

# **The System of the World Study Guide**

**The System of the World by Neal Stephenson**

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## Plot Summary

*The System of the World* begins where the first book of the Baroque Cycle trilogy, *Quicksilver*, concluded. Daniel Waterhouse, chancellor of the Massachusetts Colony Institute of Technical Studies and Arts, is returning to London from Boston aboard the ship *Minerva*. He has not been back long when an attempt is made on his life. The would-be assassins unsuccessfully use an infernal device, or time bomb and an exhaustive search for the culprit begins. As Daniel comes to grips with this, England in 1714 continues to search for an heir to the throne for Queen Anne, who is terminally ill. The Queen populates the House of Lords with Tories and a struggle for power continues in the background throughout the story's plot.

Daniel tries to reconcile differences between Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried von Leibniz in their ongoing dispute over the invention of calculus. Meanwhile, the English Mint, which Sir Isaac is the master of and accountable for, is under question because of allegations that the English currency is not authentic. The trial of the Pyx will test its merit.

Jack Shaftoe, Sir Isaac's nemesis and an expert counterfeiter, has stolen and tampered with the contents of the Pyx, the English Mint's sampling box. This not only subjects the English economy to failure but also brings Sir Isaac's integrity into question. Jack is an elusive character who constantly toys with Sir Isaac, often making the extremely intelligent man appear foolish. This emerges as a satirical element woven through the plot, illustrating the author's interpretation that while Sir Isaac may have been a mathematical genius, he was not brilliant in all areas.

Jack eventually confesses to his counterfeiting crimes and is sentenced to death. However, he has earned a reputation amongst the common English folk and his popularity saves his life. Jack's rescue leaves the authorities believing he has perished. Unable to supply a body as evidence, the authorities assume the commoners have stolen Jack's remains for sacred burial and they think nothing more of it. This is far from the truth and Jack is reunited with his long-lost love Eliza, the Duchess of Qwghlm.

Leibniz returns to Germany without resolving the dispute with Sir Isaac and he resigns himself to dying without reconciliation. Sir Isaac's reputation is upheld when his name is cleared. The English currency's quality is proven at the trial of the Pyx, the English economy remains intact and Daniel's inventions continue to astound. The system of the world has evolved and strengthened, its fate decided and the Industrial Age is coming about.

*The System of the World* is a tale of deception, political propaganda, ill-gotten gains and a struggle for recognition and power. It contrasts historical data with that of fictitious science fiction, making it a believable yet quirky tale.



# Book 6: Chapter 1

## Book 6: Chapter 1 Summary

Dartmoor, Jan. 15, 1714

Dr. Daniel Waterhouse, chancellor of the Massachusetts Colony Institute of Technical Studies and Art, has returned to London from Boston at the request of Princesses Caroline, heir to the English throne should Hanoverian succession overrule the French.

Daniel is met by Thomas Newcomen, a Dartmouth blacksmith and inventor and Will Comstock, the Earl of Lostwithiel. After discussing political issues and the fate of mining, Will and Thomas persuade the doctor to take a detour on the way to London.

## Book 6: Chapter 1 Analysis

Stephenson introduces his main character Daniel Waterhouse, who meets Will Comstock and Thomas Newcomen upon arrival to England. As they chat casually, the reader begins to understand the circumstances that surround England. With Queen Anne's demise inevitable, Daniel and Will discuss loyalty, the royal succession and the influence of the Tories in the House of Lords. The banter makes Daniel feel uneasy and he becomes suspicious of Will's intentions. Daniel questions Will's allegiance, unconvinced by his answer and suspicious of his actions. Daniel prefers to remain on neutral territory and tells Will he does not trust him because of his association with Princess Caroline of Ansbach. Daniel begins to wonder if the Princess has sent Will to track him down. Will eventually persuades Daniel to accompany him and Thomas to a meeting concerning the fate of the English currency and the future of mining tin and copper from the now-flooded mines of England.





## Book 6: Chapter 2

### Book 6: Chapter 2 Summary

Cockern Tor, Jan. 15, 1714

Thomas, Will and Daniel travel across Dartmoor to meet with the 250 men Will has invited. When they are all assembled, Will explains that the tin and copper trades have diminished because of the flooded mines. Will introduces Daniel as a fellow who shall discuss the English currency with Sir Isaac Newton, the master of the English Mint. Will then asks that the men consider backing Thomas' newest invention, the Engine for Raising Water by Fire, so that they can drain the mines.

### Book 6: Chapter 2 Analysis

The philosophies of Leibniz, a natural philosopher and rival to Sir Isaac, are hinted at in this chapter as Daniel surveys the landscape and considers how certain structures and features were created, particularly the tor. This not only indicates that Daniel is fully aware of how Leibniz perceives the world and how his views influence others but also that the doctor is extremely intelligent.

Thomas' invention, the Engine for Raising Water by Fire, is now known as the steam engine. This landmark invention is an ingenious device that removes water by utilizing fire as a means of driving a pump or engine. However, it is not the first of its kind. Another inventor, Mr. Savery, built something similar, although it works on a different principle. Daniel realizes that Will has used his credentials and presence at the meeting to get financial backing for Thomas' invention. The investors become known as the "the proprietors of the Engine for Raising Water by Fire," which brings delusions of grandeur. This helps Will and Thomas get what they were hoping for: capital investment.



## Book 6: Chapter 3

### Book 6: Chapter 3 Summary

The Saracen's Head Inn, Jan. 15, 1714

Will, Daniel, Thomas and the potential investors decide to conclude business in the Saracen's Head, a local inn. Will seems cocky about his dealings and Daniel seems tired. They are discussing political outcomes in England when Daniel suddenly announces that he will be heading to London with another party. This greatly concerns Will and he worries about Daniel's welfare.

### Book 6: Chapter 3 Analysis

This chapter highlights the political tension that envelops all of England. While Will gloats over the financial gain that he and Thomas have acquired, owed in part to Daniel's presence, Daniel makes alternative arrangements to fulfill his obligation to Princess Caroline. Stephenson shows readers Daniel's bitterness toward England's current political standings and his urgency to travel to London and rectifying grievances between Newton and Leibniz. While Will and Daniel seem to be on edge with each other, they are in fact very close friends. This is evident when Will becomes concerned for Daniel's safety.



# Book 6: Chapter 4

## Book 6: Chapter 4 Summary

Southern England, late January, 1714

Daniel leaves for London with Mr. Threader, the man who is escorting him to England. Daniel discovers that Threader is conducting shady dealings along the way. This extends the journey's duration considerably and makes Daniel irritable and frustrated, which results in Daniel and Threader debating political and religious outcomes as they travel. The pair can't agree on anything. When they finally reach London, Daniel asks Threader take him to the Royal Society, where Daniel will be staying. As Daniel arrives at the Royal Society, Threader's luggage wagon explodes, creating hysteria and knocking Daniel off his feet. This sparks another debate between Threader and Daniel over the assassins' motives and for whom the bomb was intended.

## Book 6: Chapter 4 Analysis

The introduction of Threader allows the reader to understand that while Daniel is exceptionally gifted mentally, he lacks other psychological attributes. He is naïve and gullible and displays a lack of common sense, which puts Daniel in compromising positions and almost costs him his life. Examples of this are visible throughout the chapter, one being when Daniel accepts Threader's invitation to travel with him without knowing who Threader is or what he does for living. This could have detrimental consequences to Daniel's mission. Secondly, the political and religious discussions between Daniel and Threader blatantly highlight Daniel's demeanor. Lastly, after the explosion of the baggage cart, Daniel questions Threader's associations, believing Threader is the one the blast was intended as Daniel finds it difficult to believe anyone would want to kill him.



## Book 6: Chapter 5

### Book 6: Chapter 5 Summary

Crane Court, early February, 1714

Daniel requests no visitors while he recuperates mentally and physically from the blast. Newton and several other people of importance have called on Daniel only to be politely turned away. As Daniel rests, Mrs. Arlanc, Crane Court's housekeeper, hands him a letter from Eliza De La Zeur, the Duchess of Arcachon-Qwghlm. The letter was written by Baron Von Leibniz, a natural philosopher and Sir Isaac's adversary and it asks Daniel to find out when the ships of Peter (Peter the Great) Romanov, the Russian tsar, will be ready to sail from London to St. Petersburg.

Leibniz has also requested that Daniel provide evidence of the inventions they have worked on over the last 15 years as well as samples of their natural philosophy tools. As Daniel reads on, he is surprised to find several years' worth of attacks and counterattacks in the calculus dispute that continues between Newton and Leibniz, all of which he is expected to familiarize himself with if he hopes to mediate a resolution between the parties.

Daniel attends Parliament when he has recovered from his ordeal and discovers that Queen Anne has proclaimed Sophie, the elderly Hanoverian Queen, as her successor.

### Book 6: Chapter 5 Analysis

Stephenson allows the reader to grasp the significance of Daniel's character and hints throughout the chapter at the role Daniel will play in the story's plot. This becomes evident as many important people call on Daniel while he is ill. Their concern signifies that they need Daniel's judgment in important matters. In addition, the plethora of correspondence Daniel receives shows how others perceive Daniel. He is a vital player in the world and many great minds and prominent people regard Daniel as an authority on events and happenings, especially those related to English politics and science. This chapter not only highlights how closely bonded Newton and Daniel are, but also that Leibniz, holds Daniel in high regard. Daniel's willingness to immediately seek out the whereabouts of the tools that Gottfried requires shows that the feeling is mutual.

Daniel is quite surprised about the delivery of the calculus dispute evidence, which signifies that he will be called before a tribunal and that he is asked to give evidence in the case between Newton and Leibniz. He also is surprised by Queen Anne's decision on her successor. This has been a long process that has taken its toll on the political parties and created disharmony among the English people.



## Book 6: Chapter 6

### Book 6: Chapter 6 Summary

London, late February, 1714

Daniel meets Sir Christopher Wren, architect and mathematical prodigy, to ascertain whether Mr. Hooke, a natural philosopher, has left any philosophy tools elsewhere. When Daniel is satisfied he has collected all he can for Leibniz, he takes the goods to the docks and inquires when the ships will sail to St. Petersburg.

### Book 6: Chapter 6 Analysis

Stephenson highlights the need for concealment and secrecy as Daniel searches for the tools of Hooke, who is now deceased. This suggests that inventors and natural philosophers are enigmatic and fearful that their ideas might be stolen in a time when patenting was not enforced. In today's society, patenting laws and intellectual property rights protect these ideas, but these laws were not introduced until the 1830s, well before Sir Isaac's and Daniel Waterhouse's time.



## Book 6: Chapter 7

### Book 6: Chapter 7 Summary

Mr. White's Baiting-Ring

Daniel asks Mr. Kilkin, owner of the shipyard, for permission to leave Leibniz's crates on the dock. As Daniel leaves, he witnesses Mr. White, a diplomat, being beaten by protesters in the bearbaiting ring, which is a dog- and bear-fighting arena. Unsure of the incident and scared by the outcome, Daniel flees to visit Newton only to discover that he is away on business. Daniel feels alienated and alone so he calls on Bob Shaftoe, an old friend and a sergeant in the Queen's army, to relieve his anxiety.

### Book 6: Chapter 7 Analysis

The grisly details discussed in this chapter show how abusive and manipulative educated people in the 16th century could be. In addition, the barbaric and malicious activities highlight the demeanor of England during this era. This chapter shows the contrast between then and now. A prime example of this is Daniel's visit to Shaftoe, who Daniel finds extracting brain juice from dead bodies. This process supposedly alleviated the symptoms of silver poisoning in the living. Daniel finds the barbaric encounters of his day overwhelming, giving the reader a deeper understanding of Daniel's character and exhibiting his compassion.



## Book 6: Chapter 8

### Book 6: Chapter 8 Summary

Orney's Shipyard Rotherhithe, March 12, 1714

Daniel receives notification from the shipyard that one of the tsar's ships has been set on fire and burned during the night. Daniel and Newton visit the shipyard to investigate the fire. They discover traces of phosphorous and fragmented timepieces similar to the debris found when the bomb exploded at Crane Court. This implies the two incidences are linked and Daniel suggests that they investigate further.

### Book 6: Chapter 8 Analysis

Daniel questions if he should go to the shipyard because the ships are not his responsibility, but he feels compelled to understand more and uncover the truth surrounding the incident. Upon arrival, Daniel inspects the wreckage while Mr. Kilkin and Mr. Orney speculate how the event unfolded. Both are perplexed until Daniel explains how phosphorous works as an ignition point for an explosion. After Daniel's analysis, he uncovers similarities between the two incidents and feels that his life is threatened. Daniel's urge to discover who is responsible increases and he asks Threader, Ornsley and Kilkin for assistance. Daniel stresses the need for confidentiality if they hope to find out who is responsible.



## Book 6: Chapter 9

### Book 6: Chapter 9 Summary

A Subterranean Vault in Clerkenwell, early April, 1714

Daniel tries to learn as much as possible about the infernal devices, or bombs. Threader, Kilkin and Orney accompany him to the subterranean vault in Clerkenwell, which Daniel owns. Here they form an alliance they call the Clubb and they begin investigations. They start with studying the watch debris recovered from the scene of the explosion. After opening the watch and studying the maker's markings, they decide to offer a public reward in hopes of finding the Tsar's boat burner. As Daniel leaves the meeting, he bumps into Saturn, a watchmaker and notorious thief and Daniel is suspicious of the man's intentions.

### Book 6: Chapter 9 Analysis

The fusion of Daniel, Threader, Kilkin and Orney into the Clubb suggests that they trust and feel confident in each other's actions. Each contributes in a slightly different way to conversation and problem solving, bringing diversity and insight to the search for the person responsible for the attacks. The men deduct that to find who is responsible, they must expose the location of the phosphorous manufacture. Daniel reminds the group that phosphorous is an unusual substance for this era, which should make their job easier. When Daniel leaves the meeting and encounters Saturn, Daniel wonders whether it is pure coincidence.





## **Book 6: Chapter 10**

### **Book 6: Chapter 10 Summary**

Bloomsbury

Daniel meets Catherine Barton, Newton's niece, at Roger Comstock's house and discovers that Roger has a replica clockwork volcano, which uses phosphorous to mimic eruptions.

### **Book 6: Chapter 10 Analysis**

Daniel is suspicious of Roger Comstock because of the use of phosphorus and clockworks in his volcano replica. Daniels asks many questions about the builder of the device, not only to ease his suspicions but also to ascertain a manufacturing point. Daniel believes that the source of phosphorous may lead to the bomber.



# Book 6: Chapter 11

## Book 6: Chapter 11 Summary

Sir Isaac Newton's house, St. Martin Street, London

Daniel visits Sir Isaac and tells him about his encounter with a man who was testing the authenticity of a guinea by biting the gold coin. Daniel and Sir Isaac then discuss coinage, the English mint, calculus and the English economy. During the course of conversation, Sir Isaac tells Daniel about his nemesis, Jack the coinier and his ill-gotten gains. Sir Isaac then asks Daniel to help him find the counterfeiter.

## Book 6: Chapter 11 Analysis

As Daniel and Sir Isaac discuss the mint, coinage and Threader, the biter of the gold guinea, Daniel thinks about counterfeiting. Daniel questions why Threader doubted the guinea's quality and if Sir Isaac has any association with Threader. Daniel also ponders the ramifications this act could have on the English economy. When Sir Isaac mentions Jack, the coinier, many doubts flourish and Daniel is not convinced that Sir Isaac's plan to capture the infamous Jack will succeed. Daniel believes that Jack is cunning and he thinks that Jack might be setting a counter attack for Sir Isaac.



## Book 6: Chapter 12

### Book 6: Chapter 12 Summary

Leicester House

Eliza, Duchess of Qwghlm and bookkeeper of the Minerva, has returned to London. Dappa, a Negro author and shipmate of the Minerva, greets her on arrival and they discuss the publication of his next work. Throughout the conversation, Eliza intently watches her front entrance from the upper story of her home. Eliza is certain that Tory and Whig spies gather on her front lawn.

### Book 6: Chapter 12 Analysis

Stephenson introduces Eliza and Dappa and highlights their association. The connection between them is one the reader would not anticipate. Eliza's concern about being watched and followed seems far-fetched for Dappa until Eliza points out several suspicious people. With her doubts put at ease, Eliza talks to Dappa about his latest publications. She says that while his stories are touching people, they need to appeal to a larger audience instead of a select few. Eliza asks him to find a special story that will connect to his audience in a deeper way.



## Book 6: Chapter 13

### Book 6: Chapter 13 Summary

#### The Kit-Kat Clubb

Daniel meets Dappa at the Clubb and Daniel is certain that they are being watched. They quietly discuss the Minerva and the diagrams Daniel has seen of the ship. Daniel tells Dappa that he knows that under the ballast, marked as antifouling plates, are sheets of gold used to forge guineas and he warns Dappa that he is not the only one. Daniel suggests that as a shipmate of the Minerva, Dappa quickly dispose of the sheeting by other means before he is caught. Daniel is aware that Comstock is watching them, so he stops talking about the matter. Comstock and Peer, a writer for the "Lens" newspaper and Daniel's half-nephew, join Daniel and Dappa and discuss where Eliza's loyalty lies.

### Book 6: Chapter 13 Analysis

Daniel is listening to everyone's philosophies and systematically trying to draw his own conclusions. Daniel believes that Dappa is a good-natured fellow who deserves to be forewarned of impending danger and Daniel feels obligated to divulge the information concerning the hidden gold sheeting and its exposure. Comstock and Daniel share a similar interest in Eliza's political standings. Their disappointment is warranted when Dappa refuses to volunteer any information on the matter. Instead, Dappa explains that his relationship with Eliza is purely a business association, which raises further speculation.



## Book 6: Chapter 14

### Book 6: Chapter 14 Summary

Crane Court, London, April 22, 1714

Saturn meets Daniel at the entrance to Crane Court and takes him to a common thieves' meeting place. Here they wait for Mr. Baynes, a counterfeiter who knows Jack. Sir Isaac, disguised as a man with syphilis, lies by the fire waiting for an opportune moment to pounce. As Daniel and Saturn discuss the disposal of the fraudulent sheeting used to produce counterfeit coins, the Queen's Army storms the meeting place. They arrest Mr. Bayne and escort him to the tower for interrogation. Saturn uses this as a convenient means of escape.

### Book 6: Chapter 14 Analysis

Daniel gives away no information that the meeting is a trap for Bayne, an associate of Jack. It comes as a complete surprise to the reader. Sir Isaac's appearance as the old man riddled with syphilis is an inventive inclusion that offers a lighthearted moment in an otherwise serious situation. This chapter makes the reader question whether Daniel is as honest and genuine as first believed. When Bayne is apprehended, it becomes clear that Sir Isaac and Daniel seek out the mastermind behind the operation and they are intent on extracting the information by any means possible.



## **Book 6: Chapter 15**

### **Book 6: Chapter 15 Summary**

River Thames, April 23, 1714

Aboard the Atlanta, Mr. White's ship, Daniel and Sir Isaac sail down the Thames and discuss Bayne's confession before England exiled him to Russia, his country of origin. This moves the topic of conversation to the Russian tsar, whom Sir Isaac believes has spies in England. The two converse as they try to make sense of the events that have unfolded over the last few days. Sir Isaac suggests that Jack is an agent for Louis XIV.

### **Book 6: Chapter 15 Analysis**

The political nature of England makes Sir Isaac suspicious of Russian and French involvement in current events. He speculates that either one may sabotage the fine English economy by introducing fraudulent guineas into the system. Daniel doubts Russian involvement and tends to lean toward the French, but he is not completely convinced either is responsible. Sir Isaac and Daniel debate the pros and cons, trying to ascertain who is accountable and what they have to gain from the deception.



## **Book 6: Chapter 16**

### **Book 6: Chapter 16 Summary**

Lieutenants' lodgings, the Tower of London

Lord Gy, a Scottish nobleman also known as Rufus Maclan, murders Lt. Throwley, a Yeoman guard from the Tower of London. This graphic event takes place as they argue over Lord Gy's association with Jack Ketch, a man of questionable integrity.

### **Book 6: Chapter 16 Analysis**

While no explanation is given to whom Jack Ketch is, the reader is led to assume this person may be the person Sir Isaac seeks. The reader discovers much later in the story that Jack Ketch is the Royal Executioner. While Stephenson has described the fight scene in explicit detail, he does not offer any details of Ketch's background. The reader, however, is given a complex introduction and personal history for another new character, Lord Gy, a Scottish noble and volatile man.



## **Book 6: Chapter 17**

### **Book 6: Chapter 17 Summary**

Sloop, Atlanta, Gravesend

Daniel explains to Colonel Barnes, captain of the Atlanta, why Sir Isaac does not want German influence to rule England. This clarifies Barnes' incorrect assumption that Sir Isaac is a Jacobite, which leads the pair to talk about gravity and the moon's influence on Leibniz and Sir Isaac's relationship.

### **Book 6: Chapter 17 Analysis**

Daniel feels obliged to explain Sir Isaac's beliefs to Barnes so he can understand exactly who Sir Isaac is. Daniel believes misunderstandings can cause significant problems later, so he sets the Colonel straight. When Daniel is satisfied with their discussion and that the Colonel has no further questions, they move onto other topics surrounding Sir Isaac and Leibniz's association.





## **Book 6: Chapter 18**

### **Book 6: Chapter 18 Summary**

Cold Harbor

Stephenson introduces the reader to Dart, a barber and Tom, a black-guard boot polisher. These commoners reside in Cold Harbor, which is close to the English mint. Dart and Tom go to the house of Lord Hollesloy, a retired English lord and Jacobite who is under house arrest and threaten to take his life. Yeoman Clooney, Hollesloy's assistant, accompanies Tom to another location while Dart watches over the lord.

### **Book 6: Chapter 18 Analysis**

This chapter is a little confusing as the reader is introduced to several new characters who seem irrelevant to the plot and have no relation to earlier events. The only hint given within this chapter of a connection is the close proximity of Cold Harbor to the English mint. This suggests that Tom may soon commit a felony.



## Book 6: Chapter 19

### Book 6: Chapter 19 Summary

Sloop Atlanta, The Hope

Daniel, Barnes and Bob Shaftoe review a map stamped on foolscap. As they sail on the Atlanta, Bob openly talks to Daniel about loyalty and his political preferences. Daniel proclaims that he is not a Jacobite, which satisfies Bob's curiosity. Bob then asks if Daniel will stand with them or against them and Daniel realizes the extent of the political affairs in England. At this time, Daniel also begins to understand that anyone who is influential is being pressured to choose sides.

### Book 6: Chapter 19 Analysis

Daniel realizes in the course of conversation that Bob and Barnes are afraid of the imposing revolution. The pressure that influential politicians are imposing on others suggests that many are speculative of England's political standings and want to control and take advantage of the situation. Daniel searches for hope as he realizes that he is apprehensive of his own future, especially when he is of a restful age. Stephenson shows a weakness in the hero. While Daniel has answered Sophie's call to action, he questions his ability to follow the task through because of other factors interfering with the outcome.



## Book 6: Chapter 20

### Book 6: Chapter 20 Summary

The Monument, London

A rocket is concealed and transported to the Tower of London by a group of men and their associates begin to line the rooftops of nearby buildings, sporting crossbows. As the tower guards attend a fire lit deliberately outside the tower walls as a decoy, the rocket is assembled. Father Edouard De Gex, a French Catholic minister and Jack Shaftoe, a counterfeit coinier, wait for the chain of events to cover their maneuver.

### Book 6: Chapter 20 Analysis

The elaborate plan and series of events were the work of Jack Shaftoe and Edouard De Gex. Their decoy allowed them to steal the crown jewels from the Tower of London and coinage from the English mint. Jack knows that his actions will cause political propaganda to come to a head and will devalue the English currency. While Jack and Edouard seem to work effortlessly together, they have different motivations for their actions. Father De Gex, who is French, wants to attack the English economy and threaten the country's stability and financial grounding, while Jack feels obligated to rustle a few feathers and upset the noblemen who believe they are powerful.



## **Book 6: Chapter 21**

### **Book 6: Chapter 21 Summary**

Sloop Atlanta, off the Isle of Grain

Colonel Barnes, Daniel, Sir Isaac and Charles White realize their travel to the Isle of Grain has been futile and nothing more than a bluff by Jack. The information they were given was a decoy. Sir Isaac asks to go ashore with a wooden case and Barnes and Daniel escort him.

### **Book 6: Chapter 21 Analysis**

The series of events that transpires in this chapter makes the reader question if Sir Isaac is capable of making important decisions and if Daniel possesses any leadership skills. Both men seem to make mistake after mistake, costing them valuable time and risking their integrity.



## **Book 6: Chapter 22**

### **Book 6: Chapter 22 Summary**

Lieutenant's lodgings, the Tower of London

Mclan watches the sloop in the bay, waiting for it to signal and knowing that Barnes and Shaftoe are on other business aboard the Atlanta. Lieutenant Throwley, the only other commanding officer of the regiment, has been murdered, so inferior hierarchy is leading the English soldiers. This alone could lead to their demise.

Rufus Mclan claims the Tower of London and takes the White Tower for the Maclan clan. Lt. Throwley's corpse lies on the floor.

### **Book 6: Chapter 22 Analysis**

Rufus Mclan executes his plan of escape from the Tower of London and claims it for his people. The ship in the harbor that represents French sailors is a masterful illusion that confuses many of the English men, costing them their lives and control of the Tower of London and the White Tower. This poses a great threat to the English.



## Book 6: Chapter 23

### Book 6: Chapter 23 Summary

The City of London

Dappa and Jones, an illiterate deckhand from the *Minerva*, go to Worth's coffeehouse, a financiers' meeting place, to wait for Mr. Sawyer, a financier. As they wait, Dappa reads a bill that states he is the property of Mr. Charles White and a bounty has been placed on his head.

### Book 6: Chapter 23 Analysis

Dappa is a refined black gentleman and the reader can deduce that his association with Eliza, Duchess of Qwghlm, is undoubtedly the reason behind the bill's circulation. Because of his skin color, Dappa can be used as a political pawn to persuade the Duchess do things against her will. Dappa refuses to be used as leverage to manipulate anyone's standings.



## Book 6: Chapter 24

### Book 6: Chapter 24 Summary

Sloop Atlanta, off the Shive

Sir Isaac, Daniel, Colonel Barnes and Bob Shaftoe abandon the sloop and chase the ship they have been following aboard a long boat. The ship soon runs aground in an abnormally low tide off the Shive Tor. As the men approach the ship, two infernal devices explode on the tor and it is engulfed in flames.

### Book 6: Chapter 24 Analysis

This confusing chapter offers no answers to previous questions. Instead, it leaves the reader asking more questions. Is Jack responsible for the infernal devices? What is the purpose of the infernal devices? Stephenson's descriptions of the surroundings and characters' actions are often long-winded and tend to detract from the plot. It seems that the judgment of Sir Isaac, Daniel and Colonel Barnes has been impaired and they are all guilty of making bad decisions that become costly.



## **Book 6: Chapter 25**

### **Book 6: Chapter 25 Summary**

The Monument

Jack and his sons, Jimmy and Danny Shaftoe, wait until the Scotsman, Mclan, is visible in the Tower before setting off the rockets. Father Edouard De Gex meets Jack holding several small leather bags and Jack abseils down the Tower as peasants gather below, chanting for their promised guineas.

### **Book 6: Chapter 25 Analysis**

The reader is led to believe that Jack has concocted an elaborate plan to obtain an assortment of small leather pouches, but what these pouches contain remains a mystery. While all parties happily help each other get what they want, they seem to be driven by completely different motives. Mclan wishes to gain freedom, De Gex wants to punish the English in the name of the French and Jack obtains the leather pouches. While all parties are working effectively together, they seem to be using each other's skills and appear to openly dislike each other.





## Book 6: Chapter 26

### Book 6: Chapter 26 Summary

Worth's Coffeehouse, Birchin Lane, London

A scout notices Dappa as he waits to sign the indenture. Johann, a member of the Duchess of Qwghlm's hierarchy, protects Johann and ushers him to safety. However, Dappa decides his future is better served writing as an enslaved man and he is willingly apprehended.

### Book 6: Chapter 26 Analysis

Dappa tries to ascertain why an exaggerated lie has been posted in public, especially when he has committed no crime. The irony is in how easily a white man can libel a black as an escaped slave, yet it is not as simple for a black man to reverse the order. Dappa decides he will never be free of white man's hatred, so he chooses to write as a captive. White as inadvertently aiding Dappa's career and helping him become a famous writer of notable distinction.



## **Book 6: Chapter 27**

### **Book 6: Chapter 27 Summary**

Shive Tor

Sir Isaac and Daniel are aboard the hooker, the ship they were pursuing and discover the suspected coiniers have cut loose the anchor. Their men inform them that a heavy box below deck contains a clock that ticks. The hooker gets caught in the backdraft of the tor and drifts toward the flames.

### **Book 6: Chapter 27 Analysis**

Sir Isaac and Daniel realize that the suspected coiniers have planned well in advance and that they have been tricked more than once during the day, eroding their confidence even further. Colonel Barnes joins them below deck to resolve their dilemma and figure out how to disarm the infernal device that they assume is in the ticking box.



## Book 6: Chapter 28

### Book 6: Chapter 28 Summary

The White Tower

Claimed by the French, the Tower is a crumbling battleground. Jack has used Mclan's skills to gain his current positioning. Feeling that Mclan is no longer of any use and untrustworthy, Jack removes him before entering the English mint with Saturn and Father De Gex. They enter the vault and claim the Pyx, a black chest that contains samples of English coinage.

### Book 6: Chapter 28 Analysis

Several unexpected situations arise in this chapter. Firstly, the battle between Mclan and Jack comes as a complete surprise even though the reader suspects these two characters are not the closest of friends. This twist depicts Jack as a deceitful character who will go to extraordinary lengths to achieve what he wants, even if that means killing people. The second surprise is the fact that Saturn helped in Jack's robbery, especially because Daniel has had dealings with him before.



## **Book 6: Chapter 29**

### **Book 6: Chapter 29 Summary**

Shive Tor, evening of April 23, 1714

Aboard the hooker, Sir Isaac and Daniel examine the chest that ticks and discuss the few options that they have. Resigning themselves to death, they open the chest and find that they have been fooled again. What they thought was a bomb turns out to be an elaborate jack-in-the-box.

### **Book 6: Chapter 29 Analysis**

Jack once again tricks Sir Isaac and Daniel into believing their circumstances are of dire consequence. The irony of this chapter becomes evident when Sir Isaac understands Jack Shaftoe's actions and why they have been sent on a wild goose chase. Unable to return to London because of the shipping currents, Sir Isaac feels that Jack has used foresight and cunning behavior to manipulate him. While Jack seems to be a malicious character who is only interested in securing his ill-gotten gains, he also seems to display a sense of humor.



# Book 7: Chapter 1

## Book 7: Chapter 1 Summary

Hanover, June 18, 1714

Princess Caroline rides a horse along the streets of Hanover reminiscing about her life, from the death of her parents when she was a child to her marriage to Augustus.

Daniel meets Princess Caroline a short time later as she strolls through the gardens of Queen Sophie's castle. Daniel tells her about England's current situation and how the English guinea has been made worthless. Caroline finds Daniel's behavior offensive and angrily departs. Later, Sophie and Caroline discuss currency and England briefly before Sophie suffers a stroke and passes away in Caroline's arms.

## Book 7: Chapter 1 Analysis

This chapter allows the reader to understand Caroline, her nature and her mannerisms. Caroline is naïve yet exceptionally strong, much like her grandmother Sophie. Sophie's death comes as a shock, but even in the end Sophie is a proud and stubborn woman who wants to retain her dignity and die peacefully without physicians intervening.



## **Book 7: Chapter 2**

### **Book 7: Chapter 2 Summary**

Westminster Place, June 11, 1714

Sir Isaac comes before the House of Lords and is held accountable for the events at the English Mint on April 23, 1714. The House of Lords also relieves Colonel Barnes of his duties and Sergeant Bob Shaftoe is relocated to new quarters. At this time, Sir Isaac discovers a forged document within the Pyx and is mortified.

### **Book 7: Chapter 2 Analysis**

While the officials and lords protest at the inquiry, it is nothing more than an inspection of the Pyx. Lord Ravenscar feels he must defend Sir Isaac's honor and his actions. Ravenscar urges Newton not offer his opinions under questioning, but Sir Isaac refuses to listen and expresses his thoughts against the lord's wishes.



## **Book 7: Chapter 3**

### **Book 7: Chapter 3 Summary**

Garden of Herrenhausen Palace, Hanover, June 23, 1714

Eliza arrives in Hanover and is greeted by Caroline. They ward off would-be assassins and are terrified.

Daniel discusses his travels, including the infernal devices and being attacked aboard the Minerva and explains how the Jacobites were trying to gain control in London.

### **Book 7: Chapter 3 Analysis**

Princess Caroline becomes aware that England is becoming a political battleground and she welcomes the support of Eliza and Daniel during the mourning of Sophie. The fact that the would-be assassins have come to Hanover makes Caroline realize that her current political standing in England is threatening to certain parties, something that Caroline has not anticipated. It also shows that these people are willing to resort to anything to stop Caroline from influencing England.



# Book 7: Chapter 4

## Book 7: Chapter 4 Summary

Princess Caroline's bed chamber, Herrenhausen Palace

As Eliza and Caroline get ready for Sophie's funeral, Daniel discusses the steam engine invention in hopes of gaining additional financial support. Information from this discussion leaks out and it becomes apparent that a spy is amongst them. They become suspicious of Mrs. Braithwaite, Caroline's maid and governess.

Eliza and Caroline's suspicions are confirmed when the poisoning of one of Sophie's dogs leads to the uncovering of another assassin, who is dead. Eliza demands that Mr. Braithwaite be put to death for betraying his country and Caroline is smuggled out of Hanover as Daniel's nurse.

## Book 7: Chapter 4 Analysis

Mrs. Braithwaite has been closely connected to Caroline and Sophie for many years. Caroline knows that Mrs. Braithwaite is also her husband's mistress, but she is not overly concerned because she thinks it would complicate matters. After careful consideration and investigation, Caroline and Eliza become aware of Mr. Braithwaite's odd behavior and figure out that while Mrs. Braithwaite may not be a spy, she is definitely feeding confidential information to her husband, who they believe is betraying his country.

Daniel tries to convince Eliza to back the steam engine by highlighting the power and prestige of being associated with the invention. Daniel seems apt at manipulating people into believing in him and his causes.





## Book 7: Chapter 5

### Book 7: Chapter 5 Summary

Between Black Mary's Hole and Sir John Oldcastle's, north of London, dawn, June 18, 1714

Roger Comstock, accompanied by two dragoons who are members of the Queen of England's army, rescues Bob Shaftoe from imprisonment and sends him to join Colonel Barnes at Ravenscar. This provokes Roger to discuss his plans of exposing Viscount Bolingbroke, a member of the House of Lords and his connection to the Pyx mystery with Bob and Colonel Barnes.

### Book 7: Chapter 5 Analysis

Roger Comstock is an influential man who refuses to see people with good intentions harmed. He uses his powerful connections to ensure the safety of certain people. Comstock believes that regardless of stature, the parties responsible should be held accountable for their actions. The exposure of Viscount Bolingbroke will result in the unification of a nation and bring reassurance to its people.

# **Book 7: Chapter 6**

## **Book 7: Chapter 6 Summary**

Clerkenwell Court, June 19, 1714

Daniel, Eliza and Caroline arrive in London and Daniel introduces them as his nurse, Gertrude Von Klotze and her half-sister, Hildegard Von Klotze. Daniel gives the women a guided tour of the court.

## **Book 7: Chapter 6 Analysis**

Daniel needs additional financial support for his research and inventions, so he shows Caroline how the logic mill is progressing. Eliza is skeptical about the philosophers' ideas and she questions what the financial backing will fund and how this invention will benefit others. Daniel feels that protecting the women's identities while in London ensures their safety, especially when political tension is volatile and no one can be trusted.



# Book 7: Chapter 7

## Book 7: Chapter 7 Summary

Westminster Place, 25 June, 1714

Daniel writes to Enoch Root, a confidant and an alchemist in Boston and explains the happenings in London. He also requests that Enoch tell his son, Godfrey, of these happenings in case Daniel cannot return home.

## Book 7: Chapter 7 Analysis

Daniel is unsure of the current circumstances and whether he will return home. The letter to Enoch explains his involvement and allows Daniel peace of mind should anything happen to him. It also helps Daniel make sense of the situation.



# Book 7: Chapter 8

## Book 7: Chapter 8 Summary

Westminster Place, July 9, 1714

Daniel is summoned to the House of Lords by the queen's messengers and asked to answer questions about the current happenings associated with the English Mint.

## Book 7: Chapter 8 Analysis

Daniel reluctantly attends court, although he is not sure on whose behalf so he divulges little. He perceives the affair as a waste of time and nothing more than royal pomp and pageantry, especially when the ailing queen makes an appearance at the House of Lords.



# Book 7: Chapter 9

## Book 7: Chapter 9 Summary

The Kit-Cat Clubb

Daniel discusses with Sir Isaac the queen's address at the House of Lords and the need to locate Jack the coinier before the trial of the Pyx begins.

## Book 7: Chapter 9 Analysis

Sir Isaac has become a member of the Kit-Cat Clubb and the group is made responsible for seeking out Jack the coinier's location. Their plan involves the men devising a strategic plan for Jack's capture. The urgency of their success has increased with the impending trial of the Pyx, as Sir Isaac, master of the mint, will be held accountable for its contents.



# Book 7: Chapter 10

## Book 7: Chapter 10 Summary

### The Carriage

Saturn approaches Daniel and Sir Isaac and informs them that John Doe, a common thief, has been captured while destroying the walls of Bedlam, a stately mansion that Dr. Hooke once owned. Saturn explains that John is currently in a holding cell, undergoing interrogation and that he hopes it will lead to Jack's capture.

## Book 7: Chapter 10 Analysis

Daniel had requested at a recent meeting of the Clubb that John Doe be investigated, so his capture comes as no surprise. Daniel believes that John Doe has been acting suspiciously and that he harbors a great deal of information relating to the happenings concerning the Pyx. After the interrogation of John Doe, it is discovered that he has been instructed to search the plaster of Bedlam hoping to uncover hidden documents that Dr. Hooke strategically placed there. Daniel returns to Bedlam and uncovers a chest containing Hooke's legacy.



# Book 7: Chapter 11

## Book 7: Chapter 11 Summary

The launch of Prudence, July 12, 1714

Orney, Daniel, Kilkin and Threader set out on the Prudence, an English hooker, in search of a suitable sabotage point along the river Thames. When they see Saturn on the shore, they moor the boat and head for the tavern strategically selected for its convenient position on the river. The tavern overlooks the river and docks, giving the men an exceptional vantage point. With the trap set, they wait.

## Book 7: Chapter 11 Analysis

Daniel is determined to understand more about Jack and his motives and he decides, along with the other members of the Clubb, to capture Jack. The lure is the contents of Dr. Hooke's chest. They learned from the interrogation of John Doe that Jack was had hired the common thief to find Hooke's dowry. Sir Isaac suggests hiring someone to auction off individual items from the chest, enticing Jack to come forth. Daniel selects an eyeglass set from Hooke's wares and instructs Partry, a notorious thief-taker, to negotiate an auction. The first bid is made and the wait begins. The men of the Clubb are anxious for results.



# Book 7: Chapter 12

## Book 7: Chapter 12 Summary

Royal Society, Crane Court, July 24, 1714

The Clubb believes that Henry Arlanc is a traitor and a spy, so Clubb members place him in irons, imprison him and demand to know how he became a minion of Jack Shaftoe. Henry explains his involvement in the war of Spanish succession and describes how Jack recruited soldiers before the crown could. Henry also confesses to stealing gunpowder, weapons and guns from the Queen's army.

## Book 7: Chapter 12 Analysis

Henry Arlanc feels indebted to Jack because he saved his father's life many years ago and even though Arlanc knows that Jack is a thief, he believes that Jack is caring and compassionate. Therefore, Arlanc feels no remorse for carrying out Jack's wishes and following his instructions. This information comes as a surprise to Daniel. In addition, Arlanc admits that he told Jack about the Royal Society's actions and the movements of the Natural Philosophers, especially Sir Isaac. Sir Isaac is appalled and he orders Arlanc sent to Newgate prison to await trial for conspiracy.





# Book 7: Chapter 13

## Book 7: Chapter 13 Summary

Clerkenwell Court, July 27, 1714

Arlanc escapes from prison and Daniel and Isaac assume that Jack has bribed the guards. According to Partry, in his enthusiasm to save Arlanc, Jack has forgotten another prisoner who is to be executed. This prisoner could provide answers to Jack's whereabouts. Partry suggests that Sir Isaac pay for a speedier execution and in return, the prisoner will divulge everything he knows about Jack. Daniel insists that they speed up their investigations because they are already behind their nemesis and the situation is becoming urgent.

## Book 7: Chapter 13 Analysis

Sir Isaac and Daniel agree that they need to discover the truth soon because London and England are hostile and becoming increasingly dangerous as political unrest grows, especially because the Queen favors Bolingbroke and the Jacobites over the Tories. Because they fear rejection of the Hanoverians, Daniel and Sir Isaac agree to assist this prisoner in return for the information about Jack's whereabouts. A meeting between the parties is negotiated and Daniel is eager to get answers.



# Book 7: Chapter 14

## Book 7: Chapter 14 Summary

Golden Square, July 28, 1714

Bolingbroke calls a meeting to ascertain the intentions of the all-powerful politicians in London. On the outskirts of the city, rebel armies of Tories and Jacobites wait to storm the city and begin a civil war. Bolingbroke has the Pyx and Sir Isaac and Daniel hope to strengthen Lord Ravenscar's standing by capturing Jack and exonerating the Pyx. This would considerably weaken Bolingbroke, a Whig and make Ravenscar, a Tory, victorious.

## Book 7: Chapter 14 Analysis

Roger, also known as Lord Ravenscar, consults with Daniel before heading into the meeting with Bolingbroke. Roger is very nervous and wants to ease his tension with alcohol, which Daniel advises against. Daniel tells Roger about the prisoner who holds the key to Jack's capture. Ravenscar offers this man freedom and farmland in Carolina if he proves his worth. Daniel agrees to meet Ravenscar in an hour to update him on their progress and he informs Roger of the growing number of rebels outside the city limits. This concerns both men greatly, as it will cause chaos if they revolt.



# Book 7: Chapter 15

## Book 7: Chapter 15 Summary

Leicester House, July 28, 1714

Daniel calls on Caroline and Eliza and tells them that he believes Jack Shaftoe loves Eliza and that love has motivated Jack's conduct.

## Book 7: Chapter 15 Analysis

Eliza is unimpressed with Daniel's deduction, stating that Jack chose his direction thirty years prior and if his latest actions are a declaration of love for her then she is unmoved by his advances.



## **Book 7: Chapter 16**

### **Book 7: Chapter 16 Summary**

Newgate Prison, July 28, 1714

Partry joins Sir Isaac and Daniel for their meeting with the prisoner who will divulge information on the whereabouts of Jack Shaftoe. While they wait for the prisoner, Partry confesses that no other party is coming to the meeting and that he is Jack the coinier, alias Jack Shaftoe.

### **Book 7: Chapter 16 Analysis**

Partry has initiated a meeting on neutral ground where he feels safe telling his tale and revealing his identity. When Partry confesses to Sir Isaac and Daniel, he adds that he is willing to wind up his career, providing the terms are right. Sir Isaac and Daniel feel they have once again been tricked into believing false claims. While Daniel perceives no great harm has been done, Sir Isaac is furious and does not want to negotiate with this criminal.



# Book 7: Chapter 17

## Book 7: Chapter 17 Summary

Golden Square, July 28, 1714

Bolingbroke, Ravenscar and many of the Tory and Whig political hierarchy attend the dinner party that Bolingbroke has initiated. Conversation turns toward Natural Philosophy and Sir Isaac as the evening progresses. Bolingbroke and Lord Ravenscar ascend to the observatory and talk while they look at the stables of a nearby manor from a telescope. They spy Princess Caroline climbing into a carriage from the rooftop and they are astounded that she is in London.

## Book 7: Chapter 17 Analysis

Ravenscar has alternative motives for attending the dinner. He wants to outwit Bolingbroke and make him feel inferior, while Bolingbroke wants to prove to Ravenscar how much strength and comradery he shares with many powerful people. Bolingbroke manipulates Ravenscar to confirm his suspicions that the handsome woman in the manor across the way is Princess Caroline. In his surprise at seeing Princess Caroline in the spyglass, Ravenscar forgets where he is and who he is with and he blurts out information that he normally would not. Bolingbroke feels triumphant as Ravenscar has willingly helped him without realizing it.



## **Book 7: Chapter 18**

### **Book 7: Chapter 18 Summary**

The Black Dogg, Newgate Prison, July 28, 1714:

Jack has confessed his identity and negotiates terms with Daniel and Sir Isaac for returning the contents of the Pyx to their rightful place.

### **Book 7: Chapter 18 Analysis**

Jack toys with Sir Isaac and Daniel, knowing that he controls the situation and can demand a great deal more than he originally was offered. Daniel and Sir Isaac both feel that they have once again underestimated Jack and that they have been manipulated. Jack is very artful at toying with people's minds and displaying no loyalty to any party.

Jack's original plans and main objective was to undermine the English currency and cause a crash in foreign trade. These plans have now been altered due to the events that have unfolded and the fact that Eliza has returned to London. While Jack comes across as a heartless criminal, he also displays a softer side.



# Book 7: Chapter 19

## Book 7: Chapter 19 Summary

Monmouth Street, July 28, 1714

Princess Caroline and Johann, both disguised as noblemen, ride towards London, while Eliza, disguised as Caroline, boards a carriage to distract spies who have gathered. A man riding a black steed follows Johann and Caroline because he suspects that they are not who they say they are. A fight erupts between Johann and this man when the man signals for Caroline's execution. Johann's brave maneuver helps Caroline escape and she eventually ends up at the Kit-Cat Clubb, where she asks for Daniel.

## Book 7: Chapter 19 Analysis

The plan to help Princess Caroline escape London and board a Hanoverian sloop waiting for her in the bay backfires. The original plan of escape becomes far more complex than imagined. Political circumstances are volatile and with Caroline dead the Hanoverian succession of England will be restricted. This is her attacker's main objective and why Caroline's life is in jeopardy. Eliza gladly helps Caroline because they share a common interest and a close bond. Johann, Caroline's lover and bodyguard, is equally eager to protect Caroline's life.



## **Book 7: Chapter 20**

### **Book 7: Chapter 20 Summary**

Leicester Fields, July 28, 1714

Eliza speeds off in the carriage only to have her path intercepted by a group of riders. Her plan to reach Marlborough House falls apart when her carriage overturns. Father Edouard De Gex realizes that she is not Princess Caroline, but he decides she will do as a hostage.

### **Book 7: Chapter 20 Analysis**

De Gex is unscrupulous and unlike Jack, he shows no compassion. He understands that Eliza is almost as valuable as Princess Caroline in helping him achieve his goals. At this stage, De Gex's intentions are not fully known, but he seems to be closely associated with Jack's motives.





# Book 7: Chapter 21

## Book 7: Chapter 21 Summary

The Black Dogg, Newgate Prison, July 28, 1714

Jack Shaftoe blackmails Sir Isaac with a trial of the Pyx and reminds him that he can restore the contents of the black box to their original state if Isaac meets his demands. The two come to an agreement and join Daniel in his carriage, which heads toward Bolingbroke's, where Ravenscar can openly display his victory. As the trio pass Hay Square, where the Italian Opera House recently has been erected, they pass Eliza's overturned carriage and a congregation of mounted vigilantes. Jack goes to assist before anyone can object and promises to meet Sir Isaac later.

The rebels who congregate on the outskirts of the city have seen De Gex and his mounted vigilantes attack the coach and the vigilantes think this is an initiation of the revolution that they lit bonfires to signal the beginning of a civil war. Tory and Whig rebels march and there is little control or rationalization with the angry mob.

De Gex controls the vigilantes and threatens to have Eliza burned at the stake. Jack defends her and Bob Shaftoe, Jack's brother, rescues them both before starting a bloody battle with the vigilantes and the angry mob.

## Book 7: Chapter 21 Analysis

After hours of negotiating with Jack, it seems odd that Sir Isaac and Daniel are unperplexed by his departure or by the gathering masses and the overturned carriage they pass. However, they willingly trust Jack's judgment and integrity and continue empty-handed toward Bolingbroke's. This chapter is a little hard to accept, especially because Jack Shaftoe has tricked and deceived Daniel and Sir Isaac so many times. This could add a satirical element to the plot, especially because these two men were among the most intellectual of their time.

The need for revenge drives De Gex to destroy both England and the Dutch Republic for their incessant greed and political propaganda. His plan is to burn England and the wealthy, beginning with Eliza. He brands Eliza as a whore who has bought her nobility and he wants to make an example of her. Jack feels compelled to save Eliza, just as Bob Shaftoe wants to rescue his brother. Each wants to make amends.



# Book 7: Chapter 22

## Book 7: Chapter 22 Summary

Bolingbroke's house, Golden Square, the same time, July 28, 1714

Bolingbroke and Ravenscar discuss the situation at hand. From the rooftop, they witness many bonfires being lit on the outskirts of and throughout London. From this vantage point, Ravenscar can see Daniel and Sir Isaac's carriage returning as the angry Tory and Whig mobs begin marching on the city, initiating a civil war.

Ravenscar and Bolingbroke retire to his office and he presents Roger with a warrant for the trial of the Pyx. From the office window, Roger can see Daniel below, who signals that Jack has been captured and has revealed everything. Ravenscar conveys this information to Bolingbroke, hoping to undermine his confidence.

## Book 7: Chapter 22 Analysis

Moments before the civil war erupts, Roger and Bolingbroke are on the rooftop arguing about who will succeed Queen Anne. While Ravenscar feels confident that George Louis of Hanover shall preside, Bolingbroke wants to see James Stewart succeed. Political tension rises as they discuss bankruptcy of the system and whether it shall provide money for an angry mob.

Bolingbroke plays his trump card and is defeated when Roger announces that he has captured Jack, who has not only confessed but supplied Roger with substantial confidential information regarding the identities of controlling parties. Bolingbroke is confused and infuriated and he demands proof. Roger produces a pithina, a small leather pouch that belongs inside the English Mint. Bolingbroke's anger rises and he asks Roger to leave immediately. Roger cannot help but smile as he departs.



# Book 7: Chapter 23

## Book 7: Chapter 23 Summary

The Italian Opera, the same time, July 28, 1714

Sergeant Bob has instructed Eliza to seek refuge in the Opera House for protection as the angry mob draws nearer. Music plays from within the building and Eliza realizes that rehearsals are underway. While Jack and De Gex duel nearby, Eliza feels obligated to warn the thespians. Eliza follows the music and tries to evacuate the musicians before Jack and De Gex arrive, but the conductor will not hear of it and the musicians use their instruments to fight with the men until they take the fight outside.

## Book 7: Chapter 23 Analysis

Bob feels obligated to protect Eliza and his country from the civil war. With the mob and the lit fires growing, Bob decides the impending danger outside is mounting and that Eliza should hide until he has dealt with the larger of the two problems. He asks Eliza to take refuge in the Opera House, which Bob believes will be a safe haven from danger. Bob doesn't know that Jack and De Gex are involved in a bloody battle inside. Eliza believes that talented thespians are about to needlessly die and she tries in vain to warn them of the impending danger. Eliza realizes that she has underestimated the strength of the musicians and she is amazed by their vigor and will to protect what they are passionate about.



## **Book 7: Chapter 24**

### **Book 7: Chapter 24 Summary**

Golden Square, July 28, 1714

Daniel and Ravenscar discuss what has happened with Bolingbroke outside his home while an angry mob battles around them. Ravenscar has seen defeat in Bolingbroke's eyes and Ravenscar confirms his victory by announcing to the mob that the Tories are victorious and the war does not need to rage anymore.

### **Book 7: Chapter 24 Analysis**

Unsure of the events that have transpired, Daniel considers whether Ravenscar is politically correct with his declaration of victory. After careful consideration and a survey of his surroundings, Daniel deduces that he is. Daniels decides that politics is ugly and extremely irrational but preferable over war, so he joins the victory celebration.



# Book 7: Chapter 25

## Book 7: Chapter 25 Summary

Billingsgate Dock, July 28, 1714

The lords of the Kit-Cat Clubb take Caroline safely to the longboat, where Johann will take Caroline to the Hanoverian sloop that waits for her in the bay.

## Book 7: Chapter 25 Analysis

Princess Caroline believes that she has been foolish to travel to England, even if it was to avoid assassination. She questions her rationale and the length of her stay. Johann reassures her that her decision was commendable. Johann says that he and his mother, Eliza, agree it was plausible and at the time there were no other options.



## Book 7: Chapter 26

### Book 7: Chapter 26 Summary

Sophia, mouth of the Thames, July 29, 1714

An English naval brig forces the Sophia, the ship that Caroline is aboard, to run aground in the mouth of the River Thames. Caroline raises her Hanoverian flag and watches as the officer aboard the brig contemplates sending a boarding party to the Sophia. Before they have had time to decide, an East Indianman, another large sailing vessel, sails into the river mouth and raises her flag. This ship appears to also be Hanoverian and turns out to be the Minerva.

### Book 7: Chapter 26 Analysis

The appearance of the Minerva puts Caroline's mind at ease. Though she perceives the incident as uncanny, she is also relieved and hopeful that she still can leave the hostile shores of England and return home safely. Johann, however, is more skeptical but feels that Caroline has admirably displayed loyalty to her country and unquestionable leadership.



## Book 7: Chapter 27

### Book 7: Chapter 27 Summary

Orney's shipyard, Rotherhithe, July 31, 1714

Otto Van Hoek, the captain of the *Minerva*, watches as a crate is offloaded for Daniel. Daniel and Otto discuss current happenings in London as a Russian naval vessel enters the port. The vessel has arrived to collect the three vessels Orney has built for the tsar. Daniel is surprised to see Baron von Leibniz and the tsar, Peter the Great, on board. Peter announces that he has brought payment for Daniel to continue work on the logic mill because he was impressed with the project. Peter also announces that more plates must be fabricated for the progression to continue.

### Book 7: Chapter 27 Analysis

Further complications were not needed in England and now that Peter the Great and Baron von Leibniz have arrived, Daniel fears the worst. Their presence will draw attention, especially with Peter's size and outgoing personality. With the mention of gold and Peter's inability to keep anything secret, Daniel knows many eyes will be watching and waiting for an opportunity to take advantage of the situation. As the gold is extracted from the *Minerva* for the logic mill and payment for Daniel and Orney is removed from the Russian vessel, the dock becomes a central focal point. Many onlookers congregate to ogle the merchandise and figure out how to obtain it for themselves. Daniel quickly realizes this and requests that the tsar be a little less conspicuous, though Daniel understands that will be extremely difficult. Daniel knows that by nightfall this will bring dangerous encounters to the ship.



## Book 7: Chapter 28

### Book 7: Chapter 28 Summary

Billingsgate dock, July 31, 1714

The tsar collects wagons from nearby workers and ferries the gold to the bank, where he opens an account and deposits Daniel and Orney's payment. Peter then goes to Clerkenwell Court with the gold from the hull of the Minerva for the logic mill plates. When Peter arrives, Daniel and Solomon, Peter the Great's monsieur, account for it and record the numbers stamped on it in a ledger.

### Book 7: Chapter 28 Analysis

Because of his stature and physique, the tsar takes what he wants, not intimidated by other parties or fearful of ramifications. Taking a transport wagon from nearby onlookers is second nature for the tsar. Daniel notices how easily people submit to the tsar's wishes without questioning his actions. Peter the Great is a powerful, compelling and forceful man who is intimidating because of his brute strength and sheer size.

Solomon and Daniel talk about alchemy and wizardry as they account for the gold and store it. Solomon asks Daniel if he believes Sir Isaac has hidden capabilities within these departments. Daniel confesses that he is unsure and refuses to commit to an answer. Not only has Solomon put Daniel on the spot, but he also has touched on a sensitive subject. Solomon declares that he knows of only two alchemists in the world, Enoch and Daniel. Daniel is flattered and a little surprised.





# Book 7: Chapter 29

## Book 7: Chapter 29 Summary

A tavern, Hockley-in-the-Hole, July 31, 1714

Saturn, Sir Isaac, Daniel, Solomon, Peter the Great, Kilkin and Leibniz enjoy ale at a nearby tavern after their work is finished. The men initially engage in polite conversation, but tension grows between Sir Isaac and Leibniz until Sir Isaac explodes. Moments later an attempt is made on their lives, which conveniently allows Sir Isaac an opportunity to escape confrontation.

Queen Anne dies and a successor is selected.

## Book 7: Chapter 29 Analysis

Sir Isaac is disgusted that Daniel has allowed Peter the Great to use the Solomonic gold to process more plates for the logic mill and he quietly tells Daniel his views. While the conversation at the tavern is polite to begin with, it slowly turns to more in-depth topics that touch the nerves of several people at the table. Daniel learns that Leibniz has come to London to finish his philosophical dispute with Sir Isaac over who invented calculus. As conversation between the Leibniz and Sir Isaac becomes heated, Leibniz realizes the issue will not be resolved because Sir Isaac cannot see reason. An argument begins and the atmosphere between Leibniz and Sir Isaac becomes thick and unfriendly. Moments later, a one-armed Russian launches a projectile at the party from the entrance of the tavern. Peter the Great battles with the one-armed Russian and is victorious. Peter views this man's death as punishment for having burned one of his naval vessels as it was being constructed. Daniel feels invigorated by the series of events and he believes that Leibniz and Sir Isaac are equally to blame for their inability to resolve their dispute.

Queen Anne's death ends the political unrest but brings the power struggle for nobility to a head. Daniel knows that London will be a hive of activity in the coming weeks.



# Book 8: Chapter 1

## Book 8: Chapter 1 Summary

Marlborough House, Aug. 4, 1714

Daniel is summoned to a levee at the Duke of Marlborough's residence. Bothmar, the Hanoverian ambassador, brings out a locked box that he has been instructed to open after the death of Queen Anne. The box contains orders on how the realm should be administered while awaiting George Louis's arrival. The king has named 25 regents to act on his behalf until he arrives from Hanover. Daniel and Ravenscar are selected as regents.

## Book 8: Chapter 1 Analysis

Daniel considers himself insignificant when it comes to power and influence and he does not consider himself equal to nobility. He is dumbfounded at being selected as a regent and he guesses that Princess Caroline or Eliza influenced the King's decision. Honored to represent the Hanoverian succession, Daniel humbly accepts the position, along with Ravenscar.



## **Book 8: Chapter 2**

### **Book 8: Chapter 2 Summary**

The Temple of Vulcan, an hour later, Aug. 4, 1714

Daniel and Ravenscar get ready for a party and a meeting of the Clubb at Ravenscar's house. Ravenscar has invited Marlborough and he tells Daniel that as a regent, he is calling for a trial of the Pyx. Daniel tells Ravenscar that he has neither confirmed nor condemned Sir Isaac as master of the mint.

### **Book 8: Chapter 2 Analysis**

Ravenscar questions why Daniel, as a representative of the king, does not sack Sir Isaac as master of the mint if he questions Sir Isaac's authenticity and doubts that he can effectively take control of the English currency. Daniel feels obligated, however, to protect Sir Isaac because Sir Isaac is his friend. Their friendship may cloud Daniel's judgment and cause him to make rash decisions.



## Book 8: Chapter 3

### Book 8: Chapter 3 Summary

The Kit-Cat Clubb, an hour later, Aug. 4, 1714

When Daniel introduces Leibniz as a new member of the club, Threader reminds Daniel that new club members need to be inducted. However, Threader quickly changes his mind when Daniel tells him who Leibniz is. This perplexes Sir Isaac.

The Clubb members decide that they must keep searching for the phosphorus maker, who they believe will answer many questions and conclude the infernal device investigation. Mr. Marsh introduces Henry Alanc's urine contact, a product heated to make phosphorous.

### Book 8: Chapter 3 Analysis

Daniel is not convinced that Sir Isaac is completely in control of his mind at times and questions Sir Isaac's judgment and ability to make decisions. On the other hand, Sir Isaac is suspicious of Daniel because he is now a regent and Sir Isaac feels that Daniel could divulge confidential information that could affect Sir Isaac's position as master of the mint.

Daniel has forgotten about the investigation of the infernal devices until Marsh is introduced to the club and Daniel is eager to continue this investigation. Daniel feels it will not only answer many questions but also lead them to Jack the coinier.



## Book 8: Chapter 4

### Book 8: Chapter 4 Summary

Orney's shipyard, Rotherhithe, Aug. 13, 1714

Sir Isaac devises a plan to find where the urine for manufacturing phosphorous is being delivered. His plan succeeds and Clubb members assemble with troops to further investigate the location.

### Book 8: Chapter 4 Analysis

Sir Isaac's plan was a clever way to discover who bought the urine and where chemical was manufactured into phosphorous. Marsh agrees to allow a hidden man to record distance from within a sack concealed on his cart. Therefore, while he negotiates sale of the urine and is blindfolded and taken to an undisclosed location, another person records their whereabouts using Sir Isaac's methods. Now the club can pinpoint the exact location by counting the number of wheel rotations on the cart and recording noises. The concept was simple but effective.



## Book 8: Chapter 5

### Book 8: Chapter 5 Summary

Surrey, Aug. 15, 1714

The Clubb members uncover three men, two whom Bob recognizes as his nephews and Jack's sons, Jimmy and Danny Shaftoe. The property that Bolingbroke owns has been used to process phosphorous. The Clubb members also uncover a copy of a new King George guinea and a counterfeiting die. Sir Isaac has deliberately avoided the mint so that he cannot be blamed for such occurrences, which suggests that someone else has leaked information. Threader confesses that he is involved in the counterfeiting operation and a trap is set for Jack.

### Book 8: Chapter 5 Analysis

Sir Isaac, Daniel and the men of the Clubb are confident that they can expose Bolingbroke and White as instigators of the counterfeiting operation. They think that both men want to gain wealth and power by lowering the value of the English guinea and affecting the English economy. The fact that the Clubb members have captured the Shaftoe boys, have their testimony and have discovered a counterfeiting die on the property owned by Bolingbroke provides significant evidence of the men's corrupt activities.



## Book 8: Chapter 6

### Book 8: Chapter 6 Summary

Library of Leicester House, Aug. 18, 1714

Sir Isaac tells Princess Caroline that Jack Shaftoe has been captured and taken to Newgate Prison. This puts Jack out of the reach of White, who currently governs the Tower of London.

Princess Caroline instructs Sir Isaac and Leibniz to reconcile their differences and settle their dispute over calculus because she wants them to work together to bring about a New System of the World.

### Book 8: Chapter 6 Analysis

Caroline requests that Sir Isaac and Leibniz put their differences aside and work together to establish a New System of the World. Caroline wants this system to have no structural faults or pitfalls because she is concerned about a chaotic and destructive world being created by ruthless men with malicious political agendas. Sir Isaac and Leibniz debate how this New System should come about and Leibniz accuses Sir Isaac of atheism, which infuriates the natural philosopher. Sir Isaac wins the calculus dispute as governed by the Royal Society in a philosophical duel. The men agree to disagree on most matters and any hope of a philosophical resolution is abandoned.



## **Book 8: Chapter 7**

### **Book 8: Chapter 7 Summary**

London Bridge, Aug. 19, 1714

Leibniz and Newton's disagreement rages and becomes volatile and Daniel changes the topic and focuses on pleasantries. Daniel recalls when Sir Isaac and Leibniz first met and the two men reminisce about old times, experiences shared, conversations had and acquaintances now passed. They bid each other farewell as Leibniz sails away aboard a Russian vessel bound for home.

### **Book 8: Chapter 7 Analysis**

Leibniz tries ineffectively to undermine Sir Isaac's theories of space and time and that the Earth revolves around the sun. Tempers flare and Daniel discusses their lives and first meeting in such detail that he changes the philosophers' moods. As Sir Isaac and Leibniz reflect on their memories the reader understands that these men will not see each other in this lifetime again and this is goodbye.





## Book 8: Chapter 8

### Book 8: Chapter 8 Summary

Greenwich, Sept. 18, 1714

Ravenscar and Daniel attend the King of England's address, along with hundreds of other influential people. The king addresses each person individually and names Ravenscar First Lord of the Treasury and Daniel an assistant Lord of the Treasury. These positions make them responsible for the English Mint and for setting a trial date for the Pyx. They choose Oct. 29, the day that Jack Shaftoe is to be executed.

White begins spreading rumors of Roger's involvement with a second mint and that he has committed treason.

### Book 8: Chapter 8 Analysis

The formal introduction and address is a nervewracking procedure that expresses extreme power. Daniel and Roger are intimidated and feel pressured into setting a trial date for the Pyx, a decision that they don't feel comfortable making.

The second mint that White refers to is the one manufacturing the Solomonic gold from the Minerva into data processing cards for the logic mill. Daniel realizes it will cause problems later if the process is not concluded swiftly, especially if White can discredit himself and Roger.



## **Book 8: Chapter 9**

### **Book 8: Chapter 9 Summary**

Roger Comstock's house, Sept. 22, 1714

Ravenscar dies of a heart attack during the night and Daniel is left pondering the fate of Clerkenwell Court, Bridewell and the Institute of Technological Arts and organizing the trial of the Pyx.

### **Book 8: Chapter 9 Analysis**

Daniel feels deserted and betrayed when his close friend Ravenscar dies. Daniel's mind is sent into turmoil at the thought of having to not only conclude work on the logic mill and destroy any evidence that it produces, but also having to decide the fate of the Institute of Technological Arts and arrange the trial of the Pyx on the day that Jack Shaftoe will hang.



## **Book 8: Chapter 10**

### **Book 8: Chapter 10 Summary**

Castle, Newgate Prison, Sept. 29, 1714

White visits Jack Shaftoe in prison and tells him he has plans for him and Dappa. White tells Jack that he must make a statement accusing Sir Isaac of committing treason and counterfeiting guineas. In return, Jack and his sons will be given freedom. Jack suspects that White is lying and he doubts that White will follow through on his promises.

### **Book 8: Chapter 10 Analysis**

White's offer appears flawed and Jack feels that he no longer has to be blackmailed or controlled by malicious motives. Jack decides to consider White's offer but also to wait for other offers, as he believes that many people are interested in the information he has about coinage.



## **Book 8: Chapter 11**

### **Book 8: Chapter 11 Summary**

The Black Dogg of Newgate, Oct. 4, 1714

Jack talks with a stranger at Newgate and Daniel overhears Jack tell the visitor that he has given Roger the original coins from the Pyx and that Daniel has hidden them in a vault under Clerkenwell Court. The visitor leaves and Daniel is sickened by what he has just witnessed.

### **Book 8: Chapter 11 Analysis**

Jack has been telling Sir Isaac tales of conspiracy for more than two months and Sir Isaac listened eagerly. Jack knows his stories are lies, but Jack feels that he is keeping his options open and preserving his life a little longer by telling the people who visit what they want to hear. Daniel is angry at Jack for lying and at Sir Isaac for believing him, but Daniel's advantage is that Sir Isaac doesn't know that Daniel witnessed the exchange of words.



## Book 8: Chapter 12

### Book 8: Chapter 12 Summary

Fleet Prison, Oct. 5, 1714

Daniel struggles to understand how Fleet Prison operates because it has no real structure or guards to control it. Saturn accompanies Daniel to investigate the premises further and they discover guards outside one dungeon. They bribe an inmate for information and Daniel unexpectedly blurts out that he knows Saturn made the internal devices.

### Book 8: Chapter 12 Analysis

Daniel is minds many answers at the prison. While there are no groups of guards, the prison operates under a governing body of prisoners who are responsible for controlling the other inmates. Daniel feels that the prison environment gives him the perfect opportunity to express his understanding of Saturn's involvement in constructing the infernal devices. Although Daniel does not feel it is a punishable crime because Saturn was operating under instructions from another party, Daniel doesn't tell Saturn this. Daniel envisions Saturn playing a vital role in future events and he wishes to keep Saturn as a friend.



## Book 8: Chapter 13

### Book 8: Chapter 13 Summary

The tap room, Fleet Prison, Oct 14, 1714

Daniel and Saturn sit in the tap room, a tavern inside the prison. They drink ale and ponder how to release the Shaftoe boys from their guarded room. Their plan allows the three men to escape to America.

### Book 8: Chapter 13 Analysis

Daniel and Saturn's plan succeeds without too many complications and it does not draw needless attention to them. Daniel takes the Shaftoe boys to see their father before he puts them aboard a boat bound for Carolina. Jack feels that while he may never see his sons again, he has lived up to his promise and provided for them in a moment of need. This proves that Daniel is a man of his word and someone who can be trusted, guaranteeing that Jack will be loyal to Daniel when he provides evidence to convict White.



## **Book 8: Chapter 14**

### **Book 8: Chapter 14 Summary**

Under a pile of lead weights, the pressroom, Newgate Prison, Oct. 20, 1714

Sir Isaac has ordered Jack sent to the pressroom for torture because of he won't plead. Jack is laid on a table, handcuffed and ankle braced and a 300-pound weight is placed on his body. Jack remains on the table for three days, crushed under an enormous weight, before he agrees to plead.

### **Book 8: Chapter 14 Analysis**

To try Jack for his crimes, Jack must enter a plea. Sir Isaac is getting impatient and he wants to advance the proceedings quickly so he offers Jack some encouragement. While under the stress of the weights, Jack confronts his fears and his enemies. He believes that he finds God and hope of redemption for his crimes.



## Book 8: Chapter 15

### Book 8: Chapter 15 Summary

Westminster Abbey, Oct. 20, 1714

The new king, George Louis, is crowned. White is arrested for conspiring with Jack Shaftoe and Edouard De Gex, trespassing upon the liberty of the Tower and adulterating the Pyx. This decision is issued upon the authority of the Lord Chancellor from the House of Lords.

### Book 8: Chapter 15 Analysis

The coronation of George is a tedious church procedure that lasted many hours. Upon its conclusion, all are pleased to have a new king. Jack Shaftoe, who has spent many days under pressure, enters a plea and confesses, denouncing White, who has been implicated as the mastermind behind the tampering of the English currency. White has been vigorously watched by the Crown and the governing body of England. When White is left alone as the crowds disperse after the King's coronation Andrew Ellis, viscount and blackguard, arrests White. This is a monumental moment because this manipulative and powerful man no longer has any jurisdiction over anyone else.





## **Book 8: Chapter 16**

### **Book 8: Chapter 16 Summary**

The court of the Old Bailey, Oct. 20, 1714

Jack Shaftoe is found guilty of high treason and sentenced to hang by the neck, then drawn and quartered until he dies.

### **Book 8: Chapter 16 Analysis**

The magistrate is in a foul mood and believes the coronation of the king should have been made a public holiday so all can enjoy the festivities. He feels that Jack, who he does not know, deserves the worst punishment he can administer.



## **Book 8: Chapter 17**

### **Book 8: Chapter 17 Summary**

The Tower of London, Oct. 20, 1714

Sir Isaac visits White in the Tower of London and tells him that Jack Shaftoe has accused him of high treason, so he will remain in prison.

### **Book 8: Chapter 17 Analysis**

Sir Isaac concludes that White is guilty and that Jack was just his puppet. He doesn't care if White rots in his cell because he doesn't feel responsible for Jack's future. Sir Isaac does, however, care about the Pyx and he tells White that he must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the Pyx was tampered with by another party. Sir Isaac reminds Jack that he has many days and nights to contemplate his theories in prison.



## **Book 8: Chapter 18**

### **Book 8: Chapter 18 Summary**

A letter, Oct. 20, 1714

White challenges Dappa to a duel and drops all charges against with the man so he can visit him in the Tower.

### **Book 8: Chapter 18 Analysis**

Determined to punish Dappa but unable to inflict harm on him any longer, White offers Dappa an enticing offer to lure him to his cell. The irony is that the tables have turned on White and Dappa is now in a commanding position. By allowing himself to be imprisoned, White has enabled Dappa to concentrate on his work and gain an increasingly large following. Dappa has become an incredibly wealthy man.



## **Book 8: Chapter 19**

### **Book 8: Chapter 19 Summary**

Mint Street, The Tower of London, Oct. 20, 1714

The old black guards who were under the command of White are relieved of their duties and replaced by a new garrison. The Earl of Lostwithiel and his deputy, Colonel Barnes, lead the new troops. These gentlemen collect the Pyx for the trial.

### **Book 8: Chapter 19 Analysis**

Sir Isaac seems perplexed by the formality of the taking of the Pyx, but he is relieved that the old guards have been stood down. However, the new guards are wary of the elderly philosopher and they are not sure if he is genuine. The guards keep a close eye on Sir Isaac, which he doesn't like.



## **Book 8: Chapter 20**

### **Book 8: Chapter 20 Summary**

A letter, Oct. 21, 1714

Dappa sends a letter of acceptance to White and tells him that he has selected matching weapons for the duel.

### **Book 8: Chapter 20 Analysis**

Dappa sees White's challenge as an opportunity to take a stand against slavery and Dappa believes that White will choose to commit suicide or homicide before he is trailed.

# **Book 8: Chapter 21**

## **Book 8: Chapter 21 Summary**

The condemned hold, Newgate Prison, Oct. 21, 1714

A young boy talks to Jack from the outside of his prison cell and tells Jack that Jack is considered the King of Vagabonds. This causes Jack to reminisce about his past and the way he has lived his life.

## **Book 8: Chapter 21 Analysis**

Jack's visitor makes him think about his life and wonder if he has chosen the right direction. Eliza once asked Jack to choose a lifestyle that was befitting and Jack wonders if he made the right choices. Jack wonders if he had chosen to stay with Eliza if she would still be with him and in love or if he would be in the same situation he is in now. Questioning his life leads Jack to doubt whether he has lived a full life without regrets.



## **Book 8: Chapter 22**

### **Book 8: Chapter 22 Summary**

The gallows, Tower Hall, Oct. 22, 1714

White meets Dappa at the selected location and they duel under the gallows on a hill with Haubites, a type of pistol. White selects the low ground and the duel ends when Dappa eliminates his competition and returns to the Minerva.

### **Book 8: Chapter 22 Analysis**

Dappa plays with words and twists the situation around to his advantage as he toys with the unintellectual White before they duel. It is inevitable that Dappa will win because of his intelligence. It is also believable that White preferred to die rather than be punished by the Crown.

## **Book 8: Chapter 23**

### **Book 8: Chapter 23 Summary**

The press-yard and Castle, Newgate Prison, Oct. 23, 1714

Jack is moved to the best room in the prison. He doesn't know who paid for such preferential treatment, but he hopes it was Eliza.

### **Book 8: Chapter 23 Analysis**

Jack hopes for a speedy death and that Eliza is responsible for his comfort in his last days. He sees it as a sign of respect for the life they could have shared and for a love lost.





## **Book 8: Chapter 24**

### **Book 8: Chapter 24 Summary**

Clerkenwell Court, Oct. 23, 1714

The king's messenger raids the court hoping to find a second mint, but Sir Isaac realizes that they will not find anything there. Sir Isaac makes a snide remark as he passes Daniel, telling him that they will search Bridewell and the Bank of England if necessary.

### **Book 8: Chapter 24 Analysis**

Daniel realizes that White's death has created a dilemma for Sir Isaac because he no longer has the proof he needs or a confession. Daniel believes that Sir Isaac is expecting him to provide the answers and proof, which he will not. Knowing the whereabouts of the Solomonic gold gives Daniel power.



## **Book 8: Chapter 25**

### **Book 8: Chapter 25 Summary**

Jack attends church and reflects on his lack of commitment to God earlier in his life. As he sits and surveys his fellow parishioners, they stare down at the floor and yield to him, all except a veiled woman and her sidekick, a blond man. Jack knows something is unusual about these two, but he can't figure out what.

### **Book 8: Chapter 25 Analysis**

Jack questions his life and actions even further, causing him to reevaluate his life and who he is. What are his beliefs, his ethics and morals and where would he prefer to be and who with? He finds renewed strength knowing that he is considered the King of Vagabonds, a title that evokes power. The veiled woman and her companion are the only unusual inclusion and add to the mysterious changing of rooms within the prison. Because he notices the smallest of happenings, Jack is intrigued and stimulated by the events of the last couple of days.



## **Book 8: Chapter 26**

### **Book 8: Chapter 26 Summary**

Halfway along Cheapside, Oct. 25, 1714

The Earl of Lostwithiel tells Saturn about the pending search of Bridewell and the Bank of England, which confirms Daniel's suspicions. Daniel, Saturn and William Ham meet at the bank and begin removing the Solomonic gold before the vault is inspected. They smuggle the gold to the shipping docks disguised as salted fish for Leibniz.

### **Book 8: Chapter 26 Analysis**

Daniel, Saturn and William Ham have strategically placed the gold in an ancient vault that has two access points, one obvious and the other a hidden tunnel that leads to an estuary. Ham is willing to assist the men because the last king of England removed gold from the bank's vaults to satisfy his greedy needs, sending many good men to bankruptcy, including Ham's father.



## **Book 8: Chapter 27**

### **Book 8: Chapter 27 Summary**

Poop deck of the Minerva, the Pool of London, Oct. 26, 1714

The king has ordered that Daniel's cabin be searched aboard the Minerva in case he has hidden gold there. All of Daniel's lodgings in London are searched, as well as the guns aboard the Minerva in case one has been made of gold and painted black. Sir Isaac leads the search and when nothing is found he suffers what Daniel at first believes to be a stroke.

### **Book 8: Chapter 27 Analysis**

Dappa tells Daniel that many men aboard the Minerva perceive him as bad luck because of the assault by Blackbeard on the high seas and now the search for gold and interfering with other people's lives. Daniel feels responsible for Sir Isaacs's illness and guilty for putting an ailing man under duress, so he rushes to the natural philosopher's bedside.



## **Book 8: Chapter 28**

### **Book 8: Chapter 28 Summary**

The Temple of Vulcan, Oct. 27, 1714

Daniel visits Sir Isaac and discovers that he is suffering from goal fever, a fatal disease. Believing he does not have long to live, Sir Isaac instructs Daniel to retrieve Hooke's writings and attend to his affairs. Sir Isaac also instructs Catherine Barton to take him to the trial of the Pyx whether he is alive or dead.

### **Book 8: Chapter 28 Analysis**

Daniel is distraught that Catherine has taken Sir Isaac seriously and questions her implementing Sir Isaac's wishes should he die before the trial. Daniel carries out Sir Isaac's requests and feels that he is trying to make amends for his previous actions, especially because they once were friends.



## **Book 8: Chapter 29**

### **Book 8: Chapter 29 Summary**

Newgate Prison, Oct. 28, 1714

Jack stands at the window of his cell and is greeted by the cheering public. He tells them he is going to Tyburn in the morning to hang and that they should go home and prepare for the busy day ahead of them. Jack bids them goodnight and they throw hundreds of coins at him.

### **Book 8: Chapter 29 Analysis**

Jack is surprised by the public's reaction. Not only have they stood in the streets waiting to see him before he dies, openly showing their support, but they also have given him money so that he can have a proper burial. These people have little, yet they share it with a man convicted of high treason. Jack feels that if they can believe in him then he must do the same.



## **Book 8: Chapter 30**

### **Book 8: Chapter 30 Summary**

Sir Isaac Newton's house on St. Martin, Oct. 28, 1714

Threader arrives at Sir Isaac's house and is greeted by Daniel, who informs him that Sir Isaac is ill and at Catherine's place. Threader is an adversary to the master of the mint and has been selected by a jury of the citizens. Daniel and Threader melt Daniel's Solomonic gold ring and cast a new gold guinea, which they cut into small pieces and weigh.

### **Book 8: Chapter 30 Analysis**

Daniel is conspiring to influence the trial of the Pyx. He reminds Threader that he holds signed affidavits that describe Threader's involvement in the counterfeiting of English currency. Daniel has plans for the trial and they are sure to involve this newly minted coin.



## **Book 8: Chapter 31**

### **Book 8: Chapter 31 Summary**

Westminster Abbey, Oct. 29, 1714

Daniel arrives at the Abbey with several officials to unlock the vault where three executive documents that pertain to the trial are stored. These documents are mint doctorates, a wooden box holding standard weights and a wooden box holding standard plates and sheets of the finest precious metals that will be used to test the coins Sir Isaac has minted.

### **Book 8: Chapter 31 Analysis**

The official group hold six keys, each of which unlocks one of the six locks that allow access to the vault. Daniel is reserved and displays no enthusiasm in the ceremonial opening and gathering of the three items. Daniel is careful not to show signs of fatigue or stress because he knows that he is being watched.





## **Book 8: Chapter 32**

### **Book 8: Chapter 32 Summary**

Chapel of Newgate Prison, Oct. 29, 1714

Jack is taken to the chapel in an expensive suit, complete with solid gold buttons. No one in the prison knows the mysterious blond man who delivered the suit and as Jack inspects the suit he feels he has been sent several messages. The buttons on the suit are marked with alchemic symbols, which he finds puzzling. At the reading of his last rights, Jack notes the name Enoch in the passage several times and he feels it is significant to his survival.

### **Book 8: Chapter 32 Analysis**

Jack feels like the bride arriving at the chapel as thousands of people await his appearance. Confused and trying to understand why someone would help him, Jack tries to make sense of the messages and figure out who is responsible.



## **Book 8: Chapter 33**

### **Book 8: Chapter 33 Summary**

New Palace Yard, Westminster, Oct. 29, 1714

The gathering of the officials at the trial of the Pyx is to ensure that an airtight case is constructed against Sir Isaac so they can find him guilty of treason by embezzling from the mint. The proceedings begin and the royal goldsmiths are summoned.

### **Book 8: Chapter 33 Analysis**

Showing up Sir Isaac will be beneficial and profitable for many. Sir Isaac has made many enemies because of his vigilant efforts to perfect the coinage the mint produces, making counterfeiting more difficult and reducing the profits of the goldsmith and money shivers such as Threader. This caused them to retaliate by constructing trial plates of such quality that even Sir Isaac had a hard time minting gold guineas of similar quality.



## **Book 8: Chapter 34**

### **Book 8: Chapter 34 Summary**

The Stone Anvil, Oct. 29, 1714

Jack talks to his executioner as his chains are removed and his hands are bound behind his back. A black leather hood is placed over his head and the executioner reminds Jack of his need for wealth. Jack then reminds him of the coins in his pockets and his fine garments.

### **Book 8: Chapter 34 Analysis**

Jack Ketch and Jack Shaftoe talk in riddles to confuse onlookers and listeners, but they understand each other well. Jack Shaftoe has money in his suit pockets for a bribe and he uses the money to his advantage. Hoping to receive a payoff, the executioner loosens the rope binding Jack's arms and his hood. The executioner also promises Jack a speedy death.



## Book 8: Chapter 35

### Book 8: Chapter 35 Summary

The Trial of the Pyx:

The Pyx arrives and the twelve goldsmiths are sworn in. They take an oath before the court to honestly report if the monies are correct in weight and quality according to the king's standards. Sir Isaac's presence is demanded and Catherine Barton steps forward to proclaim his illness. She also announces that the ailing philosopher is seated in a sedan chair waiting outside but needs Daniel to act as his voice. The officials agree to this and Daniel discovers that Sir Isaac has died in his sedan chair.

### Book 8: Chapter 35 Analysis

The official procedure is altered when Daniel acts on Sir Isaac's behalf. Daniel is changing the system of Parliament and current law, which governs the Pyx. Daniel is honored that Sir Isaac has asked him for help despite the animosity between them. Their relationship is confusing and often leaves the reader feeling uncertain of each character's feelings. Sir Isaac's death comes as no surprise because he is old and sick.

When Catherine Barton reminds Daniel that Sir Isaac told him the procedures he wants him to follow, Daniel thinks about the request before making the potion to resurrect Sir Isaac. Daniel's hesitation may suggest that he is unsure whether the potion will work and that he is worried about the consequences if it fails.



## **Book 8: Chapter 36**

### **Book 8: Chapter 36 Summary**

The Press Yard, Newgate Prison, Oct. 29, 1714

The executioner, Jack Ketch, tells Jack Shaftoe that he has the finest noose and bids Jack farewell and a speedy death. Jack is moved by his compassion. The preparations are complete and Jack is led to the cart that will parade him through the streets of London before he hangs.

### **Book 8: Chapter 36 Analysis**

Jack is pleased that the executioner has promised to carry out the procedures swiftly, so he will die from the hanging and will not suffer the agonizingly slow and painful death of being drawn and quartered.



## Book 8: Chapter 37

### Book 8: Chapter 37 Summary

Star Chamber, Oct. 29, 1714

Daniel pretends Sir Isaac is still alive and from within the veiled sedan chair the officials cannot tell if Sir Isaac is anything other than ill. Daniel gives Sir Isaac the remedy that Hooke once gave him and brought him back from the dead.

Threader weighs the first sample from the Pyx and Ham inspects it before the goldsmiths begin their analysis.

### Book 8: Chapter 37 Analysis

Daniel's remedy to restore life was first discovered and documented by Hooke. Daniel found the recipe in Hooke's belongings and he understands firsthand that it is a powerful medicine because it once saved his life.

The fact that Threader has the gold guineas he and Daniel made from the Solomonic gold ring suggests that he will use it to boost the standard of the coinage to meet the quality of the samples.

## **Book 8: Chapter 38**

### **Book 8: Chapter 38 Summary**

As Jack is led through the streets of London, he loosens the rope that binds his arms and ties it into a makeshift noose. The crowd along the London streets becomes larger as several thousand people gather.

### **Book 8: Chapter 38 Analysis**

Jack feels that he may have an opportunity to save himself, so he makes use of every minute. He is genuinely surprised to hear the sizable crowd gathering and he cannot understand why the crowd idolizes him.



## **Book 8: Chapter 39**

### **Book 8: Chapter 39 Summary**

Star Chamber, Oct. 29

Threader substitutes more Solomonic guinea pieces for those he has cut from the samples from the Pyx. As Catherine and Daniel act as decoys, the gold is melted and tested.

### **Book 8: Chapter 39 Analysis**

The plan that Daniel, Threader and Catherine have devised is going as planned. Each acts naturally and executes his or her duty well. When the gold guinea samples are melted, the base metal and pure gold separate, leaving the pure gold on the surface of the liquid molten. This gold is allowed to cool before it is weighed to test its quality.





## **Book 8: Chapter 40**

### **Book 8: Chapter 40 Summary**

Holbourn, Oct. 29, 1714

When Jack is almost to the hanging platform, he begins to throw his gold buttons, coins and clothing out into the crowd. When he arrives at the platform he is wearing nothing but his undergarments. Jack Ketch, the executioner, no longer feels obligated to ensure that Jack the coiner's death is swift because he has reneged on payment.

### **Book 8: Chapter 40 Analysis**

Jack decides that the best plan for self-preservation is to trust the people who have congregated in his honor. People within the crowd are continually offering him wine, food and tokens of appreciation as the King of Vagabonds. Jack throws caution to the wind and decides to reward these considerate folk by shedding his clothing and throwing the items into the crowd, along with the gold and coins that have been strategically placed on and in his clothing.



## **Book 8: Chapter 41**

### **Book 8: Chapter 41 Summary**

Star Chamber, Oct. 29, 1714

The gold is weighed and equals exactly twelve ounces, which signifies it is pure. The officials announce that Sir Isaac's coins are of the finest quality. Sir Isaac replies that he expected nothing less, surprising all parties present. Colonel Barnes arrives to tell them that Jack Shaftoe has hung, but he disappeared before he could be drawn and quartered.

### **Book 8: Chapter 41 Analysis**

Daniel, Threader and Ham's conspiracy has been carried out and Sir Isaac has cheated death just as Jack Shaftoe has done. Many incorrect assumptions have allowed people to regain their lives and composure before tackling political agendas.



# Epilogs 1:

## Epilogs 1: Summary

Leibniz-Haus, Hanover, November 1714

Leibniz has received the plates for the logic mill and discusses continuing the project with Johann. During the conversation, Johann begs Leibniz not to continue with the project because of the tsar's lack of commitment and Leibniz agrees.

## Epilogs 1: Analysis

Leibniz feels he cannot oversee the logic mill's building until the conclusion of the project because he is old and afraid that he will die before it is finished. He foresees the project taking many years, so he stores the barrels for future generations to build. Other natural philosophers will appreciate the complexity of such an invention.



## Epilogs 2:

### Epilogs 2: Summary

Gardens of Trianon, Royal Château of Versailles, November 1714

Jack and Eliza are finally reunited and Eliza has committed to taking care of Jack, who must remain out of sight and out of mind.

### Epilogs 2: Analysis

Jack's plan pays off and he escapes England with the help of the mob. Thankful to be given a second chance with his beloved Eliza, Jack is willing to stay out of sight and pursue a lifestyle that suits her requirements.



## Epilogs 3:

### Epilogs 3: Summary

Blenheim Palace, November 1714

Bob Shaftoe, Colonel Barnes and the Duke of Marlborough are residing at Blenheim Palace and have converted it into a chapel and a vicarage where Barnes is known as the Vicar of Blenheim. Bob is the gardener and mentions that he hopes his brother never shows up here. The other men ask how that is possible because he is dead.

### Epilogs 3: Analysis

The reader can safely assume that Bob helped cut Jack down, especially because his face was the last thing Jack visualized before he hung. While Bob, Barnes and the duke seemed to be acquaintances throughout the novel, it was rather puzzling to discover the men have decided to live together and pursue completely different occupations. It suggests they want to escape from the public eye and no longer be subjected to conflict.



## Epilogs 4:

### Epilogs 4: Summary

Carolina, November 1714

The Shaftoe boys, Danny and Jimmy, kill the overseer of the property they are working on in Carolina because he has taken to beating Toomba, their black friend, to within an inch of his life.

### Epilogs 4: Analysis

The property the Shaftoe boys were promised never materializes, so they are sent to work on a ranch in Carolina. Believing that all men are created equal regardless of color, the Shaftoe boys will not stand by and witness the continual beating of their black friend. They retaliate and kill the white overseer before heading for the hills.



## Epilogs 5:

### Epilogs 5: Summary

Cornwall, November 1714

Daniel, the Earl of Lostwithiel, Saturn, Orney and Newcomen inspect the steam engine and find it working well. As Daniel watches the device and its workings, he decides to write Eliza and tell her that her investment will pay off.

### Epilogs 5: Analysis

A new age is coming. A new system is determined by the individuals who control and manipulate those in power. Daniel feels he has done his job. Even though the system may have faults and flaws, it will suffice for now and another system will replace the one he and Caroline have created.



# Characters

## Will Comstock

Born on an estate in Connecticut, Will has recently moved to England, where he has found a home in the West Country. He is a moderate Tory whose title, Earl of Lostwithiel, Lord Warden of the Stannaries, was created by Queen Anne to populate the House of Lords with Tories. He is the grandson of John Comstock, the Earl of Epsom. Young and forward thinking, Will rambles about hierarchy and is old-fashioned. His clothing is outdated and he wears many chains around his neck. In 1714, he is 23 years old and classed as an alchemist.

## John Comstock

John Comstock is a Tory nobleman who fought against Cromwell in the middle of the previous century and, after the restoration, came back to England and helped found the Royal Society. Subsequently, John was disgraced and forced to retire from public life, partly through the machinations of his distant cousin and bitter rival, Roger Comstock. John is a forward-thinking natural philosopher who introduced gunpowder to England and is the first president and noble backer of the Royal Society. In addition, he is known as the Earl of Epsom.

## Lieutenant-General Ewell Throwley

Lieutenant-General Ewell Throwley is in charge of the Tower of London. He is murdered in his quarters by Rufus Maclan, also known as Lord Gy.

## Lord Gy

Also known as Rufus Maclan, Lord Gy is a prisoner of the Tower of London who kills Lieutenant Throwley after he mentions his upcoming meeting with John Ketch on Tower Hill.

## Thomas Newcomen

Thomas Newcomen is a Dartmouth blacksmith, mechanical engineer and inventor whose back is broad and whose complexion is as pale as the moon. In 1714, he is 50 years old and has worked with Will Comstock since 1713.





## Dr. Daniel Waterhouse

Also named Lord Walter Raleigh Waterhouse Weem, Viscount Wragby and Rector of Scanque, Daniel Waterhouse is a member of Parliament and the founder and sole fellow of the failing Trinity College, the Massachusetts Bay Colony of Technological Arts. Daniel serves as a tutor in natural philosophy to a son of John Comstock. Princess Caroline offers Daniel a large life insurance policy for his help in alleviating the political and religious complications that will ensue should Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz continue their dispute. Daniel and Will Comstock are good friends, though on occasion Daniel questions Will's loyalty, especially after Will accepts the princess's incentive and Daniels sees Will as the princess's pawn. In 1714, Daniel is 67 years old and has poor eyesight. He is one of three sons born to the Waterhouse family. Others perceive Daniel as an intelligent man who lacks class and wealth. After the bomb blast destroys his clothing, Daniel wears breeches, a linen shirt, a long skirted buttoned vest, hose up to the knee, a long-sleeved coat and a periwig, plain, luxuriant, snow-white hair tied back in a queue. Daniel also suffers from arthritis in his fingers.

## Sir Isaac Newton

A devout Christian and a preeminent English scientist, Sir Isaac Newton is also the president of the Royal Society and the master of the Royal Mint at the Tower of London. Sir Isaac has developed theories to harmonize science and religion based on the ancient proto-science of alchemy. He feuds with Leibniz over which one of them invented calculus. Sir Isaac is heavy-faced with long white hair and a receding hairline that makes his brain appear too large for his head.

## Princess Caroline of Ansbach

Once a destitute orphan, Princess Caroline has grown up as a ward of the King and Queen of Prussia in the Charlottenberg Palace in Berlin surrounded by books, artists and natural philosophers, including Leibniz. She is married to the electoral prince of Hanover, George Augustus, known as Young Hanover Brave due to his exploits in a recent war of Spanish succession. Caroline is reputed as beautiful and brilliant and at the age of 30 she is in direct line to become the Princess of Wales and later the Queen of England should Sophie of Hanover succeed Queen Anne. Caroline offers Daniel a large life insurance policy for his involvement in mediating the dispute between Sir Isaac and Leibniz.

## Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz

A natural philosopher and a privy counselor, Leibniz is a good friend of Sofia of Hanover and he tutors Princess Caroline. He debates with Sir Isaac over who created calculus, but this is only the tip of their dispute. One of the world's greatest savants, Leibniz is a



believer of the Christian faith and explains his developments to harmonize space and religion upon his theory of time, space and matter called Monadology.

## **Sophie of Hanover**

The grandmother of George Augustus, Sophie is a shrewd and vigorous 83-year-old and one of the two great factions in English politics, according to the Whigs.

## **George Augustus**

The husband of Princess Caroline of Ansbach and the grandson of Sophie of Hanover, George Augustus will become the Prince of Wales if Sophie succeeds Queen Anne of England. He is known as a handsome and dashing young man who is confident in political matters and popularly known as "Young Hanover Brave."

## **Queen Anne**

Anne is the Queen of England, 48 years old and in poor health. She tries to populate the House of Lords with Tories, the political party that she currently favors.

## **Mr. Threader**

Daniel meets Mr. Threader in the Saracen's Head Inn. Threader offers to escort Daniel the 200 miles from Dartmoor to London so that he can fulfill his obligations to Princess Caroline. Threader has a train of carts, coaches, spare horses and men on horseback that help Daniel. It is later discovered that Threader is a money scrivener.

## **Colonel Barnes**

Colonel Barnes is a black torrent guard and queen's messenger. One of his legs has been replaced with a rod of carved ebony, which has a steel tip.

## **Dart**

A barber who has tuberculosis, Dart lives in Cold Harbor and trims the Tower's black torrent guards' beards and hair.

## **Tom**

Tom is a boot polisher and shoe shiner for the black torrent guards. He lives with Dart and he looks like a twelve-year-old boy but has the wisdom of an elderly man. Many suspect that Tom is a full-grown man who has not developed properly.



## **Pete**

Pete is a Salter who lives with Tom and Dart in Cold Harbor.

## **Drake Waterhouse**

Drake Waterhouse is Daniel Waterhouse's father.

## **Robert Harley**

Robert Harley is Lord Treasurer of the realm. He is Queen Anne's chief minister and leader of the Tory Juntilla and he granted the Duke of Marlborough a warrant of 10,000 pounds to build his palace.

## **Catherine Barton**

Catherine Barton is Sir Isaac Newton's niece. Her father, who has died, was Sir Isaac's brother-in-law. Catherine is a highly intelligent woman who is more presentable than beautiful. Her figure captures men's thoughts and makes her captivating.

## **Mr. MacDougall**

Mr. MacDougall is an inventor and silversmith who created Roger Comstock's replica volcano using clockwork and vast amounts of phosphorus to simulate spectacular eruptions. MacDougall now works in theaters making apparitions, explosions and storms.

## **Jack**

Jack is Sir Isaac's adversary and the coinier who made counterfeit money, supposedly from impure sheet metal gold.

## **Eliza de la Zeur**

Eliza is Duchess of Qwghlm and Arcachon and proxy to Sophie of Hanover. She is a beautiful, petite woman with blue eyes and blond hair. Her servants adore her because of her kind nature and big heart. She is about 35 years old and she is good with numbers and accounting and becomes Dappa's publisher. She has a small nose and mouth and has freckles across her cheeks.



## Dappa

Dappa is a black gentleman and author who writes tales of slavery and love. He also is a shipmate aboard the Minerva.

## Queen Sophie

Sophie is the Hanoverian queen. She is aged, but she has beautiful eyes and a refined mouth. She wears a frontage, a tall vertical screen of white lace that rises from the hairline and adds inches to her height. The frontage also keeps her thinning hair out of public view.

## Herr Schwartz

Herr Schwartz is an older gentleman and retainer who oversees Princess Caroline's stables.

## Henrietta. Braithwaite

Henrietta Braithwaite is Princess Caroline's lady-in-waiting and is married to Harold Braithwaite, a suspected Jacobite spy. Henrietta is also Caroline's husband's mistress. George Augustus is rather fond of Henrietta, which creates problems when she is accused of treason.

## Viscount Bolingbroke

Viscount Bolingbroke is a Jacobite member of the House of Lords.

## Hannah Spates

Hannah Spates is a young lady who operates the card-punching machine for the logic mill. She is Barnes' daughter and works moving pound hemp in Wilson's store.

## William Ham

William Ham is a respected English banker who is in charge of the Bank of England.

## Enoch Root

Enoch Root is an alchemist.



## Peer of the Realm

Peer of the Realm is a writer for the "Lens" and Daniel's half great-nephew once removed.

## Charles White

Charles White is a queen's messenger.

## Seaman Jones

Seaman Jones is a middle-aged man and soldier who works aboard the Minerva. He is illiterate apart from the ability to sign his name perfectly. As a boy, Seaman Jones was abducted from the shore of Lynmouth, taken to a slave ship and press-ganged.

## Father Edouard De Gex

Father Edouard De Gex is a Jesuit who helps Jack the coinier steal from the English Mint.

## Johann Von Hacklheber

Johann Von Hacklheber is a Hanoverian noble and member of the household of the Duchess of Arcachon-Qwghlm. He is also Princess Caroline's lover.

## Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift is a reporter for the London newspaper "The Examiner." Swift is aptly nicknamed "the bull terrier."

## The Duke of Marlborough

The Duke of Marlborough, a quintessential Tory, is the son of a cavalier and is painted as a Whig by others and stripped of his title by Queen Anne. Should Hanover become the next in succession to the crown, the duke would become the Council of State and Commander-in-Chief.



## Mr. Baynes

Mr. Baynes is a common thief who could be mistaken for a gentleman from a distance. Up close, however, his periwig is dirty and of poor quality, his hat is too small and his sword is too long.

## The Angleseys

The Angleseys are a noble family and dangerous crypto-Catholic court fops.

## Thomas More Anglesey

Thomas More Anglesey is Duke of Gunfleet and a rival of John Comstock. His two sons, Louis, Earl of Upnor and Phillip, Count Sheerness, are the bastard sons of Charles II.

## Henry Arlanc

Henry Arlanc is the porter at the Royal Society. He is a clean-shaven gentleman who is about 45 years old and of tall stature.

## Mrs. Arlanc

Mrs. Arlanc is Henry Arlanc's wife and a housekeeper of Crane Court at the Royal Society.

## John Vanbrugh

John Vanbrugh is an architect who builds country houses. He is building Blenheim Palace for the Duke of Marlborough.

## Sir Christopher Wren

Sir Christopher Wren is an 81-year-old mathematical and mechanical prodigy. He is a member of the Royal Society and the city surveyor. He is in excellent condition for his age, which is visible only on his cheek dimples and the fragile skin around his eyes.

## Brother Norman

Brother Norman also is known as Mr. Orney. He owns the shipyard where Daniel loads Leibniz's natural philosophy tools aboard the tsar's ship. Brother Norman later becomes a member of Daniel's Clubb.



## **Captain Van Hoek**

Captain Van Hoek is the captain of the Minerva

## **Lev Stefanovich Kilkin**

Lev Stefanovich Kilkin is the owner of the shipyard where Daniel is to leave the Leibniz goods. Kilkin is a diplomat and has a bodyguard. He is a slab-like man with fleshy features.

## **Charles White**

Charles White is a Whig and parliamentary diplomat who owns the bear that fought on the docks in the bearbaiting arena.

## **Bob Shaftoe**

Bob Shaftoe is Daniel's friend and a sergeant in the Queen's army, in which he has served for 25 years. Bob is Jack the coiner's brother and he is uncle to Danny and Shaftoe, Jack's sons.

## **Hooke**

Hooke is a deceased city surveyor, prophet and sort-of partner to Christopher Wren. He is one of the first to try find longitude using clocks. Daniel hopes to find Hooke's notes and test pieces so that he can conclude his findings.

## **Spinoza**

Spinoza is a prophet.

## **Peter Hoxton**

Peter Hoxton, nicknamed Saturn, is a horologist, or watchmaker, who has turned to petty crime and theft. He is a bulky man with long, black hair that obscures his face. As a watchmaker, he was so consumed with constructing the devices that he would forget about everything else around him until he had finished.



## Dragoons

Dragoons are the Queen's royal army, soldiers who have sworn to protect the Crown and the English Mint.

## Andrew Ellis

Andrew Ellis is a viscount who is in and out of parliament and is an extremely influential man. Charles White bit off Ellis' right ear twenty years earlier in a coffee house dispute as Roger Comstock, Daniel Waterhouse and a room full of Whigs looked on.

## John Doe

John Doe is a thief found knocking holes in the plasterwork of Bedlam in search of goods hidden in the building's walls.





# Objects/Places

## Fleet Prison

Fleet Prison burned down in 1616 and was rebuilt in 1670. The prison is 250 feet long, 40 feet wide and 40 feet high. It occupies six acres.

## The Prudence

The Prudence is a simple and virtuous vessel with a fat cargo hold. The ship is owned by Orney and is used to make runs up and down the River Thames.

## Church of St. Olave

The Church of St. Olave is near the bridge of the Thames. It marks where the waves of equal width are below the waterfront.

## Chamberlains Wharf and Bridge yard

These two wharves of equal length are located on the Thames Bridge. Each is allowed communication with the nearby streets and offers hinterland access.

## London Bridge buildings

Built by trial and error, many people constructed these buildings by making illegal additions to existing buildings. Many of the structures overlook the Thames and often give way, falling into the River Thames and killing their occupants.

## Monmouth Street

Monmouth Street, a thoroughfare off Leicester Fields, joins two other streets like the tributaries of a river to form a short but wide main walkway.

## The Mint vault

The Mint's vault holds the Pyx. The vault is an arm-span wide. Its ceiling is low and a man cannot stand upright in it.



## The Pyx

The Pyx is a black chest where samples of English currency are stored. It has three hasps, or padlocks, securing the front, which is intricately designed.

## Haubites

Haubites are pistols that have short barrels and use mortar fire and smaller powder charges.

## Science Crapp

Science Crapp is the name given to the natural philosophy goods that Daniel delivers to the ship dock.

## Gray's Inn Lane

Lawyer-infested gardens and walks behind Gray's Inn lie on either side of the roadway.

## Volcano

A replica volcano constructed of brass and complete with a mini-city at its base stands in the ballroom of Roger Comstock's house. The replica volcano erupts twice a year using clock work and phosphorous.

## Roger Comstock's house

Roger Comstock's house is a replica of the Roman temple of Vulcan, the god of metals and volcanoes. Daniel drew up the plans and the house was constructed complete with statues and a replica of a volcano in the ballroom.

## Sir Isaac's house

Located on St. Martin Street in London, Sir Isaac's house is rustic, with timber doors and windows, dark wood paneling inside and scarlet curtains.

## Gold sheets

The gold sheets are hand-hammered sheet metal about an eighth of an inch thick, marked on one side with a linear pattern of scrapes and on the other with tar. The sheets were used in counterfeiting English guineas in the 1700s.



## Sedan chair

A sedan chair is a small hand-held carriage used for transport in England in the 1700s. A sedan chair was big enough to transport one person. Two men carried it, one at each end. The carriage sat on four poles, which supported a box housing the person being carried. The box was sealed with a door so the passenger was not visible.

## Hand-in-hand fire office

Located at Snow Hill, London, this group of people investigates fires, especially when the party is insured. This group is similar to a fire investigation crew.

## The Proprietors of the Engine

The Proprietors of the Engine are capital investors in Thomas Newcomen's invention called the Engine for Raising Water by Fire, which is now known as the steam engine.

## Sacren's Head Inn

The Sacren's Head Inn is in Dartmoor not far from Cockern Tor. This is where Will, Thomas and Daniel discuss financial backing of the Engine for Raising Water by Fire.

## Slough

Slough is a small town on the outskirts of London. Threader and Daniel stop here for the evening and attend church.

## Crane Court

Crane Court is in London and where the Royal Society is located. Daniel lives here when he is in London. Crane Court is at the end of a narrow cul-de-sac off Fleet Street.

## Cold Harbor

Cold Harbor is an overcrowded nest for humans. Too many squats and dwellings were erected here without the permission of authorities, yet they were tenanted. Metaphorically, Cold Harbor is a harbor, but it is not near water and it does perform the duties of a harbor. It is a patch of turf off the southwestern corner of the conqueror's keep called the White Tower. Cold Harbor is near Mint Street.



## The Royal Society headquarters

The Royal Society headquarters is two separate houses with a tiny courtyard in between. One house is in the northern terminus of Crane Court and is three stories high with a garret in the roof. Daniel lives in the garret, which has two dormer windows that face Crane Court, giving him a clear view of Fleet Street.

## London in 1714

London in 1714 consisted of many houses. It was dirty and overcrowded, unlike the London that Daniel grew up in. That London had congeries of estates, parks and compounds constructed over the centuries by builders who shared a common dream. Daniel's London had views of the sky and of the water, little parks and farm lets that were entwined in the city.

## The Engine for Raising Water by Fire

The Engine for Raising Water by Fire was invented by Thomas Newcomen. This engine consists of a boiler, which sucks and hisses like a dragon, operating an engine that pumps water out of one area and into another.

## Whigs

The Whigs are a political party that is a bitter rival to the Tories and supports Hanoverian succession.

## Tories

The Tories are a political party that is a rival to the Whigs and supports Spanish succession. The Tories harbor many powerful dissidents called Jacobites.

## Path of the Great Flood

The Path of the Great Flood is a leaf of paper similar to a map. It depicts Pendragon battlegrounds, Druid altars, Roman watchtowers and gouges in the Earth. It was written before Adam and man's creation and it shows a deep subterranean vein of tin.

## The Minerva

Daniel sails from Boston to London on the ship Minerva, which is claimed to have a golden hull. Further inspection reveals the hull is made of copper.



## The vault

The vault is 30 square feet with a single squat pillar in the center holding up four low-slung smaller holding vaults that give the place a hunched, dwarfish feel. This vault holds the mint's papers and the three important items used in the trial of the Pyx. It is housed in Westminster Abbey.

## Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is a stately building with brilliant windows, ornate wooden panels, painted scenes on the walls and unmarked medieval fortress doors, which are massive planks that are hinged, strapped, girded and pierced with black iron and ancient handcrafted padlocks.

## Hanging suit

The suit Jack Shaftoe wears the day he is hanged has three layers. The first is white drawers made from native Egyptian cotton, white hose of Turkish silk and a shirt made from white Irish linen. The second layer is breeches, a long-shirted waistcoat and a coat. All are in metallic hues. The waistcoat is made of gold cloth and the breeches and coat are made of silver, all with gold buttons. The third layer is black leather shoes with silver buckles, a white periwig and a purple cape hemmed with gold and silver.

## Quicksilver

Quicksilver is lines of liquid argent used in Royal Society laboratories.

## Dartmoor

Dartmoor belongs to the Prince of Wales. It is a treacherous stretch of land of boulders, soft grass tufts, old rambling stone walls, spruce forests, lichen-covered stones arranged in strange outcrops and hilltops covered in heather.

## Will Comstock's coach

Will Comstock's coach is black with French suspension. It appears smaller than it is and is pulled by a motley team of draft horses.

## Tower of London

The Tower of London is a prison holding for lords and noble men who commit high treason, crimes against the monarchy and Her Majesty's government.



## Yeomen warders

Yeomen warders are English soldiers assigned to watch over a lord while the lord stays in the Tower of London.

## Worth's Coffeehouse

Worth's Coffeehouse is a meeting place and haunt for petty financiers who provide bridging loans and other financial instruments to money scriveners and goldsmiths.

## Thieves' meeting place

The thieves' meeting place is similar to a coffeehouse at first glance, but a closer look reveals its unorthodox nature. The expensive lace curtains that hang in the windows are clearly stolen because they are too large for the windows. The room is full of mismatched and broken furniture and the establishment is down a seedy side alley.

## Mint Street

Mint Street is hidden behind a bridge and looks like Fleet Street. This old, original London Street has not been damaged by fire.

## Tors

Tors are outcrops of eroded layered rocks that have created a shelter. Most tors are shaped like an Indian tepee, but some of these hard platforms of protruding rocks are shaped like schooners or alchemists' furnaces.

## Cockern Tor

The Cokern Tor is the smallest and most humble of the tors. It is near the main road and the most convenient for Will to introduce his men to Daniel.

## Goal-fever

Goal-fever is an ailment that causes high fever, an uneven heart rhythm, a rash all over the body and a cough. It takes a week or two for the symptoms to appear and it is usually fatal.



## **Leibniz's house**

Leibniz's house is in Hanover and opposite the Leine Schlob. The house has an architectural charm and is excessively big for a bachelor.

## **Leine Schlob**

Leine Schlob is a nondescript dwelling where members of the Hanoverian royal family are tutored.



# Themes

## Political Power

Two political parties battle for domination in England in the 1700s prior to the Industrial Revolution. These are the Whigs, named for their closely cut hair and the Tories, who are greatly influenced by the church and believe that James Stuart should be king after Queen Anne's demise. The Whigs are concerned with wealth, intellect and Hanoverian succession should Queen Anne die.

As the Tories and Whigs battle in *The System of the World*, Queen Anne clings to life and uncertainty grows across England, with many people choosing a political side. As the queen becomes increasingly incapacitated, the nation's doubts follow suit and people speculate on who Queen Anne will choose to take the throne upon her death. The Tories send Jacobite assassins to kill Princess Caroline and George Augustus after the death of Queen Sophie so that Hanoverian succession will not rule England should Queen Anne request this. The assassins fail and when Queen Anne dies England is delivered into the hands of the Hanoverian Dynasty.

## Equality

England during the 1700s is a volatile mixture of racial tension, political and religious upheaval and power struggles between monarchy and Parliament. Many writers from this era wanted to change the world by developing people's beliefs in a better world and a new order. *The System of the World* highlights the lack of social order and the desire to find equality. The most pronounced of these conflicts is Charles White's, a member of the House of Lords, persecution of Dappa, a refined, black English gentleman. Dappa, a well-respected writer, writes about the enslavement of blacks. Supported by Eliza, Duchess of Arcachon-Qwghlm, Dappa becomes successful and popular among the wealthy nobility in England. White finds this a threat and he tries to destroy Dappa and discredit him by publishing a summons for his arrest. White declares that Dappa is nothing but a slave who has escaped from his command and White demands that Dappa be incarcerated and tried for treason.

As Dappa suggests when he reads the warrant publication, the irony is that a white man can claim a black man as an escaped slave to control his actions, while a black man cannot order the same of a white man. Another example of the lack of equality within English society in this era is the emphasis placed on social stature and wealth. If an individual is not given a title or does not have access to a large sum of money, he or she is treated as an inferior, subjected to extreme conditions and continuously exploited.





## Inventions and Inventors

At the turn of the eighteenth century, England is embarking upon the Industrial Revolution. Many new and exciting inventions are introduced by the great mathematicians and natural philosophers of this era and England is leading the way in many capacities. *The System of the World* includes several of these people in the plot. The reader is introduced to notorious inventors and creators of the era, including Sir Isaac Newton, Baron Von Gottfried Leibniz, Thomas Newcomen, Dr. Hooke and Christopher Wren. Sir Isaac and his rival Leibniz are featured extensively as the story unfolds. These two natural philosophers frequently agree to disagree over a broad range of subjects, from religion to the law of gravity and Earth's rotation around the sun. Their biggest dispute erupts over which of them discovered and developed calculus. Inventions such as the steam engine, the logic mill, longitude and infernal devices are featured prominently as the plot progresses.

Several of these inventions offer hope of understanding the world better and making logical sense of mathematical calculations may provide answers to rational and theoretical problems in the future. One example is the logic mill, which uses data-punched cards to compute difficult calculations. This is the basis today's computers.



# Style

## Point of View

*The System of the World* is written from the viewpoint of a third person narrator. While many literary critiques suggest this is the simplest narrative technique, it can be argued that it is one of the most complex because of the variations available. Stephenson writes from the omniscient viewpoint, which allows the writer to understand all of the character's thoughts and feelings and express them vividly to the reader. In other words, the narrator knows everything and the author creatively twists the plot around the narrator's knowledge. The author may divulge as little or as much information about the characters as he wants. The omniscient point of view has no boundaries and is an incredible extension of the imagination, which Stephenson creatively explores throughout the plot by changing locations and focusing on the issues each of his main characters are experiencing at the same time. An example of this is Oct. 29, 1714, when the narrator skips from Jack Shaftoe's hanging to Sir Isaac and the trial of the Pyx. Stephenson maintains a consistent voice throughout but tends to lose believability on occasion. This is the case when Daniel brings Sir Isaac back to life. Another downfall to Stephenson using this viewpoint is that the reader does not know the characters in a complex way. Unfortunately, this view does not allow the reader to feel emotionally connected to the characters or develop a deep bond or loathing for each individual.

## Setting

The novel is set in the eighteenth century and focuses on two localities during 1714. The story concentrates on England and is set mainly in and around London during a time when influenza and goal-fever killed, alchemy stole the moment and torture was a humane way to control behavioral disorders. Stephenson takes readers through the most exotic, romantic and awe-inspiring locations of the times with the inclusion of Christopher Wren's and Hooke's architectural masterpieces. Readers also see the confines of the Tower of London, the raw sewage in the city streets and the seedy side alleys. Readers ride in sedan chairs, gallop on black steeds and traverse the high seas aboard hookers and Russian naval vessels. Stephenson creates an effective illusion that has readers believing they have regressed in time. Several chapters negotiate treacherous waters and touch upon Hanoverian and Russian shores, where readers meet Queen Sophie and the Russian tsar, Peter the Great. Stephenson paints an accurate account of the era and he allows the reader to understand the hardships people of this century must have endured daily just to survive.

## Language and Meaning

The third in the Baroque trilogy, *The System of the World*, concludes the story precisely. Stephenson writes in an in-depth and often long-winded fashion that describes not only



the characters, scenery and setting but also the historical context with great accuracy. This trilogy has been acclaimed as one that stretches the boundaries of science fiction. One important and defining characteristic of science fiction is the creation of a new and elaborate world. *The System of the World*, however, is based on historical fact and Stephenson presents a world that is unique, yet real and includes his own interpretation of events. He has taken history and inserted his imagination. Connecting this trilogy with *Cryptonomicon* took seven years and Stephenson did not foresee the magnitude of the tale until it was fully told.

Stephenson writes chronologically and in detail, careful not to leave out the slightest fact. At times this can be too drawn out and the suspense is lost and the climax becomes miniscule in comparison to the events leading up to it. Stephenson's use of wordplay is frequent in the novel and he intermingles historical facts with fiction, effectively developing a complex tale. *The System of the World* is slightly different than the other two books in the trilogy because it concentrates on Daniel Waterhouse as the historical events of eighteenth century England unfold.

## Structure

*The System of the World* is the third book of the Baroque Cycle, a trilogy by Neal Stephenson that is similar to the Lord of the Rings trilogy in that the books must be read in succession to fully understand the tale. While a summary is offered at the beginning of the novel explaining the story so far, the reader is thrust into the tale and must become acquainted with the characters quickly.

The first of the books in the Baroque Cycle is *Quicksilver*. It is followed by *The Confusion* and *The System of the World*. They are a complex historical account of Sir Isaac Newton and Leibniz's battle over who invented calculus, the Royal Society, division of power, economical disputes, development of the English currency and revolution in the 1700s.

All of the novels are around 800 pages long and are prequels to the novel *Cryptonomicon*, where Daniel Waterhouse's ancestors are first introduced to the reader.

Divided into three parts, or books, *The System of the World* includes a summary of the previous two volumes in the front and an epilog and acknowledgments in the back.



## Quotes

"Now you'll be a Tory, in the eyes of certain Whigs," Will warned him, "and a butt for all the envenomed Darts of Party Malice."

"It is merely a repetition of when I departed my father's house on Holborn during the Plague and went to seek refuge at Epsom," Daniel said wearily. "Or when I became part of King James's court - in part, at the urging of your father. It is ever thus, when I have dealings with a Comstock..."

"With a Silver Comstock," Will correct him. "Or a tin one, as they have taken to calling me in Parliament."

"Being a Tory has its prerequisites, though," Daniel allowed. "Mr. Threader has very courteously offered to convey me to London, departing to Martin. He is going thither on business."

"The Earl looked a bit queasy. 'And you have gratefully accepted?'" (14, Book 6, Chapter 3.)

"...Painted upon its door was a coat of arms not familiar to me. I saw it several more times during my stay there. For even though the rest of England was immobilized - embalmed - the man who went about in that carriage could not stop moving on my account. His comings and goings were evidence, to me, that the world had not come to an end, the Apocalypse had not occurred - the hoofbeats of his team on Comstock's carriageway were like a faint pulse in a patient's neck, which tells a Physician that the Patient still lives..."

"'Who is that madman, coming and going in the midst of the plague,' Daniel asked, 'and why does John Comstock let him into his house? The poxy bastard'll infect us all.'"

"'John Comstock could not exclude that filé anymore than he could ban air from his lungs,' Wilkens said. 'That is his money - scrivener.'" (27, Book 6, Chapter 4.)

"'Both church domes and engines are subject to physical laws, which are, in turn, amendable to mathematical calculations; and we know the laws,' Daniel announced. 'It is at least as well-founded as what to you do for a living.'" (42, Book 6, Chapter 4.)

"Daniel [thought] that the fantastically complex ornamentation of Baroque churches was a replacement for the complicated things made by God, that had used to surround people when they lived out of doors (or that Hooke had seen in drops of water). Entering into your place such as these, they were surrounded by complicated things made by men in emulation of God - but frozen and idealized, in much the same way as the mathematical laws of Natural Philosophy were compared to the reality they tried to describe." (98-99, Book 6, Chapter 7).



"Dappa had first seen Eliza some 20 years earlier. He had been eager to hate her. He, Jack van Hoek and Vrej Esphahnian had sailed from Vera Cruz on a ship full of gold, bound for London or Amsterdam and had diverted to Qwghlm only because of Jack's infatuation with this woman. The letter that had lured them and their head turned out to be a trick, a forgery from the hand of the Jesuit Father Edouard De Gex and Minerva had fallen into a trap laid for them there by the French." (155, Book 6, Chapter 12.)

"'There is no telling,' Isaac said, in the soothing tones of one who is trying to calm a madman. 'My calculations from the book of Revelation suggest that the end of the world will not occur until 1876.'"

"'Really!?' Daniel said, fascinated. 'That's a hell of a long time. And hundred sixty-two years!'" (211, Book 6, Chapter 22)

"Caroline says that her husband is quite infatuated with this Henrietta. Short of actually dragging the corpses of the *hashishin* into his Presence, it is difficult for me to see how we can get him to comprehend." (392, Book 7, Chapter 4)

"Stubbs leaned into the space between axle-support and drum-side and unlatched the door. It flew open all the way and banged against the outside of the Machine, revealing that its inner surface was entirely covered by a quilted canvas bag, so filthy that it gleamed with a hard shine, stuffed with straw or horse-hair. The open hatchway was mostly empty; but down low, something reminiscent of a human figure could be seen draining lumpily onto the floor, like a half-melted wax statue being poured out of a saucepan." (464, Book 7, Chapter 10)

"'The plan was proposed by none other than Sir Isaac himself,' Daniel said. 'He likened it to the hunter's stratagem whereby a goat or other expendable beast is tethered to a stake out in a clearing in the woods, to draw predatory animals to a place where they may be easily shot. We know not what Jack seeks, but very likely it is included among the goods we have found in Bedlam - therefore we have what is needed to establish a *stake-out* of our own.'" (481, Book 7, Chapter 11)

"For a little while Daniel had been annoyed by their fickleness. Then he had reflected that the world, as of July 1714, was of a sudden crowded with interesting projects for men such as these: enough to keep them all busy for hundreds of years. If they let their attention drift from the Logic Mill, who was Daniel to command them not to be interested in sparks, or steam? An if Isaac was bored by the Engine for Raising Fire by Water, what power or right had Daniel to forbid it? It was noting more than the Boyle/Hooke Rarefying Engine, built larger and that was from fifty years ago." (522, Book 7, Chapter 13)

"'I HAVE THE HEAVY GOLD. You know this,' Jack said.

'The Solomonic Gold?' Isaac corrected him.

'Funny, that is what Father Ed calls it, too. Whatever you call it, I have it and I know where I can get more. Now, suppose Bolingbroke demands a Trial of the Pyx. The



refiner's furnace shall be set up in Star Chamber. A jury of London money-men shall open up the Pyx and take out a sample of coins-'

'Coins you put in,' Isaac said.

'That you can't prove - but in case, *you* are personally responsible for every one of those coins,' Jack reminded him. 'They shall be counted and weighed first. And it may astonish you, Ike, to hear that the coins I put in there shall pass this first test. I made the blanks a bit thicker, you see - not enough so as you would notice, holding one between your fingers, but enough to make them of legal weight, even though they are allayed with base metal.' (560, Book 7, Chapter 21)

"It was then that I formed my resolve to burn you at the stake, Eliza. It is to me what the Holy Grail was to Sir Galahad: an ambition that has sustained me through many trials and journeys. Oh, *by itself*, to see you slowly consumed by fire would be only idle pleasure. Do not imagine I am so self-indulgent. Burning you, Eliza, was to be the climax, the catharsis of a great work of purification. England was to fall to the armies of the Most Christian King and the Dutch Republic was to fall next. Not just *you* but *many* were to have been consumed in *autos da fe* that would have illuminated the face of Europe as these bonfires do the Hay Market to-night." (568, Book 7, Chapter 21)

"Your royal highness's discourse concerning the System of the World and the threat of its running awry at some future time, puts me in mind of a thing I do not understand in the philosophy of Sir Isaac Newton,' Leibniz began. 'Sir Isaac describes that system by which the heavenly bodies are kept in their gyres and made to orbit round and round forever. Fine. But he seems to say that God, who created this system and set it in motion, must from time to time reach in and tinker with it, as a horologist adjusts the workings of his. As if God lacked foresight, or the power, to make it a perpetual motion.'" (676, Book 8, Chapter 6)

"Summon the Goldsmiths,' intones the King's Remembrancer. To Daniel and his coterie, he says, 'You may stand over there,' and waves at an open space in the corner. Daniel leads the group by over and turns around to find the eyes of the Duke of Marlborough on him: a reminder - as if Daniel needed any - that is it. The new system is facing its first test and it's doing so under the most adverse possible circumstances: a sick and possibly demented alchemist is in charge of the Mint and a vagabond has tampered with Pyx and is now going to make his maker without having coughed up the evidence they want. And Roger's no longer around to make it all better.'" (837-38, Book 8, Chapter 33)

"They have reached Tyburn cross. It is a desert the size of the Pacific Ocean, paved with human faces. A few tall objects protrude above the flood, here and there: a stranded carriage, a tree that's about to collapse from the weight of the people who've climbed it, occasionally men on horseback and the triple tree itself. Which Jack does not see until he's underneath it. It is an alienated framework of six mighty timbers - three vertical pilings and three cross-bars forming a triangle high above - beautiful in a

strange way. The feeling is of entering a house without a roof, a home whose ceiling is heaven." (861, Book 8, Chapter 40)



## Topics for Discussion

Queen Anne gives the Royal Manor and Park of Woodstock to the Duke of Marlborough in appreciation for his winning the battle of Blenheim. Why then did Queen Anne later decide to strip the Duke of his title? (21, Book 6, Chapter 4)

What made Daniel Waterhouse suspicious of who had destroyed the tsar's ship? (101-4, Book 6, Chapter 7)

What is your understanding of Tories and do they still exist today?

Daniel Waterhouse and Mr. Threader assume that the explosion upon Daniel's arrival at Crane Court was intended for him. Later, Daniel believes the bomb may have been for another. Who is this person and what changes Daniel's opinion? (174-77, Book 6, Chapter 13)

What options did Eliza give Jack when they were lovers, before his arrest in 1714? (775, Book 8, Chapter 21)

How does Princess Caroline want Sir Isaac Newton and Baron Leibniz to create the System of the World? (676, Book 8, Chapter 6)

Leibniz mentions two intellectual labyrinths to Princess Caroline that he believes all thinking people are drawn to. What are these and how do you perceive them? (678-79, Book 8, Chapter 6)

Dappa has been tried and convicted of a serious crime brought forth by Charles White. Do you feel this is a valid crime? Why or why not? (487-89, Book 7, Chapter 11)

How does Dappa elude the tout at the coffeehouse on Birchin Lane? (291, Book 6, Chapter 26)

In the 1700s, those thought to be insane were committed to asylums, where the conditions often were poor and torture was used as a style of treatment. What form of treatment did John Doe endure regularly? (462-466, Book 2, Chapter 10)

The Jacobites and the Tories are two influential political parties that battle for power and control of England during the 1700s. Are either of these parties still a part of politics today and if so who do they now battle with for control?

Faced with the possibility of the hooker exploding, how do Sir Isaac and Daniel save the lives of not only themselves but also the dragoons onboard? (308-311, Book 6, Chapter 28.)