.

In Chapter Twenty-eight, now that they are alone, Rafe takes the opportunity to try to pin Ari down about their relationship. She is upset when she accidentally admits to him that she has been with no other man since him. When he suggests to her that they get married, Ari believes that she has heard incorrectly. He indicates that is his intention for their relationship. Ari goes to the bathroom to get away from him, realizing that the flight will be a long one.

In Chapter Twenty-nine, Rafe leaves Ari alone as the stewardess brings them food and they eat. He tells her that he attended her graduation ceremony, an idea that both surprises and pleases Ari. He continues to press her, telling her that it is she that he wants and he will do whatever it takes to get her back. Although Ari cannot deny her attraction to Rafe, she believes that if they get back together, they will eventually end up in the same spot that led to their break up two years ago. Tired, she goes to lay down on the jet's guest bed. She wants to be angry when Rafe curls up behind her but is too exhausted. He tells her that he only wants to comfort her. She falls asleep in his arms.

Analysis

Rafe is surprised when Ari offers to go with him to look for Shane and Lia. He does not turn down her offer, though, and in a way takes advantage of the time to try to convince Ari that he is really interested in a serious relationship. In Rafe's credit, he does recognize how tired she is and decides that it might be best to leave her alone. Although he's done much talking about the way that he has changed, Ari still isn't for sure that what he is saying is real.

These three chapters focus on the time that Ari and Rafe spend alone on the jet while they search for Lia and Shane. The tone is strained as Ari is tired. She is also more concerned about her friends than she is about Rafe's advances. Even though he might do well to concentrate on the task at hand, Rafe seems determined to use the time trying to convince Ari that he has changed.

Discussion Question 1

Does it surprise you that Ari offers to go with Rafe to search for Lia? Why or why not?



Discussion Question 2

At what point does it appear that Ari might have made a bad decision allowing herself to be alone with Rafe for so long?

Discussion Question 3

Why is it a surprise to Ari that Rafe suggests that he intends for their relationship to end in marriage?

Vocabulary

Repercussions, conquests, reprieve, aphrodisiac, cajoled, abated, myriad, flay, retort, solace, perfidious.



Chapters Thirty – Thirty-two

Summary

In Chapter Thirty, a helicopter arrives to rescue Lia and Shane. One of the men on board seems confused that she and Shane aren't happier than they are about being rescued. As she thinks about how the pilot is probably letting her family know at that moment that she has been found, Lia suddenly realizes that Shane has no family to notify. Her family is his family. It hits her that is why Shane told Rafe about their new romance, Rafe was like a brother to him. She apologizes to Shane even though he doesn't know for what she is apologizing. He tells her their relationship won't end once they get back home.

In Chapter Thirty-one, Lia and Shane are greeted by Rachel, Rafe and Ari once they are back on the ground. Rachel and Rafe insist that they go to the doctor to be checked out. Rafe feels badly for Ari, knowing that she doesn't have a large family like his to support her. He still cares for Ari's mother and uses her florist shop. He and Shane discuss how Shane and Lia came to be stranded and what's happened since then. Rafe indicates Ari is thawing toward him but Shane doesn't think so. The five get into a waiting limo to go and celebrate Lia and Shane's safety.

In Chapter Thirty-two, Lia and Shane share a dance and are thinking of some way to slip out on the family when Ari interrupts them. She forces them back to the table, telling them that it would be rude not to spend time with their family. Lia, however, torments Shane as they sit next to each other by talking dirty in his ear and handing him her panties under the table. Shane feels embarrassed and aroused at the same time. When they get back to the room, he has his way with her.

Analysis

The importance of family in the Palazzo family becomes obvious as the family celebrates Lia's safe return. It is also during these chapters that Lia finally realizes why Shane told Rafe about their affair. He wasn't intending to be disloyal as Lia had once thought. In reality, Rafe was the only family that Shane had. Rafe is like a brother to Shane. Rafe is the only person with whom Shane felt the comfort to share his feelings and experiences.

Discussion Question 1

Describe how you might have felt as the helicopter flight crew if the people you came to rescue did not seem happy to be rescued?



Discussion Question 2

What does Lia finally realize that helps her to understand why Shane told Rafe about their affair. How does this help her feel better about their relationship?

Discussion Question 3

How does Lia flirt with Shane during the family dinner? At what point does her behavior pass the point of flirtatious and move into the realm of embarrassing? Do you believe her behavior is appropriate?

Vocabulary

Ecstatic, convey, declaration, goaded, cove, reverting, ravishing, wanton.



Chapters Thirty-three – Thirty-five

Summary

In Chapter Thirty-three, Ari has been bombarded with gifts from Rafe ever since she returned to teaching. She has decided that she should just give in to her desire for him. His last gift held a note inviting her to spend the evening with him. She sees him in class but is disappointed when he leaves before the end of class. Outside her building he is waiting with a Jaguar and orchid. She agrees to go with him only if he allows her to be in control. They eat dinner, then commence their sexual time. Ari teases him by tying his arms behind his back and not allowing him to touch her. When he can stand it no longer, he breaks free and takes charge, making Ari tell him that he is in control.

In Chapter Thirty-four, Rachel is pregnant. She has four positive home pregnancy tests and a doctor's word. When she returns home from her doctor's appointment, Rachel is surprised to find Ian at her door. He tells her that he is a king and that they must get married and go back to his country to raise his heir. Rachel is both frightened and angry. She orders him to leave but he tells her that he will have a guard watch her until he returns. Although Rachel is dreading the confrontation, she knows that it is time to call her family.

In Chapter Thirty-five, Lia and Shane are walking through the streets of town when Shane goes after a boy who steals a woman's purse. Lia finds him confronting the boy. The boy is holding a knife. Shane is trying to talk to the boy, to tell him he understands his situation and that he wants to help him. When the boy sees Lia he is afraid he is being ganged up on. Shane convinces Lia to go back to the hotel but as she turns to go, she is struck by a bullet.

Analysis

Rachel has discovered she is pregnant. She knows that it is from her one night stand with Ian. She still has no idea who he is or how to get in touch with him if she wanted to let him know. The writer's choice of the words "royally screwed up" is ironic for Rachel as she contemplates her pregnancy. Ian, who had apparently taken her contact information just for this purpose, shows up at Rachel's house when she returns from her doctor's appointment confirming her pregnancy. He is very blunt and forceful in declaring himself a king and demanding that she return to his kingdom with him as the baby will be the royal heir. Rachel is shocked and surprised as she strikes out at the man with whom she'd spent such a wonderful time just a few weeks prior. She really doesn't know anything about him. She isn't sure if he is telling her the truth or if he is crazy. She has not been raised to respond as quickly to the man's command as Ian expects her to be. He warns her that he will tame her spirit.



Meanwhile, Shane and Lia encounter a child on the street who steals a woman's purse. In his attempt to make the boy realize his way of life is not the best choice, Shane tracks the boy down and tries to talk him into believing there is a way to make his life better. The way Shane talks to the boy, it seems that he is familiar with life on the streets. Shane asks Lia to leave him and the boy alone. It appears that he wants privacy not only because Lia seems to be spooking the boy but also because he wants to talk to the boy about things that he does not want Lia to know that he is even aware of. Unfortunately, the chapter ends as Lia is shot with something, a cliffhanger to make the reader wonder if she will survive.

Now that they know that Lia and Shane are safe, Rafe amps up the pressure on Ari. He bombards her with gifts and loving notes. Ari has suddenly decided that she should just give in to Rafe's advances though no specific explanation for her decision is given. She does, however, give him a lesson in how it feels to be controlled as she ties him up for their next sexual encounter, telling him that she wants to be the one in charge for a change. Rafe, however, reverts to his take command personality when he breaks free of the bonds that she has put on him and makes Ari tell him that he is the one in full control.

Discussion Question 1

Why is it important for Ari to have control over Rafe during their sexual encounter? What is she trying to make him understand?

Discussion Question 2

Compare and contrast the Ian with whom Rachel spent time on the island and the Ian who confronts her in her apartment about the pregnancy? What is different about these two personalities? What is the same?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Shane want Lia to leave him alone with the boy who has stolen the purse?

Vocabulary

Suave, toothsome, impasse, sate, impromptu, euphoria, pivotal, berating, fluctuation, audacity, oblivious, callous, emanating.



Chapters Thirty-six – Thirty-eight

Summary

In Chapter Thirty-six, Rafe and Ari are stuck together on an elevator as they return from watering the plants of one of Ari's professor friends. During the time, Ari asks Rafe to tell her about his time in South America. He starts out by talking about the way he treated women after his ex-wife left him. That he was cold and calculating but that Ari had changed that without him even realizing it. He tells her about the man whose wife dies in childbirth, then he kills himself, not wanting to go on alone. He says that his love for Ari is so strong that he does not want to live without her. She is awed by the way that he talks honestly to her about his feelings and his mistakes. She wonders even after hearing what he's had to say if she can overcome the pain he had caused her.

In Chapter Thirty-seven, Rachel has agreed to meet Ian at an American café. She believes they will finally be able to talk rationally. As soon as he begins, however, Ian begins talking about her rudeness and insolence and his need to tame her. Revolting against the idea that men are superior, Rachel leaves him. He pulls her into an alleyway to tell her that she must marry him and he must have a role in raising their baby. Rachel knees him in the groin, then runs.

In Chapter Thirty-eight, Shane is angry as he faces off against the men who have shot Lia with a stun gun. He knocks out the leader of the group, causing the others to rethink their position, shown by the fear on their faces. Another member rushes him but he is knocked out by Shane as well. The third gang member runs, leaving Shane alone with the boy. Shane throws the boy his card, telling him that his life can be better. He suggests the boy start by giving the woman back her purse. Shane then gathers up Lia and hails a cab to get her to the hospital.

At the hospital, doctors determine that Lia will be okay. When she wakes, Lia asks Shane how they got away. Shane doesn't want to tell her, knowing he will have to reveal more about himself than he thinks Lia can handle. He promises they will talk later and Lia goes back to sleep. Shane curls up in her hospital bed beside her.

Analysis

While they are stuck in a broken down elevator Rafe finally tells Ari about his experiences in Paraguay. As they talk, Ari begins to feel differently about him than she did when they entered the elevator. She believes that he has truly had a change of heart and that he really does know what love is. Even with this new information, however, Ari admits to herself that she still isn't really sure that she can ever completely trust Rafe.

Meanwhile, Shane continues to try to hide information about his past from Lia. He has used skills that he apparently learned on the street to get the best of the gang of men. He doesn't kill any of the men, only hurts them badly enough to make them understand



that he means business. Even though these skills saved his life and perhaps even Lia's, Shane does not trust her enough to tell her the truth about his past experiences.

Ian and Rachel try again to have a conversation about the baby. When Ian again approaches the situation with his condescending tone and threats, Rachel physically runs from him. He corners her in an alleyway, basically threatening her if she doesn't do what he wants. She knees him in the groin, then runs again.

Discussion Question 1

As king of a country, as Ian is, does he have the ability to make Rachel marry him against her will? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Why is it important to their relationship that Rafe has finally told Ari about his experiences in Paraguay?

Discussion Question 3

Do you believe Shane should be open with Lia about his past? Why do you think he does not trust her with the truth?

Vocabulary

Trepidation, contraption, turbulent, timbre, torrid, promiscuity, vendetta, archaic, chauvinist, alcove, insolence.



Chapters Thirty-nine – Forty-one

Summary

In Chapter Thirty-nine, the elevator finally begins to move, freeing Rafe and Ari. As they walk back to the car, Ari notes this was their best date. Rafe apologizes for treating her so badly in the past and promises never to do so again. Ari wonders if he wants to marry or if he just wants her as a permanent mistress, but decides to accept his promise nonetheless.

In Chapter Forty, Lia convinces Shane to visit his mother. Because the woman is such an empty shell, Lia is afraid at first the trip was a bad idea, that Betty's admission to her son that she hated him might be too much. As they leave, Betty begs Shane to stop hurting her. Shane goes to her and tells her that he is setting her free, that she has suffered enough. As they walk away from the room, Shane and Lia hear Betty laughing. Shane admits to Lia how happy he is that she made him come.

In Chapter Forty-one, Ari wakes to a room filled with flowers. More flowers and notes from Rafe await her in the bathroom where there is a note telling her to get dressed and come outside. A limo is waiting but Rafe is not inside. Instead a video plays of Rafe, her mother and all the people who are special to her telling her how much she means to them. At a garden, Ari is escorted out of the car and told to follow the path. She meets Rafe, who proposes to her. She accepts. She hears applause as her family members and friends step out of the shadows.

Analysis

Rafe finally asks Ari to marry him in this section of the novel. She accepts. As he had told her once, he does not propose lightly or on the spur of the moment. He has planned the event for several days, maybe even weeks. He's even gone so far as the have family members make a video for Ari, then join them for a celebration after she accepts his proposal. The proposal comes on the heels of Rafe admitting to Ari how badly he treated her in the past. He apologizes for his behavior.

Also in this section of the novel Shane finally gets some closure on his relationship with his mother. Lia convinces him to go and visit her at the mental institution where she has been housed since she admitted to killing Shane's father. Lia notes what an empty shell of a person his mother seems to be. Shane does learn that his mother stayed with his father because her father would not allow her home after she got pregnant even though the pregnancy was the product of a rape. She admits to Shane that she was mean to him but Lia sees terror in her eyes.

Even with the bits of information that Betty is able to give them, Shane knows that the person who hurt him so badly is gone. As they stand to leave, Betty begs Shane to stop hurting her. In an action that is probably freeing for Shane as much as it is for Betty,



Shane tells the woman that he is setting her free, so she doesn't have to hurt or be afraid any more. Walking down the hall, Shane and Lia hear Betty laughing, a sign that she has accepted the freedom pronounced to her by her son. Shane has had the power to hurt his mother in return for all the hurt she caused him or to respond to her differently than all the people in her life had responded to her. Shane chooses to give her some comfort, allowing some sense of closure for both of them.

Discussion Question 1

How does Shane get the sense of closure Lia had hoped that he would get from seeing his mother one last time?

Discussion Question 2

There continue to be references to Shane having some high power position in the military. With what do you think Shane might be involved? Why is he not able to tell his family what he is doing?

Discussion Question 3

Does Rafe set up the perfect proposal for Ari? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Trepidation, subjunctive, cajoling, agape.



Chapters Forty-two – Forty-four

Summary

In Chapter Forty-two, Rachel and Lia join Ari as she searches for a perfect dress. She finally finds one she likes. As she and the girls prepare to leave the bridal shop, Ari asks Rachel what is bothering her. They refuse to leave until she tells them. Rachel bluntly tells them she is pregnant and that the man who is the father claims to be a king. Lia and Ari are first too shocked to say much until they realize the hilarity of the situation. Before they leave, they promise each other that they will stick together to support one another and the baby.

In Chapter Forty-three, Shane tells Lia that he is still in the military and that he is going on a mission. She is angry at first because she believes he is lying, then is angry because she realizes he isn't lying. She leaves. Shane goes for a run, hoping that she will calm down and reconsider before he has to leave.

In Chapter Forty-four, on the night of Rafe's bachelor party Lia and Rachel talk Ari into taking the stripper's place in the cake at the party. Ari is just about to emerge from the cake when the chapter ends.

Analysis

Just as Shane had feared, Lia gets angry with him when he tells her that he is still in the military. First, she is mad because she doesn't believe him and thinks he's only making an excuse to get away from her. Then she's even madder at him when she realizes that he's telling her the truth. Her behavior seems childish and immature.

Rachel finally opens up to Ari and Lia about her pregnancy. She has still not told Rafe because she is afraid of his reaction. Surprisingly, Ari and Lia both take the pregnancy in stride, even considering that Rachel claims to be carrying the heir to a royal throne. Although the three are close and trust each other, it seems that they would be a little more shocked at the circumstances of Rachel's pregnancy.

Discussion Question 1

Are Shane's fears realized when he tells Lia he is still in the military? Why do you think that she reacts the way she does?

Discussion Question 2

How is Ari's mother an important fixture in her life?



Discussion Question 3

How do Lia and Ari respond to Rachel's announcement that she is pregnant by a king? Do they seem to believe her story too easily?

Vocabulary

Pompous.



Chapters Forty-five – Epilogue

Summary

In Chapter Forty-five, Ari is at first angry that Rafe could get aroused by a stripper, then learns that he knew it was her all along. He is angry when he realizes how little she is wearing in front of all of his friends. He orders them to leave. While he is still tied up, Ari teases him and they have sex. They are barely able to walk when they leave the party location the following morning.

In Chapter Forty-six, Ari and Lia are both ready for Ari and Rafe's wedding but Rachel is nowhere to be found. Lia admits she hasn't seen her since earlier that morning. The two decide to check her room. They find a note. Ari and Lia decide they have to tell Rafe about the note before the wedding. Shane and Rafe are surprised when the two women walk in on them. Rafe is angry. He tells Lia and Rachel that he wished that they'd told him what was happening. He thinks that he might have had some affect on the outcome of the situation.

Shane takes Lia to talk to her about their issues while Rafe and Ari decide to postpone the wedding. Rafe tells Ari that he had believed Ian was his friend. Ari tells Rafe's parents what has happened, then announces to the crowd that the wedding is postponed. When she goes back to Rafe, his mother is reading the note from Ian. It tells the family that Ian is having Rachel examined by his own doctor, then taken to his country where they will be married. He says the family can attend but should not try to change his mind about the wedding. Ian also insists that Rachel will be well cared for.

In the Epilogue, Rafe finally talks to Ian on the phone. He tells Adriane that he will not allow his sister to be married against his will. Ian just as firmly tells Rafe he will not allow his child to be raised away from him. At the book's conclusion, Rafe is ordering the jet to be fueled so that he can travel to Corythia.

Analysis

Ari and Rafe's wedding is delayed as it is discovered that Adriane has basically had Rachel kidnapped. All action is left up in the air as Shane and Lia have gone away to discuss their problems, Rafe and Ari still aren't married, and Rachel is on the verge of being forced to marry a man she doesn't love. To compound the difficulty, it is learned in these last chapters that Rafe had believed that Adriane was a friend of his as they had worked on deals together in the past. This friendship does not seem to come into play as Adriane seems to believe that he has the power to make Rachel do what he wants despite her wishes.



Discussion Question 1

Knowing now that Rafe was a friend of Adriane's, do you think that Ian might have recognized Rachel when he saw her on the island? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Why is it significant that Ari and Rafe have to delay their wedding? Do you believe their union will be threatened in the coming sequel?

Discussion Question 3

Do you think Shane and Lia will be able to patch their differences? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

Blanched, insubordination, nuptials, consort.



Characters

Shane Grayson

Shane Grayson is trying to woo Lia Palazzo, a woman who had loved him for years but whom he had always scorned. After an initial fling, Shane tells Rafe, Lia's brother, about their affair. Lia feels she has been betrayed. Now, she refuses to be swayed by Shane. While the two are working together on the Gli Amanti Cove project, Shane tells Lia they need to go to town to get supplies. The only way to get there is by boat so they board Shane's yacht for the trip. Shane is distracted thinking about finding a way to impress Lia and loses track of the weather. A storm sets in and wrecks the boat, stranding the two on a deserted island. Shane reconnects with Lia during their days on the island. He finally tells her about his childhood as he was the product of a rape and was hated by both his parents. His father beat him and his mother regularly. Shane eventually left his parents after beating his father. His mother later kills his father and is confined to a mental institution.

When they get off the island, Lia insists that Shane reconnect with his mother. Although his mother seems to be very unhinged, she begs Shane to stop hurting her. He tells her that she is now free, an act that gives them both a new outlook on life. Although he had told others that he was no longer active military, Shane is due to go on a mission the day after Ari and Rafe's wedding. When he tells Lia that he is still in the military she is first angry with him because she thinks he is lying, then is angry with him because she knows that he isn't lying. Shane has still not managed to patch things up with Lia at the conclusion of the novel.

Arianna Ari Harlow

Arianna Harlow has just put her life back in order when Rafe, the man whom she both loves and hates appears promising to woo her back to him. Rafe had apparently first initiated a relationship with the young Ari by insisting that she be his mistress, and that she allow him to be in complete control. While Rafe thinks that he has to prove his love to Ari with gifts and romance, she seems to want Rafe to be able to yield to her control. Although Ari seems to be very intelligent, she allows Rafe to manipulate her using an old Civil War journal that one of his ancestors kept. She responds to Rafe's tempting of her with the journal just as a rabbit would respond to a carrot dangled in front of it. Ari seems to be starting down a dangerous trail when she decides to see if she can bring out Rafe's old personality. While she does need to know with whom she's dealing, and discover if Rafe's transformation is real, she may find herself in a tight spot by tempting him so strongly. Ari does, however, finally give in to Rafe's desire for a renewed sexual relationship. He continues to insist that he still wants marriage but Ari is not really sure that he has changed until he tells her the story of his time in Paraguay and his relationship with the young couple there who were so much in love.



Rafe Palazzo

Rafe Palazzo is the brother of Lia and Rachel. He had originally met Ari when he interviewed her for the “job” of being his mistress. Ari broke up with Rafe because he required her to be completely obedient to him. During a mission project in Paraguay, Rafe gets attached to a couple that is expecting a baby. The wife dies in childbirth the night the couple moves into the new house that Rafe has helped build for them. The husband kills himself because he cannot stand to live without his wife. It is from this experience that Rafe realizes that Ari is the one woman with whom he wants to spend his life.

Rafe spends his time trying to win Ari back. He starts by enticing her to visit him by letting her see a Civil War journal. He continues to put himself in Ari’s life, including taking her college class, until she begins to give in to him. It is not until he tells her the story of the Paraguay couple that Ari realizes that he has really had a change of heart about love. He proposes marriage to her in an incredibly romantic way and she accepts. Rafe and Ari have to postpone their wedding, however, when Rachel is kidnapped.

Lia Palazzo

Lia Palazzo is a sister to both Rafe and Rachel. She had been attracted to Shane Grayson, Rafe’s friend, for years. Shane had finally responded to her. The two had slept together but Lia has become angry with Shane because he told Rafe about their fling. Lia now runs from and avoids Shane. She is immature in the ways that she puts her life and Shane’s life in jeopardy when she runs from him while they are trapped on the island and refuses to comply with his requests. Although Lia finally realizes that Shane did not tell Rafe about their affair to hurt her but instead because Rafe was the only family he had, she soon becomes angry with Shane again for a conceived slight. Shane tells her that he is still on active duty with the military and that he must leave for a mission. Since Lia is selfish and self-centered, she assumes he’s leaving because he’s lost interest in the relationship. Lia does help Shane, though, by insisting that he go to visit his mother at the psychiatric hospital where she is serving a sentence for killing Shane’s father. Lia’s suggestion allows Shane to be able to put some closure on his strained relationship with his mother.

Rachel Palazzo

Rachel Palazzo is the younger sister of Rafe and Lia. In an attempt to prove herself to her family, Rachel has taken a job at the American embassy in Italy. Before she starts the job, Rachel decides that she wants to treat herself to a week’s vacation. It is during this vacation that she meets Ian with whom she has a week long affair. Several weeks after the vacation, Rachel discovers she is pregnant. At first she believes that being a single mother will be the worst of her problems but then Ian shows up telling her the baby will be an heir to the throne. Although she’d been so attracted to him during their week together, Rachel is now offended by Ian’s pompous and demanding nature. She



believes that she can stay away from him just by refusing to go along with his orders that they must be married. Rachel learns differently, however, when Ian has her kidnapped and taken to his country unwillingly.

Adriane “Ian” King of Corythia

Adriane introduces himself to Rachel simply as “Ian” when they meet, never letting on that he is soon to be ascending the throne as the king of his country. He engages in a week long affair with Rachel during which they never reveal their true identities. On the last day of their relationship, Ian copies Rachel’s contact information, promising himself that he will get in touch with her only if necessary. Ian does find it necessary to get in touch with Rachel when he discovers that she is pregnant with his child. When Ian returns to tell Ian who he is and what the child she carries is, he seems more conceited and pompous than he ever was during their time on the island. Rachel refuses to go with him willingly so he has her kidnapped and taken back to his home country.

Gianni

Gianni is Ian’s older brother. Though Gianni should have inherited the throne of Corythia he had left home at the age of eighteen looking for adventure. He’d made friends with people who were enemies of his father. Now that their father has died and Ian is in line to inherit the crown, Gianni has resurfaced, demanding the throne is his.

Andino

Andino is the boy whom Shane confronts when he steals a woman’s purse. He knows the position the boy is in as he has been there himself. Shane tries to get the boy to let him help, but one of Andino’s gang members shoots Lia with a stun gun. Shane throws the boy a business card and quickly takes Lia to the doctor.

Betty Grayson

Betty Grayson is Shane Grayson’s mother. Betty got pregnant with Shane when she was raped by her fiance Hank. Betty hates Shane because he is a product of a rape. She is cruel to him. After Shane runs away from his parents, Betty kills Hank. She admits to the crime and is sentenced to a mental institution.

Dr. Lynn Sherman

Dr. Lynn Sherman is the podiatrist with whom Ari goes on one date because she is set up by friends. He orders an expensive meal then leaves her with the ticket. After the ruined date, the doctor actually has the gall to call her back, wanting another date.



Harold

Harold is a man who befriends Rachel during her first few days of her job at the embassy. It turns out that Harold is not only a friend of Rachel's, but also a friend of Ian's whom he has enlisted to help him keep an eye on Rachel.

Sandra

Sandra is Ari's mother. She has almost died twice recently, first in a car crash then with cancer. Ari is overjoyed to have her mother with her during her wedding preparations. Rafe also loves Ari's mother and buys all of his flowers from her florist shop.

Hank Grayson

Hank Grayson is Shane's father. He is a cruel man who beats both his wife and son. He got Betty pregnant with Shane when he raped her before they were married. Hank is killed by Betty.



Symbols and Symbolism

Gli Amanti Cove

Gli Amanti Cove is the name of the development that Lia and Shane are working on together.

Shane's Yacht

Lia and Shane take his yacht to a nearby town to try to get supplies. Shane loses track of the weather, and the yacht is wrecked in a storm.

Old Civil War Journal

Rafe uses his ancestor's old Civil War journal as a way to entice Ari to spend time with him.

A Note

A note is left in Rachel's hotel room letting the family know that Ian has taken her to be his bride.



Settings

Mandarin Oriental

The Mandarin Oriental is the hotel in which Rachel and Ian spend much of their time during their week long affair.

Italy

As the Palazzo family is Italian, much of the novel is set in Italy. Italy is the place where Rachel gets a job in the embassy.

Ari's Classroom

It is in Ari's classroom that she sees Rafe again for the first time when he attends the college course that she is teaching.

Third Floor of the Library

Ari agrees to go to the library with Rafe believing that he cannot make a move on her in such a public place. It turns out that Rafe donates to the library and is allowed special privileges. The two wind up staying past the library's closing time and making love, even though Ari had wanted to avoid this act.

Uninhabited Island

When Shane's yacht is wrecked during a storm, he and Lia find themselves stranded on an uninhabited island. It is on this island that they are able to rekindle their love.

Cave on the Island

Shane and Lia spend a significant amount of time on the island in a cave Shane finds near a clear pool of water.

Paraguay

It is in Paraguay that Rafe realizes what love really is when he sees the dedication of the young couple whom he tries to help.



Themes and Motifs

Regaining Trust, Lost Love

One of the main struggles that both Ari and Rafe, and Lia and Shane have to overcome in order to acknowledge their love for one another is the loss of trust. Both couples have experienced a loss of trust even though they are still technically in love with one another. Each couple's story is different with Rafe and Ari regaining their love and trust at the end of the novel while Lia and Shane are still working on the trust issue.

Ari's background with Rafe is the main cause of her distrust in his intentions when he re-enters her life two years after she broke off a relationship with him. Their relationship had begun when Ari apparently answered a want ad believing that she was applying for a job. In reality, the job was to serve as Rafe's mistress. During their relationship Rafe had treated Ari badly insisting that he have full control over her and their relationship. Ari had finally broken the relationship off knowing that she'd never be more to Rafe than just a warm body. When Rafe realizes how badly he has messed up his relationship with Ari, he is willing to do anything that it might take to put things back together. What is most important in Rafe's regrowing relationship with Ari is his willingness to tell Ari his experiences in Paraguay.

In Shane and Lia's story, Lia gets angry with Shane because he tells her brother about their budding romance. Lia believes that Shane has violated her trust by telling Rafe about their relationship. She later realizes Shane told Rafe about their affair because Rafe is as close to family as Shane has. Shane had shared his experience because Rafe is the only person he has to bounce ideas and experiences off of, giving him some grounding.

Family

The importance of family is a very strong theme in this novel. Although Ari has only her mother as her family, she is very attached to her mother. There have been two instances in which Ari was in danger of losing her mother. She realizes how important it is that her mother is able to be with her as Rafe proposes to her and she prepares for her wedding.

As a large Italian family, the Palazzos are very close. Rachel, Lia and Rafe are highly supportive of one another. When Lia goes missing, Rafe and Rachel immediately begin a plan to locate her and Shane. When Ian kidnaps Rachel, the whole family puts off the impending wedding in order to bring Rachel home.

Adversely, Shane's family life is completely different from that of Lia. He was the product of rape. His mother is forced to marry her rapist because her father tells her that she is a sinner. The man beats and is cruel to both Shane and Shane's mother. Shane's mother also hates Shane. She is cruel to him as well. Shane finally gets fed up with the



abuse and leaves home. At one point in the novel Shane chides Lia for not being able to understand that some people did not have the family support that she did. He points out to her that many people don't even still have parents who are still married, as Lia's parents are.

Love Versus Lust

Love versus lust is also a theme that is important to this novel. All three couples in the novel seem to begin their relationship with lust instead of love. The sexual desire seems to be most important to each of them as they concentrate on their desire for one another. Rafe initiated his relationship with Ari out of lust. He wanted an attractive woman with whom to spend his nights. Ari loves the way that Rafe makes her feel, but knows that he does not love her as a person. Even though she tries to guard against it, Ari allows Rafe to have sex with her, putting her back in a similar position to the one she was in two years ago before she ended their relationship.

Similarly, Lia tries to deny Shane while they are on the island together, but her body reacts to him even against her will. Shane finally forces her to be with him. Their shared experience opens them up to one another. Now that Lia is no longer fighting so hard against Shane, she is now able to talk to him.

Rachel and Ian have a relationship that is based completely on lust. They like the way one another looks, and they want to sleep with each other. Almost like animals, the two take advantage of one another for the entire week. They never develop a love relationship. Rachel, however, gets pregnant, a detail that complicates the affair they wanted to be fun and uncomplicated. Now there is no longer any lust for one another, Rachel seems unable to stomach Ian while Ian thinks only about how much fun he will have taming Rachel.

Styles

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person. The narrator is omniscient and seems reliable as he reports on the thoughts and emotions of all the characters throughout the novel. The point of view is important as the stories of three different couples are told throughout the course of the book. The narration rotates from character to character as the stories are told. It would be difficult to tell the story from any viewpoint other than that of an omniscient narrator.

The book is divided about evenly between dialogue and exposition with the majority of the exposition describing the steamy sex scenes between the characters. These descriptions, of course, make up the “romance” portion of the book. The exposition comes as characters talk about what is happening to them and other characters.

Language and Meaning

As this is a romance novel, much of the language of the novel is very sexual in nature. Descriptions of both regular and oral sex are very detailed though perhaps a little unrealistic. It is interesting that during the sex scenes, the sex organs of the male and female body are not called by their scientific or even slang terms. The women’s parts are referred to using terms like “her heat” or “her core” while the man’s parts are “his manhood.” This may be done in order to keep the sex scenes from becoming too scientific and stiff sounding with the use of proper names while the slang may be avoided to keep the scenes from seeming vulgar.

Aside from the sex scenes, the excitement level of the rest of the book is kind of stale. The tone of the novel doesn’t reflect characters getting really worked up when things that would generally cause an emotional reaction happen. For instance, when Lia is unconscious when the ship wrecks, the tone of the novel doesn’t really reflect the panic that one would expect Shane to have. It stays fairly stable, no matter what is happening.

Structure

The novel is divided into Forty-six chapters. A prologue, in which the action takes place two years before the action of Chapter One, gives the reader an idea what has been happening between the two main characters, Ari and Rafe. The book ends with an Epilogue that teases the reader and serves as a lead in to the next book in this series. The series includes four books, two that came before “Seduced” with the final book “Scorched” set after the action in this novel. With the exception of the missing two years between the Prologue and Chapter One, the book moves in a linear fashion with no major leaps in time.



Although the novel does have several sub plots in the romantic endeavors of the Palazzo siblings, they are not difficult to follow. Rafe is pursuing Ari, trying to convince him that he has changed. Shane is pursuing Lia, trying to convince her that he did not intend to hurt her. Rachel and Ian have a week-long fling, intending never to see one another again. Rachel's pregnancy, however, complicates their plans and Ian kidnaps her in order to force her to marry him so that he can raise his child in his country.



Quotes

Love for a man like Rafe didn't disappear overnight — apparently, not even after two years. She didn't regret her decision to walk away — it was what she'd had to do — but still, she missed him.

-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph 8)

Importance: Although Ari doesn't think Rafe is the man for her, she cannot help but admit to herself that she misses him.

I did some things I will forever regret, but I've had a lot of time to think since then. Yes, I forced your hand, but the night you walked away from me, you told me you loved me. I'm here to prove I'm worthy of that love.

-- Rafe (Chapter 1 paragraph 45)

Importance: When Rafe first approaches Ari in her classroom, these are the words that he uses to try to convince Ari that he is a different man and is determined to win her love.

She didn't need another man like that, another man who dismissed her, thought of her only as a nice, warm body, useful at night, but not a friend and a confidante.

-- Narrator (Chapter 2 paragraph 13)

Importance: Although Lia is working in close contact with Shane, she is determined not to give in to him again even though she is attracted to him.

Gripping the wheel tightly, he looked out, horrified when he saw the hole in the side of his yacht. He must have hit a reef.

-- Narrator (Chapter 4 paragraph 58)

Importance: Shane has lost track of quickly deteriorating weather as he tries to think of a way that he can get Lia back. The storm tosses the boat into a reef causing it to capsize and Lia and Shane to be trapped on an uninhabited island.

She now had a great internship at the American embassy in Rome. It was boring, but she didn't want to work for her big brother.

-- Narrator (Chapter 8 paragraph 29)

Importance: Determined to prove herself to her family, Rachel takes a job in the American embassy.

He wanted to be free a while longer, build something in this world before he settled down, married and ruled his country.

-- Narrator (Chapter 10 paragraph 8)



Importance: Ian takes a vacation after the death of his father, wanting to get away from his life and sow some wild oats before he has to settle down and be king.

Then her fingers stroked the page where an obvious teardrop from long ago had fallen and smudged the word love. It was so fitting.

-- Narrator (Chapter 11 paragraph 18)

Importance: Although Ari has no intention of getting involved with Rafe again, she is enthralled with the Civil War journal that Rafe lets her read.

Ari was a romantic. Why hadn't he realized this before? If he wanted to win her, he had to treat her the way a woman should be treated, spoil her with priceless gifts or, better, with gifts that cost little but meant much, bring her flowers, take her to historical places.

-- Narrator (Chapter 11 paragraph 32)

Importance: When Rafe watches Ari's fascination with the journal, he realizes that there is more to her than just a sexual woman. It is at this point he knows that he must romance her if she is serious about regaining her trust.

You are mine, Lia. I have given you room, I have been patient, but you want me just as much as I want you, and my patience is finished,' he growled low in his throat before his lips covered hers once again.

-- Shane (Chapter 13 paragraph 7)

Importance: As Shane finally takes charge of Lia, he tells her that he has waited as long as he can for her. He has reached the end of his patience.

This new Rafe, intent on seducing her in a civilized way, was zapping her of willpower.

-- Narrator (Chapter 15 paragraph 9)

Importance: Although Ari does not want to give into Rafe's new attitude on life and his new way of alluring her, she is afraid that he will turn out to be the same controlling man who she knew in the past.

Her temper was going to end up causing her untimely death. There was a point when stubbornness was just plain stupid, and she'd crossed that line, and then redrawn all new boundaries.

-- Narrator (Chapter 16 paragraph 3)

Importance: Lia had run away from Shane and the safety of the cave. Now, she finds herself lost on the island during a coming rainstorm.

She'd given him a piece of her soul when she complied with his commands, and she didn't know if she'd ever get that back.

-- Narrator (Chapter 18 paragraph 42)



Importance: Ari feels as if Rafe has taken a part of her by the way that he treated her during their first relationship. She is not sure if she will ever be whole again.

Trust was the hardest thing to gain back once it was stripped from you. He'd broken her trust, and she was afraid to give it to him again.

-- Narrator (Chapter 19 paragraph 3)

Importance: Shane told Rafe about his fling with Lia. Lia feels as if she has been betrayed by Shane. She feels there is nothing that he can do to regain her trust.

Without a doubt, she'd regret it in the morning. Yes, her night would be passionate and her body fulfilled, but then her heart would begin breaking again, and she'd have to start the healing process all over.

-- Narrator (Chapter 21 paragraph 65)

Importance: Although Ari wants to give in to Rafe, she knows that she will regret the act the following day.

She was weak and pathetic. I hate to say that about my mother, but it's true. The things she let happen to me were things a mother should never allow.

-- Shane (Chapter 22 paragraph 26)

Importance: Shane describes the way his mother, who got pregnant with him when she was raped by her fiance, treated him as a child.

We need each other right now. We can go back to a standoff when this is all over,' he said, his breath rushing along her neck as he spoke.

-- Rafe (Chapter 29 paragraph 45)

Importance: Rafe curls up behind Ari as she tries to nap on the jet as they travel to look for Lia and Shane. He begs her to put aside her anger for the time being until they make sure Shane and Lia are all right.

It's not that, Shane. You hurt me. Out here, none of that mattered, but even now, as the helicopter draws nearer, it's jumping to the forefront of my mind," she said, not wanting to sugarcoat the words.

-- Lia (Chapter 30 paragraph 9)

Importance: Although Lia and Shane had been able to make up with each other on the island, Lia is afraid that once they get back to real life, she will be hurt by Shane again.

He couldn't risk losing that friendship, not for anything, not even for love, especially a new love, an untested, unsure romance... Rafe was his family, his brother, the one person who had been there for him when the rest of the world had forgotten he was there, when his parents had done worse than abandon him — had made him feel he shouldn't even be alive.

-- Narrator (Chapter 30 paragraph 29)



Importance: When Lia thinks about how happy her family will be to see her, she realizes that Shane doesn't have a huge family looking for him. She suddenly realizes that Shane considers Rafe to be a brother. It is for this reason that Shane told Rafe about their fling, not because he intended to betray her.

I guess it's time we formally introduce ourselves. Hello, Rachel Palazzo. I am Adriano, king of Corythia. The child you carry is the royal heir.
-- Ian (Chapter 34 paragraph 34)

Importance: These are the words that Ian uses to tell Rachel that she is not an unwed mother who will raise her child alone. She is the mother of a royal child.

I don't think you understand, Rachel. This matter isn't up for discussion. We will wed. My child won't be born away from my country.
-- Ian (Chapter 34 paragraph 51)

Importance: Ian feels that he has the right to tell Rachel what she can and cannot do because she is carrying his child. He is even insisting that the two be married.

This wasn't the same man she'd met in his sterile office, the man who demanded her total submission.
-- Narrator (Chapter 39 paragraph 27)

Importance: When Rafe tells Ari the story of his experience in Paraguay, she realizes that he has really had a change of heart since she first met him.

Lia, not everyone has a family like yours. As a matter of fact, most people don't. It's unusual for parents to be so great; hell, yours are still married to each other, and who else has parents like that?
-- Shane (Chapter 40 paragraph 5)

Importance: Shane tries to help Lia understand how unusual her family is and how grateful she should be to have parents who are still married.

He did do a lot of volunteer work, but most of the time when he was gone for extensive periods of time, it wasn't because he was building homes in Third World countries; it was because he was saving lives, fighting terrorism and protecting the people he loved — all without their ever knowing.
-- Narrator (Chapter 40 paragraph 8)

Importance: Shane considers the undercover military work that he does, all under the falsehood of doing volunteer work, without the knowledge of his family.

Ari wrapped her arms around her mother, thankful still to have her in her life. If the car wreck or the cancer had taken her mom from her, Ari had no idea what she'd be doing now.



-- Narrator (Chapter 42 paragraph 16)

Importance: Although Ari doesn't have a large blood family like the Palazzos, she is very happy that her mother — whom she'd almost lost twice — is still alive.