

The Warrior's Path Study Guide

The Warrior's Path by Louis L'Amour

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Plot Summary

The Warrior's Path by Louis L'Amour is the story of a backwoodsman, Kin Sackett, who is called upon to help save two girls who disappear while walking in the woods. Kin soon discovers that although Indians have been blamed for the abduction of the girls, it is actually a plot by very powerful individuals to capture white girls that are disliked in their communities and sell them as slaves over seas. Kin is able to save the girls but cannot rest until he has stopped the men responsible even if it puts his own life in danger.

Kin Sackett is at home when he gets word that his brother's wife's sister, Carrie, and her friend, Diana, have been taken by a tribe of Indians and there is no one else to go after the girls. Kin and his brother Yance load up and head to look for the two girls who were taken. Carrie is an acceptable loss to those in the village because they dislike Diana who is said to be a witch. Kin and Yance soon start the hunt for the girls and discover that no group of Indians could have taken the girls. The girls are being held by several men who work for a man from Diana and Carrie's town named Joseph Pittingel. The girls are to be put on a boat and taken to Port Royal where they will be sold as slaves.

Diana is very resourceful and with the help of an African slave named Henry, the girls are able to get away. By this time Yance and Kin are close by and are able to find the girls and help them find somewhere safe. Once Kin feels the girls are safe he decides that he will go to Port Royal and try to find at least one of the other girls that have been taken over the years, all supposedly by Indians, and see if he can get a sworn statement against Pittingel.

Once in Port Royal, Kin is attacked several times and Joseph Pittingel arrives with Diana in tow. Joseph says he is going to kill her but Kin is too quick and together he and Diana make their escape once again. They get on a ship and head back home when the ship is attacked. They are able to defeat the other ship but their vessel is badly damaged and they must land. When they land Diana and Kin are married by the ship's captain and then they head back to Kin's home.

When they return home Kin's settlement is attacked by Joseph Pittingel's right hand man, Max Bauer and they threaten to kill everyone in the village unless they get Diana. There is a battle and Kin must face off against Max. It seems that Max might win but eventually Kin is able to get Max in a vulnerable position and kill him with a knife.



Chapter 1-5

Chapter 1-5 Summary

The Warrior's Path by Louis L'Amour is the story of a backwoodsman, Kin Sackett, who is called upon to help save two girls who disappear while walking in the woods. Kin soon discovers that although Indians have been blamed for the abduction of the girls, it is actually a plot by very powerful individuals to capture white girls that are disliked in their communities and sell them as slaves over seas. Kin is able to save the girls but cannot rest until he has stopped the men responsible even if it puts his own life in danger.

In chapter one Kin Ring Sackett is in the woods hunting for a bear when he sees a skinny old Indian who is obviously hurt. Kin is reluctant to run out and help the Indian. It is possible that it is a trap and it is also possible that the ones that hurt the Indian are following and will see Kin and try to kill him too. Kin decides he cannot just sit by and watch a man die if Kin did not shoot him and so he goes out to get the Indian. Kin sees that the wound the Indian has is from a musket. The Indian tells Kin that he is looking for Yance Sackett and that Mrs. Penney sent him. Kin's brother is Yance but the only person with the last name Penney that Kin knows is Yance's wife, Temperance. Kin is told that Indians called the Pequots took Temperance's little sister Carrie and Carrie's friend Diana Macklin. No one in the village is going to go looking for the girls and so the Penney family has sent for Yance since Yance and his people are mountain people capable of tracking. Kin knows that he has to help and when Yance arrives the three of them head to Cape Ann. As they leave for Cape Ann, Yance explains that Diana Macklin is said to be a witch and that the people will say it is good she is gone and will not do anything to help Carrie.

As chapter two begins they have been traveling for a day already on the Warrior's Path trying to avoid any Indians that might not be friendly. Yance tells Kin more about Diana and why she is called a witch. Kin says he does not believe in such things but Yance says that he will when they see Diana because there is something strange and unique about her. Yance says the young men are afraid of her and her beauty. Several nights later they come to the edge of the settlement and Kin goes in to talk to the Penney family because Yance is highly disliked. At the Penney house Kin is told what is known of the girls. There is no one that saw any Indians but they have been told it must be Indians by a highly respected business man in their community, Joseph Pittingel. While Kin is still there Joseph Pittingel and Diana's father, Robert Macklin, walk in. Joseph Pittingel is very adamant that it was Indians. Over the past few year three other white girls have been taken. Each time it was a girl that the settlement refused to look for. Pittingel accuses Diana openly of being Satan's spawn and then leaves after offering the Penney family any help he has to offer. Kin stays for a moment longer and then steps out into the night but stops, realizing that there is someone in the darkness.



In chapter three Kin takes care to slip back into the woods, where Yance is waiting on him, going a different route and Kin never does see who is waiting for him in the darkness. Tenaco has left already, having done his job. The next day Kin has Penney and Macklin take him to where the girls were when they were taken. Pittingel and another man, Max Bauer, are with Penney and Macklin. Bauer tries to crush Kin's hand but Kin is stout and is able to match the grip and Bauer soon becomes angry. Pittingel explains that the Pequot are long gone. Yance is not seen but Kin knows that his brother is in the woods listening. Soon they head back to the Penney home and then Kin goes with Macklin alone to his home and learns what he can of Diana. Kin soon learns that Joseph had asked Diana to marry him and she just looked at him and walked away.

As chapter four begins there is a knock on the door of Macklin's house and some men appear and tell him to leave with his ungodliness or they will imprison him. Kin warns them to be cautious and tells them how foolish they are as he steps out shutting the door. In his anger Kin almost is unable to dodge the knife that is thrown as he steps out the door. Once safely in the woods Kin finds Yance and Yance says someone is in the woods looking for him as well. Yance tells about a sailor he had talked to last time he came to the town who suggested that Pittingel might be into slave trading. The tracks that Yance found suggest that the girls were taken by white men wearing moccasins. The next day Yance and Kin start tracking where the girls were taken by the other men. It soon becomes obvious that Indians have nothing to do with the girls' disappearance. Kin and Yance know that they must be careful because if they are discovered following them who stole the girls then Kin and Yance will be marked to be killed before they can say what they have found. While they are tracking Yance reminds Kin that Pittingel has a ship that is overdue.

Chapter five begins with Diana Macklin and Carrie Penney being held by the men. There is a black slave man that is working with the white men. Diana whispers to the slave, Henry, that she is going to escape and if he helps them escape then he can come with them. The man says nothing but Diana knows that they have to escape before the ship comes that they have been waiting on. One of the men knows that Diana has been talking to the slave man and asks her about it. Diana refuses to admit to talking to him but they are not easily fooled. Diana tries to keep Carrie held together and tells Carrie to keep herself looking her best because if she respects herself then others will too. One of the men, Lashan, tells them it does not matter because whoever buys them will make them look however he wants. One of them asks her if she is a witch and Diana asks the men if they are feeling pains or stiffness and tells them to give it time to work. Lashan hits Diana with a willow switch but she is able to stand firm and tells him whoever buys them will want them unblemished. When it is over Diana turns and sees that she has badly scared Carrie. This alone bothers her. Later Henry comes to give Diana her food and tells her that the tops of the sails have been spotted. Diana tells Henry that it must be that night.



Chapter 1-5 Analysis

Diana is a unique character in the book and the only character whose point of view of the story is told, other than Kin. Diana's actual thoughts and desires are a mystery to Kin where many of the other characters in the books Kin is easily able to read. The fact that she is not transparent may be part of the reason that when Kin and Diana meet he will be attracted to her. Kin's actual age is never told although it is known that he is the oldest and his brother, Yance, is already married.

Diana's father loves her very much. He will be continue to be spoken of in the story but Robert Macklin will not be seen again in the story. Neither will the Penney family. Temperance is Yance's wife and it is her connection to the Sackett family that gets Kin and Yance involved in the first place. Despite this, Temperance actually has a very small role in the story and will not be introduced until the last few chapters.

The two main protagonists, Joseph Pittingel and Max Bauer, have already been met in the story. It is clear that neither man is a good person and their roles are quickly seen although they do not often seem to be in the same place at the same time. Max Bauer will cause Kin much more anxiety than Pittingel does. Pittingel has more authority than Bauer does but it all is on a political and social level. Bauer appears to be the brawn and the one who is the enforcer while Pittingel is the brains and controls the money. Despite their differences, these two men appear to work very well together.

Henry has had a seemingly minor role in the story. There will be moments when his presence will be very important in the story but Henry is not focused on as the story continues. Tenaco is not seen or mentioned again in the story.



Chapter 6-10

Chapter 6-10 Summary

As chapter six begins Kin and Yance are getting close to the sea and they are still trailing the girls. Suddenly they hear someone shouting "Gone!" (page 47). Kin and Yance know that it must be the girls and they soon begin to try and track where they believe the girls would have gone. While Yance and Kin are trying to find the girls, they suddenly find that they are being followed. Kin and Yance become still and see that in the lead of the men tracking them is Max Bauer. The brothers split up to confuse the men. Yance leaves no tracks and heads off after the girls. Kin leaves only a few tracks, letting his trail slowly fade out. Kin happens upon some deer and spooks them so that they will create several more trails. After continuing on for some time Yance and Kin reunite. After following the trail again, Kin and Yance find the girls and Henry. Yance discovers that they are between Max Bauer's men and a group of Indians.

As chapter seven begins the group gets quiet to try and give the Indians a chance to pass them. It is Kin and Yance's hope that when the Indians and Max Bauer's men meet, it will slow up their pursuers. Once the Indians are past Kin and the others retrace the Indians' steps, it will them with leave no trail of their own. They eat that night and Henry tells them his story. He was Ahanti and was selling slaves to a European ship but there were not enough slaves and Henry was pushed from behind and so imprisoned himself. Henry quickly made himself the captain's right hand man and eventually earned the right to go ashore to help get Diana. He knew that this would be his chance to escape. Henry says that he promised to help Diana and so will stay until the girls are safe. Diana tells Kin of a place where her father has a friend named Reverend Blaxton. Diana suggest they go there since Carrie is not doing well. They make camp and Kin goes into the woods and hears a click. Kin turns slowly and sees that Max Bauer's men have made a camp only a short way from them.

Chapter eight begins with Kin slowly waking everyone in the camp. They quickly move to a swift river that they must cross. Yance helps the girls and Henry across on a log. Kin stays on the bank to fight the men who by now have realized how close they are to Kin and the others. Kin fights until the others are safe and then starts across the river himself. He has his tomahawk and knife after getting his gun powder wet. Kin starts in a different direction than Yance and the girls in the hopes that he will be followed before the girls. While Kin is walking he begins thinking of Diana. He does not know why he should think of her at all since he knows nothing about her. Slowly he decides that a woman like Diana could want nothing to do with him and he determines not to think of her again.

In chapter nine Kin reaches Shawmut and goes to the house of Reverend Blaxton. Kin quickly explains the situation to Reverend Blaxton. Blaxton warns Kin that they are in a lot of trouble since stealing a slave is a crime. Henry cannot be said to have helped the girls, it will be said that they stole Henry. In addition to this there is no way to prove who



took the girls or why, only that they were held on the shore. Pittingel is far too powerful to accuse without any proof Blaxton warns. Kin tells Blaxton of Diana. Blaxton also tells Kin of one of the other girls that was taken about a year earlier under much the same strange circumstances as Diana. Kin and Blaxton soon head to Samuel Maverick's house where they find Yance, the girls and Henry waiting. After talking for a time Kin decides that he will go to the West India Isles to try and find one of the girls that was taken previously. Kin hopes to get a sworn statement so that he can prove what Pittingel has been doing with the young girls.

In chapter ten everyone seems to be trying to talk Kin out of going to look for the girl. Kin tells Yance to go back home to let them know what is going on and Kin refuses to be talked out of his mission. Diana knows that it is not safe for her to go home now. Since she was able to escape she will be condemned as a witch, since only witchcraft could have helped her escape. Henry offers to go with Kin to look for the girl and Kin accepts the offer with the understanding that Henry is a free man. Diana becomes angry with Kin and asks why he is going to look for this one girl that he has never even seen. Kin assures her that it is for her that he is going, so she will be safe. Diana is very angry with Kin and can scarcely look at him as he leaves. Yance tells Kin to head toward where John Tilly's ship, the Abigail, will be. The Abigail was named after Kin's mother.

Chapter 6-10 Analysis

It becomes obvious at this juncture in the story that Diana is interested in Kin in some capacity. Kin is not sure what is going on with Diana but he seems to think so highly of her that he does not believe that a woman like her would ever be interested in a mountain man like him. Diana is very attractive and there are many men, Joseph Pittingel included, that have sought Diana's hand in some respect or have been just too overcome by her beauty to even be able to approach her. It seems that this may have added to what has made her so bold. This boldness that she exhibits is very important and will be what helps her to survive as the story continues.

The mysterious girl that Kin is going to look for is explained in some detail and it is obvious that she fell into much of the same category that Diana did. When the girl went missing the people in the village seemed happy to have her gone since she was deemed a trouble maker. In the next few chapters her identity will be revealed and much of what made her undesirable in her home is what keeps this young girl alive and brings her to a position of power.

Carrie, Samuel Maverick, and Blaxton will not be seen again in the story. John Tilly and the Abigail will quickly be introduced in the story and it is clear that the captain will have a larger role in the story and will be a sure ally for Kin. The Indians that pass Kin and Yance in the woods are never identified. It could be that this is the tribe of Pequots that were rumored to have taken the girls. Yance and Kin are familiar with many different tribes as will be seen closer to the end of the story. Kin will often talk about the Senecas that killed his father. Kin does not have a hatred for these Indians and seems to feel that

even though it was his father that was killed, it was a battle and it was not personal. Kin seems to have a respect for these Indians when he talks about them.



Chapter 11-15

Chapter 11-15 Summary

In chapter eleven it is night time when Kin finally reaches the port where the ships are. Kin finds that the Abigail is in port and is quickly admitted aboard once he announces his name. Aboard, Kin explains that his father was killed by the Senecas. The captain, John Tilly, was a friend of Barnabas Sacketts and is sad to hear it. Tilly agrees to take Kin to Port Royal to look for the kidnapped girl but warns Kin that it is not likely that she will be found. However, he realizes that if Kin is anything like his father then he cannot be dissuaded with the offer that something is going to be hard. Henry and Kin are both aboard as the ship heads out. John Tilly warns Kin to be careful but knows that someone must stand up for what is right. Tilly warns Kin that Port Royal is proud of its reputation and that the reputation is one of wickedness and made up of a lot of murderous men. Before Kin and Henry go ashore Tilly tells them that Kin can put everything on Tilly's account so that all his expenses are paid for. When Kin reaches the tavern that Tilly suggests, a tailor is soon sent to Kin. Kin asks about slaves and about girls. The tailor soon becomes quiet when asked about white slaves and wishes not to say anything else and leaves. The tailor introduces himself as he leaves as Augustus Jayne and to call if needed before the outfits are completed. Kin stays in the inn for two more days but learns nothing. Kin happens to look out his window and sees Max Bauer watching his room. Kin knows he must be constantly ready.

In chapter twelve a black man comes to fetch Kin saying that his master, Augustus Jayne, needs Kin for a fitting. Kin doubts he is needed for a fitting but goes to meet with the tailor. Once in his office Jayne admits that he recognized the name Sackett and doubted that Kin was asking after slaves because he wanted one. Jayne explains about a wealthy man who had a terrible wife. When the woman is dead the man is very lonely although many think him better off alone than with that woman. When a ship comes in with slaves the man is in attendance. A young girl is brought up before the men and scans the group of bidders. She points to the man and says she wants it to be him who buys her. The man does buy her and takes her home. Once in her slave quarters she demands to talk to her new master alone. She tells the man that she will be a willing slave brought to his bed whenever he wants or his wife. She explains that she will be better to him than any other could be if she is made his wife, but she will make his life a living hell if she is kept a slave. She is brought into the bedroom beside the man and she does not run away. The next day she has set out his slippers, and begins to help him in his business, which she knows something of. Kin knows this is the girl he is looking for and says he must go to meet her. Jayne says there is no need because the woman is there in the shop waiting to speak to Kin.

As chapter thirteen continues Kin is introduced to Madam Adele Legare. She says she knows that Max Bauer has hired out to have Kin killed which does not surprise Kin. Adele refuses to write any letter stating that she was sold into slavery. She is worried about the implications it would have for her husband since he is a prominent business



man. Adele does say it is her mission in life to have Joseph Pittingel destroyed but not at the cost of her husband's reputation. Adele leaves and after dodging several men, Kin goes back to his hotel where he finds a note from Henry stating that Adele has been taken by Bauer's men. Kin loads his pistols and leaves to meet Henry.

Chapter fourteen starts with Kin renting a boat from a boy named Andrew to get to where Henry is waiting. There are several maroons with Henry who are there to help. When they find the men Kin asks Adele if she is there. When she answers yes there is the sound of her being hit. Kin, Henry and the maroons quickly advance and are able to kill some of the men and the others are scared off. Kin and Henry help Adele home. Once there Kin talks to Adele's husband, Mr. Legare, and explains the situation. Kin has a long way to go to get to town. He asks permission to sleep for a few hours and then have a horse to take. At an hour until midnight Kin gets up and readies his pistols and the horse so that he is ready for a fight he knows is coming.

In chapter fifteen Kin is riding quickly when his horse warns him of trouble. Kin is able to fight off the first few men and the horse runs. Kin makes it to the next household where he is warmly greeted as a friend of Legare's. Kin stops here only for a short moment before continuing on. On the road there is a carriage that is stopped. Kin has to stop because the road is taken up. Inside the carriage Joseph Pittingel is sitting holding Diana. He tells Kin they wanted him to see that they had her before Kin was killed. Kin is able to grab Diana and swing her onto his horse. Pittingel and his men are persuing them when they come to the river. Kin has Diana swing to Andrew's boat out in the water. Kin follows.

Chapter 11-15 Analysis

At this point in the story there is no indication as to how Pittingel got Diana. In the next few chapters she will explain that they just went into the house and attacked her father and took her. This seems to indicate that Pittingel is both desperate and very dangerous. Pittingel will be seen once more in the story although his ultimate fate is never explained.

Legare purchases his wife as a slave and it is quickly clear that she does not want people in Port Royal to think ill of her or her husband and for that reason is unwilling to sign the letter. This might have have been the way it remained if not for the fact that Pittingel's men take Adele. The irony of the situation is that they kidnap her so that she will not write a letter condemning Pittingel but now she will write the letter because Pittingel's men have kidnapped her. This appears to underscore the prior statement that Pittingel does not realize how shallow the roots of his power are. There are times when it seems it would have been smarter and perhaps safer if Pittingel had simply left Kin alone and let Diana go free. It is possible that Pittingel would have been able to carry on his slaving trade of young girls if he had been able to walk away from Kin.

Henry and the maroons have helped to save both Adele and Kin. Henry disappears with the maroons after Adele is done. In the next few chapters it is seen that despite the fact

that Henry feels that the maroons are his people, he also feels apart from them and knows that he does not truly belong.

Adele will not be seen again in the story although her husband will make one more appearance. In the next chapters it will be seen that there is a man that accepted an untold sum of money to kill Kin, just as Adele said there was.



Chapter 16-20

Chapter 16-20 Summary

In chapter sixteen Kin is in his hotel room once again. Mr. Legare walks in and hands over the letter affirming that Pittingel is a slaver and telling Adele's own story. Kin is confused as to why she changed her mind but Legare explains that Adele was worried about him but he does not care what people think and he does not want Pittingel to be able to hurt anyone any longer. Kin is eating and Diana comes to sit with him saying she thought maybe he did not want to eat alone. Kin agrees and says he hopes he never has to eat alone again. With letter in hand Kin, Diana and Henry are ready to return home. Henry says he will go with Kin since he feels a kinship to Kin. Kin is waiting for the Abigail to come back into port and goes and finds a man and pays him to watch for the ship. On his way back to the Inn a man offers to buy Kin a drink. They sit and drink for a moment and the man, named Rafe Bogardus, says that he likes Kin and apologizes saying that he has accepted money to kill Kin.

In chapter seventeen Kin and Rafe begin to fight. The fight is long and Rafe is indeed very dangerous. Kin is skilled and eventually, with a large deal of luck, he is able to have the upper hand. Rafe tells Kin to finish the job and Kin says that neither man will die that night. Rafe says he took money to kill Kin. Kin says that Rafe did indeed try and that that is going to have to be enough.

Chapter eighteen begins with Henry, Kin and Diana aboard the Abigail. When they are out at sea Tilly says that they saw a ship and now the ship has disappeared. Tilly expects the ship to overtake them in the night when they cannot be seen. In the night the ship is suddenly beside them and the two ships begin fighting. Kin fights with his sword and soon he heads down to check on Diana. She is being held by Joseph Pittingel who is saying he is said that Kin will not be able to see her die. Pittingel turns around to face Kin and they begin to fight. Kin is able to badly wound Pittingel, nearly severing his arm. Pittingel falls to the floor and Kin and Diana simply step over him.

In chapter nineteen the battle is over and the other ship has retreated but both ships are badly damaged. Tilly is not sure they can make it to shore. Kin goes down to decide what to do with Pittingel and finds a large blood trail but nothing more. Kin knows where they are, roughly, and that if they can make it to land it is not far till his settlement. Once on shore Kin asks Tilly to marry him and Diana, to which Tilly happily agrees. Kin looks into the woods and sees Catawba Indians. They are quickly excited when they realize that Kin knows their language and has friends in other Catawba villages. Kin is excited because the way home is the same way the Catawba will be traveling.

Chapter twenty begins and the Catawba asks if Diana is his woman and he says that she will be his woman tomorrow. Diana is told what was said and she becomes angry saying she cannot marry the next day because she is not ready. Kin says that she will either have to be ready or travel into the forest with a man she is not married to. Diana



says she might have changed her mind and Kin says that if she has then she had better say so quickly. The Catawba ask how many blankets were traded for Diana and Kin tells them he paid a fortune for her which implies she is a princess. Diana is angered at the thought of being worth blankets but accepts Kin's answer to them. The next day the Abigail is floated and Tilly believes she will make it to Cape Ann and will give a message to Diana's father. Kin and Diana are married before the ship sails and then they head into the forest with the Catawba. They travel for many days and eventually take a boat upriver. When it becomes Kin's turn to paddle, the others shake their heads, pointing to his musket. Kin realizes that something is not right and they want him with a gun rather than a paddle.

Chapter 16-20 Analysis

The Catawba have not been talked about before in the story but it is quickly seen that they are friends and that many white people know that the Catawba are friendly. In the next chapter it will also be explained that they can be ruthless and harsh to those that they identify as enemies.

Diana seems unwilling to marry Kin for a brief moment. Why she suddenly suggests that she has changed her mind is unclear, for she willingly agrees to marry Kin when the time comes. She has been so long with men who want to control her and are upset at her reading and having her own thoughts. It may be that she is frightened for a moment that she will lose her independence or part of who she is if she marries. Women in that time lead a much different life and it is often a woman's place to be seen but not heard. In some instances she is more of a trophy or object rather than a helpmate.

It is never explained what happened to Joseph Pittingel. Max Bauer will be seen once again in the story and there will be no uncertainty about his fate. Max Bauer will also show the extent of his hatred. It also seems that with Max, much as with Pittingel, if he had been willing to let Kin and Diana go then he would have been able to carry on to some degree with what he was already doing.

Henry will continue to be with Kin and Diana and the Catawba as they travel but he is not mentioned much. There are times when it is easy to forget that he is part of the group because he does not talk and there is no mention of his actions. Perhaps this is because he is extremely stealthy or because he is out scouting, but there is no indication as to the definite reason he apparently takes a back seat.



Chapter 21-24

Chapter 21-24 Summary

In chapter twenty-one the group is traveling and one of the Catawba goes to scout. After a time the group becomes worried because he has not returned. The other Catawba say that there is no reason to go for him because he is a warrior and if he has not returned then it is because he is dead. Before long they find familiar territory and Yance is the first out to meet Kin. When they near the houses Temperance comes out excited to see Diana and says that she is happy that it is Diana who is now her sister. The men in Kin's settlement quickly come in from the fields and get ready for battle. As Kin sits and thinks of the coming battle he is concerned because he knows that Bauer will want to hurt Kin emotionally before killing him, which means he will want to hurt those around Kin. Kin is soon interrupted and told that someone in the edge of the forest is waving a white flag.

Chapter twenty-two begins with Bauer's man, Lashan, coming out and yelling to the settlement that if they get Kin and Diana then the settlement will be spared, or else everyone will be killed. Kin knows that Bauer realizes that Kin has not had time to get the letter from Adele to the proper authorities. They wait for a time and Kin decides that waiting will make him edgy and that attacking is better than waiting to be attacked. Kin decides that he will sneak out to see what Bauer's men have planned.

In chapter twenty-three Kin is in the forest and quickly comes to where Bauer and his men are. As Kin listens he hears them planning to attack the settlement. Kin turns to head back and is heard. He begins to run but falls in the darkness and blacks out after hitting his head. When he wakes up the sun is trying to come up and Kin's leg is badly hurt. He slowly makes his way toward the settlement when he realizes that someone is stalking him.

In chapter twenty-four Yance finds him. Kin tells Yance that the men will be attacking soon when they see some of Bauer's men nearing the settlement. Kin and Yance both run toward their homes and the fighting begins. Kin and Yance make their way into their homes and Kin finds that Bauer is in his home and is threatening to kill Diana. Kin and Bauer fight and Kin is hurt in the battle. When it becomes obvious that Bauer cannot win he tries to run but Kin throws a knife and it sticks in Bauer's back. All those who are able to make it to the forest are tracked down by the Catawba. Kin is happy to finally be home.

Chapter 21-24 Analysis

Diana and Kin seem to be quickly in tune with each other. She does not ask any questions when he tells her to do something. This is not because she understands what is going on but because she trusts Kin. There is no indication as to what happens to Kin



and Diana after this story but it is clear that what they have done will expand to other books in the series. There is mention of Kin's brother who is a wanderer and Kin's mother, brother and sister who all live in England. It seems plausible that a book could be written to focus on any of these characters or settings.

Lashan and Bauer are both killed but there is no certainty as to what happens to Pittingel. It could be that the ship he was aboard sank or that he did not survive his wound but he was able to get off the boat. The fact that Pittingel may have survived makes Kin worry but there will be no more mention made of him. It could be that having his good name and business ruined are a fate far worse than death.

Many of the Indians and maroons in the story often show up and leave without warning or explanation. The Catawba show up without any warning and when the battle is over they leave into the forest chasing their enemy.

The main plot in the story ties up fairly well, as do several of the subplots. The plots that are left open will be ones that can be further expanded upon in the next books in the series if the author so chooses.



Characters

Kin Ring Sackett

Kin is the main character in *The Warrior's Path* and the point of view is chiefly his. Kin is a woodsman who is called to help the family of his brother's wife. Once there Kin soon finds that despite his best efforts he is unable to avoid making people angry at him and distrustful. Kin will often have strong feelings or intuitions about the people that he meets, such as Max Bauer. Kin seems to be a fair man and one that has little time for foolishness. While the girls that have been kidnapped at the beginning of the book are not his immediate family, Kin is unwilling to ignore a request for help. It is understandable that Kin would answer this request for help but more of Kin's character is explained when it is seen that Kin is not simply willing to walk away from the situation once the girls are safe. Kin makes it his mission to ensure that no other girls are taken into slavery. Kin explains the motivations behind what he does by recalling the words his father said to him.

Kin's role in his community is not seen fully until the end of the story. It is at this point that Kin has to return home and deal with the issues of those in his settlement. This shows that not only is Kin very capable of taking care of himself and his immediate family, but that is he is also fully aware of the issues of those around him and is able to think of problems and solutions in conjunction with each other.

This book deals only with Kin's travels but he will often think of his father and his brother. It is clear that these two people seem to have a great influence on Kin and the decisions he makes. Kin also puts a great emphasis on family and friends and his mother and other siblings, and others who helped raise him, will be a constant thought for Kin.

Diana Macklin

Diana is the girl that the slavers originally intend to kidnap. Diana is not wanted by the people in her settlement because she is largely thought of as a witch. When Kin learns that she is considered a witch, he does not seem to put much stock in this. The only people that are actually heard saying anything about this in the book are those that capture Diana. Diana is only seventeen but it is quickly seen that many that know her describe her as a steady, level headed girl. Diana is with her friend when she is taken. It is Diana who is able to keep the girl calm. Diana is not a witch but she realizes that there are many that believe her to be a witch and Diana is willing to use this to her advantage. Diana suggests to the men who have taken her that although they have been allowed to take her, it will not be long before the magic she has used will begin to work on them. This is clearly a bluff but it shows that Diana is able to overcome her fear and use her wits. When one of the men becomes angry and hits Diana, she will be able to remind the man that whomever buys her will be upset if she is badly marked.



Diana has turned down several offers from other men in her settlement, some of them very powerful men. There is no reason given to explain her choice of Kin. They seem to have a lot in common. While many of the men in the village are aware of Diana's beauty, Kin is very quick to talk about her mind and the fact that she is strong and able. These are characteristics that he finds vital for someone who is going to live a life the way that he does where Indian attacks are common. The point of view in the story will be Diana's occasionally.

Yance Sacket

Yance is Kin's little brother. Yance is described by Kin as being very tough and a good fighter but someone who can move very quickly and quietly. One of the young girls that is taken is the sister of his wife. It is to Yance that the request for help was originally sent although Kin is the one who intercepts the letter.

Max Bauer

Max Bauer is one of the main antagonists in the story. Max is a very dangerous man who is in charge of the slave trading that is taking place. It is Max who comes to Port Royal looking for Kin in the hopes that he can kill Kin before any further information about the white girls being sold as slaves is found. Max tries several times to kill Diana and Kin but Max is killed by Kin in Kin's home. Max works for Pittingel.

Henry

Henry is an African who becomes a slave when he takes other slaves to a slaver ship. Henry makes himself trusted on the ship and when he is allowed to go to shore he waits for the right time and helps Diana escape and goes with her. Although Henry is allowed to go his own way he chooses to stay with Kin throughout the story. Henry goes to Port Royal and helps gather information on the slavers and then goes back with Kin to Kin's settlement in the mountains.

Carrie Penney

Carrie is the young girl that is with Diana when Diana is kidnapped. There are those in the village that would have gone after Carrie if she had not been with Diana. Carrie's sister is married to Yance.

Joseph Pittingel

Joseph Pittingel is running the slaving operation and periodically kidnaps young girls to sell in slavery. Joseph is careful to only take young girls who are not trusted or who are looked down upon in the village. Joseph is a person of very high stature. Max Bauer



works for Joseph. It is unknown what becomes of Joseph. He is badly wounded by Kin aboard the Abigail but Joseph is able to get off the boat. However, it is not explained where he goes or if he is ever seen again.

Madam Adele Legare

This is one of the young girls taken into slavery a year before Diana and Carrie are kidnapped. Adele is able to keep her head and at her auction she points at the man that she wants to buy her and he does. After she is bought she tells him she will be his willing wife or a willing slave but that if she is a slave she will make his life a hell. He marries her and he becomes quite happy and she loves her husband. It is Adele's sworn statement of what Joseph Pittingel did to her that Kin comes to get.

Captain Tilly

Tilly knew Kin's father, Barnabas. Tilly's boat is given to him by Barnabas and the boat is named after Kin's mother, Abigail. Tilly takes Kin to and back from Port Royal.

Tenaco

Tenaco is the skinny old Indian that comes to find Yance. He finds Kin instead. He has been shot by a musket ball by someone in Diana's village who does not want anyone to come looking for the girls. Tenaco goes with Kin and Yance to the village where the girls live but does not stay with them. He is not seen again.



Objects/Places

Cape Ann

Cape Ann is the place where Diana and Carrie live. It is here that Kin and Yance first go to discover what has happened to the girls. They are not warmly received here.

Port Royal

Port Royal is where the ships are going to sell their slaves and this is where Kin goes to find out information about the girls that have been previously sold. When Kin arrives at Port Royal he discovers that life is worth very little there and that it is a common occurrence for people to be killed for money or less. While here Kin is forced to fight several times and becomes engaged in a sword fight.

The Abigail

The Abigail is the name of the ship that Kin takes to get to Port Royal and back home. The ship's captain, Tilly, gets the ship from Kin's father and it is named after Kin's mother. When they are returning home the ship is attacked and is hulled in several places. The ship holds together long enough to get to shore and it is thought that it can be repaired.

Witch

It is thought that Diana is a witch and the settlement in which she lives refuses to go and look for her believing that they are free of her wickedness now. Those in the village have been told that witches love the darkness and Diana often walks at night alone. Diana also reads books which is wrong for a woman and Diana has cross words with a person in her settlement and the next day that person's milk cow dries up. It is believed that if Diana goes home after being freed from such circumstances that she will be burned at the stake since no one but a witch could have gotten away.

Moccasins

Moccasins are the shoes that Indians wear. It is also these kinds of shoes that Kin and Yance prefer to wear. Kin says that in these kinds of shoes your toes can grip better, you can feel a twig before you crunch it and they have several other advantages over boots. Despite their benefits, they also wear out more quickly.



Pequots

Pequots are the Indians that are initially blamed for taking Diana and Carrie. After Yance and Kin take a look they realize that this tribe could not be responsible although Joseph Pittingel insists it to be true. The Pequots are never actually seen in the story.

Catawba

The Catawba are friends to Kin and his settlement. The Catawba travel back with Kin to his home when he and Diana get off the boat. They fight with Kin and the others in the settlement against Max Bauer and his men.

Slavers

The main slavers seen in the story are Joseph Pittingel and his men. These people forcibly take men and women into bondage and sell them in different places. There are other slavers that are talked about as well, by people such as Henry.

Sword

Kin has been taught how to fight with a sword. This comes in handy several different times during the story. Kin says that he was born on a buffalo rug while his mother was being protected by a swordsman during a battle with Indians. Kin's ability with a sword will save his own life and Diana's in the story.

Poker

Diana throws Kin a poker from the fire when Max Bauer is trying to kill Kin. Kin is not able to kill Max with the weapon but it saves his life and gives him a chance. Kin spears Lashan, Max's man with the poker.



Themes

The Struggle for Power

The struggle for power comes quickly into play in the story. Before anything is known of the kidnapped girls in the story it is seen that there is a clear struggle that is taking place between the different people in newly founded America. When the old Indian is seen by Kin, Kin knows that it may be a trap or that others may be following the old Indian that will kill Kin when he shows himself. There is a lot of detail given to the struggles between the different tribes of Indians and the role that white men play in this ongoing conflict. Kin explains that if you choose one group of Indians to befriend then you have automatically chosen others to be enemies with.

In addition to this there is a struggle for power between America and the King in England. This struggle seems to be more over money and issues of governance. This struggle is often seen as a struggle that must take place in a court system rather than a battle of strength. Kin's brother, who is practicing law in England, seems to be a source of hope for Kin and the others in his settlement, perhaps regarding what they can do to keep their land legally.

In addition to this there is the individual struggle for power that is seen. This struggle is seen between Kin and Max Bauer as well as in the background of slavery. These struggles for power make up the central plots of the story.

Slavery

Slavery quickly becomes part of the main plot when it is discovered why the two white girls have been kidnapped from their homes. When Kin is trying to think of a way to put an end to the selling of girls into bondage, he is told that there are many that might look down on slavery but that slavery is not illegal and so there is nothing can be done without proof that the girls were going to be sold as slaves.

Kin appears to be against slavery, as are many other characters in the book. Henry is a unique character in the story and somewhat hard to understand. Henry was born free and had been in a position of power. Henry had been selling slaves when he himself had been taken as a slave. Despite the fact that he has become a slave he refuses to say that it is wrong to have slaves. Henry has very strong views about slavery. Henry tells Kin that some men that believe that they are free are slaves, more than they realize.

The issue of slavery is a clear theme in the book. It is looked at from many different sides and it is important to take notice of the fact that slavery does not equal unhappiness. There are many slaves in the book who make a life for themselves that allow them more freedom and power than many free men could have. Henry gives a



story of one such slave that his father owned and explains how the man became rich as a king when he returned hom.

The Need for Information

The need for information is seen in several different ways in the story. The central plot focuses on Kin trying to find a way to prove that Diana was kidnapped with the intent to sell her as a white slave in Port Royal. Kin is desperate for information that leads him to a point at which he can positively identify Diana's captors and their intent. This need for information leads him to Port Royal and eventually to the young girl that is taken from her home a year before hand and sold into slavery. This need for information often leads Kin into very dangerous situations. With this information Kin believes that he can stop the slave trading that is taking place.

In addition to this, is the need for information that is seen in the individuals in the story. The people in Diana's settlement believe she may be a witch and blame this in part to the fact that she spends large amounts of time reading. This clearly indicates their belief that a woman should not be educated. It seems clear that if the people in the settlement had more information then they would have been more tolerant of Diana and her different ways. It also seems that Kin was interested in having a way for there to be information and knowledge spread to the the people in his settlement. Kin is describing Diana's father and says that the man would make a good teacher in their community. This shows Kin's belief that there is a need for information in a much broader sense rather than just in regards to one situation or problem, but as a way of life.



Style

Point of View

The point of view in the story is told in third person, past tense. It is omniscient and comes primarily from Kin during the story. Diana Macklin's experience will be the source at one point in the story. This will add to the knowledge of what Kin and Yance are up against while tracking the girls. The emotions of characters will be revealed quite often during the story but it is quickly seen that some things are left unexplained, such as Diana's feelings for Kin. This may be in part due to the fact that Kin is unsure of her feelings and confused by her actions. Other times in the story it will be clear what other characters are feeling. It may be that Diana hides her feelings better than others and this is the reason that it is left unknown.

The story is part of a series that is all based on the same family, the Sacketts. While the previous stories laid the foundation for Kin and Yance's life, it is clear that previous books have little relevance to the actual story taking place. There will be constant mention of past exploits of other members of the Sackett family. There will be exposition to explain what is going on and the role that Kin and Yance play in their settlement. There will be a lot of dialog between characters but it will remain that much of the background information will come from inner thoughts and information deemed necessary.

Setting

The story takes place primarily in America roughly in the year 1620. Kin and Yance live off in the mountains in a settlement which their father helped establish. Kin is the appointed leader of the men and most seem to look up to him. Kin is very at home in the mountains but has to leave this setting to go to Cape Ann after learning that two girls, one of which is Yance's wife's little sister, has been taken. There is a lot of information that is given that is very detailed so that the book is historically correct. There are even names of various characters in the story that have been researched.

Another setting in the story will be that of Port Royal, a very disturbing place. Another place Kin will spend a great deal of time and fight is aboard the ship Abigail. This ship is named after Kin's mother.

While there is much that is fictional about characters and places in the story it is clear that the author used his resources to make sure the elements of the book were as accurate as possible. This makes the story very believable in regards to the setting and characters.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is somewhat hard to completely understand at moments. This book's setting takes place at a time when there are many different types of people coming to the newly founded America. There are odd sayings and dialects. These are used to distinguish a person's origin. Kin can speak with some of the Indians in their own tongue during the story. The only way that it is known that he is speaking in their language is the exposition that is given and the fact that Diana often has to ask for an explanation of what is being talked about.

Kin and his brother often do not seem to talk to each other. They have been together long enough that their speech seems to be done with actions and intuition rather than with words. This will also appear to be true when Kin is with some of the Indians. It appears as if Kin understands their culture enough that speech is often unnecessary. While the speech is different in the story it is quickly understood when taken in the context of the rest of the story. There are times when it will be easier to understand something a character has said when the next person's response is introduced.

Structure

The story consists of two-hundred and twenty-six pages. It is further divided into twenty-four chapters that will vary in length. This story is the third in a series focusing on the Sackett family. At the beginning of the story there is a list of the stories in this series. This list will give the dates in which the stories take place. There will be large gaps in the times between some of the books but others will be put very closely together, such as the first two books. The first book in the series is set in 1600 and the second is between 1600 and 1620. A actual definitive year is not given but only a rough idea of the time.

There is an author's note in the front of the book explaining that there was research done on the Reverend Blackstone and Samuel Maverick and that they both existed. Also, Shawmut becomes what is known as present day Boston. In the back of the book there is a piece written by the author about his own life and other works. At the very end of chapter twenty-one there is a brief mention of previous books in the Sackett series. Both of these are cited and explained in case the exact origin of the story is desired.



Quotes

"What I hoped for was a fat bear, what I got was a skinny Indian." Chapter 1, p. 1.

"Well, I just looked at him, and then I said, 'Pa always said, 'I want it understood that no Sackett is ever alone as long as another Sackett lives.'"" Chapter 1, p. 9.

"He was shot only just after he left here, shot by someone who both had a musket and who did not want him bringing help." Chapter 2, p. 21.

"If the men who had taken the girls were slavers, then they must be careful not to be found, and we were searching for them." Chapter 4, p. 38.

"What happened within these woods no man would know, and many had died here, unmourned and unknown, and so would it be with us if we erred even slightly." Chapter 6, p. 53.

"Also, they dared not let us escape, for once it was known that white girls were being taken, they would be hunted down." Chapter 7, p. 60.

"In any event, slavery is no crime, although frowned upon in many quarters." Chapter 9, p. 80.

"To find one girl, Kin, I doubt if it can be done, yet you are your father's son, and he was not a man to be stayed by doubt." Chapter 11, p. 96.

"I was born on a buffalo robe in the heat of an Indian battle with a swordsman standing above my mother to defend her during her labor." Chapter 17, p. 155.

"And then, suddenly, she was there coming up alongside like a black ghost from a black and glassy sea." Chapter 18, p. 171.

"One name hung in the back of my mind, the name of a man who knew how to hate, a man who would not be frustrated, our enemy always. Max Bauer." Chapter 20, p. 191.

"You give us Sackett and that Macklin girl and we won't burn you out. If you don't surrender them, we'll kill you, every one!" Chapter 22, p. 202.

"Give her to me and that letter and you shall go free and we'll not burn your fort. After all, there are other women." Chapter 24, p. 223.

"Our Catawbas had scattered into the woods, and I knew there would be no stragglers reaching the coast, not even to report what had happened." Chapter 24, p. 225.

"The most hospitable of people to friends, against enemies they were ruthless." Chapter 24, p. 226.



Topics for Discussion

Describe the differences between Kin and Yance. What about them is the same?

What role does Henry play in the story? Why is it that he is not often mentioned although he is seemingly with Kin for most of his trip?

Is the story a believable one? In what way?

Adele and Diana were both targeted to be kidnapped. In what ways are these two characters similar? Did these traits contribute to what made them targets for slavers? Explain.

How is slavery viewed in the story? What is Kin's view of slavery? How does this compare to Henry's view?

Why was Pittingel unwilling to let Kin and Diana go after they escaped? If Pittingel had not chased them, how would Pittingel's fate have been different?

Describe Max Bauer's character. What characteristics made him such a dangerous opponent for Kin?

Why does Kin seem so sure that Diana will not be interested in a man like him? What does this suggest about Kin?

Why does Diana tell Kin that maybe she has changed her mind about marrying him? Has she truly thought about changing her mind? Explain your reasoning.