

# **The Thistle and the Rose Study Guide**

**The Thistle and the Rose by Eleanor Hibbert and Jean Plaidy**

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# Plot Summary

Margaret Tudor is twelve when her betrothal to the King of Scotland, James IV, comes to fruition. She tells her brother, Henry VIII who is the future king of England, that she is excited about her upcoming position on the throne of Scotland but secretly admits that she is frightened about the move. Margaret's mother dies giving birth and Margaret will later remember that her mother died doing what women of her class are expected to do - produce an heir. Margaret arrives in Scotland to find that her husband is sensuous and apparently devoted to her. Then she finds out that he'd had a mistress named Margaret Drummond and another named Janet Kennedy, and that he has fathered children by both women. Upon this discovery, Margaret is angry but James is unrepentant.

As time passes, Margaret gives birth to several children who die before having two that survive, sons named James and Alexander. Meanwhile Margaret grows angrier that James continues his affairs. When James goes to battle against Margaret's native England, he encounters a woman alone at a border castle and enters into an affair with her. He goes on for several days while the English amass an army. When James finally meets the English on the battlefield, he's out numbered and thousands of the Scottish soldiers die, including James and his illegitimate son.

Margaret, now a widow, finds that she has no say in the care of her sons as the country's government takes over control of the two young boys. When Margaret marries the Earl of Angus less than a year later, she has little support and eventually comes up with a plan to leave the country with Angus and her sons, planning to go to England, her native country where her brother is now king. The plan to kidnap the two young boys fails and Margaret ends up returning to England with Angus. She gives birth to a daughter on the way and then Angus deserts her in order to return to Scotland. While in England, Margaret learns that her youngest son has died. When Margaret returns to Scotland a year later, she is ready to make peace with her husband and with the Duke of Albany who has been named Regent. Angus, however, has returned to the woman to whom he'd been betrothed prior to his marriage to Margaret and has no intention of giving up this woman.

Margaret is eventually granted a divorce and spends time with her son, James, who will become King of Scotland. He is held a virtual prisoner as opposing factions seek a way to retain control of the future king. Margaret encounters a new young man in the service of James and feels confident that this will be the happy marriage she'd always hoped for. However, she comes to discover that this man is also unfaithful and has fathered a child while married to Margaret. Margaret continues her days, largely alone, and realizes that she is no longer seeking a way to retain or regain power and is living a quieter life than ever before. One day she feels ill and, realizing it's serious, sends for James, but dies before he arrives.



# The Betrothed, The Bridegroom, and The Rose and the Thistle

## The Betrothed, The Bridegroom, and The Rose and the Thistle Summary

In The Betrothal, Margaret Tudor is in the royal palace with her brother, Henry who will be Henry VIII when he becomes King of England, and her sister, Mary, who is only six. Margaret is the oldest of the three at twelve and Henry is ten. The three children are very aware of their royalty and Henry and Margaret are somewhat at odds. Henry loves pageantry and wants to be the center of attention. Margaret refuses to play to this need and is herself about to become the center of attention as her marriage to James, King of Scotland, takes place.

Henry believes that those of noble birth - such as Henry's father, the king - should always look the part. Henry himself is conscious of the fact that he's going to become king and is boastful of that fact whenever the king isn't present. Henry says that he believes the marriage between Margaret and James is not in England's best interests and threatens to say so, but when the moment of Margaret's marriage to James, doesn't say anything. Margaret's marriage to James occurs in England by proxy - a man stands in James' place. Margaret is then to travel to Scotland where the real marriage ceremony will take place.

The need for another son in the Tudor family is very real, especially after the death of Henry's older brother, Arthur. Margaret's mother realizes this fully and is dealing with a difficult pregnancy at the time of Margaret's marriage. As the festivities come to a close, Margaret's mother gives birth to a weak little girl and both die. Margaret is saddened by the loss of her mother and leaves her home for Scotland with the mourning still heavy on her heart and mind. She cries for her mother but doesn't show her grief to the court.

In The Bridegroom, James IV of Scotland is not particularly excited about the approaching arrival of Margaret. In fact, James continues to mourn the woman he'd really intended to marry - a woman named Margaret at Stobhall. James and his father had never lived together, his father having had a premonition that the young James would be at the cause of his death. James felt he would have loved his father and stood beside him had his father acted as a father to him. As it stands, James is sent away and remains separated from his parent for all of his life. At fifteen, James is staying at Stobhall and there falls in love with the young woman of the household, a girl named Margaret Drummond. James is persuaded to ride against his father and does so without fully understanding the situation. He insists that his father be protected during the battle, but later learns that his father died - killed by an assassin after having been injured - and is buried at Cambuskenneth Abbey.



James is crowned King of Scotland and feels his entire life that he would never have acted in this way if his father had cared for him. James promises to marry Margaret at Stobhall and at twenty-seven he believes it when he swears he will marry her. However, he has a mistress - Janet Kennedy - who convinces him to delay the plan. James realizes that he must marry Margaret Drummond but she and her two sisters are poisoned. There is some question as to who was the intended victim. James becomes reconciled to the fact that he must - for the sake of his country - marry Margaret Tudor in order to united Scotland and England.

In *The Thistle and the Rose*, Margaret leaves England and it's noted that she enjoys the adoration of the people she encounters along the way. Margaret meets James and immediately falls in love with him. Margaret cannot hide her feelings for James and one of her guardians wants to tell her about social standards, but notes that it's not nearly as easy to give directions to the woman who is the Queen of England as it had been to direct the young Princess of England. Margaret stays overnight in Dalkeith where a fire kills her two beloved palfreys and James immediately sends new ones as a gift. Margaret and James marry at Holyrood.

After their marriage, James and Margaret travel around the country together. James is tolerant and gives her many gifts. One day Margaret encounters a young girl in the castle and questions the child. The little girl, who says that her name is Margaret, tells Margaret that she is the daughter of the king. When she confronts James, he says that the girl is his illegitimate daughter and notes that Margaret is more upset at the fact that he had a mistress and a child than the fact that the mistress had been poisoned. Margaret then learns about Janet Kennedy and the two children James had fathered by her. James dotes on his children and determines that he won't be the kind of father his own had been.

Margaret continues to be angry at James and his continued infidelity but continues to give in to his sensuality whenever he turns his attention toward her. He does so often, reminding himself that she is young. He also continues to hope for a child by Margaret that he might have a legitimate heir.

## **The Betrothed, The Bridegroom, and The Rose and the Thistle Analysis**

Henry has snide remarks for Margaret upon her approaching marriage to James. He says that the Queen of Scotland is not a title to be coveted as the country is "barbarous." Margaret knows Henry well and knows that he is only happy when he is being treated as the beloved future King of England. She tells Mary this, reminding her little sister that in order for Henry to remain happy with her, she will have to state her adoration for him. This will be a lesson Mary learns well and both girls will use this aspect of Henry's character in the future.

At twelve, Margaret may seem too young to realize and understand the idea of being wife of a man in his twenties who is an experienced lover and who, by Margaret's own



account, is "sensuous." However, it's noted that women often marry at Margaret's age and that those in her situation - as the women charged with producing an heir for some particular title - fully understand. She knows that it is to be her duty and that duty is even more real to her when she learns that her own mother died following childbirth in an effort to produce a backup heir for the throne of England.

There is a great deal learned about the main characters of the story during the first chapter. Henry and Margaret are both headstrong and their mother realizes that this could be a problem, specifically for Margaret who will naturally have less control over her life than Henry. Henry himself will eventually become a ruler in his own right and Margaret resents this. She comes to desperately desire the power associated with the throne and goes so far as to say that she wishes she were a man so that she could do the same. Margaret's father is frugal to a fault and dreads spending money, even in the pursuit of entertainment. This will impress on the children the desire to have fun, no matter what the cost.

While James is incredibly handsome, part of his appeal is that he has the ability to talk to every woman as if she were the only woman in the world. It's noted that James does this same routine with women of Margaret's caliber as well as the woman who serves him in a tavern.



# The Curse of Sauchieburn and The Wild Knight

## The Curse of Sauchieburn and The Wild Knight Summary

In The Curse of Sauchieburn, Margaret begins to mature and the change is seen by those around her. Both James and Margaret are well aware of the changes in Margaret and James does what he can to pamper her. Margaret says that she doesn't want revenge but her pride won't allow the situation to continue as is. Margaret also comes to realize that she wants to have some say in the politics and policies of Scotland but knows that James won't allow her to have any say. This is another situation in which Margaret is hurt, desiring to be more to her husband than just a wife, but wants to be co-ruler of Scotland. James announces to Margaret that he plans to bring his other illegitimate sons to the castle to live near James. Margaret argues the point, saying that this probably isn't a good idea because people will talk. However, James says that parents tend to be overly fond of their children, and refuses to give in on this point.

At seventeen, Margaret becomes pregnant and the people of Scotland are hopeful. James has proven that he can sire healthy children and Margaret is young and healthy. The birth is difficult and Margaret cannot help but remember her mother, dying in childbirth. The child is a boy and James travels to the shrine of St. Ninian to pray for Margaret and the child. James learns that Janet Kennedy has a new lover, a man they call Bell-the-Cat, who is some twenty-five years older than James. James finds he is jealous at the thought of Janet with a lover other than James. Meanwhile, Margaret is growing stronger after the difficult birth and she and James name their son James. Christmas is celebrated and the Baby James reaches his first birthday in February. Shortly after, a messenger arrives with word that the little boy has died. James remains constantly with Margaret who is devastated but pleased that she is keeping James from his mistresses.

A messenger arrives from England and Margaret is angry that James is making decisions regarding the country without ever discussing anything with her. When some Scottish men are arrested in England, tensions mount and Margaret is called on by her father via a messenger to make James see the reason behind the arrest is justified. The messenger also pleads with Margaret to intercede on England's behalf with regard to a budding alliance between Scotland and France. Margaret tries to talk to him but realizes that he isn't going to do anything more than appear to listen, and that she will never change his mind from any course he has set for himself. Margaret is again pregnant and James, at least partly to appease her, agrees to see the English emissary. She gives birth to a girl but the child dies soon after being christened. James believes it to be a curse on him because of his role in the death of his father. Margaret says that they have been unlucky but will have other, healthy children. She does, however, rant against the



unfairness of her lack of children who live while she sees peasant women with several young, healthy children at their sides. Margaret seizes the opportunity to say that perhaps their children are weak because James "squanders" his "manhood" on his mistresses, but James says that his father did the same and fathered healthy children.

In *The Wild Knight*, Margaret feels optimistic about the latest pregnancy and comes to believe the worry is harmful. Then Margaret receives word from England that her father is dead and Henry has been crowned King of England. In October, Margaret gives birth to a son, christened Arthur for Margaret's older brother who had died tragically young. The naming of the child reminds Margaret that her brother had left jewels to her in his will and she writes Henry, requesting this inheritance. Henry declines, saying that he has no way of knowing that James wouldn't use the jewels to finance an invasion into England. Margaret immediately takes the letter to James who takes it as a sign that they will not live in peace with Henry VIII on the throne. The baby Arthur lives only a few months. Margaret is sad for awhile but knows they will have children who are healthy. James plans a pilgrimage to pray for another child and Margaret suggests that he not visit Janet Kennedy as is a typical occurrence on James' pilgrimages. James seems to take her advice and is constantly by her side in coming months. Margaret again becomes pregnant and this time gives birth to another boy, this one also christened James. Soon after, James is again visiting his mistresses. Margaret hands over the primary care of Baby James to a man named David Lindsay.

Henry invades France and James is called on by the Queen of France for help, which he sends in the form of two ships to the French coast. Meanwhile, he makes plans to invade England himself at the Scotland/England border, though Margaret and the Scottish minister advise against it. James says that it's sad for Margaret that her brother and husband are at war, but continues to insist that it's all Henry's fault. Margaret pleads and appeals to his superstitious nature, but to no avail. The Earl of Angus, a man known as "Bell-the-Cat," joins in Margaret's appeals but James continues to refuse to listen.

Margaret rides out for some distance with James and the army as does James' illegitimate son, Alexander. They initially meet with little resistance. When they arrive at Ford Castle, they find the lady of the house - Lady Heron - and her young daughter at home with only servants because the man of the house is currently in a Scottish prison. The woman seduces James who winds up staying for several days, much longer than he should have. The Earl of Angus is angry, urging that they hurry onward, but James is caught up in the affair. When James is finally ready to move on, the Earl of Angus has angrily ridden off toward home. James even then doesn't attack but invites a formal battle. The invitation is accepted and a time set for a battle on Flodden Field. James and Alexander are both on foot with the rest of the soldiers and James tells Alexander that if he gets in trouble, to remember that James is nearby. The Scottish are slaughtered, James and Alexander among them.





## The Curse of Sauchieburn and The Wild Knight Analysis

James pets Margaret and indulges her with gifts and entertainment. An interesting point is that James isn't really trying to make up for his infidelity but seems relieved that he no longer has to hide his infidelity from Margaret. It's a fairly common practice in this day and age for men to have a mistress, especially men in positions of power and authority. James is no exception and Margaret puts it down to his sensuality but isn't willing to forgive his dalliances. What's more, the men seem to expect that the women in their lives will calmly accept the situation. It's pointed out that many women are calm and serene, quietly going about their lives while their husbands go to the arms and the beds of other women and even sire children with those women. The problem is that Margaret has been indulged all her life and isn't accustomed to being anything other than the center of attention. This will continue to be a problem for Margaret throughout her life as she seeks a man who is willing to remain faithful to her and her alone, and the men continue to let her down on this score.

There are more insights into James' character, including that he believes himself to be a good king who doesn't deal in the excesses of drink or food, but recognizes in himself the fault of leaving everything behind whenever he is in pursuit of a new mistress. James also believes that he would have been happy with Margaret Drummond if he had been allowed to marry her. James is forgetting that he had delayed his marriage plans to that Margaret in favor of spending time with Janet Kennedy.

There is a new situation brewing between the English and Scots. James says that Henry is to blame and Margaret tries to intervene. James continues to avoid having an interview with the English ambassadors but entertains the French. The relationship between the English and French is also shaky, making the Scottish acceptance of the French seem an act of animosity. Margaret tries to tell James that Henry as a king won't be that different than Henry was as a boy, and that James should listen to Margaret's insight into her brother's personality, but James is not interested in Margaret's opinion. Moreover, James is set on war and also won't listen to the Scottish ministers who advise against going to war against the English. Then comes a point that James can't ignore - the French Queen contacts James with word that the English are making war on France and calls on him to "come to her rescue." Margaret realizes that James won't be able to turn down this plea of a lady in distress. When the Earl of Angus joins Margaret's pleas, James still won't listen and it could be that he is even more determined because the Earl of Angus is against war. This man is Janet Kennedy's lover and James is jealous of his role in Janet's life. The court gossips believe that Margaret and the Earl of Angus are allies mostly because both hate James' role in Janet's life and the war against the English is a cause that can be talked about openly, whereas Janet cannot.

James, who takes the part of a knight during tournaments and jousts, never loses, probably because his identity is known. The men he jousts against would never intentionally harm their king, which means that they would always give James the advantage. This seems to have inflated James' confidence and he seems to have come



to believe that he truly is the best at these games. This leads him to believe that he is also going to be invincible on the battlefield and he believes this to the point that he takes his young son, Alexander, into battle. James seems to believe that he can keep both himself and his son safe. The problem is that James has always disguised himself during tournaments and does so again during the battle. This is a fatal mistake that costs him his life and that of his beloved son, Alexander. What's more, the slayers don't even know who they've killed.



# The Reckless Marriage and the Deserted Queen

## The Reckless Marriage and the Deserted Queen Summary

In *The Reckless Marriage*, Margaret recalls her anger upon learning that James is remaining with the Lady Heron, knowing the reason. The Baby James, who is now the King of Scotland though as yet too young to reign, is still in the care of David Lindsay. The baby is crowned twenty days after James' death. All of Scotland lost loved ones on Flodden Field and all families mourn. James had left Margaret with the title "Regent," which essentially means she is in charge until the young king becomes of age. The political powers of Scotland come to believe that the job is too much for Margaret, partly because she is near delivery of the child she was expecting when James left to make war on England and partly because Scotland never allows a woman to rule. With an eye toward solving the situation, they agree to bring John Stuart to Scotland to serve as Regent until young James comes of age.

John Stuart is currently in France and is the Duke of Albany. His family ties are such that he would be next in line to rule but doesn't desire to leave France. However, when the King of France calls on him to go to Scotland, John - who is called "Albany" - agrees because he feels he can do nothing else. Albany has a frail wife, Anne, who seems likely to die at any time though she has been in poor health for a long time. Albany had lived in Scotland years earlier and had found it "necessary" to leave the country in favor of France. He now considers France his home.

By now, Henry has returned from France and discovered the battle in England. He is angry and Margaret sends him a letter, begging that he not wage war against Scotland and citing the fact that Henry's nephew, James, is only a year and five months old. Henry's response is that he'll give the Scottish people peace only if that's what they truly desire, indicating that he expects no further invasions.

Margaret has become interested in a young man named Archibald Douglas who has recently lost his wife. Margaret invites him for a meeting though she knows she cannot make any move toward taking him as a lover until after her child is born. Archibald is the grandson of the Earl of Angus - Bell-the-Cat - who dies a short time later, largely of grief over the loss of family members at Flodden Field. This makes Archibald the new Earl of Angus, and he is now referred to as Angus. Angus is in love with Lady Jane Stuart and hurries to tell her that Bell-the-Cat had given his blessing of the match on his death bed. They agree to wait for a reasonable mourning period for Angus' grandfather. Angus' other grandfather is Lord Drummond - father of the young Margaret who had been James' mistress prior to her death by poisoning. Margaret, who still holds the title Queen as well as Regent, calls on Lord Drummond to hint of her interest in the new Earl of Angus. Lord Drummond calls on Angus, tells him that he is to end his betrothal to



Lady Jane, and to make himself available to Queen Margaret. Angus balks but is urged to this step by other relatives as well who tout the favors that the family members will receive if he makes this sacrifice.

In April, Margaret gives birth to another healthy baby boy who she christens Alexander. Margaret has turned her thoughts to marriage and Lord Drummond brings Angus to her. Lord Drummond knows that there will be many against the union between Margaret and Angus who is related to the Douglas clan, and seeks a way to rush the situation before there's time for anyone to interfere. Angus doesn't want to marry Margaret, citing his love for Jane, and is unbearably unhappy. However, when Margaret takes him to her as a lover, he finds himself responding and unable to resist. Margaret plans to explain her actions later but for now wants nothing more than to give herself up to the passion of a marriage with Angus. They marry secretly.

In *The Deserted Queen*, Margaret is happy and selects Angus and members of his family for key positions, a move that angers members of other clans who are already upset that Margaret married before James had been dead a full year. Then there's a motion put before Parliament to remove Margaret from the Regent's position. At one point, Drummond slaps a royal emissary which prompts a further division between those who support the Queen and those who don't. Those who don't support her are further upset that Henry could at any minute come to the aid of his sister, Margaret. On May 18, 1515, Albany arrives, a move Margaret has to support because she has so few supporters. One of the Border landowners, a man named Home, is among the first to greet Albany. Albany is cool toward Home which makes Home immediately plan to throw his support against Albany, meaning he will support the Queen. Albany and the Queen are slated to meet and Margaret, ever mindful of the power of a public display, takes the children with her. The young James, officially King of Scotland though too young to take formal command, does as his mother bids and ceremoniously presents the keys of the castle to Albany upon his arrival. Angus quickly orders a letter sent to Albany in which he aligns himself with that man against Margaret though she is his wife.

Margaret begins to make plans to escape out of Scotland with her sons and Angus refuses to go with her. She is soon very near the birth Angus's child. Margaret plans with the help of Lord Home to take her two sons and flee the country. Knowing that her letters are being intercepted, she writes to Henry with a lie, saying the birth is imminent. On the appointed day, she leaves expecting to be shortly reunited with the boys, James and Alexander, but the kidnap attempt is unsuccessful. Margaret decides to go onward and gives birth to a daughter at a border castle. She tells Henry that she desires to go on into England and he issues an invitation. Angus realizes that he could lose all his holdings because of this escapade and makes plans to return to Scotland without Margaret. It's while Margaret is at Morpeth Castle waiting a formal invitation to Henry's court that she learns her younger son, Alexander, has died. While Margaret remains very ill, an effect of the rigors of childbirth, Angus returns to Scotland, running away in the night without telling Margaret of his plans.



## The Reckless Marriage and the Deserted Queen Analysis

Albany is selected to go to Scotland by the Scottish because of his royal family ties. He's selected by the King of France because Albany has proven his loyalty to France and seems the correct person to protect the French interests in Scotland during his tenure there. The political situation involving France, Scotland and England continues to be a driving force behind almost every decision and every concession. All three countries say they want nothing more than peace but outwardly show signs that what each really wants is to rule all of Europe. This simply isn't going to happen because no one of these countries is strong enough to do so and none is willing to help another for fear of giving that country too much strength and power. An interesting point is that all the countries seek marriages to form alliances and all these marriages are ostensibly entered for the purpose of having an ally in the other country. However, these never really seem to serve any long-term purpose and the marriage alliances are broken at any perceived cause.

The clans are the class system in Scotland and the families at the heads of these clans are largely ambitious men who want the best for their families. The clans also war among themselves in their quest for power and these families form alliances that Margaret soon comes to understand must be put to work for her in order to achieve her own goals.

Angus notes that he cannot resist the attentions of the Queen and Margaret herself will later say that she cannot find a man who will remain loyal to her, and wonders if she would have fared differently if she had not been Queen. Angus soon comes to enjoy many aspects of his position at court and some things play to his natural vanity. However, he also soon realizes that there are those who hate him because of his rise to power.

Margaret's immediate reaction upon the news that Alexander has died is that Albany must have murdered the child, but she seems to instinctively know that Albany would not stoop to murdering the youngsters. Not only is there Albany's trust to consider, it's pointed out that Albany would need to remove both of the youngsters if he wants to take the throne for himself. He hasn't done so and James remains in good health.



# The Daisy, Marigold, Pomagranate and Rose, and The Unfaithful Husband

## The Daisy, Marigold, Pomagranate and Rose, and The Unfaithful Husband Summary

In *The Daisy, Marigold, Pomegranate and Rose*, Margaret begins to ready herself and her entourage for the trip on to Henry's Court, and she's excited despite the fact that Angus left her and her younger son died. She feels, however, that the only real option available is for her to seek the help of Henry and his ministers in order to regain her position as Regent. Albany also wants Margaret to return to England so that he can control her. Albany calls on Angus to help persuade Margaret to return. Toward this end, Angus catches up with Margaret and she is immensely glad to see him but she is angry when Angus urges her to return to Scotland. Margaret in turn tries to convince Angus to go on with her to Henry's Court. Angus knows that he has too much to lose because Albany wants to ally with Angus and Jane Stuart has forgiven him for his marriage to Margaret. Margaret then tells him to leave her apartments so that she can get dressed. Angus doesn't even pause on his way to the stables and leaves immediately, headed back to Scotland.

Henry wants to impress upon Margaret that the English Court is superior to that of the Scottish people and so throws a series of events, each so lavish that Margaret is hard pressed to have new gowns for each event. She is ready for some fun and loves the attention and festivities. Margaret sends for her clothes from Scotland and Albany has them sent. Margaret's sister Mary is enthralled with the array of spectacular clothes and adornments. Margaret and Mary talk about their husbands, Mary having been married to a man she says was much too old, and then marrying the man of her choice after her first husband's death. Mary says that if she were faced with a husband who abandoned her as Angus had done, she would divorce him.

The conversation next turns to Henry and his wife, Katherine, who had been married to Henry's older brother Arthur prior to Arthur's death. Katherine has not yet given Henry a son, the all-important heir to the throne, and this seems to be weighing heavily on Henry's mind at this point. Margaret later tells Henry that her own son, James, very closely resembles Henry. During a joust that occurs over coming days, Mary takes an opportunity to remind Margaret that the only way to assure herself that Henry will help Margaret in her quest to regain the Regency, will be for her to make certain that Henry is always "supreme" in all things. Mary tells Margaret that she must say it so often that she comes to believe it herself, and only then will she have Henry's support.

Henry, now somewhat at odds with France, wants to remove Albany from the Scottish realm though he's only interested in furthering Margaret's goals if his own are also being met by a particular action. Henry invites Albany to Court but Albany sends an emissary instead. A year passes. Margaret's daughter, who Margaret named after herself, is more



than a year old. The young Margaret is healthy and Margaret the Queen wishes desperately for her son, James, fearing that he will forget her. Albany asks for permission to return to his wife, citing her illness, but is refused. Margaret admires his dedication to her. Henry says that he wants Albany gone and wants to help restore Margaret to her place as Regent. Margaret says she agrees, though she has changed over the past year and now wishes to come to some agreement with Albany so that she can simply have a role in the life of her son.

Margaret is wishing she had left England before the revolt of London merchants that becomes known as Evil May Day. Many young men are arrested in the revolt and some of the leaders are hanged. It seems that those arrested, mainly children, will also be hanged. Margaret, Mary and Katherine make up their minds to intercede on behalf of those still in custody. As Henry is preparing to pass judgment on the group, the three women remove their head coverings, allowing their hair to fall about their shoulders, and fall on their knees, pleading with Henry to show mercy. Henry loves the pageantry of the scene and says that he cannot refuse the plea.

Margaret begins her return journey to Scotland and thinks about Albany. Margaret knows that she and Albany as a married couple would make a good match to rule Scotland until James comes of age. Once in the country, she reunites with Angus and believes that he is sorry for having abandoned her. The people of Scotland fear what will happen when she learns Angus' secret. In *The Unfaithful Husband*, Margaret discovers that young James is under heavy guard, and she is denied entrance into the castle until she leaves behind almost all of her attendants. She agrees immediately and finds James eager and welcoming. Margaret isn't allowed to spend a night in the castle, but visits James often. David continues to care for James and tells Margaret that they are watching her carefully because she'd once tried to kidnap James and Alexander in order to leave the country. Margaret understands this and says that she would do so again, given the opportunity. Margaret thinks that she would be willing to leave the royal life behind if it means that she would have her family with her, but says that she won't do so because it is James' future to be King of Scotland. Margaret continues to search for a way to regain guardianship of James and wishes for someone to help her with this plan, but now realizes that she cannot confide in Angus on this score. Margaret remembers that Angus' brother, George Douglas, is Warden of the Castle where James is being held and begins communicating with him. She considers that substituting a child for James might give her some extra time to flee if she can get James out of the castle. Then Margaret learns that George has been removed from his post, apparently because someone knew or at least suspected the plot.

Margaret wants Angus near her but he is often away on what he calls business affairs. One day she tries to send for him and is immediately alerted by the attitude of the servants to the fact that she is again the last to know of her husband's infidelity. When she confronts Angus with her suspicion, he believes that she knows more than she does and confesses to his life with Jane, the fact that he considers Jane his wife, and has a daughter with her. While Margaret is angry at having been again betrayed, she notes that Angus was betrothed to Jane before he married Margaret, and that this could be



considered grounds for divorce. She intentionally lets out the news that she is no longer living with Angus as her husband, and is considering application for divorce.

## **The Daisy, Marigold, Pomagranate and Rose, and The Unfaithful Husband Analysis**

Margaret seems appalled that Mary would suggest that she should divorce Angus and it could be that this moment will shape her coming years. Margaret says that she can't imagine a divorce but Mary says that Margaret is a Tudor and that Tudors always go after what they want. It seems that Mary knows her family and their tendency to go after what they want, regardless of the price, better than Margaret, though Margaret will eventually come to realize that she also wants something desperately and she will do whatever is necessary to achieve it.

Henry is at one of the jousts, disguised and participating in the games. He is not unseated a single time and as the games finish, is called - still disguised and presumably still unrecognized - to claim his prize. He's told that he should take care because the king, who is also very good at the joust, might challenge him. Henry then laughingly removes his helmet, revealing his identity. Those in attendance make a show of surprise. It's a common practice of the day but also seems somewhat dangerous because kings begin to believe these lies and think themselves brighter, more agile and more powerful than they really are.





# Margaret and Albany and The Queen's Lover

## Margaret and Albany and The Queen's Lover Summary

In Margaret and Albany, Margaret meets with Arran, a man who is opposed to the union between Margaret and the Douglas clan. Arran wants to help Margaret with her divorce from Angus. Albany has returned to France and wants to stay there. The French king, now on friendly terms with Henry, allows Albany to remain in France in order to garner goodwill with Henry. Henry learns of Margaret's plan for divorce and is angry. Both he and Katherine write to Margaret of the folly of her plan.

The ministers of Scotland call on Albany to return to Scotland and Margaret also writes to ask that he return. Meanwhile, Henry has Katherine send a priest to urge Margaret to give up her idea of divorce. Margaret listens but doesn't change her mind. Henry then sends another priest who preaches damnation to Margaret if she continues with her plan. Margaret gives up the idea of divorce and plans to live again with Angus. For a week, Margaret is happy with Angus but soon realizes that he doesn't plan to give up seeing Jane and that he believes Margaret won't ask it of him. Margaret plans to make her "escape" from the Douglas clan and does so with a young man named James Hamilton at her side. James is attractive and makes Margaret feel that she is as well, which makes her believe that she might yet find a man who can love her and be faithful to her. She knows that the person she really wants can also help her regain control of James and that Albany is that person.

There is a changing political scene and Albany is again being urged to return to Scotland. The people believe he can end the childish bickering between the Douglas Clan and another, the Hamiltons. Albany's new duty is to "sow discord" between Scotland and England and he courts Margaret knowing that details of their emerging relationship will be taken to Henry. One night, Margaret tells Albany that she could be happy if she could obtain a divorce from Angus. Albany says that Angus has already been arrested. Margaret pleads his case, saying she doesn't want to be responsible for his death, and Albany allows him to leave prison. Albany and Margaret become lovers. Angus is told to leave the country but doesn't. One night he and George are drugged and put aboard a ship headed for France.

It's discovered that there is smallpox in the castle and James escapes but Margaret is stricken with the disease. When she begins to recover, she calls for a mirror and is horrified at her appearance. She knows that she will never again be beautiful so that men desire her. In The Queen's Lover, Margaret recovers and the scars slowly fade. She learns that Albany has had other lovers through a member of the Douglas Clan who continue to seek a way to create strife. Margaret vows that she will put all her energy from this moment into overseeing her son's care. Margaret carefully begins to make James aware of his situation, pointing out that he is the King of Scotland and, as such,



should be powerful but is being held a prisoner. She tells him that Albany is not trustworthy. James learns quickly and shows up in Parliament, demanding to be recognized as king, though he is put off awhile longer. Albany arrives and Margaret shows that she is no longer interested in him. He doesn't pretend that he'd never had another mistress nor that he is particularly upset that she doesn't want him. Her passionate nature makes it difficult to withstand his presence. When she rebuffs his attention he leaves, but believes that he can win her back when he needs to.

Albany prepares to invade England and the people stand behind him until there's hardship. As they are dealing with inclement weather, the people object to the ensuing battle and insist that they abandon the plans for war. Albany has no option but to agree. While Albany is headed to the English border, Margaret is spending a great deal of time with James. There she meets a young man named Harry Stuart who is working in James' court. When he says that he can think of nothing but Margaret, she tells him that he is very young, but eventually gives in to his overtures of passion. Margaret is almost immediately in love though the man she now adores is too young and too far below her rank. Margaret learns that Albany's wife has died but assures Harry that she will not now marry Albany, but will marry Harry if her divorce is granted. Albany returns to France and Margaret learns that Angus has returned to Scotland.

## **Margaret and Albany and The Queen's Lover Analysis**

It's ironic that Henry would so completely oppose Margaret's divorce from Angus, especially considering that Angus had left Margaret when it was supposed that she was on her death bed. It seems that Henry's support would have been thrown to his sister but he is, as always, looking out for his own interests first. He wants to keep Angus in Margaret's Court, somehow seeming to believe that Angus will be his ally. The interesting thing here is that Angus has thrown his support behind Albany and Henry still counts Angus as a friend. The thoughts and feelings behind some of these alliances are so complex that they are impossible to fully understand and the reader will likely have to simply accept the facts as stated by the author rather than seeking to completely understand.

An interesting point in Margaret's alliances is that she tends to look back with a more tolerant opinion than she has at any time when the events are occurring. For example, after having lived with Angus and been left by him, she begins to compare Angus unfavorably with James. But when Angus was in favor with Margaret, it had been the other way with her remembering all the bad times with James. Much later, when Angus is out of favor, Catherine remembers that James had always shown her public respect, and she seems to believe this makes up for the private hurts and humiliations.

Margaret's reasons for asking Albany to return are not clear. It seems that she somehow believes that having him in power in Scotland will help her cause though he is adamant in his protection of James and his refusal to allow Margaret an opportunity to take over James' care. It could be that Margaret really wants Albany to return to Scotland because



she is again without a mate and believes that she could be happy with Albany as her husband.

Margaret teaches James that he is king and that he literally holds the power of the entire country in his hands. As a young man, James learns the lesson quickly and when he stands before Parliament demanding that he be released, those who oppose him are well aware that he will eventually come to power and that he won't likely forget any who stand in the way of what he wants. What's more, Margaret soon sees a change in her son and she notes that he's no longer "malleable." Margaret has planned how she will act when James is eventually in power, but it seems likely that she hasn't really considered that James might no longer be willing to be obedient to her wishes. Margaret has never been good at playing second to anyone and that could very well include her son, though there will be little opportunity to try out that theory.

At one point, James tells Margaret that Albany is aligning himself with the Flemings for the sole purpose of plotting the James' murder. Flemings is the man who many believe poisoned the Margaret who had been betrothed to James IV prior to his marriage to the current Queen Margaret. Margaret tells James that he might be right because it makes her happy to hate Albany, but she doesn't really believe that Albany has the ambition to be King of Scotland, let alone that he would stoop to murder in order to attain it.



# The Queen's Third Marriage and The Last Days

## The Queen's Third Marriage and The Last Days Summary

In *The Queen's Third Marriage*, Margaret continues her affair with Harry Stuart and Angus fights the divorce, hating the thought of giving up the power he holds as the husband of the queen. There's another failed escape attempt when Angus - now appointed guardian for James for a period of time - doubles the guard on James. Margaret learns that her divorce has been approved. Margaret and Harry Stuart are married and she believes she has found the ideal mate - a man who is always respectful of her, is passionate and seems delighted to have the queen as his wife. Angus goes to James asking his support against Harry Stuart for being an "upstart" who marries the queen. James refuses, saying it's his mother's life to do with as she will, and that there will soon be no need for a Regency as he will take over as king. Angus, still in power as a member of the Douglas Clan, has Harry thrown in jail. Margaret escapes and Angus has all the power of an "uncrowned King." James takes more control of his own household and the servants, realizing that he's soon going to be officially on the throne, bend to his will and the day comes when he simply walks away from his guards.

With James in command, Angus escapes to England with young Margaret, daughter of Margaret and Angus. Margaret finds that with James on the throne, she is no longer a displaced queen seeking to hold her position, but is free to simply be happy as Harry's wife. In *The Last Days*, Henry has remarried and James tells Margaret that he has fallen in love with Margaret Erskine, that they have had a son together, and that he wants to help her obtain a divorce so that they can marry. Margaret tells him it's a mistake, which makes him angry. He eventually agrees to marry the daughter of the King of France. Margaret learns that Harry has a mistress and a child and she knows that she will never again be deluded by the promises of a man. James' young wife lives only a few months. Henry's wife also dies in childbirth but at least leaves a boy child behind. Margaret is thinking about her own children, James on the throne and Mary in England as well as those she bore during her marriage to Harry, who are not overly healthy. She is suddenly ill, shaking horribly, and realizes that whatever is wrong is very serious. She sends for James but dies before he arrives.

## The Queen's Third Marriage and The Last Days Analysis

At one point, James is traveling with George Douglas when there's a brief fight as some try to take James from Douglas and his guards. As James considers trying to make a run for it, George tells him that if he had, they would "pull you into two pieces rather than



part with you." It's here that James realizes that his captors will hold on to him at all costs and it seems that they might have killed him rather than see him taken by the opposition.

The situation in which James wants a divorce for his lover and Margaret objects is, according to Margaret, much different than the situation in which she'd sought divorce. Margaret tells James that he is the king, and seems to think that this makes all the difference in the world as to the situation. James doesn't agree and wishes only to have the one he loves as his wife. However, James is passionate just as his mother and father were, and when he sees the daughter of the King of France, he's willing to have her instead.



# Characters

## Margaret Tudor

The daughter of the King of England, Henry VII, Margaret is betrothed to James, King of Scotland when she is just twelve years old. Soon after her twelfth birthday, Margaret is sent to Scotland to become the wife of James IV and to become Queen. Margaret loves the attention and the adoration of the people and understands the potential for pageantry. Toward this end, Margaret sets up situations that will help her reach her particular goals. Margaret is somewhat fickle, though it can be argued that she wants nothing so much as the dedication of a husband. All three of her husbands and a lover that she had hoped to make a life with each had lovers other than Margaret. Her anger upon making the discoveries is complete and all-consuming but she tends to look back with a kinder eye. Margaret also feels incredibly devoted to her children and is disconsolate with the deaths of several children. Margaret dies in Scotland, which she has come to believe is now her home.

## James, King of Scotland

Margaret Tudor's first husband, James is a lusty man who makes every woman feel special and who spends a great deal of time making Margaret happy. James refuses to be loyal to Margaret with regard to sex and has several mistresses. In fact, it's a chance encounter that causes James to tarry overly long at a border castle, delaying his battle with the English so long that the English have time to amass a great army. James and his son die in the battle. James had been raised away from his father who had believed a premonition that James would be the death of his father. This has a great impact on James and he lives his life trying to be an important person of the lives of the children. This can be a part of the problem between James and Margaret because James simply refuses to be anything less than a full-time involved father. James's fatal flaw, in addition to his love of a beautiful woman, is that he believes himself to be nearly invincible. James tends to participate in jousts and is never beaten, though it's likely because his opponents recognize him as the king and would never actually beat him. As he is taking the battlefield, he tells his son not to worry and reminds him that he will be nearby. They both die.

## Earl of Angus

The man Margaret marries after the death of James, Angus is actually engaged to someone else and marries Margaret because of pressure from his family. He is not at all anxious to remain with Margaret or to leave his previous lover behind, but when Margaret files for divorce, Angus fights it in an effort to keep his family in a position of power. Angus is never loyal to Margaret and when Margaret is garnering the wrath of



the Scottish government by fleeing the country, Angus denies having any role in Margaret's actions and abandons her to return to Scotland.

## Harry Stuart

Margaret's third husband, Harry is younger and is in James' household when he and Margaret meet. Margaret is immediately enamored but it takes some time for Harry to win her over completely. Margaret is initially happy with the young man but learns that he too has held extramarital affairs and has fathered a child with a mistress.

## Henry VIII

Margaret's brother and the King of England at the time Margaret is Queen of Scotland. Henry is self-absorbed and selfish and initially objects to Margaret's decision to seek a divorce. Henry is alternately hoping for a good relationship between England and Scotland, or England and France.

## Margaret Drummond

The girl who James falls in love with at fifteen prior to his ascension to the throne. Margaret is the victim of poison that some say is actually aimed at her sister. She is also the mother of a daughter who James takes in to live at the castle.

## Alexander

Son of Marian Boyd and James, Alexander goes into battle with his father against the English and dies there on the battlefield.

## Janet Kennedy

The woman who is another of the mistresses of James and who is also mistress of the man known as "Cat-the-Bell," Janet is mother of another of James' children and is so passionate that she is able to hold James attention through many years, though never as a full-time lover.

## Lady Heron

The woman who lives at Ford Castle, just over the English border, and who seduces James into staying with her for many days while the English amass an army that can defeat him at Flodders Field.

## **James V**

Son of James IV and Margaret, he is the sole surviving child of that union. James survives to take the throne and but is held literally a prisoner over the years of his childhood until he is of age to take the throne. He learns well from his mother and eventually demands his release.





# Objects/Places

## England

Margaret's girlhood home.

## Scotland

James' home.

## The Tay

The river where James is splashing with his young lover who is also named Margaret when they are fifteen and James is called on to go to battle against his father.

## Cambuskenneth Abbey

Where James' father is laid to rest.

## Dalkeith

Where Margaret is staying when there is a fire that kills her two beloved palfreys.

## Holyrood

Where James and Margaret are married.

## Flodden Field

Where James and his son, Alexander, die.

## Morpeth Castle

Where Margaret goes to give birth to her and Angus's daughter during her escape from Scotland.

## Banyard's Castle

The residence Henry VIII sets aside for Margaret upon her return to England.

## **Stirling**

Where the young James is held for many years.



# Themes

## The Quest for Power

The quest for power is a theme repeated in many aspects of this story, beginning with Margaret's excitement with the fact that she is about to become Queen of Scotland, though she does realize that her brother Henry is in a better position because he will be king in his own right without being dependent on marriage to another person. Another aspect of this theme is seen when Margaret shows her attraction for the Earl of Angus. His family immediately rushes to ensure that the young Angus concedes to the queen's wishes because that will mean a great deal to their family in the way of titles and opportunities to rise in power. When the marriage is in trouble, members of an opposition clan rush to throw support behind the queen, hoping to eliminate Angus from the scene and to clear the way for their own quests for power. This is not uncommon and occurs among the various families and clans, each with an eye toward an ultimate goal and each seeking some level of power to achieve those goals. The quest for power is also seen as the countries make attempts toward alliances, friendships and wars. When France seeks the favor of Henry VIII and England, the French work to ensure that Henry sees that they support whatever his current feelings are toward other countries.

## The Importance of Family

Margaret says that she is prepared to leave her family and to make her home in Scotland but is saddened when her mother dies prior to her departure. She cries for her mother and misses her gentle ways. This is the young Margaret's nature - to desire that her family be nearby. This aspect of her nature is seen again and again as Margaret fights for control of her sons. When several of her children die at birth or at a very young age, Margaret is heartbroken but continues to reassure James. It's not clear as to her reasons for optimism, but it does seem that Margaret is set on having children despite the difficult pregnancies she endures. While Margaret is sentimental about her family, there is another reason family is so important. The various countries, factions, and even families use marriages as alliances to form friendships that will lessen or eliminate specific points of enmity. It's noted that a marriage can make an enemy into an ally but it should also be noted that some of those alliances are thrown away at any provocation. This is seen in the case of Margaret and Henry who are siblings but who wind up in several conflicts over the course of Margaret's life in Scotland.

## Coming of Age

In some ways, this story seems the perfect coming of age story, but it should be noted that Margaret never really grows out of her need for passion, intrigue and drama. Though without evincing the theme in the overall story, there are points at which Margaret does mature. For example, when Margaret is awaiting her marriage to James,



she says that she knows he has a reputation of being the most sensual man in the country. When Margaret discovers that James has been unfaithful, Margaret is angry and never really seems to realize that the very aspects of James' character is also the reason he is never faithful. Another more complete aspect of this theme is seen in Margaret's son, James V. This younger James is held literally as a prisoner but eventually stands up for himself and demands that he be allowed his freedom. His coming of age is seen most completely in James' dawning realization that he is king, has power, and has learned to use it.

# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in third person from a limited omniscient point of view. The majority of the book is written from Margaret's point of view, though there are some exceptions to this limitation, allowing the reader omniscient perspectives. For example, Margaret remains in Scotland while James IV is invading England. This travel time is seen through an omniscient view that outlines James activities as well as those of the woman who seduces James into waiting before engaging the English. The reader sees this situation as it's unfolding and there is a sense of foreboding ahead of James' death because of this perspective. Other points of the omniscient view occur in the actions of Henry VIII, Margaret's brother and the reigning King of England. Margaret learns of these actions through several means but the reader gains some insight into specific aspects of the story by way of the omniscient perspective. The emerging involvement of the Duke of Albany is another instance of the omniscient perspective. The reader is literally with Albany in France prior to Margaret's introduction to Albany. The portions of the book that are limited are not overly so. For example, the reader is with Margaret and sees the story strictly through Margaret's perspective after she runs away to England, leaving her two young sons in Scotland. The reader learns of the death of the younger of her sons at the same time as Margaret. The details are more limited in this segment than might otherwise have been the case, which necessarily leaves the reader to know only what Margaret knows. This is a method the author uses to build suspense and to keep the reader's interest high.

## Setting

The story is set alternately in England, Scotland and France during a period of the 1500s. The setting is historically accurate. The people listed as being in power were in power during this time period. The major events are listed in history books as having happened. Margaret was the sister of King Henry VIII and was married to the King of Scotland with the hope of bringing an alliance between those two nations. The setting, being true, makes the story believable and the reader should be warned that this is, overall, a work of fiction. The author has taken great journalist license in order to make the story more exciting. There are details added that are not historically correct, but that seem plausible. The fact that the story is set against a historical background will likely appeal greatly to some readers. The addition of the details that give depth to Margaret and the other characters is a positive point that will also likely appeal to some readers. There are some passages of the book in which there are extensive details, such as the kinds of fabrics used for clothings, the kinds of foods served at an event or the way a particular room is decorated. These also seem reasonable to the time period and add a level of depth and believability to the story.



## Language and Meaning

The story is written in a straight-forward style. The overall tone of the story seems intended to be hopeful but all aspects of the story are hidden, at least to some degree, beneath a very hopeless feel. Margaret continues to search for something that is not - and never can be - hers. She is never fully satisfied and always seems to wish for a life other than what she has. This can be depressing and some readers may find that they are impatient with Margaret and her situation. The language is somewhat limited and any reader with a general vocabulary will find few words with which they are not familiar. Though the story is set alternately in England, Scotland and France, and occurs during the 1500s, the words, grammar and style is modern-day. This means that all readers can obtain a basic understanding of the story. It should be noted that a person looking for a book that holds true to the speech and language of the day will likely be disappointed with this book. The result is that the story is reader-friendly.

## Structure

The book is divided into chapters that are named but not numbered. The chapters are The Betrothed; The Bridegroom; The Thistle and the Rose; The Curse of Sauchieburn; The Wild Knight; The Reckless Marriage; The Deserted Queen; Daisy, Marigold, Pomegranate and Rose; The Unfaithful Husband; Margaret and Albany; The Queen's Lover; the Queen's Third Marriage; and The Last Days. The chapters range in length from only about ten pages to about thirty, and cover a single series of events. For example, The Betrothed covers the introduction of Margaret and her family and setting the stage for her arrival in Scotland. The Bridegroom describes James and gives an overview of his life prior to the betrothal with Margaret. The various chapter titles give a clue as to the contents of the chapter though some are obscure. For example, the Daisy, Marigold, Pomegranate and Rose is about the time Margaret spends with Henry, Mary and Katherine. The four each have an emblem - Margaret's is the rose - and this is the author's way of describing that gathering. This author is noted for her historical fiction works related to the time and people of this story. Of this series, there are two books, "The Thistle and the Rose," and "Mary, Queen of France." The second is the story of Margaret's younger sister, Mary, who was Queen of France for a period.



## Quotes

"When he looked at his daughter he did not see a tender young girl so much as a means of keeping the peace with the tiresome warlike people who had made trouble at the Border for as long as any could remember. The marriage pleased him; therefore Margaret pleased him." *The Betrothed*, p. 16

"They were saying that England and Scotland were united at last; and the Rose and the Thistle could now grow happily side by side. But could that ever be achieved? Was even the union of Tudor and Stuart capable of working such a miracle?" *The Betrothed*, p. 18

"He was never the worse for drink; he never indulged in gluttony; he would devote much of his time to the study of laws which could benefit his country; then he would meet a woman and forget duty to state, wife and all, in pursuit of her." *The Curse of Sauchieburn*, p. 67

"Nay, when was I ever cruel to you? Everything in reason that you ask for is yours. You shall have pleasure, find clothes, precious jewels. But you must not meddle, my love, in matters which do not concern you." *The Curse of Sauchieburn*, p. 75

"But he was only superstitious when he felt he had acted unworthily, and the more he contemplated the war into which he was plunging his country, the more right and logical it seemed to conquer the old enemy at a moment when, by conducting the foolish war on the French, he was at his weakest." *The Wild Knight*, p. 105

"On that day of glorious victory for the English and bitter defeat for the Scots, ten thousand Scotsmen lay dead or dying on Flodden Field and among them was their King." *The Wild Knight*, p. 115

"How much better it would have been to have remained plain Archibald Douglas than become the Earl of Angus. Then everyone would have said the match with Jane was a good one. Why had the Queen picked him out." *The Reckless Marriage*, p. 134

"The thought of losing all his possessions alarmed Angus, so on an impulse he wrote to Albany telling him that it had not been his wish to take part in that affecting scene at the portcullis. He had wished to obey the Parliament's mandate and indeed had advised his wife to do so." *The Deserted Queen*, p. 151

"But experience made one wiser. If she could choose again she would not pick an impetuous boy; she would choose someone mature, a man, not a boy; someone like her first husband; for had he been faithful to her, had he treated her more as an intelligent companion, James would have been the perfect husband." *Daisy, Marigold, Pomegranate and Rose*, p. 171



"She hated Angus and, even if she had to admit that this was largely because he was a living reminder of her own folly and the source of all her troubles, that did not make her hate him less." *Margaret and Albany*, p. 209

"None of them dared meet the King's eye, but they reminded themselves that he was only a child; and they had seen how his mother changed her policy according to her whim." *The Queen's Lover*, p. 240

"She put down her pen and found that she was weeping, for suddenly, sitting there, the full force of her desolation swept over her, because she realized that the peace and happiness had never truly existed outside her imagination. The complacent years were revealed to her for what they were. No happy married life; all lies; all deceit." *The Last Days*, p. 288





## Topics for Discussion

Describe the childhood relationship between Margaret, Mary and Henry. How do their relationships change as the three age?

How does Margaret come to live in Scotland? What is her role there? What does she expect of her life in Scotland? What is the reality?

List the three men to whom Margaret is married at various times of her life. What happens to end each marriage? Compare her life with each of the three. How are they similar? How are they different?

Who is Janey Kennedy? Cat-the-Bell? Home? Albany? Alexander? Margaret Drummond? Lord Drummond? What is the relationship between each of these and Margaret?

Both James and Henry participate in jousts and tournaments. What is the result of these? Why do they participate?

Describe the political aspects that drive the decisions, friendships and battles of the powers of Scotland?

List three occasions in which superstitions or religious beliefs play a role in the life of Margaret and her family. Why are each important?