

The Tin Princess Study Guide

The Tin Princess by Philip Pullman

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Plot Summary

Tin Princess by Philip Pullman is the story of Becky Winter who accepts a position as a tutor to Adelaide Bevan and begins an adventure that no one could ever imagine. Rebecca Winter is sixteen in 1882 and is walking through the St. John's Woods area of London. She is on her way to meet her first pupil. Rebecca speaks German, Italian, English, French, and Spanish and is learning Russian. Her family had been forced into exile from central Europe when she was three years of age and she now lives with her mother and grandmother in Maida Vale. Becky wanted to attend the university. She also wanted romance.

There is a bomb blast outside the house in St. John's Woods that changes everything. Becky goes with the detective, Jim Taylor and learns there is quite a lot of mystery surrounding the woman, Adelaide Bevan. She disappeared ten years ago after the death of the father of Sally Goldberg. Spotted by Jim, he followed her to the house in St. John's Woods and was there when the bomb blast occurred.

Miss Bevan is actually married to the Herr Strauss who is actually Prince Rudolf of Razkavia, a small kingdom, located between the two Great Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary. Becky is a Razkavian citizen, living in exile with her mother and grandmother. When Razkavian Crown Prince Wilhelm and his princess are assassinated, Prince Rudolf and his bride must return to Razkavia. They hire detective Jim Taylor and tutor-translator Becky Winter to accompany them.

Jim is trying to find out who is behind the murders of the royal family and trying to protect Rudolf and Adelaide. When they arrive in Razkavia, the old King dies and Rudolf becomes king. He is assassinated immediately after his coronation. As he is dying, he passes the flag to his bride, who completes the walk to the rock with the flag. She is crowned Queen.

The novel is set in the middle of international intrigue. Razkavia is coveted by both of the Great Powers for its nickel deposits. The new queen negotiates a tripartite treaty while Jim tries to investigate the murders. He learns there was an older Crown Prince who married a Spanish actress. He was supposedly killed in a mysterious hunting accident but was actually held prisoner in an asylum until he became deranged. Jim, Adelaide and Becky became captives in a plot orchestrated by a German banker.

The reader will find this book very exciting and difficult to put down. It is quick and easy reading that will be enjoyed by readers of mystery.



Chapter 1-2

Chapter 1-2 Summary

Tin Princess by Philip Pullman is the story of Becky Winter who accepts a position as a tutor to Adelaide Bevan and begins an adventure that no one could ever imagine. Rebecca Winter is sixteen in 1882 and is walking through the St. John's Woods area of London. She is on her way to meet her first pupil. Rebecca speaks German, Italian, English, French, and Spanish and is learning Russian. Her family had been forced into exile from central Europe when she was three years old and she now lives with her mother and grandmother in Maida Vale. Becky wanted to attend the university. She also wanted romance.

Becky had been hired to tutor a Miss Bevan. As she approaches the villa in Church Road, a man introduces himself as J. Taylor. He is a detective and wants to know if she knows Miss Bevan.

Becky enters the house and meets her pupil. She shows her the card from the detective when Miss Bevan asks who the man at the gate was. Miss Bevan offers to pay double what Herr Strauss paying if Becky will play board games with her. Becky learns that Herr Strauss is a prince, Prince Rudolf of Razkavia and that he is in danger. Miss Bevan is a princess and the wife of Herr Strauss. Adelaide Bevan shows Becky the marriage certificate. Adelaide can't read or write.

Becky tells Adelaide that she had been born in Razkavia. The two women talk and Becky begins teaching Adelaide to read. As they talk, a bomb explodes. They look out the window and see the Prince outside. He is talking to J. Taylor whom Becky identifies for Adelaide. The prince tells Becky to leave and that J. Taylor will escort her home.

Chapter 1-2 Analysis

Becky Winter accepts a job as a tutor to a Miss Adelaide Bevan who turns out to be a princess since her husband, Herr Strauss, is really Prince Rudolf of Razkavia. Adelaide is nervous suspecting Becky of being a socialist or an anarchist. Adelaide tells Becky that the prince is in constant danger as is evidenced by the bomb that blows up a carriage outside the house as the women speak.

This establishes the level of suspense in the novel as Becky and the reader wonder why the prince is in London and why did he secretly marry a Cockney girl who could not read or write.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

J. Taylor had paid the butcher's boy, an acquaintance of Becky's, to find a copper. Becky walks with Mr. Taylor. He had been looking for Adelaide whom he knew ten years ago. Becky tells him that Adelaide and the prince are married.

Taylor tells Becky the story of Adelaide. She had been a servant to Ms. Holland. The father of a woman named Sally Lockhart, now Mrs. Goldberg, had been murdered. Adelaide then disappeared.

Taylor takes Becky to Orchard House in Twickenham to meet Mrs. Goldberg. They tell her about the bomb. Becky identified Adelaide from pictures. Becky says for lunch and tells them about Razkavia. It is basically a farming country but there are nickel mines which both Germany and Austria-Hungary consider to be important. Mrs. Goldberg is leaving for American the next day.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Becky learns more about the situation from James Taylor and Mrs. Goldberg. Adelaide had been a maid at the time Sally Goldberg's father had been murdered. Adelaide disappeared. The story involved Chinese secret societies and opium dens. Becky is interested because Rudolf is the Prince of her country and she tells them the history of Razkavia. She accepts their story that Taylor saw a woman that he thought was Adelaide and followed her to the villa. Why would they be interested in a servant girl after ten years?



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

After seeing Becky home, Taylor goes to a socialist club in Soho to meet Dan Goldberg, Sally's husband. Taylor tells him about the events of the day. They speculate about who the bomber might be. The Prince suspects his cousin, Count Otto von Schwartzberg. He is next in line to the throne after Rudolf who is in line after his brother Wilhelm. Goldberg says that the bomber is someone in the employ of either Germany or Austria-Hungary who are looking to provoke a crisis in order to annex Razkavia. They want the nickel mines.

Jim hires an Irish gang to guard the Prince's villa. They tell him that every night a man comes and enters the Prince's house. They move close enough to hear the conversation. A maid is telling the man that Adelaide is married to the Prince and showing him the marriage certificate. The man pays the maid for the document.

Jim and the Irish guards grab the man as he leaves the grounds. They took the paper the maid had given him. The Irish run after the man while Jim remains to talk to the Prince who just arrived. Jim questions the maid. The Prince tells him that his brother has been assassinated and he must return to Razkavia.

Adelaide enters the room and says hello to Jim. The Prince says Jim must accompany them to Razkavia. Adelaide says she wants Becky to come with. Adelaide had been working at a house of ill repute where the Prince was a customer. They used to talk. The Prince paid for her, brought her to his house, and they married.

The Ambassador and his wife arrive. The Prince introduces Adelaide as his wife and Jim as his advisor. The Ambassador says the Crown Prince must have a diplomatic marriage to make an alliance for Razkavia and wants the marriage to Adelaide dissolved, but the Prince says no. The Ambassador wants to know what Jim's role is.

Chapter 3 Analysis

The mystery and intrigue mount in this chapter. Razkavia has valuable nickel deposits that both Germany and Austria-Hungary want. Mr. Goldberg thinks that one of the two Great Powers is behind the bombing. They are all apparently involved in the politics between the two Great Powers. Prince Rudolf becomes the Crown Prince when his brother is assassinated. Rudolf makes arrangements to return to Razkavia after learning of the assassination. He is now next in line to the throne and Adelaide will some day produce children that will inherit the throne.



Chapters 4-5

Chapters 4-5 Summary

The Prince, Adelaide, and the Countess visit the rooming house where Becky lives. Adelaide introduces them to Becky's mother. The Prince speaks to Becky's mother and tells her how he once met her husband. He asks that Becky be allowed to accompany them to Razkavia and be a companion to his wife. Mrs. Winter agrees to allow Becky to go. They will leave in thirty-six hours. The Prince gives them money for Becky to buy clothing and whatever she needs.

The Irish guards follow the men to the Alhambra Theater. They find an actress in a dressing room who indicates the man exited via the window. After they leave, the actress, Carmen Isabelle Ruiz y Soler, wipes a knife clean.

In Berlin, Bleichroder is reporting the incident to Prince Otto von Bismarck. Bleichroder then discusses the information with his secretary, Julius. Bleichroder asks for a file labeled Thalgau.

In Chapter Five, Becky shops under the watchful eye of Countess Talgau, the wife of the Ambassador. Becky insisted on purchasing books and supplies for Adelaide's schooling.

While they are traveling, the Countess teaches Adelaide and Becky proper protocol. Becky tutored Adelaide and in their spare time, then played games. She feels that Jim is in love with Adelaide which is why she is not romantically interested in him. Their train arrives in Eschtenburg, the capital of Razkavia in the evening. At the Palace, they all wait while Rudolf talks to his father, the King.

It is almost midnight before they are summoned by the King. The King spoke first to the Countess, then to Becky, and finally to Adelaide. Becky acted as the translator for Adelaide. The King seems to accept Adelaide.

Chapters 4-5 Analysis

Becky accompanies the group to Razkavia. She acts as a translator as well as a tutor for Adelaide. Becky is becoming protective of Adelaide. When she feels that the King snubbed Adelaide, she is somewhat short with the King. She apologizes when she realizes her mistake.

Becky was looking for romance before she met Adelaide. She does not become romantically interested in Jim because she feels he is in love with Adelaide. The relationship between Jim and Adelaide is still not clear. Why would he spend ten years looking for her?

The element of international intrigue is becoming more obvious. The Irish track the man to the dressing room of a Spanish actress and the incident is known in Berlin to the banker of von Bismarck. The nickel mines of Razkavia are of interest to both of the great Powers.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Baron Godel, head of the Royal Household, informs Jim that he is not a part of the staff of the Royal Household. He is in the private employment of the Prince. Jim feels obliged to help the Prince for Adelaide's sake.

He goes out to walk around the city. He needs to learn his way around and to make contact. Jim goes to a bar and sits and listens to the discussions. Students are discussing the Royal Family and politics. Jim meets a student named Karl von Gaisberg who tells him that most of the students are pro-German. From Gaisberg, Jim learns that there was an elder brother, Prince Leopold, who died under mysterious circumstances many years ago. There was apparently a cover up.

When one of the students calls Adelaide an English whore, Jim becomes involved in the discussion. He has words with a student named Glatz. A brawl began after Jim punched Glatz. As the police approach, Him and Gaisberg escape through the kitchen.

Outside, Gaisberg wants to know why Jim is interested in Prince Rudolf. He tells him the story. Gaisburg promises to help defend the Prince. The two went to Karl's room to eat dinner, since all of the restaurants were closed.

The next morning, Jim tells the Prince about the incident and suggests that Adelaide is publicly introduced to the population.

Jim questions the Count about Prince Leopold but he won't discuss the subject, calling it an old scandal. He finds a picture of Leopold in the picture gallery. The curator tells Him that Leopold married a Spanish actress. The woman was banished and Leopold died in a hunting accident.

The old King spent a lot of time with Adelaide. Two weeks after their arrival, a formal reception was held to introduce Adelaide. The King officially made Adelaide a Princess. Prince Otto is in the reception line. Both Jim and Becky are there. The King dies that night after the reception.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Jim is not exactly sure what his function is. He is the private employ of Prince Rudolf. He begins by seeking information about the Royal Family and the situation in Razkavia. Him talks to students in a bar and learns about the rumors surrounding Rudolf and Adelaide. Many of the students are pro-German. He also learns that there was an older brother, Prince Leopold, who had married a Spanish actress. The King banished her and Leopold died mysteriously in a hunting accident.

Jim immediately draws an analogy between Leopold and Rudolf. There is also the question of the Spanish actress at the Alhambra Theater. Rudolf does not say anything when he knows that it was a woman that bribed his maid in London. No one seems to want to talk about Leopold.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

As news of the King's death spread around the castle, Jim is summoned by Count Thalgau. They must now be concerned with advising and protecting King Rudolf. The Count explains how Godel holds a powerful and hereditary position as head of the Royal Household and can't be fired. Jim is given an official position in the Royal Household much to Godel's dismay.

Jim spent the rest of the morning observing the various dignitaries until he was summoned by Adelaide. Jim asks her if she knows anything about Prince Leopold. Adelaide only knows that there was an older brother. Becky comments on how Rudolf was always kept out of politics and now is unprepared to be king. They must all help him which means that Jim had to learn what was happening among the people.

On Jim's advice, Adelaide tried to schedule as many public visits as possible. She had to gain the respect and acceptance of the population. Becky was always with her until one morning Godel arrived and announced that he had a new translator for Adelaide. Becky could return to her family. Adelaide refuses. The countess supported Adelaide winning new respect from Becky.

Jim spent more time with the students and one day took Becky to the Café Florestan. He has some of the Richterbund students checking out visitors, doing research and other tasks for him. They report on Glatz and his plans to disrupt the public visits of the Queen. The students are functioning as a private guard and investigative service under Jim's direction. Jim is expecting trouble at the coronation.

The night before the coronation, a man and woman arrive at an apartment overlooking the cathedral. The man is carrying a long leather box. The woman told the occupant of the apartment, Alois Egger, that they were Spanish journalists and wanted to rent his apartment to obtain pictures of the coronation. He agreed to rent them his apartment for the day.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Jim is given an official position in the Royal Household. This makes him answerable to Godel which he later realizes may interfere with his investigative duties. He uses the students of the Richterbund as a private guard and investigative group. They are more than willing to help Jim. Jim, Adelaide, and Becky know that they have to help Rudolf. He was always kept from any knowledge and involvement in matters of state and is not prepared to be King. In addition, since two of the Crown Princes have been killed, they all worry about attempts on the life of the King.

Jim is trying to follow up on the lead of the Spanish actress. He has the students looking for Spanish women. They do not know about the Spanish journalist who rents Herr Eggers apartment, giving them a clear view of the coronation.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

On the day of the coronation, Godel has Jim confined to the Palace. He is trying to get out of the Palace to be with Gaisburg but the Palace staff is looking for him. He knows that something is going on. Becky rides to the ceremony with the Count and Countess.

Jim, while trying to sneak out of the Palace hears the Palace guard talking. They think there may be a plot against the king and that Jim is involved. Jim takes a horse and rode until the streets became too crowded.

The procession enters the cathedral square. The King and Queen enter the cathedral and the coronation takes place. Rudolf then began to march with the flat, the Adlertrager, with Adelaide following him. A shot is fired and Rudolf is hit. As Rudolf lay on the ground, he passed the flag to Adelaide, who continued the march to the bridge for her husband.

The Reicherbund try to protect Adelaide by clearing a passage for her. Becky tells Gaisberg what happened to Jim and that she doesn't know if he made it out of the Palace.

Jim had reached the square just as they shooting took place. Jim and the Captain of the Hussars move the barge to the other shore, along with the Archbishop. Adelaide made it to the summit with the flag and then collapsed into Becky's arms. The Archbishop placed the crown on her head.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Jim was correct in his concerns about the coronation. First, Godel tries to keep him from leaving the Palace saying there may be a plot against the King. None of them was wrong. The King was assassinated right after his coronation. He passed the flag to Adelaide who completed the march to the summit and was then crowned Queen.

Jim does not know who was involved in the assassination but he suspected Godel in Wilhelm's death. He also knows that he was being set up as a suspect by Godel.



Chapters 17-19

Chapters 17-19 Summary

Adelaide rode down in the funicular. Jim rode along side the carriage back to the Palace. The Count rode on the other side of the carriage. The soldiers and police searched for clues of the assassin. Guests arrived at the Palace for the reception. Godel announced that the reception would take place without the Queen.

Jim talks with the Count who says he suspects Otto. Jim says that he does not think it was Otto. They decide that Adelaide, as Queen, must address the reception. Jim then tells the Count what happened with Godel that morning.

When Godel walks in, the Count says that he is the Queen's personal secretary and Jim is his assistant. They will meet with the Queen immediately after the reception. After Godel leaves, the Count says they have a week to get control of the country.

Later that day, Jim meets with Karl von Gaisburg and other students. They discuss the events of the day and determine from which direction the bullet came. One of the students, Gustav, has an uncle that lives in those apartments and they go to visit him. Her Egger, the cigar merchant, lives above them. The uncle tells them that Herr Egger rented his apartment to be a journalist for the day.

Jim and the students go to talk to Herr Egger. He says the lady journalist was gone when he returned home. Egger tells them that she was Spanish and named Menendez. She spoke German and had her male photographer with her.

Chapters 17-19 Analysis

After the King's death, Adelaide must perform the functions of Queen and she makes it known that she will do her best to serve the people of Razkavia.

Once the Queen is back at the Palace, Count Thalgau and Jim discuss the situation. They know they have to neutralize the power of Godel and make plans for an alternate chain of command that by passes him.

Jim and the students do some good detective work that leads to the apartment of Egger. They learn about the Spanish lady journalist and her photographer friend. They also learn that the police have not talked to him.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Adelaide restructured the Royal Household and Godel was basically by passed. Becky came to function more as an advisor as the Queen's German improved. They learned about the situation involving Germany and Austria-Hungary and the nickel mines that they both wanted. Adelaide decided to visit the mines and went underground.

She slowly bound the history of Razkovia and began to learn about matters of state. She let it be known that she was ready to have diplomatic discussions with Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Jim was still looking for the Spanish actress and journalist. One day, one of the staff grumbles about Godel wanting a maid for a woman. Jim, wanting to know who the woman was, played the role of a footman to deliver her trunk. She tells Him that her name is Frau Busch. Jim remembers the name from the story of Prince Leopold's accident. The one witness was named. Busch was from Ritterwald, where the woman was from.

One day Becky was in the map room when the Count and Herr Bangemann arrived. The Count lets him read a document about a river expedition in 1843-44. The man has a photographic memory and the Count says that he needs someone with his talents. One night while Becky is out for a walk, she is wrestled to the ground.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Adelaide seems to be genuinely interested in Razkavia and its people and trying to do the best job she can do as Queen. She still does not understand all of the protocol involved in diplomatic negotiations but lets it be known that she is ready to begin diplomatic discussions with the two Great Powers. Becky tells her that she is doing a good job as Queen. Adelaide confides that she was very fond of Rudolf but never truly loved him.

Jim is still trying to find the Spanish woman. The fact that Godel moved Frau Busch into the Palace indicates to Jim that he was on the right track in suspecting Godel and the Spanish actress. The only witness to the death of Prince Leopold was someone named Busch who was from Ritterwald, which is where Frau Busch is from.



Chapters 11-12

Chapters 11-12 Summary

The man who wrestled Becky to the ground is Jim. He tells Becky about Frau Busch. They watch as Frau Brush meets another woman in the dark. Jim believes that the second woman is the assassin. He follows them to the grotto, where they climb into a boat. He goes deeper into the cave using matches as light. He finds a padlocked cell with a man in it. The man is Prince Leopold.

Jim tells the man that he will somehow free him. Someone else approaches. The Prince is guarded. Jim leaves the grotto and returns to his room where he reads the note from Becky concerning the incident in the map room. After reading the note, Jim changes his mind about talking to the Count.

Jim decides to talk to Frau Busch. He tells her that he followed her to the grotto and found Prince Leopold. He says she is helping Leopold's wife, whom he believes was involved in the killing of Wilhelm and Rudolf. Frau Busch begins to cry and says Godel will kill her. She had been the nurse of the Prince's and she had kept her knowledge of his marriage a secret. Her husband was told to make it appear that Leopold was killed by a boar. Leopold was placed in an asylum. Godel was the man who ordered it. Now Leopold is mad.

Frau Busch says that the actress name is Carmen Ruiz and that she is in Paracelsus. Then the woman had some kind of seizure and he sends a servant to help her.

In Chapter Twelve, Jim goes to talk to Karl and tells him what he has learned. Jim thinks that it is all Godel's scheme and that the king never knew about it. He also tells Karl what Becky found out about the Count. They decide they have to rescue Leopold and find Carmen Ruiz without telling the Count.

Jim and the students began their search for Paracelsus as Adelaide opened her diplomatic talks with the two Great Powers. She was successful in negotiating favorable terms for Razkavia.

Chapters 11-12 Analysis

Jim sees Frau Busch meet another woman and he follows them to the grotto. In the cave, he finds a deranged Prince Leopold locked in a cell. He learns the true story from Frau Busch. Her husband followed Godel's orders and made it look like Leopold was killed in a hunting accident. They locked him up in an asylum and now he is deranged. Frau Busch is afraid of Godel and says that he will have her killed. Jim mentions that Godel is guilty of treason. He learns that the Spanish actress uses the stage name of Carmen Ruiz and that she is in Paracelsus. He learns this before she has a seizure.

If Jim had not overheard the servants talking, he would not have learned about Frau Busch and obtained all of the information that he did from her. He has the students looking for the actress.



Chapters 13-14

Chapters 13-14 Summary

The tripartite talks continue and Becky continues to have dreams about the Spanish woman. Her admiration for Adelaide grows as she watches her in the negotiations.

One of the students finds a statue that he thinks is Paracalsus in Hohenheim-Platz. There is one house there and Jim arrives with a bunch of roses, explaining that actresses need flattery. Fraulein Gonzalez agrees to see him. She is shocked when Jim says she wants to help her free Prince Leopold from the grotto. The woman is jealous of Adelaide and believes that she should be Queen.

The actress keeps fighting them and trying to attack. They finally calm her down enough to hear her story. She feels that the old King knew what Godel was doing. She paid to have Wilhelm, his princess and Rudolf killed. Jim says they will try to free Leopold that night but that she will be in danger from Godel.

The treaty Adelaide negotiated is written by Herr Bangemann, the man with the photographic memory. After he finishes his work, he goes to a house where he dictates the contents of the treaty to a keyboard operator who sends it to Herr Bleichroder in Berlin. He sends a letter to Thalgau about the accession of Leopold to the throne. Bleichroder also suggests that the British says he will pay Thalgau half of the money now and the other half when Leopold takes his position on the throne. The Germans have manipulated the Spanish actress all of these years and now wants Adelaide killed. Bleichroder says Germany can't abide by the terms of the treaty. Krupps needs all of Razkavia's nickel.

In Chapter Fourteen, Jim wakes Becky and tells her of the events of the last two days. Jim says they plan to rescue Leopold and then give the Spanish actress to the police. He says that things are becoming dangerous and wants her to sleep in Adelaide's room. He gives her a pistol for protection.

Jim leaves and meets the others at the grotto. As the group is rescuing the prince, they hear numerous gunshots. Ruiz drifts away in the boat and is separated from the group. Someone betrayed them and revealed their plans.

Chapters 13-14 Analysis

The plans of different groups become known in this section. The Spanish actress believes that she should be Queen and feels that the old King was aware of what Godel did to Leopold. Jim has a plan to free Prince Leopold who will have to be cared for.

Count Thalgau, who mortgaged his estate to the House of Bleichroder, cannot pay his mortgage. He made the arrangements for Herr Bangemann with his photographic



memory to dictate the contents of the treaty to Bleichroder. Bleichroder feels that the treaty does not give Germany the amount of nickel that they need. They have manipulated the killings of the Spanish actress over the years and now want Leopold restored to the throne. They plan on killing Adelaide.

The rescue of Prince Leopold did not take place the way Jim thought. They were waited for. Someone had betrayed them and revealed their plans.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

Becky tells Adelaide of the events that have taken place and how Prince Leopold is alive. Adelaide's kitten, which was eating from her breakfast tray, began twitching and died. Countess Thalgau bursts into the room and removes the breakfast tray. She is crying and says she learned of the plot from her husband and that they won't let Adelaide sign the treaty. The Countess says that she is ashamed of her husband and supports Adelaide.

A knock at the door reveals Godel and a squad of soldiers. Godel wants the Countess to go to her sick husband but she refuses then finally agrees. She leaves the room with two soldiers. Godel orders the soldiers to take Becky and Adelaide to the castle. They leave in the carriage. Becky has the pistol that Jim gave her.

The embassies of both Great Powers are notified that the Queen is ill and that the signing ceremony is postponed.

Jim awakens in a prison. He does not know where he is but begins to examine his surroundings. Becky and Adelaide are also held prisoner. They wonder about Jim and conclude that his plan probably hadn't worked. Before eating the breakfast the guards brought them, Adelaide makes the guard eat and drink from the tray.

In Chapter Sixteen, the guards had captured Leopold from the students. The next morning, there were rumors all over the city. Jim, in his prison cell, unravels his sweater, and begins to make weapons.

Becky notices the guards digging a hold in the courtyard. She tries to keep Adelaide busy.

At dinner time, Jim overpowers the guard and escapes. From another guard, he learns that the queen is being held upstairs. He ties the man up and goes upstairs, finding Adelaide and Becky. They made their way through the Castle and jumped from a window to the street. They go to the Café Florestan and find Karl. As they eat in a back room, they discuss what has happened.

A student enters and tells them that German troops are arriving by train. Adelaide mentions the flag. If she has the flag, Leopold can't be installed as King. They make their plans.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

The Germans plan has been put into motion. The poison in Adelaide's breakfast killed her kitten. The Countess learns of the plot from her husband who becomes ill with a



heart problem. The signing of the treaty is postponed with an announcement that the Queen is ill. In actuality, both Becky and Adelaide are being held prisoner in the castle by Godel's orders. Jim is also a prisoner.

Jim frees himself and rescues Becky and Adelaide. Becky still feels that Jim and Adelaide are in love. They reach the Café Florestan as German troops begin arriving in the city. There is no one that they can trust but the students. Adelaide has a plan for them to take the flag. According to Razkavian legend, as long as the ruler has the flag, Razkavia is free. They hope that the citizens will rally around the flag since they do not have the resources to fight the Germans.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Rumors continue to circulate around the city. Godel did not expect a German invasion and demands to know the terms of Count Thalgau's deal with Berlin. All the Count did was to supply the banker with the terms of the treaty in advance in exchange for money. An aide arrives with a message from the Germans to Godel. They want the flag brought to the train station.

Godel gives orders to have Prince Leopold brought to the station and for a train to be readied to travel to Prague. While this is going on, Adelaide and the students are making their way to the Rock where the flag is. Adelaide tells the guards to take the flag down because of the German invasion. The flag must be moved to a place of safety. They can hear gunfire from the train station as they discuss the situation. The men lower the flags as a group leaves from the train station.

One group is riding a carriage up to the Rock as Adelaide's group and the flag are riding down. Becky is on the platform when the group arrives. The group then breaks up. Jim tells one of the students to prepare a leaflet for distribution to the population to tell them what has happened. The flag is being taken to Wendelstein. They plan to use the Royal Train which Godel had ordered to be readied for Prague. They made their escape with the flag.

Chapter 17 Analysis

The Germans know that the legal authority is transferred with the flag and they want the flag brought to the train station. Godel receives this message from the Germans as he is talking to Count Thalgau. The Germans have gone further than either Thalgau or Godel, who each had separate deals, thought they would.

Adelaide's group secures the flag before the other group arrives. They plan to move the flag to Wendelstein just as Walter von Eschten did and they escape in the train that Godel had prepared to travel to Prague. Jim's plan to distribute leaflets to the population is to inform them of what happened so they will rally to support their Queen and flag.



Chapters 18-19

Chapters 18-19 Summary

The train pulls out of the station. Adelaide addresses all of them telling them how she will rally the troops and population at Andersbad and then march to Wendelstein. When the group disperses, Adelaide bestows the Order of St. Stephen on Jim, making him a member of the nobility. Becky receives the Most Noble Order of the Red Eagle or Second Class.

In the locomotive cab, one of the soldiers, Private Schweigner, hits the student, Willi, over the head with the shovel, knocking him off the train. The Private jumps from the train, knowing that he left the boiler to explode.

The students distribute the leaflets in the city. The German commander had arrested Godel and now has Prince Leopold with them. He orders him returned to the Palace as he begins to realize what Godel's plan was.

Jim awakens from the motion of the train and realizes that it is out of control. Jim and Adelaide say they love each other just as the train crashes. Becky is injured in the crash but most of the others survive, and Corporal Kogler hands the flag to Adelaide. They decide to march up the hill to the castle at Wendelstein, as they hear the sounds of another locomotive approaching from the direction of the capital. The group makes a stretcher to transport Becky.

They reach the ruins of Schloss Wendelstein and raise the flag. They are sitting and talking as the German troops arrive.

In Chapter Nineteen, Otto von Schwartzberg appears along with Count Thalgau. The Count begs Adelaide's forgiveness and is forgiven. Otto offers men and weapons as well as breakfast. They prepare to defend the flag. The fighting begins.

Chapters 18-19 Analysis

The plan was to reach Schloss Wendelstein and to take a stand to defend the flag there. The train is sabotaged by Private Schweigner and crashes. Becky suffers broken ribs in the crash but they reach the ruins of the castle. Otto and Count Thalgau arrive to help defend the flag. Many of them including Adelaide are injured and killed in the fighting.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

The injured Rakavians and Germans were taken to the clinic at Andersbad. Karl comes to talk to Becky. He will be joining Otto in the hills. The doctors tell her that Adelaide is alive but seriously injured. They plan to send her someplace else to keep her from being arrested.

Sally Goldberg visits Jim at the clinic in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. She shows him a newspaper article saying that Razkavoia had been annexed by Germany. Baron von Godel had appealed to the Germans for help as a result of civil disturbances.

Frau Winter is with Sally and is re-united with her daughter. Sally finds the British government has no interest in Adelaide, who is known as the Cockney Queen.

Jim visits Adelaide and they decide to marry. He tells her that when she was shot, the falling flag was caught by Otto. Adelaide says she has read the papers and knows what is being said about her. Jim says he will write a book about what happened, with Becky and Adelaide's help. They fall asleep talking.

At the office of the Steamer Company, a woman has lost her ticket. The woman has a bag with a long sharp scissors. Because the clerks are in a hurry, they don't bother to have her fill out a form.

Sally tells Becky that Prince Bismarck's banker, Bleichroder, was behind the whole scheme. It was part of a power struggle between Bismarck and the Reichstag which is the German parliament.

As Becky walks back to her room she notices a nurse exiting a room. She notices the dirty and worn shoes of the nurse. When she screams, the woman attacks her. While they struggle, a bench falls and Carmen Ruiz is killed.

Chapter 20 Analysis

The doctors at the clinic in Andersbad realize the danger to Adelaide, Becky, and Jim. They treat them and send them to a clinic in Switzerland. Bleichroder's plan was successful and Razkavia was annexed by Germany. The Spanish actress assassin survived the drifting boat from the grotto and arrives at the Swiss clinic. She is killed in a scuffle with Becky.

Becky was correct in her assessment of Jim and Adelaide. They were in love and decide to marry.



Characters

Rebecca Winter

Rebecca Winter is sixteen years of age in 1882. She speaks German, English, Italian, French, Spanish, and is learning Russian. She lives with her mother and grandmother in Maida Vale and looks forward to the independence of her first job. She was three years old when her family was forced into exile from central Europe. Becky and her family are from Razkavia. Her father was a lawyer who tried to start a movement for democracy and was imprisoned. He died and Becky, her mother, and grandmother moved to London. She was hired by Herr Strauss, the Prince of Razkavia to tutor his wife in German. When the Prince's brother is assassinated, he becomes Crown Prince and must return to Razkavia. Becky is asked to accompany the Princess as her companion. At one point, Godel tries to have Becky replaced and returns to her home, but Adelaide and Countess Thalgau refuse. When Adelaide becomes Queen and more proficient, Becky's role slowly changes from translator to counselor. She is one of the few friends that Adelaide has and trusts. Becky works closely with Him sharing whatever information she learns to keep Adelaide safe and to figure out who they can and cannot trust such as Count Thalgau. Becky is given the Most Noble Order of the Red Eagle or Second Class for her service to Adelaide and Razkavia. She suffers broken ribs in the train crash and the Andersbad clinic sends her to Switzerland to recuperate. The Spanish actress tries to kill Becky there and is unexpectedly killed when an oak bench falls on her. Becky plans to study at the university.

James Taylor

James Taylor is a consulting detective with a firm in Twickenham. He is twenty-three years of age and has had a variety of occupations. Among other things, he is a writer and earns his living in a variety of different ways. When Rudolf becomes Crown Prince and returns to Razkavia, Jim goes with as his adviser. He is aware of the politics of the situation and explains some of it to Becky on the trip. Upon his arrival in Eschtenburg, the head of the Royal Household makes it clear that Jim is not a member of the household staff and is in the independent employ of the Prince. He is not sure exactly what his functions are but wants to protect the Prince for Adelaide's sake. Jim organizes a group of students to function as guards and investigators. He has them looking for Spanish women because the deceased Crown Prince's wife, a Spanish actress, is banished and also for the Spanish actress at the Alhambra Theater. After the assassination of King Rudolf, Jim remains in the restructured household of the Queen. He is still trying to find the Spanish actress and just happened to be in the right place to overhear the servants talking about a woman that Godel has moved into the castle. The woman is Frau Busch from Ritterwald and Jim follows her and another woman one night and finds a deranged Prince Leopold alive and held prisoner in a cell. While trying to rescue the Prince, he is captured and imprisoned. He escapes and rescues Becky and Adelaide. Adelaide awards him the Order of St. Stephen, making him a baron for his



service to Rudolf and her. Injured in the battle at Schloss Wendelstein, he is sent to Switzerland to recover. He and Adelaide decide to marry.

Adelaide Bevan

Adelaide Bevan is a young woman who used to work in a house of ill repute before she married Prince Rudolf. He hires Becky to teach her to read and write. When her husband is killed immediately after his coronation, she becomes the Queen of Razkavia. She negotiates a treaty with the two Great Powers and becomes an assassination target herself. She is injured defending the flag at Schloss Wendelstein and sent to Switzerland to recover. She and Jim decide to marry.

Prince Leopold

Prince Leopold was the older brother of Princess Wilhelm and Rudolf. He married a Spanish actress who was banished from the kingdom. Leopold was supposedly killed in a hunting accident but was actually locked up in an asylum and held prisoner for years. He is found by Jim.

Prince Rudolf

Prince Rudolf is a Razkavian Prince living in London who marries Adelaide. He returns to Razkavia when his brother, the Crown Prince is assassinated. He becomes King after his father's death and is assassinated right after his coronation.

Count Thalgau

Count Thalgau is the Razkavian Ambassador to England. He becomes the secretary to Queen Adelaide. Deeply in debt to Herr Bleichroder, he arranged to provide the German banker with an advance copy of the treaty in exchange for money.

Baron Godel

Baron Godel has the hereditary position as Head of the Royal Household. He masterminded the disappearance and imprisonment of Prince Leopold and was involved in the attempts to unseat and kill Queen Adelaide.

Herr Gerson von Bleichroder

Herr Gerson von Bleichroder is a German banker and friend of Prince Bismarck. He has been behind the schemes against the Razkaia royal family in order to secure the Razkavian nickel deposits for Germany.



Carmen Ruiz

Carmen Ruiz is one of the numerous names used by the Spanish actress who married Prince Leopold. Used by the Germans, she is involved in the murders of the Razkavian royal family.

Karl von Gaisberg

Karl von Gaisberg is a student at the university in Razkavia. He befriends Jim and is a leader of the Reichterbund students that help Jim and Adelaide.



Objects/Places

London

London is the capital of England and is located in the southeastern part of the country.

Razkavia

Razkavia is a small kingdom located between Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Berlin

Berlin is the capital of Germany, one of the two Great Powers that borders Razkavia.

Eschtenburg

Eschtenburg is the capital of Razkavia and the site of the Royal Palace.

The Grotto

The Grotto is on the Palace grounds and contains a cell where Prince Leopold is being held.

Café Florestan

The Café Florestan is in Eschtenburg and functions as the headquarters of the students of the Richterbund.

Number 43 Church Road

Number 43 Church Road is the house in St. Johns Woods where Becky goes to tutor Miss Bevan.

Alhambra Theater

Alhambra Theater is located in the Soho section of London.



Schloss Wendelstein

Schloss Wendelstein is an abandoned castle in Razkavia near the town of Andersbad.

Andersbad

Andersbad is a Razkavian town where the injured from Schloss Wendelstein were taken to the clinic.

Kreuzlingin

Kreuzlingin is a lakeside town with a clinic in Switzerland where Adelaide, Becky and Jim were sent to recover from their injuries there.



Themes

Suspense

Suspense is the dominant theme of *Tin Princess* and the author, Philip Pullman, is good with building suspense. The suspense begins in the opening pages of the novel and continues until the very end. The suspense is continual and results in exciting reading for the reader. The suspense begins with the mystery surrounding the identity and situation involving Herr Strauss and Miss Bevan and the bomb blast outside their home. It continues when Razkavian Crown Prince Wilhelm and his princess are assassinated, requiring Prince Rudolf and his bride, Adelaide Bevan, to go to Razkavia. Who is killing Razkavian royalty and why? Jim finds a maid accepting a bribe for information on Rudolf and Adelaide and follows the culprit to the Alhambra Theater where they find a Spanish actress. The suspense thickens when the scene shifts to Razkavia. Rudolf is killed immediately after his coronation. He passes the flag to his wife who completes the walk to the rock and is crowned queen. As Queen, she enters into diplomatic negotiations with the two Great Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary, both of whom covet tiny Razkavia for the valuable nickel deposits. While this is taking place, Jim learns that the eldest Crown Prince Leopold, who was reportedly killed in a hunting accident after the banishment of his Spanish actress wife, is actually alive, deranged, and locked in a cell in the grotto. Certain factions in Germany do not like the terms of the treaty and Jim, Becky and Adelaide are held captive. They escape however and try to defend the flag at Wendelstein. The action and suspense in this novel are non-stop.

Plots

Plots are another dominant theme of the novel and the plots also begin to unfold in the opening pages of the novel with the bomb explosion outside the house in St. John's Woods. Jim begins to work on who is behind the bomb blast. When he finds a maid selling information to a man, he and his Irish guard follow the individual to the Alhambra Theater, where they find a Spanish actress. The Spanish actress turns out to be the wife of Prince Leopold, who was the Crown Prince of Razkavia when he married her. She was banished and he was reportedly killed in a hunting accident. However, in a plot orchestrated by Godel, he was imprisoned in an asylum until he became deranged. Rudolf returns to Razkavia because Crown Prince Wilhelm and his princess are assassinated. Rudolf is assassinated during his coronation ceremony learning Adelaide behind as Queen. She enters into diplomatic negotiations with Germany and Austria-Hungary, both of whom want Kazkavia's nickel deposits as Becky and Jim uncover more plots. There is a power struggle in Germany between Prince Bismarck and the Reichstag or German Parliament. The tripartite negotiations are being conducted under the auspices of the Reichstag. Bismarck's friend and banker, Herr Bleichroder, has orchestrated the plots against the Razkavian royal family as a way of annexing Razkavia and securing all of the valuable nickel deposits.



Relationships

Relationships are another dominant theme of the novel. The most important relationship is that between Adelaide and Jim. Adelaide had been a servant when Sally Goldberg's father was killed. Adelaide disappeared and no one could find her for ten years. Jim recognizes her on the street one day and followed her to the house in St. John's Woods. He had the house under surveillance when the bomb exploded and went to Razkovia with the royal couple. The first time Becky saw them together, she knew that Jim was in love with Adelaide. He was devoted to her and tried to help Rudolf for her sake. After Rudolf's death, he does what he can to help and protect Adelaide. When they are on the train to Andersbad with the flag, they profess their love for each other. Both are injured in the battle at Schloss Wendelstein. Along with Becky, they are sent to a Swiss clinic where they talk and decide that they will marry.

A second relationship is that of Becky and Adelaide. Hired as a tutor and companion, Becky becomes a trusted friend of Adelaide and one of the few people she could trust. She is loyal to Adelaide and like Him, she does what ever she can to protect and help her. The three of them survive all of the plots against them.



Style

Point of View

Tin Princess is written in the third-person point of view. The narrator of the novel is the author, Philip Pullman. The use of the third-person point of view allows the author to provide background and historical information to the reader. It also allows the reader to learn of events that happen away from the main character. If the novel was written in the first-person point of view, the knowledge of the reader would be limited to the knowledge of the first-person narrator. The reader would have no knowledge of other events until the first-person narrator learned of them. This approach would not work well in an action-packed suspense novel like Tin Princess. There are so many different characters involved in different plots and sub plots that build the suspense of the novel that the reader could only learn about when the novel is written as it is, in the third-person point of view. The novel would lose a lot of its suspense, if any other approach were taken. This is why the third-person point of view is appropriate for this kind of novel.

Setting

The setting for the action of the novel takes place in different locations as the characters move around. The novel opens in the St. John's Woods section of London where Adelaide and Rudolf live. There are also scenes in other London location, such as Becky's home in Maida Vale, the Alhambra Theater in Soho, the Twickenham home where Becky meets Sally Goldberg and various other places. The characters travel by train to Kazkavia, passing through Germany. They arrive in Eschtenburg, the capital and go to the Palace, where they are many different scenes. There are also scenes around the city. Jim and the Richterbund students use the Café Florestan as their meeting place. The grotto where Prince Leopold is being held captive is on the palace grounds. The Rock, reached by funicular train, is where the flag flies. The Castle, where Becky, Jim and Adelaide are held captive is on the other side of the city. There are scenes on the Royal Train and at Schloss Wendelstein where they take the flag. The injured are taken to a clinic in Andersbad and Becky, Adelaide and Jim are moved to a clinic in Kreuzlingin, Switzerland where Carmen Ruiz is killed. There are also scenes in Berlin where Bismarck's friend and banker, Herr Bleichroder, orchestrates the plot against the Razkavian royal family.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is appropriate to the character of the novel. It is easy to read and understand with no hidden meaning. The novel is basically written for quick and easy reading. There is plenty of dialogue between the characters so the reader can become familiar with the personalities of the different character. The dialogue of the



conversations is appropriate to the character. There are some places where Becky and Adelaide have comments in German. These phrases and sentences are not translated but are not critical to the reader's knowledge of the novel. There are other places where Adelaide's dialogue is in the Cockney dialect. This may slow the reader down a little but adds to the realism of Adelaide's character. In this way, Pullman's style of writing contributes to the credibility of the characters. The reader will enjoy the author's writing style with all of the action and suspense that is packed into a novel of this length. The language of the novel contributes to the enjoyable experience of reading the novel.

Structure

The structure of the novel is simple and uncomplicated. The body of the novel consists of twenty chapters varying in length from seven to twenty pages. Each chapter has a title some of which are indicative of the content of the chapter. For the most part, each chapter has fresh content.

There is a Table of Contents giving the chapter number, title, and page number. There is also a list of Major Characters in the Tin Princess at the front of the book. This is helpful for the reader who wants to look up a character or who gets some of the German names confused. It is also helpful in situations where the characters are not fully identified in the novel. At the back of the book, there is chart showing the 'Family tree of the ruling house of Razkavia. This is helpful to the reader in showing where the various family members fit in.

There is no Index or Introduction but none is really needed. The structure of the novel adds to its ease and quickness of reading and is appropriate for this kind of novel.



Quotes

"But she never finished the sentence, for that was the moment when the bomb went off" (Chapter 1, pg. 11.)

"Listen, Miss Winter. I think we'd better work together for a while. If you're not busy for the next hour or two, can I take you to Twickenham and introduce you to an old friend of mine? She'll vouch for me, and for Adelaide, and it'll give us a chance to tell you the whole story" (Chapter 2, pg. 17.)

"My brother the Crown Prince and his wife Princess Anna - both shot. He is dead and she is not expected to live. I must return at once" (Chapter 3, pg. 35.)

"But I don't see why a Spanish actress is involved. Too deep for me sir.'
'Then I shall tell you. Go to the blue cabinet, if you please, and take out the file marked Thalgau'" (Chapter 4, pg. 50.)

"It wasn't entirely for Adelaide's sake that Jim felt obliged to do it, for he liked the Prince; the fellow was no more than a bewildered child, but one who wanted to do his duty, whatever that was" (Chapter 6, pg. 61.)

"See?' said Her Majesty. 'It's Germany or the other lot, and if they don't get a decision soon they'll fight, and if they do get a decision there'll be a war anyway, cause the loser'll object. And in the mean time there's a flaming assassin creeping about. So what the hell am I going to do, Jim?'" (Chapter 7, pg. 85.)

"The issue was clear: if Adelaide managed to carry the Adlerfahne to the Rock, Razkavia would remain free" (Chapter 8, pg. 108.)

"Now that the burden and the great honour of reigning have fallen to me alone, I vow before you all to serve Razkavia to the utmost limit of my strength. Let there be no doubt in anyone's heart: Razkavia has a queen, and that queen will defend and love her country till the day she dies. Long live the Red Eagle! Long live Razkavia!" (Chapter 9, pg. 121.)

"He had told the Count about the woman journalist and Herr Egger's flat, and the Count had relayed that to the Chief of Police at their next daily meeting; but Jim had little faith in the police, who lacked a detective branch entirely" (Chapter 10, pg. 133.)

"There, under the stubble and the dirt but as clearly as in the portrait in the gallery, were the drooping eyelid and the dimpled chin of Rudolf's eldest brother, Prince Leopold, alive" (Chapter 11, pg. 148.)

"If Carmen Ruiz is in her right mind, that life wouldn't make her happy; and if she isn't,



she'd never know anyway. This is tragic, I dare say - for her, for him, for them both. And we're instruments in this tragedy" (Chapter 14, pg.184.)

"'I hope I shall be safer than that,' said Adelaide in her best German. 'But I am sure I have never felt more welcome. Thank you'" (Chapter 16, pg. 224.)

"'But, Your Majesty - the Adlerfahne is here through-out the life of the monarch! We're here to keep it flying, not to take it down!'"(Chapter 17, pg. 235.)

"He was practically certain that they were going to die, here in this forgotten little corner of Europe, for a struggle that was pointless anyway. Dan Goldberg was right: Germany would inevitably crush Razkavia, or Austria would" (Chapter 18, pg. 256.)

"'Well, you fell one way, and I caught you, and the flag fell the other way. You were holding it up. When you let go of it, Otto caught it. By God, he's a giant, that man. He was waving it around his head like a handkerchief, the last thing I saw'" (Chapter 20, pg. 280.)



Topics for Discussion

What is the mystery surrounding Adelaide's background? How did she become a princess?

What is Jim's function as adviser to King Rudolf? What is Jim looking for and why?

What indications were there that the King would be assassinated? What were the similarities between Leopold and Rudolf?

Who is Frau Busch? What does Jim learn about Godel and Leopold from her?

Why is Bleichroder against the tripartite treaty? What plans do they have to prevent it from being implemented?

What is the meaning of the Adlertrager or flag? And the Rock? Why do both the Germans and Adelaide want the flag?

What is the significant of taking the flag to Schloss Wendelstein?