

Something Wonderful Study Guide

Something Wonderful by Judith McNaught

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Plot Summary

Something Wonderful is a romantic love story about Alexandra, a young girl living in the country, who takes care of her mother and elderly servants and was taught that everyone is inherently good, and Jordan, a jaded Duke who believes all women are evil opportunists that just want to get the best of him. The two meet in an unexpected attack by two bandits, and when Jordan jeopardizes Alexandra's reputation in her village, he is coaxed into marrying her. The story is about how they deal with their forced marriage and how they learn to love each other along the way. Both of them learn a lot from each other, and while Alexandra merely learns the artificial and superficial laws of society, Jordan learns truth, honesty and sincere love.

When Alexandra thinks that Jordan is dead she devotes her life to honoring him. However, her memory and adoration of him is quickly ruined when she learns that he wasn't the noble man that she once thought. In fact, he was deceitful and planned to keep her locked away at his estate in Devon and use her only to create an heir. He was exactly like her father, who she lost all love and respect for when she found out he had another family in London, and she and her mother were his second-choice family he kept hidden and locked away.

Alexandra decides she will play by societal rules and learns to flirt and is quickly admired by the wealthiest and most prosperous men. Men write poems and stories for and about Alexandra, and one man was so lustful for her that he tries to kidnap her. In order to keep her safe, the dowager duchess and Anthony, Jordan's cousin, decide that it would be best that she marry Anthony. As they are about to wed, Jordan runs in and stops the wedding.

They spend the next few days learning about each other. They make a wager that if Alexandra does not fall in love with Jordan in three months, then she is free to go back to Morsham and live out her life in the dreary little village. Alexandra fights her emotions for Jordan as long as she can, but just as she is falling back in love with him, she is suspected of being responsible for his attempted murder. Everything gets resolved in the end when all of the misunderstandings are explained, and the true culprits behind the attempts on Jordan's life are discovered. Alexandra and Jordan are then free to love and learn from each other.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Something Wonderful is a romantic love story about Alexandra Lawrence, a young girl living in the country, who takes care of her mother and elderly servants and was taught that everyone is inherently good, and Jordan Townsend, a jaded Duke, who believes all women are evil opportunists that just want to get the best of him. The two meet in an unexpected attack by two bandits, and when Jordan jeopardizes Alexandra's reputation in her village, he is coaxed into marrying her. The story is about how they deal with their forced marriage and how they learn to love each other along the way. Both of them learn a lot from each other; while Alexandra merely learns the artificial and superficial laws of society, Jordan learns truth, honesty and sincere love.

Jordan in bed with Lady Catherine Harrington. It is his mother's birthday, and he gets up to look outside. He sees his mother come out from behind some shrubbery, watching as she adjusts her dress, then watches as Lord Harrington, Lady Catherine Harrington's husband, comes out after her. He tells Catherine that his mother has a new lover, and she tells him that she already knew that her husband was sleeping with his mother. Jordan tells Catherine that he could never be shocked by what a woman does, and that he feels sorry for most woman, because of the way their lives are ordered. Women are born with only one type of honor, and that is thrown away the second they sleep with a man.

Away in the country, Alexandra studies with her Grandfather, Mr. Gimble. She is distracted by a butterfly while she was learning about Socrates. She asks if perhaps she is a caterpillar waiting to become a beautiful butterfly. He tells her that there is nothing wrong with being a caterpillar and that beauty is subjective. At thirteen years old, she believed in the goodness of people and that everyone is inherently kind, honest and cheerful.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The opening chapter sets the stage for the main theme of the book. Jordan is a bitter young man, who believes he knows everything there is to know about women. He is jaded by the high society women that marry for convenience and status, rather than love, and carry on affairs with no shame at all. Alexandra is a bright, spirited young girl, whose upbringing by her grandfather is making certain she doesn't fall into a trap of inferiority and amoral character into which other women fall. Even though she is not a noble girl, her grandfather still wants to make sure that she is not superficial like his daughter, Alexandra's mother, was. Possibly because of her upbringing, Alexandra is a happy, innocent girl, who believes that all people are good and honest. She is the complete opposite of Jordan. When her Grandfather thinks to himself that she will one day grow out of her caterpillar stage and become something beautiful, it signals not only

that she will grow up soon, but that she will be something very special. It sets the stage for her to meet Jordan in the future.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Nine years later, Jordan wounds a man in a duel over the man's wife's honor—Elizabeth Grangerfield, with whom Jordan had just slept. Jordan is tired of having to fight jealous husbands over their wives and decides that he won't sleep with married women anymore.

At the Bildrup's, preparations were in place for the grand night. Miss Leticia Bildrup tells her entourage about how disgraceful Elizabeth is for still chasing after Jordan, even though he had just wounded her husband earlier that day. Sir Roderick Carstairs agrees that Elizabeth is behaving badly and perhaps should only pursue Hawthorne in private, the way Leticia did. .

Elizabeth was married off to Lord Grangerfield after Jordan went to war in Spain. Jordan had thought about asking for her hand in marriage but didn't really want a wife then, or now. When Jordan arrived back in England after the war in Spain, he was a different person. Besides looking physically different, he had an aura to him that made the ladies want him even more.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Jordan is better described in this chapter. After having gone to war, he is even more sure that all that women want are his money and good looks, not him. He is tired of fighting jealous husbands, insinuating that he has upset many husbands in the past. The writer introduces Elizabeth Grangerfield in this chapter, who is determined to make Jordan fall in love with her and will probably do some wicked things to get him, since she agrees with Jordan that women are relentless in getting what they want. When the people at the ball disclose where Jordan is going, it foreshadows that he will have an encounter with someone at Morsham and sets the stage for him to meet Alexandra.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Ever since Alexandra's father died, and her mother found out that he had another family in London, Mrs. Lawrence became useless. Mrs. Lawrence decided that the only way to save the family was to marry off Alexandra to a wealthy family and rescue them both from the impoverished life they were living. Her mother tells her that she will be meeting with the Helmsleys and that she was planning on marrying her off to their son, Will. Alexandra tells her that she does not want to marry Will because she does not love him, but her mother says this is best because that way he will never be able to hurt her the way her father did to them.

Alexandra gathers her rusty coat of armor and tells her mother that she cannot promise making it in time for dinner. She has promised her friend Mary O' Toole that she will hold a pretend jousting match with her little brother for his birthday.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Alexandra is a very different girl than most girls at her age. She is not interested in style, manners or being a demure, helpless girl. Her grandfather's teachings have taught her to use her mind and to know how to learn. She uses these skills to learn to hunt in order to please her father, and this desire to please will set the stage for future actions. She is tough knowing that if she was to soften up, her family would starve. Alexandra knows there is something wonderful waiting for her in her future. This wonderful feeling sets the stage for Jordan Hawthorne to enter into her life. Because she is not as other girls, she is just the thing that Jordan will never expect, and perhaps what he needs, since he is so jaded from other women.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

On her way home from Mary O'Toole's house, Alexandra hears a gunshot. Jordan Hawthorne was being attacked by a pair of thugs and out of nowhere saw a horse galloping towards him with a knight in armor atop of it. One of the thugs shot at Alexandra and her horse startled and sent her flying into the air, landing hard onto the second bandit. The bandit recovered before she did and ran toward Jordan. Alexandra regained control of her body, got her gun and killed the other bandit. Once she realized what she had done, she passed out and Jordan ran to her aid.

Jordan takes Alexandra home and carries her to the door under her protest. He is in disbelief and very embarrassed that this tiny girl saved his life. She reveals her intelligence, and Jordan thinks about how different her life must have been from his growing up. Jordan meets her mother and the servants and explains everything that has happened and tells Alexandra that he will never forget her for saving his life.

Mrs. Lawrence saw the night as an opportunity to get what she wanted. Her mother knew that her reputation would be soiled, and thus devises a plan to get Jordan Hawthorne to marry her daughter against Alexandra's wishes.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Alexandra knows that something wonderful will happen to her, though she is not sure what. She runs into Jordan, who is being attacked, and her armor confuses everyone. If it weren't for her manly demeanor, she may not have been able to save Jordan's life. Unfortunately, when he takes her to the inn after she passes out, this starts the rumor mills buzzing. When he takes her back to her house, the Helmleys, already bothered by her boyishness, decide they don't want her to marry their son Will. Alexandra's mother is wise enough to know that she can blame the ruin of Alexandra's reputation on Jordan and will devise a plan to get him to marry her. Thus, the two will be forced into a marriage that neither want and will have to learn to love each other, though it seems that they won't have too much trouble doing so.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

The Dowager Duchess of Hawthorne was Jordan's grandmother. She was very calm as Jordan told her that he was attacked and almost killed the night before. The duchess tells Jordan that she is surprised that Alexandra didn't try to weasel money out of him. He tells her that she is a kind girl, that wouldn't be brave enough to ask for money. However, he intends to repay her with enough money to last her for the rest of her life in Morsham. Just as he says that, the butler interrupts telling them that Alexandra, her mother and uncle have arrived at the house. Jordan tells them that he is an honorable man, and that they didn't need to go to his house to beg for money, that he was already making preparations to send it to them.

Alexandra's mother lashes out and says that money can never fix the problem he has caused to her daughter. Her reputation is ruined because of him, and he has no other option but to marry her; otherwise, she will be ruined for the rest of her life. Jordan tells his grandmother that he plans on going through with the wedding out of pity and devotion to her because she saved his life.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Alexandra has no desire to marry Jordan in this manner. She is the type of girl that believes in love, and is very young, though not twelve as Anthony had joked. The two will get married, and something terrible will happen as a result. Jordan is fond of the girl, but he is not in love with her. Alexandra doesn't even know what her duties will be as a wife to such an esteemed man, and the dowager knows that she will never fit in. Alexandra has more problems than marrying a man she doesn't love. She will have to be prepared to greet society and learn to live in the upper class. It is obvious that she will not be readily accepted, and her entire life is about to change.



Chapter 6 and Chapter 7

Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 Summary

For three days Alexandra was measured for outfits and not allowed to see her future husband. When she finally meets with Jordan, she tells him that she will not marry him because they are not in love, and because she has tried to speak to him for three days, and he has not made himself available. Alexandra tells Jordan that she is not disenchanted with life, as he is, and still believes that something wonderful will happen to her. Jordan likes her spirit and tells her so. Yet she tells him that "like" is not enough to base a marriage on, and both know that love is the answer. He draws her in close and kisses her. She doesn't show much emotion afterwards, to her liking and utter surprise, and Jordan can't help thinking that he is seducing a child. Alexandra knew that something wonderful was going to happen with them from that moment on.

Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 Analysis

In this chapter, we learn just how oblivious Alexandra is to the opposite sex. Though she is legally going to be a woman, she isn't quite developmentally there both in mind and body. The advice Mary Ellen gives Alexandra is also not quite adult, and if Alexandra chooses to use it, she will look like a complete child in the eyes of the more experienced Jordan. That is exactly what happened three days later when the two kiss for the first time. Jordan realizes that he is about to wed a child, who is legally a woman, but only in age. She is naive, unexperienced and full of life and fascination with life. He knows that he needs to get her over her crush because he is not going to be the husband she thinks he will be. He plans on leaving her alone on one of his estates, just as her father left her mother long ago. Alexandra's spirit will be crushed, and whether or not she fights to get it back will be interesting to see.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

After the wedding and after the few guests had left, the new couple went to retire to their bed chambers to get ready for their trip to the Hawthorne estate. Half an hour later, the two embark on their journey to Hawthorne. After three hours of riding along in the carriage, they stop to stretch their legs. Alexandra notices a boy by the road with a litter of puppies. She falls in love with one of them, and Jordan agrees to let her have it. They get back in the carriage and continue their journey. Jordan stares at his new young wife. He tells himself he won't take her to bed, at least for another year when she is more mature. When they arrive at an Inn, Jordan tells Alexandra that she shouldn't worry about tonight, that he has no intention of sleeping with her. Alexandra agrees and says she never imagined he would because he would probably prefer sleeping in a room by himself, especially since she flails like a fish.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Now that Jordan knows just how innocent Alexandra is, it appears as though he is more allured to that. He tells himself that he won't sleep with her until a year has passed, but he is growing attracted to her. He wants his grandmother to prepare her, to change her to fit into society. However, knowing Alexandra's personality, it will be a hard task to change her. Even though she is super eager to please him, she feels stifled during her wedding, and this is a sign that she knows she is not doing what makes her happy. She is being bonded and was accustomed to being free and doing whatever she wanted without having to worry about what others thought of her. The puppy that she picks out is symbolic to her spirit. The dog is untrained, just like she is untrained in the social customs of the upper class. Jordan says he likes dogs, but only when they are trained. It will be a battle for them to understand and accept each other once they are better acquainted. Though Jordan says he hates untrained beings, he isn't really fond of trained ones either, and maybe Alexandra is what he needs to learn to love someone other than himself and to learn to trust women.



Chapter 9 and Chapter 10

Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 Summary

The next day, Alexandra is getting very uncomfortable in the carriage. She thinks how unfair it is that men get to dress so comfortably, while the women have to wear such uncomfortable outfits all the time, even while riding. They got out of the carriage to stretch and let the dog play for a while. As they ride on, Alexandra becomes tired. Jordan kisses her passionately. He found her irresistible at this point, but he had to remind himself that she wanted more than he was willing to give her.

When they get to the next inn, they have dinner and a parlor maid prepares their room. She asks when he plans on going to his room, and he tells her that he is going to be staying with her. When he starts "teaching" her about making babies, she trembles for fear of the unknown. After they were finished, she tried to console him, thinking he was in pain. The fact that she was so worried about him made his cynical and cold wall of emotions start to disintegrate.

Chapter 9 and Chapter 10 Analysis

While Jordan said that he would wait at least a year before he slept with Alexandra, he was very attracted to her. He decides in this chapter that he is going to sleep with her when they get ready for bed. He is captivated by her spirit, and she is so different from other girls that he can't help himself. He is going to take her virginity, and because it is such a big moment in the life of any woman, it sets the stage for an immense change in Alexandra.

After they make love for the first time, they get into a conversation about trust. Jordan wants to tell her that she should never trust a man, especially him, but he isn't capable of being completely honest with her, especially since he doesn't believe in trust. She tries to convince him that he will miss out on true happiness if he doesn't trust, and already the reader sees the dynamic between the two main characters that will persist throughout the rest of the book. She will get him to trust, believing that he can, while he will constantly try to pull away.



Chapter 11 and 12

Chapter 11 and 12 Summary

The two stop in London the next day for some business to which Jordan has to tend. Alexandra saw the immense war ships that were being loaded to meet with their other ships in the blockade. The captain of the Fair Winds greeted the couple and invited them aboard for supper. After dinner, they retired to a cabin on the ship and Jordan entertained his new wife for a bit. He leaves his wife sleeping to go out and buy some cigars. On his way back to the cabin, he is attacked and knocked unconscious. When Alexandra wakes the next day, she sees that he is not in the cabin. The Captain wants to get the ship out on the water, but she commands him to keep it docked, since Jordan owns part of the company that owns the ship.

The next day, Jordan's grandmother arrives at the cabin. They went to Jordan's grandmother's townhouse where they were guaranteed more privacy. The news of Jordan's disappearance was widespread, and the duchess didn't want to be bothered by people, when she was so worried herself. On the third day, they get the bad news that Jordan had been kidnapped by press gangs and sold to serve on the Lancaster, a battleship that had just gone to war. The ship was attacked by a French ship, the Versailles, and was sunk. Jordan went down with the ship.

Chapter 11 and 12 Analysis

Jordan is growing more attached to Alexandra, but he still does not want to have anything to do with her in terms of love. She wants to love him and for him to love and trust her. He can't get through to her that he doesn't believe in such things, and knows that once she is exposed to his lifestyle and London Society, she will be crushed by the reality of life. He wants to keep her away from that life for as long as he can because he doesn't want to crush her spirit just yet. Jordan cares about her and cares more about her with each passing day.

Jordan gets kidnapped by some press gangs by the docks and never returns to the cabin. His grandmother goes to the cabin the next day after hearing about his abduction and takes Alexandra with her to her townhouse. The two women bond and this is the beginning of their friendship. They mourn the disappearance of Jordan and pray for three days straight, hoping for his return. When they find out he has died, the reader is left wondering where the story will go without him. Now that Alexandra and the duchess are friends, it is possible their friendship will continue, and she will be the duchess' project, as Jordan wished for Alexandra. She will be presented to society as Jordan's widow.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Alexandra fell in and out of nightmares the entire night. She tells her maid that she will go to see the duchess, who is also extremely ill from the bad news. She goes in to see her, the doctors advising her to cheer the duchess up and not to speak about Jordan. She tells the duchess that she should cheer up because Jordan would never want to see her so sad. She says that Jordan told her how amazing a woman his grandmother is, and how she would eventually rise to the occasion and be happy for his marriage to Alexandra.

One of the servants announces that the Duke of Hawthorne has arrived, and everyone jumps up in excitement, only to see that it isn't Jordan, but rather Tony, who is now the new duke. Alexandra tells him that the duchess does not want to stay in London, and Tony suggests that everyone move to Hawthorne. The duchess tells Alexandra that her place is with the Townsends from now on. She married into the family, and she is to stay with them. She agrees to stay only if her servants, Filbert and Penrose, can accompany her. The dowager duchess agrees and when questioned about her generosity by Tony, the duchess says that she will not let Alexandra go back to Morsham and live her life grieving her husband.

Chapter 13 Analysis

In this chapter, Alexandra is able to get the duchess to warm up to her. They bond through their grief, even though Alexandra lies a bit to get the duchess to trust her. This reveals Alexandra's abilities to get people to trust her. The dowager duchess, now very fond of Alexandra, wants to make sure that she is taken care of and that she doesn't waste her life in Morsham. This sets the stage for Alexandra to begin preparation for her presentation to society as Jordan's widow and the new Duchess of Hawthorne.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

The following day everyone arrived at Hawthorne. It was the most beautiful and impressive estate Alexandra had ever seen. When they get inside, Alexandra asks if she can see Jordan's bedchambers, so she can get to know what he was like. During the next few days, she quickly studies everything she can about society and etiquette. The only complaint the duchess has is that Alexandra talks with the servants, and Filbert and Penrose are more of a nuisance than anything. But she couldn't say anything about it to Alexandra because she didn't want to dampen her spirits when the dowager duchess knew Alexandra was trying so hard to make her happy.

Whenever Alexandra thought about Jordan, she was sure they were in love. As the season passed, and she did her best to prepare for her coming out into society, nature took its course and granted her immense beauty. She filled out in all the right places, and with her dark hair and radiant blue eyes, she would be worthy of her place in society. The duchess and Tony realized this and knew they would have to beat off the men with sticks.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Alexandra is doing her best to please Jordan from beyond the grave. She wants to make sure that she does everything right to be the proper representation of a widow. However, the dowager duchess and Tony don't want her to be a proper widow. They want to prepare her for her coming out, so that she can find another husband and live out her life in splendor since she is so young. The duchess doesn't want her to give up her life completely. They don't tell this to Alexandra, nor do they tell her that her former husband was so popular with the ladies. She is going to find out eventually after she is presented to society, and it may be enough to crush her spirits and ruin her image of her dead husband. It foreshadows that she will rebel against his name either by leaving the mansion, or playing the societal game the right way out of revenge.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

The night to present Alexandra has finally arrived, and the dowager duchess is nervous extremely nervous. She did exceptionally well at the ball except for two big mistakes that made everyone question her ability to co-exist with them. The first incident was when she raised her voice slightly, but enough for everyone to hear, asking if Jordan had once enjoyed the ballet. The second mistake was when she openly admired the two most beautiful women at the ball. The first was a mistake because one of Jordan's most famous mistresses was a ballerina, and the second was a mistake because she was admiring two of his other famous paramours, one of whom was Lady Grangerfield.

Unbeknownst to everyone in London, Jordan was lying barely alive in a dungeon in France. He had been captured just before his ship sank. He lay there with an American named George Morgan, who told him where they were and that he needed to be less valiant against the French guards because if they beat him one more time, he would surely be dead. Jordan tells him that he can get them out of the dungeon. His motivation is the lovely wife that he left behind that he knew loved him unconditionally and would be thrilled to see him alive.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Alexandra does all she can to become the person the dowager duchess and Anthony want her to be. However, she is a strong-willed person. She can't be changed and this is the essence of Alexandra. She knows who she is and she can't change that, nor does she want to. Her strength and strong identity is what keeps Jordan strong while he is sitting in a jail cell in France. It is her strength and his desire to be with her that will get him out of the cell and reunite with her. There is one problem, and that is whether he will make it back to London in time to stop her from marrying his cousin.



Chapter 16 and Chapter 17

Chapter 16 and Chapter 17 Summary

Alexandra was miserable by the third week after her debut. At the Donleigh's ball, Jordan's grandmother urged a man named Lord Ponsonby to dance with Alexandra. He was a wealthy and prosperous man, who needed a wife. When Alexandra found out about his intentions she quickly retreated and tried to get away from him. Melanie introduces herself and tells Alexandra that she is impressed by her intelligence after hearing her correct Lord Ponsonby. Alexandra warns her that she is unpopular and being associated with her would only be detrimental to Melanie. Anthony appears and she runs to him. He tells her that he has a plan to boost her popularity by talking to Lord Carstairs. Alexandra refuses to talk to him because he had said terrible things about the dowager duchess right to her face. Anthony tells her that Lord Carstairs is a terrible gossip and it is partly because of him that Alexandra is so unpopular.

Alexandra still does not understand what she could have done to make Carstairs say such negative things about her. Anthony tells her about Jordan's reputation and how the two comments she made about him at her debut is what made her the laughingstock of London society. Alexandra feels like an idiot, having pranced around honoring his memory, adoring his portraits and portraying her love to everyone that would listen. She cried for the rest of the night in her room. She thought about how stupid and naïve she was, and how she gave him her grandfather's watch believing that he deserved it for being a noble man.

At the same time, Jordan and George Morgan were about to escape from the dungeon they had lived in for the last year. Jordan wanted revenge and was determined to find the person or people that did this to him. He also wanted desperately to get back to his wife who he wanted to hold more than anything.

The news of Jordan's real life released Alexandra from her devout loyalty to Jordan's memory that she had been bound to for more than a year. She realized that in her entire life, she had always tried to be the person that others wanted her to be. She strove to be loved by her mother, father and her husband. But now all of that was about to change and all she was going to do was please herself, and the first thing she would do would be to clean up her reputation and get on the right side of society.

Chapter 16 and Chapter 17 Analysis

Now that Alexandra knows the truth about her role as a young widow, she is not so happy to be living in London. She didn't want to remarry; she wanted to remember her husband honorably for the rest of her life and help his legacy live on forever. Then she learns about Jordan's real legacy as a womanizer and becomes sick. From this moment on, she discards her feelings for him, and this sets the stage for her to rebel against his



memory. Now that she has the freedom to be who she wants to be, everything is fair game. She has learned how to play the societal game and will use her intelligence and uniqueness to have fun. Unfortunately, Jordan is about to escape and when he gets back to London to his wife, she will no longer be happy to see him. This is the main conflict of the story, and things can only get more complicated once Jordan realizes his title is going to be usurped unknowingly, and that his wife now hates him.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

The duchess sees that Alexandra had become a prize to be won, and this worries her. The entire situation is complicated because she is so young but has already been married. If Jordan were still alive, then nobody would care that she was a little off, and if she were older, Society wouldn't expect her to live by the same rules as the younger girls. And if she were plain, and not so beautiful, then the suitors that she had already rejected would not try so hard to ruin her reputation as they were starting to do. They were all jealous that they couldn't have her. But Alexandra didn't care and by meeting with all the suitors, it appears as though she is trying to beat Jordan at his own game. Anthony and the duchess agree that she is putting her reputation in danger, as well as herself.

The duchess, concerned for Alexandra's safety asks Anthony if he would marry Alexandra. He doesn't want to do it, even though he is attracted to her. However, Anthony is not immune to his grandmother's evil stares and he finally agrees. The two of them run the proposition past Alexandra, who scoffs at them. Anthony tells her that she is simply too beautiful and desirable for her own good and that her safety is at risk. She knows how to play the game now, but she feels like something is off, that something is missing in her life. Anthony tells her that he can give her children and a family, but she doesn't want those things without love.

At the same time, Jordan helps his American friend across a shallow creek. With any luck, he can be back in England in three to four weeks.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Alexandra is tired of playing the games she is expected to play and is ready for something more. The duchess suggests that she and Anthony get married, though this seems like a complete joke because they are not in love. However, Alexandra seems to have forgotten that she was not in love with Jordan when she married him either, and she learned to love him very quickly. Anthony tells her that he can give her everything that she ever wanted, especially since he is the new Duke of Hawthorne. He can give her what she needs, which is a family and that is what he desires also. The thought of children could be just what Alexandra needs to accept the offer and marry Jordan's cousin. However, Jordan is still alive and nobody knows it yet. Jordan has no clue what has gone on with Alexandra and will be in shock if he finds that she is married to Anthony. This will only escalate problems and prove his theory that Anthony was behind his attempted murder since he had the most to gain from his death. It will be terrible if she decides to marry Anthony before Jordan arrive back in London, yet it is unlikely that she will. If she does, then things will get more interesting for the group.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Alexandra looks radiant on her second wedding day. Just as the judge finished asking if anyone had any objection to the marriage, Jordan runs in and stops the ceremony. He takes Alexandra, Anthony, and his grandmother home to talk. Jordan had thought of nothing but Alexandra the entire time he was in the dungeon, pining over her love and his new desire to learn to trust a woman. In the end, he thinks she is just another typical woman, out to get what she wants with no regard for anyone but herself. His grandmother tries to explain what has happened, and how Alexandra thought of nothing but him for the past year, but he wasn't listening to anyone.

Jordan and Alexandra are left alone to talk and he tells her that she will have to win his forgiveness. She explodes in anger and tries to explain again but he is closed off to her voice. Melanie then tells her to take a different approach. She suggests that Alexandra work her hardest for Jordan to fall in love with her. Jordan has competition for the first time in his life, and it is for the admiration and love of his wife. It is something he cannot refuse to desire.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Jordan is now convinced that Anthony had everything to do with his kidnapping, even though the reader knows it is not true. He thinks that Alexandra is just out to use him like every other woman in the world. All the progress he had made towards becoming a better person, one that loves and trusts, is gone. All his cynical views on life were coming to a full circle and becoming even more ingrained in his mind. Women could never be trusted, and everything that he saw this day proved that. He even rejects the idea that Alexandra had mourned for him at all. Something needs to happen for Alexandra and Jordan to get back on track. Something needs to happen for Jordan to see that he is mistaken, and that she really did love him. However, Alexandra loved the idea of Jordan, and since she found out about his past, perhaps she doesn't want to love him any longer and really does want out of the marriage. With the gossip that Melanie is about to spread, the reader will see whether Jordan or Alexandra get their wishes fulfilled.



Chapter 20 and 21

Chapter 20 and 21 Summary

Carstairs goes to see Jordan, along with many other of his friends. He tells Jordan all about what his wife had been doing while he was supposedly dead. She was playing the game the proper way and succeeding well beyond anyone's expectations of her. This infuriates Jordan and makes him even more upset that people refer to his wife as Alex. Jordan considers divorcing her, but a divorce could take years, and he wants an heir. He decides that he will keep Alexandra as his wife, and she will become the dutiful wife that he desires, either by her own will or by sheer force.

People constantly arrive throughout the morning, wanting to see Jordan with their own eyes. When the coast is clear, Alexandra goes down to the foyer and is told that her husband wants to meet with her in three hours. She goes to see Tony and the duchess while she waits. The duchess tells her that she has started the gossip train that will circle through society. They will all learn that she and Tony were only getting married to protect Jordan's honor and that since Jordan has returned; she is delighted once again to be his wife. When Alexandra tells the duchess that she does not want to be married to Jordan, the duchess tells her that she has to stay married to him and that it will be her job and challenge to reform the rake into a proper husband.

When Jordan sees Alexandra, he pulls her in close to him. She tells him that she does not want him to kiss her, but her plea is worthless as he embraces her and the two of them feel the same passion they had felt before when they were just married. Just as things were beginning to heat up, his friends walked in and witnessed the act. They kissed again, and she knew that she was in danger of falling in love with him again. Since arriving back home, Jordan was convinced that Alexandra had slept with other men. Alexandra did not want him to know that she had not been with anyone else but him. When the moment is over, he tells her that he will not grant her a divorce, an annulment or anything else. He wants her to be his complaisant wife and threatens her if she does otherwise.

Chapter 20 and 21 Analysis

Alexandra seems to believe that she is Jordan's equal. When he pulls out the list of her escapades, she is upset because he was much worse than she was. He slept with other women, had a mistress that he slept with after they were married and never even had the intention of being a husband to her other than in title. He outright rejects a divorce and annulment and is convinced that she will become the complaisant wife that he wants her to be. He still plans on leaving her at Devon, so all she has to do is behave and produce an heir for him. He is convinced that this will happen as long as she behaves. However, Alexandra is not known for being obedient, and knowing her

personality, this will be a challenge. He thinks that he will be able to break her spirit and make her into the wife that he wants, so she will produce a son for him.



Chapter 22 and Chapter 23

Chapter 22 and Chapter 23 Summary

Alexandra decides that she wants a divorce or an annulment—anything that will get her out of the grasp of Jordan. However, she has no money and doesn't know how to get any. She decides to have Penrose pawn her grandfather's watch and with that money she will be able to pay for most of whatever she needs. That night, Jordan and Alexandra attend a ball, where they are the focus of everyone's attention. She is not behaving as Jordan wants her to, and he tells her that she needs to start obeying him. She gets offended and the two begin to argue in front of everyone. She begs to go home, and he tells her that if she gives her word to go straight home, she can go.

At the end of the night, Alexandra quietly slips into the house. She tiptoes upstairs, but instead of going into her bedchamber, she goes into an empty room that used to belong to the family governess. She smiles at her ingenuity, since she was scared that her husband would come home and give her the beating that he had promised earlier. Earlier that day, she gave Penrose her grandfather's pocket watch to pawn in town. With the money, she would take Penrose and Filbert and together they would escape and restart their lives elsewhere.

Just as Jordan was leaving the ball, Lord Camden arrived. As they were greeting each other, someone shoots at Jordan. The man gets away without hurting Jordan, but Jordan decides that it is best that he and Alexandra leave the following morning for their own security. Jordan hires a man named Edwards Fawkes to investigate the attempted murder, and he tells him that his primary objective is to protect Alexandra. Fawkes asks if he can think of any one that would want him dead. Fawkes says that it is usually someone who has a lot to gain from someone being dead, or someone who is out seeking revenge. Jordan does not believe that Anthony had anything to do with the attempt on his life and heard news that Lord Grangerfield was dead.

When he gets home, he discovers that Alexandra is not in her bed and assumes she has not come home. Penrose was also missing. He calls for Filbert and invites him to drink with him and tell him what he knows about Alexandra. Filbert tells Jordan that Alexandra mourned Jordan's death for a long time, and that the only reason she studied so hard to be a proper member of Society was so that she could please him in death. Then when she was presented and learned that he had been a womanizer and had no intention of being a good husband to her, her spirit was broken.

When he discovers that Alexandra had been in the house the entire time, he admires her cleverness for avoiding her room, but still obeying his orders to return home. He tells her that they are leaving to go to Hawthorne because of the attempt on his life and that if in three months, she does not fall deeply in love with him, he will pay her out and she can leave with Penrose and Filbert and live her life the way she wants, free from him.



Chapter 22 and Chapter 23 Analysis

He wants Alexandra protected because she is the one that will produce an heir for him. He has a purpose for her, and he will get what he wants out of her no matter what. However, when he goes home and sees that she is not in bed, he is enraged and perhaps rethinks that she does have something to do with his shooting, especially since he cannot find Penrose either. His talk with Filbert, however, opens his eyes to why Alexandra has been so cold with him. He has acted just as her father had, and has broken her heart just as bad. He is saddened by the story that Filbert tells him and this talk sets the stage for him to change and be the man that Alexandra always believed he was.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Alexandra and Jordan travel to Hawthorne the following day. When they arrive at Hawthorne, Alexandra is pleased to finally be home again but notices that Jordan isn't as happy as she is. He tells her that he never liked Hawthorne as much as his other estates, which were cozier. But Hawthorne was the closest estate to a town, and going to another estate would just be more travel and they would be too secluded from the convenience of a town or the security of his staff.

When they get inside, Alexandra tries to avoid Jordan and claims she is too tired to eat and wants to go straight to bed. When he agrees to retire to bed as well, she agrees to eat, but eats far too much, hoping that stalling will make Jordan forget about wanting to sleep with her. When she finally cannot eat any more food, the two go to their bed chambers.

Jordan tells her that he wants to please her, and when they are finished making love for the first time of the night, he asks her if she wants him. She tells him that she does not want to want him, and that is why she had started crying. He got down on himself, and Alexandra notices that he is upset. She offers to leave, but he tells her that he is not mad at her but with himself. He thinks about his childhood and how his father always told him that women were objects for men, and that men should never show any signs of weakness. They made love the rest of the night, and early in the morning Alexandra rises and gets dressed. She thinks about their night together and is still overjoyed by Jordan's confessions to her that he could not wait to be with her and by his reluctance to ask her if she wanted him. But Alexandra was not the same naïve girl that she was when Jordan first married her. .

Chapter 24 Analysis

When they arrive at Hawthorne, Jordan isn't as happy as Alexandra is because he is reminded of his parents, who had a terrible marriage, and he attributes failed marriages to the house. He doesn't want to be his parents and is scared that their fate will fall on him and Alexandra.

After the pair spends the night together, Jordan reveals a side of himself that Alexandra has never seen before. He shows her his vulnerable side, and makes her see that he may be the man that she wanted back when they first married. Alexandra is more cautious now, and it will take more than one night for her to believe he is changing for her.



Chapter 25 and Chapter 26

Chapter 25 and Chapter 26 Summary

Alexandra anticipates a warm good morning from her husband, but as she passes Jordan's study, he merely nods and continues on with his business meeting. She goes outside to play with Henry and then decides to go for a ride. When she gets back to the stables, Smarth tells her that Jordan is inside waiting for, and he has been for more than an hour. Jordan is upset that she left without saying anything about where she planned on going and tells her that she is no longer allowed to go anywhere without telling someone where she is off to, or without a proper escort. He also tells her that she is not to leave his bed in the middle of the night either and likens her action of leaving in the night to a whore. .

Later that day before dinner, the butler tells Alexandra that Jordan wants her to meet him in the drawing room for a glass of sherry. He apologizes for having been rude to her earlier, and she accepts. A note arrives for Jordan from Tony saying that he is at his house just three miles away. He tells Alexandra that she is not allowed to go see him and reminds her of the wager to remain obedient to him. She reminds him of the same wager, where he said that he would do all he could to make her fall in love with him. When she asks him why he snapped at her at the stables earlier that day, he says it was because she hurt his ego, and because the house puts him in a bad mood.

The next morning, Alexandra awakes at dawn. When Jordan sees that she is up, he tells her to go back to bed because only thieves and servants are up so early. She wants to go fishing, and after a bit of persuasion he agrees. They have a great time, laughing at each other's jokes and acting as a couple in love.

Later that day, Jordan meets with Fawkes who tells him that Alexandra was at Tony's house. He insinuates again that they may be plotting to kill him. Jordan says that idea is absurd, and while she outright disobeyed him, she would not be capable of killing him. He just had to work a little harder to break her, and she was not guilty of anything else. Jordan then tells Fawkes that when he is with Alexandra, he wants all the private watchmen to keep their distance. Fawkes tells him this isn't a good idea, but Jordan assures him that he can take care of himself and his wife.

Chapter 25 and Chapter 26 Analysis

Alexandra starts analyzing everything about Hawthorne the estate and Jordan. He is being very demanding and controlling, and it seems as though she will not be able to live with him. But when she begins to pry into his life, she sees that there is more to him than meets the eye. People are not always how they seem, which is a saying her grandfather had once told her. The irony in this is that Jordan is thinking the same thing of her. They are both trying to feel each other out, and Jordan is discovering that



perhaps Alexandra is not as sincere as she claims she is. He wonders whether she is not another female opportunist and battles with the idea that she and Tony may be trying to kill him.

Alexandra is forbidden to see Tony and his family, though she doesn't understand why. Fawkes thinks that Tony is trying to kill Jordan, even though Jordan doesn't really believe the accusation. He wants to be protected from real threats, not from his harmless cousin and Alexandra. Jordan is really starting to fall in love with Alexandra by this point. He even takes off from work, which he rarely does, and towards the end of the chapter is so infatuated by her that he can't bury himself in his work like he usually does. His inability to concentrate is due to his feelings for her, and his struggle to know if she is trying to kill him or not. He doesn't take the accusation seriously and is sure that he will break her eventually, or at least this is what he tells Fawkes. He knows he will never be able to break her, and this is what he loves about her. Jordan admires Alexandra's spirit, which is what made him fall in love with her in the first place.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

The following morning, Alexandra goes into the study where Jordan spent most of his childhood. Jordan was in his study and wanted desperately to spend time with Alexandra. He wasn't his usual sharp self, and when he kept making mistakes in a letter he was having written, he dismissed the scribe and told his assistant to postpone any other work for the day because he was going to have a picnic with his wife.

Alexandra was out giving one of her lessons to the local children and he went to pay her a visit. While they headed back to the house, he notices the flowers for the first time in his life. Alexandra was always taking notice of them and asking him why he never took time to observe their beauty. His birthday was in five days, and he wondered whether Alexandra would remember or not. He had hinted of it to her and felt like a lovesick little boy. For the first time, she calls him Jordan, and they make plans to have another picnic by the stream. Jordan is annoyed at how happy he feels when he is around her. He wants Alexandra near him all the time and decides that he will let her sleep in his bed forever, since he wants to upgrade her room.

Chapter 27 Analysis

When Alexandra calls Jordan by his name for the first time ever, it signals she is finally letting down her guard and is allowing her love to show. Alexandra makes Jordan feel young again. He got annoyed when he hinted about his birthday, feeling like a lovesick little boy begging for attention. He had never really celebrated his birthday before, and because he had a bad childhood, it appears as though he is trying to make up for all the lack of adoration while he was growing up.



Chapter 28 and Chapter 29

Chapter 28 and Chapter 29 Summary

The outings with Jordan put Alexandra in an exceptionally good mood. She was in love with him and wanted to do everything she could to please him. Together, they went on a picnic, though she tried desperately to avoid too much contact with him. He tells her that he can't get enough of her, and he strips her clothes off. As they are making love, he tells himself that he is in love with her and wants to tell her, but he is still guarded. On their way back to the house, he decides that today will be the day that he tells Alexandra he is in love with her.

Jordan didn't want to leave Alexandra's side, but he had to get some work done. He notices her grandfather's watch is gone, and he really wishes that she would give it back to him. Jordan knows it will take a little longer to earn back her trust. When he leaves Alexandra and goes to get ready for the evening, Higgins runs screaming to him that Nordstrom, the footman, has been poisoned. Nordstrom drank the port that was left in the picnic basket, which went untouched by Alexandra and Jordan because they were busy doing other things. Fawkes is ready to meet with Jordan and tells him again that he really believes Alexandra and Tony are behind everything, especially since she went to visit him again earlier in the day.

In the drawing room before dinner, Jordan was extra tense. He didn't allow Alexandra to pour him any sherry, and she catches on to his uneasy mood. She reaches out and offers him a gift. It is her grandfather's watch. He is so distracted by the conversation that he and Fawkes had, that he isn't happy with the gift or the meaning behind it. It is worse than a slap in the face to poor Alexandra. The next day he stopped talking to her altogether. She asks him what she has done wrong, but he denies anything bothering him.

Chapter 28 and Chapter 29 Analysis

Alexandra is planning something special for Jordan's birthday and is excited to throw him a party, since she knows he didn't have too many special birthday parties growing up. However, at this time Fawkes seriously believes that she is scheming to kill him. The reader knows that this is not true, because she really does love him, but the author is good at making everything look suspicious. Jordan waits to tell Alexandra that he is in love with her, but with everything going on, it seems as though he will not be able to tell her. Something is going to happen and his feelings for her will not be confessed.

Alexandra looks very suspicious and it could make things really hard for her. She was shaking at the picnic, was acting very nervous, which fits the bill as Fawkes' suspect. It appears as if Jordan will start believing Fawkes. He cannot go on for long without at

least assuming that she is behind everything or at least an accomplice. At this point, even the reader has to question whether or not she is completely innocent.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

For three days and nights, Alexandra endures the passive-aggressive wrath of Jordan. On the morning of his birthday, Alexandra asks Filbert if everything is ready for the celebration. He tells her that it is, though he doesn't understand why she is throwing a party for her undeserving husband. At the same time, Fawkes tells Jordan that his preparations are all ready as well. He has men in trees, behind bushes and other obscure places ready to attack at a moment's notice. He tells him that he believes the party is a trap and that when he spoke to Alexandra today, he could tell she was lying to him and was plotting something. When Jordan tries to protest the accusation one last time, Fawkes pulls out a note that was intercepted by his staff. It was a letter to Alexandra from Tony. It read: "Everything is ready at the grove. All you have to do is get him there."

The shock of the letter made Jordan really upset, but after an hour he felt nothing. He wanted the entire thing to be over, and for Fawkes to book the two of them so he could start getting over her. Fawkes had enough evidence to put them away for life, and the thought of Alexandra in a dungeon made his heart hurt.

Alexandra was waiting for Jordan in the hallway and the two walked to the carriage that was waiting for them outside. She was beginning to wonder if he already knew about the surprise party, but when they broke into the fields, and he saw the colorful banners and his friends standing around smiling him, including Tony, his mom and brother, and even his grandmother, he suddenly felt more confused than ever. He walks around aimlessly for a while, talking to his friends, but still not sure if this was all part of the master plan to kill him.

Fawkes approaches Jordan and tells him that it is best that he leave the party because night is falling and his men cannot see in the dark. Jordan tells him that he will not leave. At the same time, Alexandra recalls the night she met Jordan. It was an evening much like the current one, and then she notices a man with a red handkerchief around his neck. As soon as she notices him, he is gone again. She looks around for Tony, then for Jordan who is propped against a tree. Jordan sees Alexandra looking at him, and then he heard a voice from behind the tree. The man tells him that there is a gun pointed at his head and one pointed at Alexandra. He goes with the bandit, and then using his special military moves, knocks him to the floor and makes him take him to the person behind the operation. They go into an old cottage and when they go inside, to his surprise he sees his aunt. He had loved his aunt more than his own mother, and here she was, behind his attempted murder. Jordan then figures that Tony and Alexandra are behind things after all, and they are probably going to meet at the cottage once they know that he is dead. His aunt confesses that she was behind the attack near Morsham, and also the attack at the docks. However, since they didn't have much



money, the attackers were not reliable and got more money selling him than they would have if they just killed him.

Alexandra hadn't noticed when Jordan was abducted and was going around looking for him. Nobody had seen him in a while, and she asks his friends and Tony to help her look for him. She walks over to the tree he was perched at not long ago and finds his mug on the ground. Tony runs over to her having heard about the suspicious man. He tells Alexandra to wait in a clearing in plain sight and he runs to the cottage off in the distance. When he arrives, he is astonished to find his mother and Jordan with a gun. Soon after, Alexandra arrives, and it is just as Jordan had imagined things. They tell him that he has everything wrong, but he doesn't believe them until Tony's brother comes out from another room pointing a gun at Jordan's head. Bertie tells Jordan that he has underestimated him and that Tony and Alexandra had never been behind anything. Tony would never be bold enough to kill him or anyone and with Bertie being a cripple, nobody would have ever guessed he would be capable of anything. Bertie wanted to kill Jordan, then Tony, so he could inherit the dukedom. As Bertie was about to shoot, Fawkes enters and shoots him dead. Unfortunately, Bertie managed to fire a shot, too, and it hits Alexandra. She is shot in the head, and Jordan runs to her, cradling her in his arms begging her not to die.

Chapter 30 Analysis

The beginning of this chapter feels very surreal, since the reader almost knows that Alexandra is not behind Jordan's murder, but Jordan knows he is stepping into his own demise. The ironic thing is that he really is about to be attacked, yet he would never guess it would be his cousin that nobody really thought of before. While Alexandra is completely innocent, he and Fawkes still think she is behind it all. When finally it is discovered that Alexandra is not behind things, and Fawkes saves Jordan's life, it is Alexandra who ends up hurt. Her wound looks fatal and it appears that she will die without ever having heard from Jordan that he is in love with her.



Chapter 31 and Epilogue

Chapter 31 and Epilogue Summary

Everyone makes it back to the house, and the doctor comes out of Alexandra's room with bad news. He says that he cannot do anything to save her, and that she is beyond help. Jordan sits with her, praying that she won't die. He confesses his love to her, tells her that he has started noticing the flowers and learning how to live life and feel real emotions. Jordan tells Alexandra that if she dies, he will just return to being the wretch he was when they first met, and it will be all her fault. He tells her to think of his soul, that it is up to her to get better so she can save him from damnation. He also tells her that if she dies, he will marry Elizabeth Grangerfield. Then she manages to whisper to him. She tells him that Elizabeth has big feet and he roars with laughter. Tony runs in, not knowing what he was laughing about, and everyone is thrilled that she is starting to pull through.

The next day when she is more rested, Jordan tells Alexandra everything that has happened in the last few days. He tells her that he thought she was involved with his attempted murder, and after hearing the facts she admits that she did look guilty. Jordan also tells her that he had talked with Filbert, who told him all about her sentiments with her father and how he betrayed her. She tells him that she would like to hear him say "I love you" to her, and he says it passionately, over and over again.

Chapter 31 and Epilogue Analysis

It appears as though Jordan is going to lose Alexandra. He will lose her without ever having been completely honest with her. It is too late for them, until suddenly she gets the strength to speak. Love has pulled her past her injury and she soon recovers. When she is rested and feeling better, Jordan explains everything that has happened over the last few days and everything is finally out in the open. He tells her that Filbert had filled him in on a few aspects of her life, including the betrayal she felt after her father died and she found out about his other family. He gives her beautiful jewelry that is supposed to surpass the tin locket her father gave her, and the gold locket her father gave his other daughter. Jordan has proven to Alexandra that he loves her, and that he is a new man thanks to her and her belief in him.



Characters

Jordan Addison Hawthorne

Jordan is the hero of the novel; his official title in the story is Duke of Hawthorne. He is a jaded man that believes all women are conniving opportunists that don't care about anyone but themselves. He is taught at an early age that women only serve one purpose, which is to please men. Besides that, they are not allowed to think or do anything for themselves, which is why they are so bored and bad. His only example of a marriage was that of his parents, since he wasn't allowed to leave his estate too often as a boy, and they were constantly sleeping with other people and always unhappy. Jordan is a popular man among the ladies and only slept with the most beautiful women, who were often married. One day he gets attacked by two bandits, and is saved by Alexandra, who is dressed in armor, riding a horse. She shoots one of the bandits and saves Jordan's life. Jordan believes she is a boy at first because of her undeveloped body, but when he discovers she is a girl, and that he has seen her without her top on, therefore ruining her virtue, he agrees to marry her. He decides early on that they will be married only in title and nothing else. He plans on leaving her at his estate in Devon and visiting her whenever he wishes too, while keeping his mistress back in London. The day after they are married, he gets attacked by another pair of bandits, who sell him to the navy. He is captured by the French at sea and escapes a year later to find that Alexandra is about to marry his cousin Tony. He dubs her an opportunist, but then when he learns more about her from her servant Filbert, he devises a plan to get her to fall in love with him again. While he gets to know her, he quickly falls in love and all the ideas he held about women and marriage are dissolved. She is kind, honest and trustworthy, and only wants the best for everyone she encounters. She is everything that Jordan has ever needed to change his ways and become an honest, kind-hearted man.

Alexandra Lawrence

Alexandra is the heroine of the story. She has stunning blue eyes and chestnut brown hair. Besides her eyes, she is very plain and nothing special, compared to the blond, pale skin beauties of London. She starts out as a young girl, learning philosophy from her grandfather. Alexandra is very kind hearted and does everything she can to please everyone. The one person she desperately wants the approbation and attention of is her father. She learns to hunt, thinking that her father would have preferred a boy and wishes she were prettier so he would love her more. After her father dies, she and her mother find out he had a separate family living in London, and they are left with no money. Alexandra takes it upon herself to take care of the house, putting food on the table and managing what little they have. Her life changes dramatically when she meets Jordan Hawthorne and saves his life. Her mother devises a scheme for the two to marry and is successful. Alexandra wants to do everything she can to please Jordan and to be the perfect wife. She wants him to love her the way she loves him and is extremely



naive about his intentions. When he is abducted, Alexandra vows that she will do everything she can to honor him, even in death. She learns to be a proper woman for Society but fails miserably because of her honest, kind heart. She learns to toughen up and play the societal game correctly, and is the hit of Society. When she learns about Jordan's true intentions with her, she grows up and is crushed by the harsh reality that he never intended to love her like a true wife should be loved. Throughout the book, she never loses sight of who she is, even when the dowager duchess tells her constantly to suppress her true identity. She is intelligent and hates to hide it. She is honorable and kind to her servants. She believes in the goodness of people and equality of all people.

Mrs. Lawrence

Alexandra's mother is described at the very beginning as being shallow and impressionable. Mrs. Lawrence's father makes her marry Alexandra's father, after he finds them together in a compromising position. After she marries Mr. Lawrence, she stays in a house in Morsham with the obscure title her husband held and claiming she is a noble woman. Her husband comes to visit only a few times a year. When he dies, and she finds out that she and her daughter were not his only family and were not entitled to anything, she falls into a deep depression and is unable to take care of things for herself. Alexandra takes over and cares for her mother. Unsatisfied with living an ordinary life and having grown accustomed to living a better, more luxurious life, she decides she will rescue her social status by marrying off her daughter to a good family and leeching off their wealth. After Alexandra's virtue is put into question from her meeting with Jordan, Mrs. Lawrence corners Jordan, forcing him to marry her daughter.

Uncle Monty

Montague Marsh is Alexandra's great uncle. He is a good-natured man, though he is seldom sober.

Alexandra's Grandfather

Alexandra's grandfather is the motivational person in the story for her. He was her teacher and best friend, and knew that there would be more in Alexandra's life than a simple existence in Morsham and a phony existence like her mother's. He wanted more for her and hated it when Alexandra felt ordinary because she wasn't blond and pale like most London socialites. He teaches Alexandra about philosophy and what she learns from her grandfather follows her around for the rest of her life. Alexandra's grandfather dies when she is still young, around the same time as her father.

Dowager Duchess

The dowager duchess is Jordan's grandmother. She is a tough woman, and one of the most respected in London society. Though she has a cold demeanor, she is full of love



that doesn't show often. Jordan is her favorite grandson, and she is devastated when he passes. When she realizes that Alexandra is sincerely in love with him and would have done everything she could to honor him, the dowager duchess decides she wants to help train Alexandra to become a societal success, as Jordan would have wanted. She is patient with Alexandra, making sure to establish a proper and hearty reputation for her by whispering in the right ears. She knows exactly how society works and tries to remain one step ahead of everything and everyone, even at her own age. It is severely important for her to do things correctly and she strives to be perfect, even if it does make her appear as cold as ice.

Anthony

Anthony is Jordan's cousin. He is very devoted to his grandmother, mother and brother and is a kind man in general. He had a good childhood without all of the pressures of growing up as the future Duke of Hawthorne. He is kind to Alexandra, and while he finds her attractive, he is not in love with her and treats her more like a daughter or a sister he is trying to protect than a potential lover.

Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen is Alexandra's best friend. She is a simple farm girl, whose parents never cared about teaching their children about proper manners and genteel behavior.

Anthony's Mother

She is described as a gentle and kind woman. She is very sweet with Alexandra, and Jordan loved her more than his own mother. We never learn more about her until the end when she is behind a plot to kill Jordan.

Bertie

Bertie is Anthony's brother. He has a lame leg and has to walk around with a cane. Though we don't realize it until the end, he is a very bitter man and upset at the world. He is jealous of Jordan for being so important and admired by so many people and would do anything to be in his shoes.

Smarth

One of Jordan's servants that has known him since he was a little boy.



Filbert

Filbert is Alexandra's blind servant. Both Filbert and Penrose were too old and sick to find employment elsewhere after Alexandra's father died, so out of kindness she took care of them and let them hold onto their dignity by giving them odd jobs around the house.

Penrose

Penrose is Alexandra's nearly-deaf servant. Both Filbert and Penrose were too old and sick to find employment elsewhere after Alexandra's father died, so out of kindness she took care of them and let them hold onto their dignity by giving them odd jobs around the house.



Objects/Places

Morsham

This is the small town from which Alexandra comes. It is very close knit, and everyone knows what is happening with everyone else. When Alexandra is hurt and carried into the Inn, people of the town know about the incident less than twenty-four hours later. This news threatens to ruin Alexandra's reputation.

Rosemeade

One of Jordan's many estates. It is his grandmother's favorite and is where she would prefer to live because it isn't as daunting as Hawthorne.

Hawthorne

This is the largest of the estates that Jordan owns. It has an immense mansion that sits on 50,000 acres of land. The mansion is made of stone and glass and has hundreds of servants.

Morsham Inn

The Inn where Jordan takes Alexandra after she faints from killing a man and saving Jordan's life. This is where he discovers she is a girl, and when the owner of the Inn sees him taking her shirt off, Alexandra's reputation is instantly damaged.

Hawthorne Schoolroom

The schoolroom is where Jordan spent most of his childhood. He was hammered with lesson plans and beaten if he failed to learn them properly. Alexandra spends time in the room, upset that he had such a bad learning experience.

London

The capital of England, and the city where the highest of Society gathered throughout the year and during special Seasons to party and court.

Lancaster

This is the ship that Jordon was sold to by his kidnappers. It was attacked by the Verailles, a French ship, and was sunk.



Fair Winds

The ship that Jordan and Alexandra spent their first night on.

Cottage in the Woods

This small cottage is on the Hawthorne property. It is where Anthony's mother and brother plan to kill Jordan.

Alexandra's house

Alexandra's house was very modest, though it was starting to fall apart. After her father died, they couldn't afford to pay the servants that kept the house running, so Alexandra had to spread herself thin to make things work, especially since her mother was useless in everything except pitying herself.

Devon

This is the estate to which Jordan wants to send Alexandra, though she never makes it there.

Schoolteacher's Cane

Alexandra has Jordan's schoolteacher's cane burned after she sees it in the schoolroom. Jordan was beaten repeatedly with it as a young boy whenever he would get a wrong answer to a problem or question. The cane represented a part of Jordan's life that haunted him. He hated school, hated learning, and this made Alexandra sad because she had such a wonderful learning experience.



Themes

Societal Pressures

At the beginning, Jordan believes that all women are evil and only care about their own personal gain and that they don't care about anything but themselves. This is the type of woman that he has been exposed to his entire life, and is perhaps the result of such strict societal rules that are imposed on women from the very beginning. Society says that a woman shouldn't read books, participate in sports or do anything that would be considered too manly. Women are supposed to be chaste, subservient and talented only in the fields of music and dance. Alexandra is the opposite of everything Jordan has known. She likes to hunt, fish, fence and think. Alexandra is the perfect example of what happens when a woman is not subjected to societal rules and customs. She is free, happy and optimistic in a world of people who are forced into a mold in which they don't want to be. It shows that the pressures of society are at times too much to bear, and that people are better off in their own natural state. Alexandra proves this to the dowager duchess as well. When they both believe that Jordan is dead, the dowager duchess is not expected, nor allowed to cry. Because of her position, she is to remain strong and can have no time for tears. Alexandra ignores the doctors who tell her this and goes to the duchess. She tells her to let her emotions out and feel the relief of a good cry. Nobody had ever allowed the duchess to show her emotions, and for someone to acknowledge that she even had feelings was a great relief to her. From this moment on, the duchess helps Alexandra through the maze of societal acceptance and teaches her the tricks, while paving a path for her among the upper-class members of society.

Trust

Trust and betrayal was a main theme among the characters of the story. Alexandra and Jordan many trust issues. Initially, Jordan tells Alexandra that he can never trust a woman, mainly because of his bad experiences with the main women in his life, his mother. She tells him that she can teach him to trust, being the innocent, naive girl that she is. Alexandra initially really trusts Jordan, and this belief in him is what gives him the strength to get out of the dungeon in France. However, while he is in the dungeon, Alexandra learns about his visit with Elise, and that in their short marriage, he has already betrayed her (which, of course, is later proven false). She had tried so hard to please him and be the woman that he wanted her to be, and it was all in vain. Her belief in him is ruined, and she almost marries Anthony. Just as Jordan is beginning to believe in trust and honesty, he thinks that Anthony and perhaps Alexandra are involved with his attempted murder so Anthony could become the new Duke of Hawthorne. The reader knows that this is just a misunderstanding, but now both Alexandra and Jordan are skeptical of one another. While Alexandra rebuilds her belief in her husband, he thinks the entire time that she is about to kill him. It isn't until Alexandra is shot and his other cousin turns out to be the assassin that he realizes she was always truthful to him. The



saddest part is that his aunt, whom he loved more than his own mother, was behind the attempts on his life as well. He realizes that Alexandra, the one person that always believed in him, and who he doubted, was the only person who had his best interest at heart.

Jealousy

Jealousy is rampant throughout the novel. Alexandra's mother is jealous of her husband's other family in London, which she doesn't know about until her husband dies. Alexandra is less jealous to learn about her half sister and her beauty, than sad that she tried so hard to please her father when the entire time he already had everything that he needed and wanted. The women of London society are all jealous of Alexandra after she comes out of her shell and proves she deserves to be among them. Before Alexandra, they were all jealous of whichever woman was Jordan's current mistress. The last connection of jealousy was Bertie, who is Anthony's crippled brother. He was jealous of everyone his entire life because he was born lame. He tried killing Jordan and planned to eventually kill his brother so he could secure the dukedom. The existence of jealousy in the novel shows that appearances are very important. Everyone wants to appear that they are better off than they really are. Alexandra's mother only married her off so that Mrs. Lawrence could have a better life, not so her daughter would be happy. The only thing that Jordan is ever jealous of is the childhood that Anthony had, because it was carefree without the responsibility of having to be perfect all the time. Alexandra is the one who is never jealous of anyone or any situation. Whenever a situation arises where she might be jealous, or where a situation would merit such feeling, she tries to understand the situation. For instance, she treasured a tin locket her father gave her not knowing that he had given her half sister a gold one. When her half sister rubs it in her face, Alexandra is not jealous, but rather extremely hurt that her father cared for her less. It wasn't the object, but the meaning behind the locket. That is Alexandra's nature, she always finds the meaning behind actions and has little inclination to be jealous of things and actions. She isn't about appearances but about sincerity and kindness.



Style

Point of View

The book is written in the third person omniscient point of view. The reader knows the feelings of all the main characters and their motives. The writer does an excellent job at adding suspense and making the reader question the real motives of the characters, even though everything is revealed through their thoughts. This is an effective and traditional point of view for romance novels because it shows how each person feels about the other, and the struggles they have when trying to profess or otherwise hide their loves.

Setting

The book takes place in England in the years 1814-1815. The story begins with Jordan and Lady Grangerfield, two members of the upper class, having an affair during Jordan's mother's birthday party. While in his bedchamber, he peers out the window and sees that his mother is also having an affair, with Lady Grangerfield's husband. This is the norm in his world, and the reader sees he is jaded from the start and completely accustomed to his mother's infidelities. The story then moves to Morsham, a tiny town in the country, where the reader is introduced to a young Alexandra and her relationship with her family. It is important to see how she interacts with her grandfather because he has instilled morals and education in her, making her the kind-hearted, intelligent girl that she is. It also shows how much she loves her father, who visits unexpectedly, and in his visit reveals the lengths Alexandra is willing to go to please him and anyone else she loves. She grew up in a place where societal rules were not the norm.

The storyline quickly moves three years into the future after the death of Alexandra's father and grandfather. The family is struggling, and though Alexandra takes it upon herself to take care of her mother, uncle and elderly servants of the house, her efforts go unappreciated by her mother. All her mother wants is to go back to living the style of life she had grown accustomed to when her husband was alive and sending her money. She gets her wish when she coaxes Jordan to marry her daughter and she is paid off. Alexandra then must learn to live in the upper class, where societal rules govern everybody's behavior. The upper class is so foreign to her that she doesn't automatically fit in.

Language and Meaning

The writing in this book is very typical romantic style. The sentences move quickly and have a soft flow that keeps the reader's attention. The dialogue is limited to certain conversations, which are all explained just after being said. The characters speak, but their words mean far less than their actions and thoughts. The writer exposes the love scenes with good taste, making the reader interested, but not uncomfortable, which is

difficult to do. She adds bits of sexual innuendo, which she does very tastefully and keeps to a minimum so as not to distract the reader too much from the story line.

Structure

The book is divided into thirty-one chapters with an epilogue. The story spans the time of a little over a year. There is a main plot in the story, with every character's life revolving around the two main characters. Every action that the sub characters take has a direct action on the main characters. There are no subplots, and once a character has served his or her purpose, he or she disappears from the story line. The novel reads quickly because of the intensity of the sentences and the omission of unnecessary facts, scenes and story lines.



Quotes

"She was young and naive and idealistic. He was none of those things." Chapter 9, pg. 107

"She wanted to give him her love. ALL he wanted was her body." Chapter 9, pg. 107

"She wanted to be loved by him. The only 'love' he believed in was the kind made in bed." Chapter 9, pg. 107

"She was infatuated with him. He did not want to be burdened with an infatuated child." Chapter 9, pg. 107

"All the love in the universe was shining in her eyes." Chapter 10, pg. 121

"If you don't trust, you'll never be disappointed by someone. But you will also cheat yourself of the chance to ever be completely happy." Chapter 10, pg.121

"What a miserable lot you women have. From the day you're born, anything you want is yours for the asking, and so you have nothing to work for — and even if you did, you'd never be permitted to work for it." Chapter 1, pg. 2

"Morsham might seem a dull place populated by gossipy peasants, but to thirteen year old Alexandra, the village and its inhabitants were beautiful." Chapter 1 pg. 10

"True beauty springs from the heart and dwells in the eyes." Chapter 1, pg. 5

"I applaud your honesty. It is a rare virtue in your sex." Chapter 1 pg. 3

"Alexandra's lack of sophistication sprang not from mere inexperience, but rather from an ingenuous nobility of spirit and gentleness of heart." Chapter 5, pg. 59

"He wanted to cleanse himself of the filth of that prison and then rid himself of the tarnish of his misspent life." Chapter 16, pg. 183



Topics for Discussion

Alexandra's grandfather wanted something different for his granddaughter. Would he have been satisfied with her marrying Jordan in the beginning?

Would Jordan have trusted Alexandra eventually if he wasn't kidnapped? Or would he have gone along with his plan to leave her at Devon?

What do you think Alexandra would have done if she would have been confined to Devon?

Bertie is behind the attempts on Jordan's life. How well would he have done as a crippled Duke? Given all the freedom and privilege that he ever desired, would he have lasted amid the strict social customs of society?

Why do the people of high society want to be part of such a strict social structure? It appears that everyone is more miserable than happy.

How do you think people secure a place in society? For instance, how did Roddy Carstairs get the position of the societal gossip?

In the end, Jordan and Alexandra have a baby and are happy together. How do you think that society reacted to them being happy, knowing that society can turn any situation either good or bad?