

When the Lion Feeds Study Guide

When the Lion Feeds by Wilbur Smith

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Plot Summary

When the Lion Feeds by Wilbur Smith is a gripping saga beginning with the introduction of twin brothers in Natal in the 1870's. Sean and Garrick Courtney are as close as two brothers can be, and as different at the same time. Bonded from birth, their lives intertwine. Sean is the dominant brother—his father's favorite, and Garrick is mostly content to follow in his shadow. It is this dynamic that orchestrates the hunting accident leaving Garrick without a leg, and Sean responsible. With considerable guilt, Sean is easily manipulated, and Garrick uses this to his advantage regularly. Sean becomes his protector, his confidante, his get-out-of-work-free card, and his safety net until war changes everything.

When they are separated by assignments in battle, Garrick is left without his brother's helping hand for the first time, and inadvertently rises to the occasion. When set upon by Zulu tribesmen outnumbering them greatly, Garrick stumbles, jamming his arm through the door locks just as the Zulus are breaking in, saving the lives of most. The pain is so severe when the compound fractures occur that in shock he does not remove it and the Zulus continue to try to break in. Garry is a hero. It is an event that will change the course of his life. With Waite Courtney's death in battle, fate takes a turn. Garrick believes Sean is dead also, and he resents the great wealth he now has, happy to give it all up to have Sean back. Feeling as though there is little to live for, he welcomes a visit from Sean's girlfriend, Anna. When she tells Garry that she carries Sean's child, he rises to the occasion and proposes. Anna, seeking relief from constant poverty and a father for her baby, accepts and while they honeymoon, Sean returns to Theunis Krall. Anna's true feelings come to the surface in a shocking accusation that sets brother against brother and sends Sean on a journey of self growth and discovery.

Garrick discovers the courage he can tap from alcohol, and covers his feelings of social ineptness by dulling them with alcohol. When the great cattle disease strikes he loses half the stock and has to take out a mortgage on the family estate again. Sean finds great wealth but still lacks something in his life and when Hradsky cleans Sean and Dufford out, he is actually relieved. He goes on to rediscover the simplest pleasures, hunting ivory in the bushveld. He loses his best friend there, but finds the love of his life and what she gives him he treasures and values more than all the wealth he has ever had. The adventure finally sends him back out into the bush with his son alone, mourning the loss of his wife and thinking about Ladyburg.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 1-3

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 1-3 Summary

When the Lion Feeds by Wilbur Smith is a gripping saga beginning with the introduction of twin brothers in Natal in the 1870's. Sean and Garrick Courtney are as close as two brothers can be, and as different at the same time. Bonded from birth, their lives intertwine. Sean is the dominant brother—his father's favorite, and Garrick is mostly content to follow in his shadow. It is this dynamic that orchestrates the hunting accident leaving Garrick without a leg, and Sean responsible. With considerable guilt, Sean is easily manipulated, and Garrick uses this to his advantage regularly. Sean becomes his protector, his confidante, his get-out-of-work-free card, and his safety net until war changes everything.

It all begins one afternoon when Sean and Garrick go hunting. On the way home Garrick sees the largest inkonka he has ever seen. Immediately, they begin trying to figure out how to catch him, discarding several ideas before Sean mentions their father's shotgun. He reminds Garrick that both their parents will be in town the following day, and says he knows where to find two shells their father has forgotten about. The next morning, Waite Courtney helps his wife into the buggy, and gives his sons last minute instructions. As soon as they are gone, Sean heads for the rifle and they go back into the woods. Sean tells Garry to count to one thousand, and then head towards the ridge making noise to flush the inkonka. He does as he is told and the plan works. Sean takes aim and fires, hitting the bush buck with the first shot. Excited he calls out asking if he saw the shot when he trips over a branch and goes down. The shot is loud, surprising him, and he is shaken for a moment. Then he sees Garrick is down and his leg is a mess. He quickly realizes Garrick is losing a great deal of blood and uses his belt as a tourniquet. Racing home to get Joseph, he returns with three Zulu servants and making a litter they carry Garrick home. When Waite and Ada return, they bundle him up immediately and take him in to the doctor. Sean watches them leave, but is unable to wait around for news. He hops on a mare and rides her bareback the eight miles into town. He enters the doctor's and Waite calls him over, telling him that they are about to remove Garrick's leg, and insists that Sean stand beside him and watch.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Though emotionally close, twin brothers Garrick and Sean could not be more different. Perhaps that helps to make their bond as strong as it is, as they compliment each other perfectly. Sean is outgoing, confident and aggressive in his demeanor where Garry is more of a follower than a leader. Garry is not confident, and relies heavily on Sean emotionally. He defers to Sean, except when hunting, where he is easily his equal and happy to display it. Had Garrick been more confident, he might have convinced Sean that taking their father's shotgun was a bad idea. If he had stood up to his brother, he might have been able to keep his leg, if not a dare devil reputation.



When Sean discharges the rifle the second time and hits Garrick, he cements the dynamic they are in. Garrick will forever be dependent to some degree because of his leg—even if only emotionally, and Sean will always feel guilty and responsible for his brother's misfortune. As their home is in the outback, they travel a great deal by foot and easily run all day together to hunt or explore. All this will change for them both now.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 4-6

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 4-6 Summary

Waite is very careful that night when he drives the buggy home with Garrick. Sean is cold and feeling sick to his stomach after watching Garrick's leg being removed. The servants wait anxiously, asking if there is anything they can do, but Garrick is in this fight on his own. Waite has a flash of anger at Sean's responsibility for this tragic accident, but Ada convinces him quickly that Sean has suffered enough. Instead, they both sit by Garrick's bed and pray for the best. The next few days are a delirious fog to Garrick. He drifts in and out, feverish and whimpering. The stump oozes and smells with infection, stitches pulling so tight with swelling it almost seems to tear the skin. Ada never leaves his side. Sean sits in silent misery, ignored by all including the staff. Lonely, he is overwhelmed with guilt and remorse. The third day, Waite comes from Garrick's room with an urgency and asks Karlie to quickly saddle Rooiberg. Garrick is dying. Waite climbs on the stallion and races for Ladyburg to bring the doctor. Sean goes up to Garrick's room and immediately understands. The smell of death is in the room. Great racking sobs overwhelm him as Ada tries to comfort him. When Waite returns with the doctor, Sean is chased out and again he sits and waits. By morning the fever breaks, and Garrick can finally begin the long healing process. His first words are to ask where Sean is.

The process is slow though. It is a full week before he can even feed himself. Sean sits with him for hours on end. Then it is time to go back to school. From then on, Garrick lives for the weekends when Sean comes back. Waite patiently whittles a wooden leg that Garrick can hardly wait to try, but the doctor cautions him to go slow or risk infection. All Garry can think of is how surprised Sean will be and in no time, he is clumping his way around the room. Waite and Ada dare to believe that he will be alright when suddenly, Garry is seized with an unreasonable fear of falling. He wants the peg leg removed immediately and shrieks in terror. Waite and Ada remove the peg, but Garry is already in a fugue state. He remains unconscious until almost dinner, and when he comes sheepishly downstairs for dinner, no one mentions the leg.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Garry begins a long and slow recovery. Part of him is never the same. When Sean returns to school, Waite finishes the leg he has been whittling for Garrick. Though anxious to try it out at first, Garry discovers a new fear of his own height and his mind retreats to a safe fog in his hysteria. He is unconscious for hours, and when he wakes he goes downstairs sheepishly for dinner as though nothing untoward has happened. The leg is not mentioned. Garry's lack of confidence plays a large part in his recovery as he wrestles with his new status on his peg leg.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 7-9

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 7-9 Summary

Every Friday afternoon Sean returns to Theunis Kraal and brings with him life, noise, hustle and bustle and laughter. Waite looks at him with undisguised pride. This Friday is no exception, and the mood is gay until Sean asks his father if Garry's new leg is finished. From there, the attitude grows tense and terse, without Sean understanding why. When they are alone afterward, Garry makes no attempt to explain the outburst to Sean. The following day when Waite returns to the homestead for breakfast, he asks Joseph where the boys are, and finds out they are on the front veranda with Garry's leg. Waite is frantic at first that there will be a repeat episode of terror from Garry, but when he gets close, he hears them talking outside. He watches quietly as Garrick struggles to stay on his feet while Sean helps him balance. Ada stands with Waite and watches for a moment before pulling him away.

It is June of 1876 before Garry is ready to get back to school with Sean. The school is in Ladyburg which is just far enough to make traveling back and forth each day impractical so along with others in the same predicament, they stay at the Ladyburg hostel during the week. They hardly have time to settle in before Anna arrives and asks Sean how his holidays were, and whether or not she can sit beside him this term. He quickly turns her down, and her expression prompts Garry to offer the seat next to him instead. She giggles suddenly and calling him peg leg, leaves him standing there. Garry retreats into silence again.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Learning to use the prosthesis his father makes for him is more difficult than Garrick thinks it will be. Though overwhelmed with fear during the first attempt, with Sean home he finds renewed courage to master the leg. Without telling either parent, the boys get the leg and with Sean's encouragement, Garry is soon upright and stomping up and down the front veranda with a degree of confidence. Garry has little choice. He has to master the leg if he wants to increase his level of freedom, and knowing this, he is determined. The return to school is something Garry looks forward to, but it takes no time at all before Anna shows up and fawns over Sean, who ignores her almost completely. When Garry is a gentleman and offers her a seat after Sean tells her to leave him alone, she forgets how upset she is about Sean's rudeness and instead laughs at Garry. It is not the boost his ego so badly needs to help him out from under his brother's shadow.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 10-12

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 10-12 Summary

Mr. Clark is the teacher this year, and he is short on patience and long on punishment. Sean recognizes this immediately, and makes it his mission to drive Mr. Clark crazy. Mr. Clark believes that the only cure for a problem student is to ferret him out right away, but when he confronts Sean he finds himself with a student who will not back down. Karl passes him a note on which the word mosquitoes is written. Sean stifles a grin and begins to drive Mr. Clark mad with his incredibly realistic impression of a flying and landing mosquito. Mr. Clark wanders the room, seeking the culprit, and though Sean is smart, Mr. Clark is smarter. He walks down the aisle, corrects the writing of a student beside Sean, and then without warning hits Sean across the side of the head hard. Sean is almost knocked right off his chair. Mosquito on your ear, he tells Sean.

The next two years pass quickly as the boys turn into men. Garry's reliance on Sean increases, and Sean is his defender. Sean grows hair in unfamiliar places, and Waite gives the boys an early Christmas present of guns of their own, engraved. Sean is thrilled, but deep down Garry has been hoping for a set of Dickens. Also notable is Sean's discovery of Anna. She intercepts him on his way to go fishing one morning and he ends up with her company for the morning. He is unable to dissuade her from coming, but before he knows it everything changes and he finds that he is more interested in Anna than in fishing. This begins his sexual exploits. When he gets home, he is so filled with the experience that he has to share it with someone, so he tells Garry about it. He is so involved in his own feelings that he does not notice the jealous look that is Garry's first response. Sean continues to find ways to torment Mr. Clark. The latest is imitation of the sniffles. When Garrick shows up with a cold and quite innocently sniffles, Mr. Clark loses control. He crosses the room to Garrick in a flash and began banging his head against the desk. Sean knows the likely cause is his imitations from the previous day, and comes to Garrick's rescue. He hits Mr. Clark so hard that he falls over the desks backwards. Anger gives way to rage, and he orders both Sean and Garrick to leave and not come back. To their surprise Waite is not angry. He tells the boys that they start work in the morning, his comment to Ada is merely that he wishes he had been there to see it.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

Sean and the teacher, Mr. Clark are at loggerheads. Mr. Clark wants respect and obedience, and Sean is unwilling to take the type of corrections Mr. Clark doles out. Every chance he gets, Sean torments Mr. Clark. He imitates every noise and sniffle that Mr. Clark makes and does it well enough that the teacher is completely agitated. Sean's knack for imitations includes mosquitoes, and when he tries that trick, Mr. Clark has a tactic of his own. When the noise stops as he nears Sean, he slaps Sean across the head and then calmly tells him that a mosquito was on his head.



Slowly the boys grow into men. Sean allows Anna to follow him when he goes fishing one day, and suddenly he finds his interest growing. He cannot take his eyes off her, and the tables turn. Until now, Anna has been the pursuer, but Sean finds himself attracted to her and cannot ignore his feelings. Anna is now in control. As a symbol of their coming adulthood, Waite buys both of his boys a rifle for Christmas and allows the boys to have the gifts early. Sean is beside himself with excitement, but Garry hides his disappointment. He has little interest in guns since the shot that took his leg. He would rather have the collection of Dickens instead. Sean's clowning around results in both boys being kicked out of school. For a change, it is Mr. Clark who is out of line, and while they expect Waite to explode, he is very calm about it, and simply tells them that the next day is their first day of work. With 5000 acres and 200 head of cattle, there is plenty to be done. Garry merely has to tell Sean his stump hurts, and Sean immediately offers to do his chores as well. All without Waite's knowledge, Sean works twice as hard to accomplish his chores and Garry's as well.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 13-15

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 13-15 Summary

Waite accepts the position of chairman for the Beef Grower's Association and asks Ada to come with him so Sean drives them into Ladyburg, where they get on a train to Pietermaritzburg. He sees Anna just before leaving, and arranges to meet her on Sunday by the waterfall. He goes home to find Garry reading in his room and asks why he is not branding but Garry starts complaining. Sean is responsible for mixing the new dip in the tanks, but he controls his temper and suggests that Garry do the tanks instead. He reminds Garry that all six have to be done, and then goes to do the branding Garry is supposed to. The next morning they begin dipping cattle. Garry starts, and when Sean joins him, he is splashed by the dip and a few seconds later, the drop on his cheek begins to burn. Within seconds, he realizes what is wrong and stops the dipping. The cows who have been dipped are already starting to show signs of distress. He tries herding them into the river, but it is already too late. Most die before they get there, and Sean is beside himself with anger and grief over the loss. All together, thirteen head are lost. Garry tells Sean he is sorry. He was tired, and his leg was sore. With four tanks still to do, he knew he could not finish so he emptied all the dip into one tank, hoping it would work. Sean's anger fades, and he opens the ledger writing the number thirteen in the deaths column and dip poisoning after it. It takes Sean and the herd staff all day to drain the tank and he has to work hard to finish in order to meet Anna the next day. When Waite returns with Ada, he brings news from the governor, but wants the local cattlemen assembled before he shares it. The next day the men gather at Theunis Kraal. Waite tells them the Governor has asked him to raise a commando from the Ladyburg area. He tells them that he promised the Governor forty armed men, mounted and ready. There is a traditional declaration of war by the Zulus. The Governor made Waite a full colonel before he left. When the men leave, Sean tells Waite that he thinks they should sell everything now except the breeding cows and after the war buy them back at half the price. He also suggests they buy or lease as much land as possible now so that they have enough for grazing later. Waite is so proud he is almost bursting, but tries not to show it. He tells Sean that, at this rate, he will be a rich man one day.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 13-15 Analysis

After turning them down several times, Waite finally feels comfortable enough to accept the nomination for Chairman of the Beef Grower's association. While he and Ada are in Pietermaritzburg, Garry continues to try to get out of work by using Sean's guilt against him. Waite asks him to brand, but he whines and Sean finally trades chores with him, leaving Garry to mix the six dip tanks for the following day. Instead of doing them all like he is supposed to, he gets lazy and tosses all of the mix into one tank, resulting in thirteen cattle deaths. Sean is so angry he is ready to beat Garry, but Garry pleads stupidity, and again Sean leaves him alone.



When Waite comes home, and sees the deaths, he calls Sean into his office. Sean takes responsibility for the deaths, leaving Garry out of it, and Waite is more angry that Sean lies than he is about the cattle. He takes his whip and strikes Sean twice with it before Sean hits back. The result almost has Waite unconscious. The next day, the local cattlemen assemble at Waite's request, and he tells them about his meeting with the Governor. Not only is Waite made a colonel, but he is asked to assemble up to forty armed men from the Ladyburg area and have them ready for war with the Zulus. After they leave, Sean approaches Waite with some ideas he has to save and make money. One is to sell all the cattle excepting breeding stock, and buy them back after the war at half price, and the other idea is to use that money to buy or lease as much land as they can now before war makes grazing ground hard to get. Waite is fairly bursting with pride for his son, but he tries not to show it.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 16-18

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 16-18 Summary

New Year's Eve of 1879 is a double celebration for the townsfolk of Ladyburg. The excitement of New Year's is combined with the date that the Commando regiment is set to move out. All roads into Ladyburg are busy as men come with their sons armed for war, and families gather for festivities in town. The wagons multiply around the perimeter, but the center of town remains open for the braaivleis pits, trestle tables, and women preparing all kinds of food. A level place is used to dance by spreading a large buck sail with lanterns at all four corners on poles. The band tunes up, and men gather in knots to discuss more serious matters. Captains already decided, the troops are divided, and it is decided that men will not be in the same troop as their sons, as no man should see his son die, or son watch his father die. It is a sentiment understood by all.

Anna gives Sean a sheepskin she stitches. It is tanned and polished, and the wool inside is white as snow. It is beautiful, and Sean can see how much work went into it. He thanks her, saying they should say goodbye properly. He reminds her that he may not see her again, which is something she has not even considered. Up until now, she has just concentrated on coping while he is gone. It never occurs to her that she might never see him again. He leads her easily to the wagon, smiling with all the charm he can muster.

The next morning Garry tells Sean that he has been made one of the wagon drivers. It is almost five o'clock, and everyone is waiting for Waite Courtney to lead them. Sean and Garry say goodbye, going to their assigned posts, and Waite, sitting at the front of the column of men, starts the procession forward. The women line up, quietly watching them go by. Finally the town is behind them, and they are on the way to Zululand. The column breaks up and men ride with friends and talk as they ride. They lack the soldier's discipline, mostly because they are a collection of farmers. They reach Tugela in mid-afternoon and head down the slope for Rorke's Drift where 4000 men are already assembled. Waite rides up to the orderly officer and is immediately sent to the other side of the Engineers—as far as possible to avoid the General seeing them.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 16-18 Analysis

Colonel Waite Courtney manages to assemble a motley group of soldiers, each dressed in whatever they believe will be most comfortable, and when they leave Ladyburg on New Year's Day 1879, it is with the knowledge that some of them may not return. Sean uses this to his advantage as he convinces Anna that they should consummate their relationship before he leaves. She is reluctant at first, but gives in when she realizes he might not return at all. Later, they leave as heroes, wives and girlfriends quietly watching as they ride off. Despite their ragged appearance, they are prepared to defend their



home and property. When they arrive at Rorke's Drift and Colonel Courtney announces them to the orderly officer, the officer responds by assigning them a spot as far away as possible. He does not want the General to see such a rag-tag bunch. The Ladyburg Mounted Rifles form a solid bunch behind their Colonel, ready for battle.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 19-21

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 19-21 Summary

Garrick's comes out of it to a cheerful voice that welcomes him back. The doctor looks at Garry and tells him he is being sent home the following day and that he has been put in for the Victoria cross. Garry, still confused, asks if there was fighting. The man beside him assures him there was. He asks about Sean and his father, and apologizing, the doctor tells him they are dead. Garry remembers seeing the messenger. On sentry duty as the rider approaches, he sees that the man is injured and bleeding. He lives long enough to tell them that the column is wiped out, and tells them to prepare themselves before sliding off his horse. They look up to see the Zulus coming. Having looted the dead and wearing things they have taken, they swarm the river in their crossing. The sergeant who mans the Gatling gun tells them to be steady, and not to fire until they are close enough. Then they fire, reload, and fire again. This is all Garry remembers. The cockney man next to him fills him in on the rest. He tells Garry that they held off twenty three attacks and when the Zulus piled wood up against the walls and set it on fire, they knocked a hole in the back wall and moved sick and wounded men to the store. Only a few not carrying wounded, Garry among them, were left to hold off the Zulu assault. The bar came off the door, and Garry remembers losing his footing on the empty shell casings, falling forward and jamming his arm into the bars on the door just as the Zulus hit it. The arm shatters, and still the Zulus pound at the door. He has no awareness of pain at the time. The cockney tells him with admiration that he saved them all. When they beat the Zulus back, Garry is unconscious, and has been ever since.

Garry wants Sean back. Ada arrives the next day to bring Garry home. She has aged since becoming a widow. Her grief is walled up, and she keeps it there while she wades through the platitudes offered. She is not the only woman in widow's black. Her sorrow barely contained, she urges Garry to leave and taking the reins she heads for home. Theunis Kraal is all his now, she tells him. He is the master now. Garry does not want any of it. He still wants Sean.

Not long afterward, Anna pays him a visit. He welcomes the distraction, though Anna speaks almost entirely of Sean and their last night together. Her father has been killed as well and her brothers are still at Tugela. Garry offers her money, but Anna is not looking for a loan. She tells Garry that she is pregnant, and the baby is Sean's. Garry is speechless for a moment, but when he recovers he proposes. She agrees to marry him the very next day, but not in Ladyburg. She does not want people to talk.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 19-21 Analysis

Garrick has once again retreated to the safety of his mind. Whenever life is too much for him to handle, he fades into the blackness of his own brain. This time, as he slowly regains consciousness, he finds himself in a clinical environment. He cannot remember



how he got there, and at first does not understand his injuries, but slowly most of it comes back. What he does not remember himself, the man next to him in bed does and fills in the blanks. He finds out that both Sean and his father are dead. The blow of losing Sean overshadows everything else. He does not care that they think he is a hero. He does not want a medal. The truth is that he stumble and fell. The fact that his arm landed where it did was sheer dumb luck. It certainly was not intentional, but he does not share that. He just wants Sean back. Ada comes to get him and gently tells him on the way home that he is now lord of the manor, and that it all belongs to him. Garry does not want any of it. He just wants Sean. When Anna comes to visit him, he is grateful for the company, but Anna has ulterior motives. She is pregnant with Sean's baby, and does not want to have a child out of wedlock. Her father has been killed and her older brothers are not around. She is scared and lonely, and when Garry suggests they get married, she jumps at the idea. When he asks when, she tells him that the next day will do. Garry can only barely digest that there is a part of Sean growing in Anna now. He still has a part of Sean.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 22-24

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 22-24 Summary

The next day, Garrick and Anna go to the Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg. The marriage is a loveless affair on Anna's part, and leaving the Cathedral, Garry can hardly believe it. They go to the hotel without touching, Garry signs the register, and the clerk puts them in the honeymoon suite. They have dinner and Anna goes up to the room while Garry lingers over coffee in the lounge. When he musters the courage to go up he finds Anna in bed, and takes his nightshirt going into the bathroom to wash and change. Coming out he sits and removes his peg leg, hops to the bed and when he gets in, Anna jerks as far away as she can, begging him not to touch her. Filled with revulsion, she asks Garry to sleep in the drawing room and he agrees. He tells her he loves her, that he would never scare her intentionally, but as soon as he is out of the room, she locks the door.

In the morning, Garry is confused to find Anna in a different frame of mind. Happy and bubbly, she asks for a honeymoon, and when he agrees and warms to the idea, she adds she has nothing to wear. He immediately takes Anna to the dress shop. Then they take the Dunottar Castle mail boat from Port Natal to Capetown. Garry runs errands and watches without jealousy as she commands the attentions of young men. He sleeps on the sofa in the drawing room of their suite, but is content. Offered a drink, for the first time Garry accepts. It goes down like liquid fire, but the warmth afterward he finds pleasing. He has another, and begins participating in conversation. Someone brings up the subject of the Chelmsford Zulu campaign and Garry corrects the man with such surety that he asks if he was there. Anna explains that Garrick was part of the action at Rorke's Drift and was given the Victoria Cross for his participation. That evening, Garry dares to put his arm around Anna's waist. She tells him how much she enjoyed his company this evening and retires, and Garry sleeps happy on the sofa. In the morning, the after-effects of alcohol catch up with him and he orders a whiskey and soda for breakfast to clear his head. He drinks the whiskey neat and goes into Anna's room and kisses her good morning. They spend a glorious six weeks, shopping and enjoying each other's company. The last night Anna invites Garry to share her bed. Happy with wine and the baby she pulls Garry to her and finds him flaccid. She laughs, which is more painful to him than the blast that took his leg.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 22-24 Analysis

Anna and Garrick are married in a ceremony that reflects the depth of their relationship. They are in and out in so little time and with so little fuss that Garry can hardly believe it is done. They go to the hotel where they are given the honeymoon suite, much to Garry's embarrassment, and after he signs the register, they go for dinner. She leaves immediately afterward, while Garry stays downstairs drinking coffee, unable to find the courage to join her. When he finally does, she shrinks from him in horror and begs him



not to touch her. The relationship is now obvious to Garry, and loving her as much as he does, he does not care. He is content to sleep in another room and behave as little more than her escort. The next morning, Anna is an entirely different woman. She is happy and bubbly and asks Garry for a honeymoon. He does not understand it, but he is quick to go along with the idea. First, he buys her a wardrobe fit for a queen, at her request, and then they board a mail boat for Capetown. The trip is an education for Garry. Introduced to alcohol for the first time, he finds liquid courage and asserts himself tentatively in the crowd. Accepted and even respected for his history in the Zulu confrontation at Rorke's Drift, he begins to come out of his shell a little, and even Anna starts to look at him in a new light. They meet another honeymooning couple, and spend six weeks happily in each other's company. It is a joyous trip for Garry and on the last night he is amazed and uncertain when Anna invites him into bed for the first time. When she reaches for him and finds him flaccid, she laughs at his inadequacy and sends him back to his sofa to sleep. It is the most painful and devastating experience Garry has ever had, topping even the blast that took his leg.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 25-27

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 25-27 Summary

Garry and Anna have been gone two months by the time they return to Theunis Kraal. Ada moves into town, and Anna feels it is probably best as Ada seems to be able to read Anna too clearly, but she says none of this. Anna is taken with the cannas in bloom, gabled roof and shuttered windows. It is mine, she thinks to herself, just as she realizes that someone is standing on the front stoop. Garry and Anna both recognize Sean at the same time as he comes down the steps and into the sun.

During the Chelmsford campaign, Sean scouts ahead, with just four white men on horses, and six Nongaaai from Natal. One of them, a Zulu named Mbejane (meaning Rhinoceros) offers to hold his horse as they look for cattle in payment for their participation in this conflict. Mbejane says that in the morning the land will open and in the grassy areas they will find cattle. When they do, Steff tells Sean to climb a tree and look to see if they are heading into a trap, but Sean is anxious for confrontation. He merely glances and assures them that only a couple of young herd boys watch the fifty cattle. When the patrol enters the grassland, the herd boys run. They turn their attention to the herd just as the grass erupts with nearly a hundred Zulus in full war dress. Mbejane yells to Sean to ride quickly and then jumps into the fracas with enthusiasm. Sean rides to Mbejane and grabs him around the waist. Mbejane struggles, but Sean holds on as he rides. Before they are clear, Sean feels the sting of a Zulu blade on his leg. The blade has gone right into his horses' chest. It carries them another mile before falling over dead. Sean takes only his rifle and they run toward their main army.

At first, Sean does not believe anyone is following them, but Mbejane shows him the column of Zulus just behind them. They rest for a minute before Mbejane says the Zulus have seen them and points to the chasers that have been sent ahead. Mbejane encourages Sean to run at an even pace, despite the chasers closing in. At the top of the hill they stop and Mbejane tells Sean to look at the chasers. Their legs wobble. They run themselves out. They duck down on the other side of the crest and wait in ambush and expecting to find them at least half a mile ahead, they barrel over the crest. Sean and Mbejane kill them both, and continue on until well past dusk. Then turning, they travel quietly at right angle to the Zulu warriors. Then they pass each other in the dark. Sean and Mbejane continue quietly until finding water. Then, they stop and sleep.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 25-27 Analysis

Garry and Anna finally get back to Theunis Kraal after a two month long honeymoon. Anna is quietly thrilled when she realizes that it all belongs to her now. In her mind, she has hit the lottery and will never be poor again. The loveless relationship that is its price is inconsequential to her. As they approach, they both recognize the figure on the front stoop at the same time, but with different reactions for sure. Sean, apparently alive and



well, steps out to greet them. Sean survives the Chelmsford conflict largely because of a large Zulu named Mbejane that he is lucky enough to meet on one of his scouting excursions. Running into an ambush of almost a hundred Zulu warriors, Mbejane is saved by Sean first, and then Mbejane returns the favor by helping Sean escape the Zulu warriors who chase them for many miles. It is a bond forged in mutual respect and equality and one that will last years.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 28-30

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 28-30 Summary

The next morning when they see the dome of Isandhlwana, Mbejane says there have been no patrols, and no smoke. Sean looks up, startled to see a large wheel in the sky. The vultures are so plentiful, it is difficult to distinguish one from the other as they fly in a slow circle above the camp. Sean runs and as he gets close his worst fears are realized. The entire troop is dead, the Ladyburg men among them. He and Mbejane bury Waite, and Sean is lost for words as he stands above his grave.

Two days after the Commando disbands, Sean is home. Ladyburg is in sight, and they are driving a thousand head of cattle that five men will share equally. Sean knows that Garry and Anna are married. When he arrives at Ada's a day early, he finds her visiting with Audrey Pye. Calling her Strawberry Pie like he used to in school, he greets them, and tells them of his adventures. Six weeks pass quickly. Sean looks after three farms—theirs and two he rents from Mr. Pye, and stocks them with looted and purchased cattle. The price of prime beef drops as he expects, but they can afford to be choosy.

Living with Garry and Anna at Theunis Kraal shows Sean he should probably get married. He entertains Audrey as a candidate, looking forward to having a woman to cook and look after him. Another consideration is her connection to the bank. One morning Anna pushes Garry to tell Sean that she is pregnant which he nervously does, and Sean is thrilled for them. He never guesses the timing makes it his child, and he keeps up a happy banter about how Ada will love being a grandma. They head there together after the day's work, but Sean's horse picks up a splinter so Garry goes on without him. When Sean gets home alone and tells Anna that Garry has gone to Ada's, Anna tells Sean she still loves him. He is repulsed and quickly sets her straight. She is Garry's wife now and if he ever catches her even looking at another man, he will kill her. His expression pains her so much that she lashes out at him, scratching his cheek, and then tells him angrily that the baby is his. Confused, he leaves her and goes into Waite's study while Anna makes the decision that she will drive a wedge into the relationship that Garry and Sean have. She bites her own lip until she tastes blood, tears her dress, and when Garrick comes home half-ickled, she tells him that Sean tried to force himself on her. Garry arms himself and moments later Anna hears a single shot.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 28-30 Analysis

Sean and a small group of survivors finally make their way back to Ladyburg with a thousand cattle. Sean is still trying to absorb the loss of his father at Isandhlwana, and the trip home is saddened by his absence. It is two days of hard driving from Isandhlwana, and Sean and the others are happy to see the landmarks that tell them Ladyburg is just ahead. Ada is visiting with Audrey Pye when Sean arrives, and both are happy to see him. They regale each other with the latest news and as it gets dark, Sean



walks Audrey home. She has matured since he last saw her, and he finds his interest in her growing. The weeks pass quickly and Anna starts showing her pregnancy. When Garrick finally tells Sean, Sean just assumes the baby is Garrick's and, thrilled for them, he happily talks about how Ada will enjoy being a grandma. He is ready to go there with Garry, but on the way, his horse picks up a splinter of wood and he is forced to turn back. Garry goes on ahead without him while Sean returns to the farm. When Anna realizes that Garry has not returned with him, she throws herself at him, telling him she still loves him. Sean is appalled and pushes her away, telling her that she is Garrick's wife, and if he catches her looking at another man, he will kill her. In a sudden fit of anger, she scratches his face open with her nails, and confesses the baby is his. Sean cannot quite absorb this news and he leaves her there while he locks himself in his father's study. Anna is so angry that she decides she will ruin Sean's relationship with Garrick. She bites down on her lip until she bleeds, and then tears her dress. When Garry finally comes home full of liquor, she tells him that Sean attacked her. Garry takes Waite's service revolver out and leaves the room. A moment later, a single shot is fired.



Part 1, Natal: Chapters 31-32

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 31-32 Summary

Garry goes down the hall with the intention of killing Sean. He throws open the door and sees the scratches on Sean's face. His anger takes him past reason, and Sean never even moves as Garry raises the pistol. "She told you?" is all he can ask. Holding it with both hands, he is shaking and but when Sean softly sympathizes with him, he loses it. Garry believes Sean attacked Anna, and Sean believes Garry is angry because Sean is the father of Garrick's child. Garry throws the pistol at him and as it glances off his face it fires harmlessly. Garry tells Sean they are done forever and stumbles blindly out. Each step amplifies his misery and he continues until the rain swollen banks of the Baboon Stroom prevent him from going any further.

Sean leaves, taking little with him. Twice he loses his way, but finally finds Mbejane's kraal. Sean shouts out to him outside his beehive style hut and in moments Mbejane comes sleepily out. Sean tells him he is leaving, and asks if Mbejane will follow. It is a question he hardly need ask and within moments they are both on their way. They make their way into town and stopped at the bank in Ladyburg where Audrey's father still counts sovereigns. At the sound of people approaching, he puts his hand on his pistol, but quickly removes it after recognizing Sean. Sean asks him how much his account holds, and asks for twelve hundred of the twelve hundred and ninety six pounds that are on the ledger. While Mr. Pye counts, Sean borrows pen and paper and writes. When he finishes, he asks Pye to witness and old man Pye cannot hide his surprise. Sean is leaving his half share of Theunis Kraal to Garrick's first born. Pye tries to talk him out of it, even mentioning that he has hopes for Audrey and Sean, but Sean is determined. He takes the signed document and putting it in his pocket he decides he will mail it to Garry from Pietermaritzburg. He and Mbejane leave town and Sean's only regret is that he does not stop to say goodbye to Ada before leaving.

Part 1, Natal: Chapters 31-32 Analysis

Garry goes to Sean in the study with enough anger to kill him, but has not the courage to pull the trigger. Sean wants to try to comfort Garry somehow, not understanding what it is that Anna told him, but Garry is too distraught. He tells Sean to get out of his life for ever. Then he simply throws the gun at Sean and it goes off harmlessly. Garry runs out into the night, and standing at the swollen banks of the Baboon Stroom he feels the stress take command of his consciousness and welcomes the blackness that follows as he passes out. Sean leaves soon after, believing that Anna told Garrick that the baby is his, and that this is the issue Garry cannot cope with. He has no idea Anna has accused him of attacking her. He takes little with him, finding his way to Mbejane's kraal and shouts until Mbejane comes out. Telling him he is leaving, Sean asks Mbejane if he will come and Mbejane does not even hesitate. He grabs his spears and follows Sean into town. Mr. Pye is still counting at the bank when they arrive, and after realizing it is Sean,



he relaxes. Sean withdraws most of the cash he has in the bank, and has Mr. Pye witness a letter that wills his share of Theunis Kraal to Garrick's first born. As soon as this is accomplished, Sean and Mbejane leave town, and Sean regrets only that he has not said goodbye to Ada on his way.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 1-3

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 1-3 Summary

Sean and Mbejane turn north from Peitermaritzburg, and head for the mountains. Mbejane walks far behind Sean, leaving him to his dark thoughts and feelings. Sean rides until they reach Dundee, intending to ride through and camp on the other side, but the sounds of men change his mind. He tells Mbejane to make camp and in no time is in a bar fight with a belligerent drunk. He is ready to take them all on but gets a hand from Dufford Charleywood. Duff jokes with him, and when introductions are made, Duff takes two down and backs off to let Sean finish. Sean is not as graceful as Duff, but still accomplishes the task. Duff offers to pay the bartender for the damages, but instead, he takes Duff and Sean into the back room and shows them a large conglomerate rock that a friend of his brought from Kruger's Republic. There is a large strike at Witwatersrand just outside of Pretoria. Duff takes it and tells Charlie he will look at it later.

The next morning, when the servant arrives with coffee, Duff tells him to inform his office that he is ill, but the servant has already anticipated him. He tells Duff that there is someone very worried about Sean outside, and Sean asks him to tell Mbejane to wait. They have their coffee and Duff picks up his jacket to find the rock Charlie gave him. He begins to crush it in the mortar, and then pans to see if there is any sign of gold. Sean watches the procedure and when Duff suddenly stops, Sean looks into the pan to see a gleam in the water. He pans further, getting more excited. Finally, he suggests a fifty-fifty partnership. When Sean agrees, Duff immediately quits his job, and they agree to meet on the edge of town half an hour later.

They leave without even telling Charlie, and camp at the mouth of the pass that night. Sean asks how far they are going and Duff tells him it is fifty or sixty miles through the mountains, and then another week's riding after that. Duff tells Sean that the sample Charlie gave him was stinking with gold. Too cold to sleep, Duff tells Sean he was born thirty-one years ago, the youngest son to the sixteenth Baron of Roxby. A blue blood is Sean's description, and Duff tells him about his family. When his father died, the seventeenth Baron, his brother Tom put Duff on an allowance to small to live on. Instead, he left, heading for Canada. Duff finishes his story, and tells Sean it is his turn. Sean tells him he was born and raised in Natal and left home in painful circumstances.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Sean rides on through the day with Mbejane following at a distance to give him his space. Sean is in no mood for company. It gets colder as they get into the more mountainous area, but still Sean continues until they finally reach Dundee. Sean asks Mbejane to make camp on the other side of town and goes into the bar for a drink. He has no trouble finding an outlet for the pent up frustration he is feeling, and before the bar fight is finished, he has an ally in Dufford Charleywood who jumps in to lend a hand.



When the last man falls, Sean sits down with Duff for a drink. Duff tells the bartender Charlie that he will pay for the damages, but Charlie would rather have Duff take a look at a mining sample he has. Duff puts it in his pocket, telling Charlie he will deal with it later, and in the morning when he finally gets around to it, he finds it rich with gold. Amazed and excited, he offers Sean a partnership of sorts. Sean's thousand dollars, five hundred from Duff and Duff throws in his mining experience. An equal partnership is their agreement, and half an hour later Duff quits his job and they are gathering on the outskirts of town to leave. They leave without even telling Charlie, and push hard until they reach the mouth of the mountain pass. Stopping, they huddle around the fire, and exchange brief histories.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 4-6

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 4-6 Summary

They climb to the high veld. A ribbon of road stretches before them and they follow excitedly until they see the signpost. Right points to Pretoria and left points to Witwatersrand. The left fork is well used and Sean rides faster until they come up the ridge and see tents and wagons scattered as far as they can see. A four stamp mill is running, but they have the advantage of money. When men get tired of working claims that do not pay out right away, they will be inclined to sell. Duff sees Francois du Toit—who worked the diamond fields with him. They catch up, and he tells Duff there are three reefs running side by side like layers. The outer reef has traces, the main reef is six feet thick in places, but the bottom one is the winner. Francois tells him that his boss has gone to raise money for a list of a hundred and forty claims he intends to buy on his return. At the top of the list is a block owned by Candy Rautenbach who operates an eating house on the banks of the Natal Spruit.

Hearing that, they make Candy's hotel their next stop. Candy makes her way around the room greeting guests and when she reaches them, they do her the courtesy of standing in her presence. Touched, she tells them to sit, and asks where they are from. Duff tells her he is Sean's mining adviser, and she tells them about the claims she holds. When it is clear that they also know the great Mr. Hradsky himself, she is impressed enough to meet with them and take them to her staked properties. The next morning, Candy takes them out to see her twenty claims, and tells them she will wait for them at the hotel if they are interested. Duff picks up a few rocks, works them in his pan and tells Sean it would be worthwhile to purchase. As Duff has previous experience, Sean relies heavily on him for direction. Duff not only has the knowledge to retrieve the gold, but also the connections to buy cheap stamp mill equipment. To facilitate the deal with Candy, Sean find pretense to stay away from their meeting that evening, leaving Duff to work his wiles with her. Before the evening is done Duff has made arrangements to buy the claims. They get a lawyer to draw up the agreement, and the following evening meet with Candy again. She also wants the mine named after her, and they happily agree.

The Candy Deep is born, labor is arranged, and basic tools are purchased. Zulus are hired, and Duff shows Sean how to use dynamite. Before long, Sean is working the trenches the way Duff instructs him to, and feels confident enough to send Duff off to see his friend with the stamp mill. It is a moment of truth for them both as it requires that Sean give Duff most of the money he has after knowing him for only a few short weeks. Sean does not hesitate.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

When they finally get into the high country and find the signpost that points the way to Witwatersrand, they are both excited to have found it and disappointed to see the road



so well traveled. It means many have gone before them. They head down to the action, and Duff immediately spots an old friend and fellow miner. He owes Duff for having saved him once, and now returns the favor by telling Duff and Sean where he believes the gold lies. He then settles his debt with Duff by revealing that his boss is about to enter into negotiations for claims belonging to a restaurant/hotel owner in town. Duff jumps on that information, and he and Sean immediately go to the hotel where they begin making an impression on Candella Rautenbach. The next morning, the three of them go out to see Candy's claims. There are twenty of them, and Duff is careful to contain his enthusiasm until she is out of sight again. Duff heads to town to hammer out an agreement with Candy and by the next evening lawyers have drawn up a contract. After one more stipulation—that the mine be named after her—they all sign and the Candy Deep mine is created. Sean and Duff waste no time arranging for labor, beginning to dig trenches and getting their operation under way. When everything is moving smoothly forward, they mutually decide that it is time for Duff to approach his old employer about his idle stamp mill. Without hesitation, Sean takes most of his money out and gives it to Duff, despite how short their acquaintance has been. Duff knows that this is the last reservation in their friendship, and appreciates the lack of fuss made by Sean over trusting him.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 7-9

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 7-9 Summary

After Duff leaves, Sean works relentlessly. He keeps away from Candy's hotel, and on Sundays he rides to Francois's tent. Duff returns with a convoy that strings itself out over four miles, most of the wagons double-teamed. Sean is nervous, but Duff thinks he will have it all up and running in a month. His estimate is off. Rust in every crevice makes reassembly difficult and when finally done, they head to town to carouse.

On the second day, Candy tells them claim jumpers are on the way. The state has decided the old claims are illegal, and drifters intend to put up their claims. The information sobers them quickly and as many men as can be found gather and the situation is explained to them. They know their own claims are in jeopardy. It is after midnight when the drifters make their approach. When the riders cross the boundary onto Sean and Duff's claim and they are legally able to respond, they do. Sean fires at a case of dynamite, and the resulting destruction appalls him. Moments later, the remainders rally and come up a second time. Even the Zulus want to break cover and attack, but Sean makes them stay until they are actually on Candy Deep property. Sean decides to use the boiler can, and with the help of Zulus, they tip it over and follow it down the hill, lobbing homemade grenades, and Zulus throwing spears. By the time Francois arrives with fifty diggers, there is little left to do but round up the claim jumpers who got away.

By mid-afternoon, he returns with his prisoners. Angry, Francois is ready to take matters in hand when Duff suggests they elect a committee to deal with the situation. Ten members and a chairman are elected, and the Diggers' Committee is born. A chairman is selected, and Duff accepts with thanks. Sean stands and presents their side of the issue clearly and concisely. Most of the miners favor the idea of stringing them up, but Sean and Duff calm things down. Finally, they are sentenced to one hour of roulette on the devil's wheel. Wounded are excused, but the rest are tied to wagon wheels. The wheels are lifted off the ground and spun until they blur with speed as they go around, and within ten minutes the first is puking. Before long, bowels follow, and Sean leaves gagging. Candy Deep gets her boiler fired for the first time on November 20, and the first rocks are fed in on December 2, but they are too tired to celebrate. The machine requires constant supervision so they take shifts, and after ten tons of rock have run, Duff wants to clean the tables. He shows Sean how to do it, and when the last of the mercury steams off, they are left with a drop of gold the size of a pea.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Duff leaves to negotiate for the stamp mill, and every day Sean adds a little to the Zulus workload, and every day they finish it singing. The weeks pass so quickly, Sean is surprised when he finds Duff standing above him on the ridge. He has a convoy with



him that stretches out across a four mile strip. Rusty from sitting for so long, it takes more time than Duff imagined to get it up and running, but they are ready to celebrate when they manage it. While they are in town carousing, Candy's girl Martha comes to get them. She tells them there is trouble, and when they manage to get themselves up to see her, she confirms it. Claim jumpers are on the way since the state decided the current claims are illegal, intending to stake their own claims. Sobering quickly, they form a counter offensive. Arming themselves and setting traps of dynamite, they quickly get the upper hand temporarily, and Duff calls a halt, letting the rest leave. It takes little time for them to regroup and try again. The Zulus and even Duff are ready to run them off, but Sean wants to wait until they are on the Candy Deep claim before he attacks, just to keep things legal. Then he gets the idea to use the boiler. Several Zulus help them push it over, and they follow it down the hill throwing spears and dynamite sticks. When Francois arrives with fifty men ready to fight, there is little left to do but take his men down to the camps and round up the ones that escaped. Francois does and is back by lunch with a group of prisoners. Most of the miners are in favor of stringing them up, but Duff convinces them to form a committee. The group elects Duff unanimously as Committee chairman and ten members are elected. When the first Digger's Committee meeting comes to order, Sean presents evidence on the miners' behalf. Afterward, a prisoner is given the same opportunity and they are sentenced to an hour on the Devil's Wheel. Each prisoner is tied to a wheel and turned until they lose their stomachs, their bowels, and their dignity. Candy Deep gets the boiler fired up and rock starts to run. After ten tons have processed, Duff shows Sean how to finish. A drop of gold the size of a pea remains.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 10-12

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 10-12 Summary

Christmas is miserable. They eat at Candy's hotel where they still have credit. They have less than four pounds between them, and Duff is taking on a gallows type humor. The whole atmosphere discourages Candy. Francois hears their sad story and sits down with them to describe what he now knows about the main reef and how it runs. Encouraged now, Sean and Duff just need to dig a new trench and keep the mill working for another month or so. Candy overhears the end of the conversation, and quickly offers as much as she can, but they are still short a small amount.

Duff decides the quickest way to get the balance will be to stage a heavyweight fight. A purse of fifty pounds is set, and a spectator's fee is decided on. The fight is set for New Year's Day and when it arrives, Duff is more nervous than Sean is. Over fifty pounds of gate money is collected and the contestants are lined up, but Sean decides to alter the order of combatants. He wants the Portuguese contestant first. Duff tries to hush him, but Sean is determined and gets his way. Everyone is surprised when he wins. Sean takes on three more without any of them putting up much of a fight, and then an American contestant comes forward who looks promising. Just as they are ready to begin fighting, the Portuguese decides he wants another crack at Sean. He comes after him with a table leg in each hand and Sean apologizes to the American and asks if they can delay their combat until a later date as it appears the Portuguese is unable to wait. The American, ever polite, agrees easily. They wait, wondering if he will follow, but he never shows.

Francois comes later with their share of the fight money, and Duff immediately prods Sean into working, knowing that as long as the mine keeps making noise, the creditors will believe everything is fine. Candy Deep is on the edge financially, but as long as the stamp mill runs they are not bothered, so they cut the new trench and the money dwindled yet again. Duff goes to Candy for another loan, and manages only fifty dollars and Candy tells him that is all there is. He also comes armed with prime beef chops, dripping through the bag. There will be no meal porridge tonight. An hour after eating, they go back down into the trench to see what the last blast opened and stare with disbelief at the snake-like ribbon that lies before them. They finally find the leader. With bars the size of cigar boxes, they realize suddenly that they are rich.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

Sean and Duff have mined as much as they can without an infusion of cash, and Christmas is a miserable reminder that they cannot afford any of the Christmas traditional treats. They go to Candy's for a meal, and before long have her drawn into their depression. She hears of their financial distress and quickly comes to their aid, giving them all she can. Duff knows how much it will take to keep the mill going for



another month or two and, still short, he has a brainstorm—a fight night, with Sean as the main contender. They plan it to perfection, and on New Year's Day Sean steps into the ring in front of a large and eager crowd. He has heard that a Portuguese man has been brought in and is supposed to be a ringer. Even Duff is nervous, and he tells Sean that the Portuguese is sixth in line. Tough luck, Duff figures, to have him so early in the line up, but Sean surprises him when he insists on fighting the Portuguese man first. Sean knows that once he gets angry he will be fine, and he would rather tackle this monster while he has all his strength. Surprise ripples through the crowd when Sean actually wins, and he goes on to win several more. He faces the American when the Portuguese comes back angry, and armed with table legs. Everyone scatters. Sean and Duff run too, postponing the fight till another time, and the take from the earlier fights is enough to keep them running another month. They get back to work immediately and the creditors leave the Candy Deep alone as long as the stamp mill is working. Duff goes to Candy for another loan and manages a further fifty dollars and comes back with a beef dinner for Sean. They sit down to eat and afterward go down to check the last blast. It reveals the leader. A snake-like ribbon of gold that winds through the opening made by the last blast is staring at them and they realize with amazement that they are rich.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 13-15

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 13-15 Summary

Sean and Duff pass a large bar of gold back and forth. Sean wants to buy Candy out, but Duff wants to buy as many claims as possible and a couple of ten stamp mills instead. In two days the leader reef makes a thousand pounds. Duff sets out to buy as many claims as possible, and by day's end he has over a hundred, committing them to a debt of forty thousand pounds. He and Sean go out the next morning again but the Greek does not show up for their meeting. They go to his camp and find him talking to Hradsky, an old employer of his and Francois's current boss. Duff greets Nikky and Nikki starts apologizing immediately, admitting he has already sold. Duff greets Hradsky by name and asks how his daughter is, causing Norman's eyes to flash, but he says nothing. Max does his speaking to hide his stutter.

Duff confesses he has already ordered machinery, but did not want to worry Sean about it. By the time it arrives at Port Natal, they will have the money to pay for them he assures Sean. Their partnership solidifies. Duff handles the creditors and juggles the bills and Sean watches with amazement as he uses the Candy Deep's flow of gold to keep everything going. The machinery arrives three weeks early, the telegram catching them both by surprise. Duff approaches the bank for a loan against the claims they have made agreements to purchase and Sean's mind reels, but Duff comes back later that afternoon with a letter of credit in hand. The Heyns brothers equipment arrives on the same boat so Duff and Jock ride together to Port Natal. They hire a hundred wagons between them, bringing it all back in one load. Duff makes Jock a wager that he and Sean get their mills working before Jock does. The loser pays the whole shipment. Jock agrees and a side bet of five hundred dollars is added.

Sean buys the hundred wagons that the machinery came in on and as soon as they unload, they will head to Dundee for a shipment of coal. Duff wins the bet, up and running fifteen hours ahead of the Heyns brothers. They cannot believe the richness of the leader they are mining, and the bank overdraft drops like a stone. They pay Candy out in full with seven percent interest on top, and she builds herself a two story hotel. By August end, Sean and Duff are out of debt. They build a small office in town and in December there are several millionaires in Johannesburg—Sean and Duff among them. One day Hradsky calls some of the richest men together and tells them it is time to form a stock exchange. They see the benefits, and agree. By the end of the evening, fees are hashed out, their enterprise is off the ground.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 13-15 Analysis

Duff takes Sean with him to his meeting with Nikki, but he does not show. Duff waits as long as he can before going to Nikki's camp to find him. When he does, he finds him sitting with Hradsky and his sidekick Max. Duff quickly establishes that Nikki has already



sold, and he cannot resist the urge to goad Hradsky a little, based on their past history. Sean is not overly concerned about this setback. He immediately suggests they use the money they would have given to Nikki on equipment. Duff laughs. He already ordered it a week earlier and before Sean can unload on him, he winks, making Sean laugh instead. The Digger's Committee takes on more social responsibility, building latrines, hiring a water truck to keep dust down, and banning burials within a half mile of the center of town. Candy gets all of her customers together to help her move her hotel onto her own piece of property in town. The machinery arrives three weeks early, and since they do not have the money, Duff approaches the bank to get a letter of credit against the claims they have agreed to purchase. The equipment arrives early and Jock and Duff go to Port Natal together. Duff makes Jock a bet that he will have their equipment working before Jock can. The loser pays the entire transport. Jock agrees and adds a five hundred dollar side bet. Sean makes an agreement to buy all one hundred wagons to start a transport company, and already has them going to Dundee for a load of coal. Duff lives up to his word, and they are up and running sixteen hours before the Heyns brothers. The leader reef is so rich that in no time they pay Candy out with interest, pay their overdraft, and are able to start investing. They buy land and in December, Johannesburg has several millionaires—Duff and Sean among them. Just before Christmas, Hradsky suggests beginning a stock exchange to facilitate the ability to get capital to finance further ventures. They all agree and before midnight manage to hash out fees and basic protocols.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 16-18

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 16-18 Summary

Johannesburg becomes a city and Witwatersrand is a chess board—the people are the men on it. Each morning they go to the exchange, seas part before them and they head to their reserved chairs. Even Hradsky shelves his hatred for Duff to do business. More than a hundred people depend on them for their livelihood. The chess game becomes reality when Karl Lochtkamper makes the mistake of laying himself open for takeover, assuming his friends will not pull the rug out from under him. Hradsky sends Max over with information that Karl has eight notes out and he hands them a list. Hradsky can cover some, and he wants to know if Sean and Duff can cover the rest. The last day of the quarter turns is Karl's last as well. Duff, Sean and Hradsky close on him. After going from bank to bank he realizes there are no options left and leaves the trading floor. He crosses the street to his room and shoots himself dead.

Sean almost packs it in, but Duff takes him to the local cat house known as the Opera house and by morning he feels differently. Duff finds himself thinking more and more about Candy, feeling like he has known her all his life. He talks to Sean while waiting for the carriage when Curtis rides into town in a hurry. He tells Sean and Duff there has been a mud rush in the Little Sister mine. Six men are buried. Sean asks Curtis if anyone else knows. Curtis says no and Sean tells him to get back to the mine quietly and not to tell a soul until trading closes for the day. Curtis cannot believe Sean does not even want him to tell the wives but Duff tells him they will be just as dead later. They go to the exchange and sell their shares within an hour of opening. A week later, they buy them back at half the cost and have it in production again two months later.

Sean and Duff split the land they buy and sell all but for a hundred acres where they begin designing their own house. Duff convinces a horticulturist from Capetown to come and tells him he wants a garden made of the entire hundred acres. Their rugs come from Persia, wood is brought in from the Knysna forests, and the black and white marble for the staircase comes from Italy. Duff shows Candy his room, and offers to make it her room as well. Thinking he is being vulgar, she turns to leave but Duff stops her. He tells her it was a proposal, and she accepts. Sean asks to keep the Victorian rooms, but Candy and Duff set him straight.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 16-18 Analysis

Sean and Duff begin enjoying their wealth. They seldom go to the mines anymore, preferring to spend their days at the stock exchange. There they trade and sell stocks and land as though all of it is just a chessboard and the people are merely pieces they move around on it. Soon, the realities of their actions comes back to them. When their friend Karl lays himself open, neither Duff nor Sean hesitate to take him down. Karl is so distraught, and disappointed by the actions of men he considered his friends, that he



returns to his room penniless and takes his own life. This is a defining moment for Sean, and he almost quits, seeing for a moment clearly how much they affect the lives around them, but Duff takes him to get drunk and then to the Opera house where he quickly puts the matter to rest. He barely thinks about Karl the next day at all. As time passes, Duff realizes that Candy means more to him than he previously thought. In fact, he feels like he has been with her forever. The thought that he should settle down soon and have a son is also on his mind, and as he and Sean show her the new house they are building, he proposes to her and she accepts. Sean thinks he will be a third wheel in their lives and is prepared to live in the Victoria rooms at Candy's hotel, but Candy and Duff make an effort to convince him that without him it will not be the same. Sean accepts, if somewhat ungraciously.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 19-21

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 19-21 Summary

Candy tells Duff she wants a church wedding, but Sean knows Duff is already married. He suggests Duff tell Candy he is going to build her a church for the ceremony and that he wants a civil ceremony as well. From there, they find someone to play the priest. Duff declares it genius. Sean gives Mbejane his new uniform but he is not pleased. Mbejane explains that he prefers the dress of a warrior, but Sean loses his temper, and insists. He downs four brandies and stares at Mbejane's silent backside until he gets to Candy Deep and by then, he is in a rage. Arriving early, he is rages that Francois is not there waiting. He yells for a helmet and overalls, and heads for the face. A cocopan is pushed along by two workers and Sean is forced up against the wall where he hears a squeaking sound he has never heard before. When he finds Francois and describes the noise to him, he shouts cave in and starts to run, but Sean grabs him asking how many men are on the face. Francois breaks away from Sean and he almost follows, but he heads to the face where six men still work. When he shouts the words cave in to them, they are stunned at first, and then one by one they pass Sean in the tunnel, and tripping, Sean is left behind. The earth around him talks, the timbers creak, and the rock above his head sags. He knows he will not make it out and crawls under the belly of a cocopan just before the ceiling comes down.

The racket lasts forever, his lamp is lost, and the air is thick with dust. He coughs until blood comes up. Finally the dust settles, and he takes stock of himself and his circumstances. Trapped under the cocopan is like being buried alive. He figures he might have four days. With one hand, he finds a rock, and bangs it against the side of the cocopan several times in a row, enjoying the sound it makes when suddenly he hears the knocks repeated. Men are waiting when Duff reaches the blocked entrance and four hours later they have cleared fifteen feet. Duff's hands are raw. He retreats to the lift station but Mbejane works on. Sean can hear them, but they never seem to get closer. He thinks of Garry and the child he sired with Anna, about leaving without saying goodbye to Ada, and about Karl, whose life he helped ruin. He promises himself things will be different if he gets out. Mbejane swings his sledgehammer, the rock in front of him splits in half and behind it he can just see the edges of a cocopan. "Nkosi, I see you," Mbejane tells him with relief.

When Sean wakes the next morning, he sends for Mbejane and then tells him that he thought he sent for his servant but instead a monkey came. Five minutes later Sean greets him properly now that he is back in his loincloth. Then he rides to the mine alone, and takes the lift down to the fourteenth tunnel. He sits with his back against the wall in the dark until he harnesses his fear.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 19-21 Analysis

Duff and Sean act as escorts for Candy. Dressed elegantly, they attend the races to watch their horse, Trade Winds run. When they see Hradsky watching his own horse, Duff cannot help but agitate him. They bet on the race, and Duff wins when Trade Winds does. Hradsky is gracious. Duff is not. Sean decides that Mbejane needs a uniform and has a tailor make up a livery. Presented to Mbejane the next day when it is ready, Mbejane is not grateful. Sean insists Mbejane wear it, and though the Zulu obeys, he is not happy about it. Sean drinks more than usual at lunch and then goes to the mine for his meeting with Francois arriving half an hour early. Francois is not there, and he uses it as an excuse to explode. He dons hard hat and vest, and goes down into the mine himself. As two men pushing a cocopan pass him and he is forced up against a wall for a moment, he hears noises he does not recognize. When he catches Francois, he asks him about it, and Francois yells cave in and begins running. Sean stops him, asking him if there are men on the face, and finds out there are. Unable to leave them there without so much as a warning, while Francois runs for the surface, Sean runs for the face. He tells the men, who respond after a second of shocked hesitation, and they all run for the surface. Sean falls behind, and then trips. He looks up to see the ceiling heaving above him and crawls under a cocopan just as it all comes down around him. For a time, the dust is thick and breathing it is like breathing in sand, but it settles and Sean is left to contemplate his circumstances. He manages to signal his location by banging a rock on the side of the metal pan and getting a response. His rescue takes time, but he gets out in good condition and is taken to Candy's hotel with orders for bed rest. Unable to just lie around, he gets his horse and goes alone to the Candy Deep. He descends alone, and sits in the dark with his back against the wall until he stops shaking and the immense fear leaves him. Then, he stays another fifteen minutes.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 22-24

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 22-24 Summary

Sean, Duff and Candy go out to see Xanadu, and by October it is almost finished. When they get back to the hotel, they find a note from Hradsky telling them he would like to see them. It is an invitation that Duff would never refuse, so, curious, they go. Hradsky makes them an offer to consolidate their considerable wealth. His financial offer is generous, but he wants controlling interest in the company. They are in the office until well after two in the morning pouring over the offer, and the activity does not escape notice.

When morning comes, they send Johnson to the exchange with instructions to keep an eye out and call if anything strange or big happens, and begin going over the offer again. They have lunch brought in and the exchange buzzes with rumors over their absence. Jock offers to buy them a drink when they come out of their office, but they decline, telling him nothing. The next day, they miss the exchange again. Someone starts a rumor that Sean and Duff have found a rich new mine, and the prices rocket. Johnson spends so much of his time running back and forth that he is exhausted by lunch. Spies watch the offices of Courtney/Charleywood, and when Johnson is seen coming out and buying a bottle that Sean and Duff paid for, the spies report back that Johnson is buying Champagne. Stock in Courtney-Charleywood companies is immediately snatched up. Only Hradsky sits in his chair in the lounge and smiles, knowing the truth of things.

By midnight, a counterproposal is complete. They send for Hradsky the next morning. Sean begins by telling Norman that both he and Duff believe the joining of their two companies is a good idea and, after examining his proposal, they agreed in principle with a few exceptions. They offer Norman the office next door to go over the changes, and he accepts. Max is almost in tears an hour later when he tells them that he thinks they should examine one item at a time. Three days later, they finally have an accord and shake on it. Hradsky has been given control, but it costs him dearly. Central Rand Consolidated is born and has its christening on the stock exchange floor. Shares amounting to ten percent are put out to the public, and when Hradsky's clerk begins the day with "I sell C.R.C.'s" a mob scene ensues. Two hundred men all try to buy at the same time. Christmas is a real improvement over the previous one. Sean, Duff and Candy sit down to a table of seventy-five people who all eat and drink to great excess. In a state of drunkenness, Duff asks Sean what he thinks of Candy, and asks whether or not he should marry her. Sean is no help.

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 22-24 Analysis

Money rules all, and after some haggling, Sean and Duff agree to give controlling interest in their consolidated venture to Hradsky. It is a surprising move, but Sean and



Duff both have the attitude that if enough is offered, they will sell. Hradsky pays dearly, but manages to get control. When his clerk offers shares of the newly christened Central Rand Consolidated company, there is a mob response.

Christmas at Candy's is much more satisfying this year. Seventy-five people sit at one table with Candy, Sean and Duff and eat and drink to excess. Hardly able to drag themselves upstairs, Duff asks Sean for some serious advice about Candy. He is having second thoughts about marriage and settling down, but Sean is of little help to Duff in his present condition. After muttering one response, Sean is snoring softly on the bed. Duff is left to figure it out for himself.



Part 2, Witwatersrand, Chapters 25-27

Part 2, Witwatersrand, Chapters 25-27 Summary

By the end of January, Xanadu is finally finished and the wedding is set. Candy goes through the gifts in the ballroom, and sorts them while Sean and Duff go outside. Duff asks Sean if he has the mock priest organized. Though Duff has second thoughts about faking, it is a bit late to change things. Duff's bachelor party is on the nineteenth and Francois shows up with a ball and chain, and locks it on his leg with formality before the party begins. At midnight, Duff convinces Francois to remove the ball and chain, and quietly slips out.

When a waiter wakes Sean the next morning with a coffee tray and a note, Sean is painfully hungover. He reads the note from Candy reminding him of his duty to have the groom ready at eleven. He goes to Duff's room to wake him, but he is not there. He sees an envelope propped up against the mantle. Duff asks Sean to make excuses, and tells him he will return when the dust settles. Sean charges downstairs where a groom tells him Duff left seven or eight hours ago. He goes back to his room and pours another coffee, damning Charleywood the whole way. Then he goes to Candy's room and asks the women helping her to get out. He tells her about the note, and her quiet acceptance is worse than tears. He leaves her there, and going to Xanadu, he tells everyone making preparations that the wedding is off, goes up to the house to dismiss the fake priest, and pays him to leave town. Sean tells him if he breathes a word of any of this, he will kill him. Finally, he asks the constable to remove the guests and gets into a bath to steam his anger away.

When he gets out, Candy is waiting for him. He apologizes to her again, and she asks for a drink. Toasting the bride, she drinks it and feeling alone as darkness approaches, she begs Sean to help her to forget and protesting at first, he takes her to bed. Johannesburg is dull without Duff. Sean goes through the motions, but misses him. He invites Curtis and Francois to toss a few back with him after work, but discovers to his surprise that he no longer belongs with them. Talking with Candy later, Sean tells to her about it, and admits it worries him. He wishes Duff were around, but Candy explains that he would only tell Sean that it does not matter, but people do.

Part 2, Witwatersrand, Chapters 25-27 Analysis

Duff's bachelor party is a roaring success. Duff convinces Francois to remove the ball and chain from his leg, and quietly he slips out unnoticed. The next morning, Sean drags his hungover body out of bed, and heads across the hall to get Duff up, but he is not there. His bed has not been slept in, and there is an envelope propped up on the mantel. In it, Duff asks Sean to make apologies to everyone. The wedding is off. Sean is seething at first. He has another cup of coffee before going to Candy's room to give her the bad news. When he tells her, she displays no emotion. She is just quietly accepting



of the news, and it is harder for Sean to watch than if she had come apart. He leaves her and goes to Xanadu to stop the party plans. At first, he tells them they can stay and party, but it is not long before he wants everyone out. He gets into a hot bath and soaks away most of his anger towards Duff. When he gets out, he finds Candy waiting for him. She does not want to be alone, and as darkness closes in, she begs Sean to help her to forget everything—just for one night. After initial reluctance, he takes her to bed. Bored without Duff, Sean invites Curtis and Francois out for a few drinks. They accept and all head down to the nearest bar where he soon learns they are resentful of his presence. Later having dinner with Candy, he tells her about the incident. She is pleased that it actually bothers him, and she tells him so. He wishes Duff were back, but Candy explains that Duff would just tell him that those people did not matter and the truth is that people do matter. He tells her that he realized that when he was down in the shaft.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 28-31

Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 28-31 Summary

Sean goes out to Xanadu for the first time since Duff left. In the study, he takes down a Purdey shotgun and sights in nonexistent targets until suddenly he sees Duff's face. He lowers the gun and says hello. Duff presumes their friendship is over but Sean asks him to pour the drinks and tell him what it feels like to be a pig. He tells Duff what he did was lousy, and closes the subject.

Max approaches them asking to meet discreetly and that evening shows them statements from four banks his boss deals with. Hradsky used C.R.C. stocks as collateral. The shares are at ninety shillings, but if the price fell to their limit of 35 shillings, the bank would dump them. If Hradsky were out of town, Duff and Sean might force the price so that the banks will offload, and then they could buy back at a fraction of their worth. For his help, Max wants a hundred thousand pounds. He says if Sean wears his yellow waistcoat to the office the next day, he will take it as agreement. The next morning Sean heartily reassures all those he can, and sidesteps those he cannot. The price drops, and when Max telegrams as per their arrangement they begin by selling 30,000 shares. The stock levels at forty five, so they sell another 30,000 and it closes just under thirty nine shillings. The next morning, they put up a hundred thousand shares, and after agonizing moments, the price begins to lower. It gets to thirty four six and they wait for the bank to jump in, but nothing happens. Duff authorizes another hundred thousand shares, but Sean knows they do not have that many so he hurries after the clerk to stop him but it is too late. He has sold them. Sean goes back to Duff, looks across the floor and sees Max and Hradsky.

He knows they have been had and quickly comes to the conclusion that Hradsky owns everything—even the house they live in. Sean explains it to Duff and leaves him reeling while he goes to chat with Max and Hradsky. He tells Hradsky that if he insists, they will hire a liquidator who will string the proceedings out for years all at commission. Sean suggests he and Duff draw ten thousand dollars, and leave with belongings and horses. Hradsky gets everything else. Hradsky counters at fifteen hundred in cash, their belongings, and their guarantee they will not embark on any business venture in Witwatersrand for three years. Sean waits for their attorneys to draw up the agreement and strangely, feels happy. He asks Mbejane to assemble their six best horses salted against Nagana for mornings first light. Mbejane asks if they are going hunting and if so how long they might be. Sean tells him yes, and perhaps forever so he should leave his woman and bring his spears. Sean is packed half an hour later, and says goodbye to Candy, giving a farewell toast, and explaining that they are leaving. Later Sean helps a meek and obedient Duff pack. Outside he finds Mbejane with Hlubi, Nonga and Kandhla, ready to go without wages, just as happy as Sean remembers them.



Part 2, Witwatersrand: Chapters 28-31 Analysis

Sean finally goes back out to Xanadu again. He supervises the return of the last of the gifts, and goes into the study. He stands at the window with a Purdey shotgun and sights nonexistent targets in a sweeping arc until his sights land on Duff. Sean gives him hell, and tells him he is a pig, but after that closes the matter. The issue is not so simple for Candy. She does not want to see him. Max approaches them quietly and later that night when they meet, Max tells them that Hradsky is tapped out. He has put all his cash in buying them out and his mines are not producing enough to keep up the cash flow. Max believes that Hradsky can be unseated as he used the CRC stocks as collateral. If the bank saw the price dip below thirty five shillings, they would be forced to dump the shares to ensure the debt. At that point, they could be purchased for a fraction of their value. At first Sean and Duff do not believe him, but Max is convincing, and before long they believe him. Max arranges to have Hradsky out of town, and when he sends a prearranged fax to Sean and Duff, they slowly put their shares onto the market. At first little happens, so they dump more and buying begins to drive the price down as predicted. It reaches thirty five, and goes lower still, but the bank does not get on board. By the time Sean and Duff realize they have been had, they have oversold stock that they do not own. Hradsky and Max come out together and suddenly it is all clear. They have been suckered, and Hradsky beat them. He owns them now. Duff has a hard time grasping the depth of the hole they are in, but Sean does not. He explains it to Duff and leaves him there at home while he goes back to Max and Hradsky to make a deal. By the time he is finished, Sean has negotiated fifteen hundred dollars cash, and all their belongings back, and has agreed to leave Witwatersrand alone financially for three years. It is a deal Sean can live with, and in fact he finds himself enjoying it. He instructs Mbejane to get six of their best horses ready as they are leaving. Then he packs, tells Candy they are going, and returns to help Duff pack. When they go out, they find Mbejane with Hlubi, Nonga and Kandhla ready to go with them. They leave Xanadu for the last time.



Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 1-3

Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 1-3 Summary

Sean, Duff, and the Zulus stay in Pretoria for five days, just long enough to buy wagons and commission them. Then they head north. They manage fifteen miles on the first day, sleeping in the wagons, and make another twenty miles the next day and twenty the day after that. One morning, for a change, Sean suggests to Duff that they ride over to a kopje and leaving the horses at the bottom, climb to the top. They stop at the top for a cheroot, and look across the grasslands of the high veld to where they begin to blend with the forests and hilly country. Africa plays out before them, a thousand shades of brown. The strain is gone from Duff's face for the first time since their departure.

Life takes a more leisurely turn from then on. Each day he and Duff go wander into the bush, sometimes panning, sometimes just exploring for signs of elephants. They hunt only enough game to feed themselves, and then spend a week under the mountains at Louis Trichardt. They speak with men in town who hunt further north, and are told that there is no way through the mountains. Wagons, however, can be driven around them following the western passage which skirts the Kalahari desert. To the east, they are told, is good forest land, stocked with game and plentiful with water. The decision is an easy one. They hire a dozen new servants and go east to hunt elephants, into the wilderness, keeping the mountains always to their left. It is a good decision, and within a week they are seeing elephant sign.

The travel is slow through the deeper bush, but finally they find fresh spoor. Mbejane tells Sean there are three bulls—one very big and Sean quickly rides to get Duff. When the brush became too thick, they dismount and walk until they come upon the elephants. The gunfire is loud as Sean takes his elephant down, but Duff does not fire at all. Sean senses a cowardice that he finds disappointing, and rides back to camp without him after Duff tells him he missed his. It is almost dark when they get back, and Sean pours himself and Duff a drink. He gives Duff his glass, all prepared to lay into him a little for his cowardice, when instead Duff launches on him, asking him how he could possibly kill that magnificent animal. He is appalled that Sean actually seemed to enjoy the hunt, and makes it clear that Sean can hunt alone. Sean calls him a coward, but quickly takes it back. They talk for a while longer, and Duff asks what it is about hunting Sean loves so much, but Sean is unable to open Duff's mind to the sport of it. In the end, Sean realizes he is not getting through, and Duff shakes his head in wonder trying to reconcile this Sean with the one who rallied for increased wages for the workers. Finally, they settle on a compromise. Sean will get the ivory, and Duff will hunt the gold and as partners they will split whatever revenue they generate.



Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

Sean and Duff head north with purpose at first, making an average of twenty miles each day. It is a pace that even Mbejane comments on after a while, and Sean takes a hint and slows down. He begins to explore the land around him a bit more. They ride to a kopje, and climbing to the top, Sean realizes that the tension has finally left Duff's face. From then on, they relax more as they travel, stopping here and there to pan if the urge strikes them. Finally, they find themselves in the last permanent white man's settlement of Louis Trichardt. They speak with experienced hunters in town who tell them there is no way over the mountains. They can go westward to get around them bordering on the Kalahari desert, or eastward to hunting and wilderness where water is plentiful. It is an easy decision. They head east, keeping the mountains on the left side. It is not long before they are seeing old elephant spoor, and the excitement stirs. When they find fresh spoor, Sean quickly rides to get Duff and they follow Mbejane until he instructs them to dismount. They walk in and find three bull elephants grazing. Sean leaves the closest for Duff and circles to another one. He manages to get his elephant, but returning, he finds that Duff has not fired his rifle. Sean assumes that Duff is showing signs of cowardice, but when they get back to camp Duff soon sets Sean straight, telling him that he finds killing these magnificent creatures appalling. Sean is stunned at first, but recovers, and tries to explain to Duff what it is about hunting that he so enjoys. He quickly realizes that Duff is not cut from the same cloth. Having hunted with his father in the past, the experience left a bad taste in his mouth. Finally, they come to an arrangement they can both live with. Sean will hunt the elephants alone, and Duff will pan for gold. Their partnership remains fifty fifty. He tells Sean that he can forgive him the elephants, since Sean forgave Duff about Candy.



Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 4-6

Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 4-6 Summary

The change in Sean is remarkable. His beard grows long and unruly, and he is now muscled and tanned. He is quicker and smiles easier. The changes in Duff are not so remarkable. He is as lean as ever, but now there is a restlessness in his manner. Every day he wanders through the bush, checking rocks and panning in streams, but finding nothing. They continue east until Sean finds a pass through the Zoutpansberg and they go into the Limpopo valley. The country is flat and water scarce. Hunting is easy as game crowds around the watering holes. Before they are halfway to the Limpopo, Duff asks Sean if they will return the same way suggesting they bury the wagon load of tusks they have collected and pick them up on the way back.

The next camp is a good one. There is plentiful water and shade. They decide to stay, rest the horses and repair wagons as well as bury the ivory. They sit that night, tired and contentedly watching the fire, and Duff finally goes to relieve himself before bed. He walks out of the circle of firelight and Sean hears a jackal. They are always yipping, but this one is alone and then, Sean knows why. He calls to Duff that the jackal coming is rabid. Duff runs back towards camp but trips and the jackal jumps him. They roll around on the grass, one of the dogs jumping in to help. Sean grabs wood from the fire and beats the jackal to death. Then he turns to see Duff mopping blood from his face, hands shaking. Sean puts his hunting knife into the fire. As it heats up, he calls Mbejane over, and tells him to throw the jackal on the fire without touching it. He gives Duff a bottle of brandy to drink. Mbejane and Hlubi stand on either side of him and hold him while Sean uses the sterilized knife to cauterize the wounds on his face and hands. The Zulus hold him as Sean runs the blade farther. He reheats it then and cauterizes the wounds on Duff's wrist. Then Sean smears him with axle grease as he moans and writhes in delirious pain.

Afterward, he cauterizes the dogs wounds and keeps him away from the others. The servants build Duff a hut fifty yards from the main camp. They make a bed, and bring his blankets from the wagon. Four trek chains joined together loop around Duff's waist and secure him. The other end is around a tree. Sean apologizes to Duff, telling him that he will be stuck on the chain for a month. In the beginning Duff is in the depths of despair. He sits quietly for hours. Finally his demeanor improves and he starts talking. He talks about his mother, his father, and his daughter. Slowly the wounds heal, and each day Duff notches the pole to help keep track. When there are eighteen notches, the dog goes mad. He starts screaming, and Sean takes his rifle and runs to the wagon. Duff hears the shot and makes him promise not to do that to him. Sean does not want to, but cannot calm him, so he agrees.



Part 3, The Wilderness: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Life in the wilderness agrees with Sean. He regains muscle mass where there was flab, and his lean and tanned body is sharp and quick. Duff has not changed nearly so much. He is still lean, but his mannerisms are slower, and his long beard gives him a more youthful appearance. One night, Duff asks Sean if they will be returning the same way, and if so, suggests they bury the ivory they are hauling around until they come back. Sean thinks that is a great idea, and incorporates it at their next camp the following day. They decide to stay for a little while, as the water is palatable, and the game is drawn to it. That night, after a long day when both are tired, Duff gets up to relieve himself and go to bed. Sean hears the unmistakable howling of a jackal, but this one sounds different. It takes him a minute to realize the reason is that the jackal is rabid. He calls Duff back immediately, but Duff is not able to return in time. The jackal jumps him, and they go down to the ground together. One of the dogs gets loose and pounces on the jackal, pulling it off Duff. Sean grabs a stick from the fire and races over, beating the jackal to death with it. He turns to see Duff sopping up the blood from his face and wrist. Sean sits him down, and after heating his knife in the fire, he cauterizes Duff's wounds while Mbejane and Hlubi hold him down. Then he smears the wounds with axle grease. Then Sean does the same for the dog, and ties him to a wagon on the other side of camp. The servants build Duff a hut and Sean fashions a chain which he fastens around Duff's waist and then around a tree. Then a month of waiting begins. They play cards, tell stories, and Duff tells him about his mother, father and daughter. Duff keeps track of the days by notching a pole and when there are eighteen notches, the dog goes mad. He starts screaming, bringing Sean to his feet immediately. He takes his rifle and within a moment or two a shot is heard, and Duff makes him promise that no matter what, Sean will not shoot him. Sean finally agrees to calm him down.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 7-9

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 7-9 Summary

Duff abandons his calendar. Sean digs out four bottles of Chateau Olivier he saved, trying to cheer him up, but Duff rants and rages against God. He has a nightmare and fear follows him into the daylight. He asks Sean to stay and play cards instead of hunting, but tires and asks Sean to read to him instead. Sweating, he lays still listening and after a while the rhythm of Bleak House lulls Sean to sleep. A tinkle from Duff's chain wakes him. Duff is crouching, madness in his eyes. He lunges for Sean making noises that curdle him. He watches, paralyzed, snapping out of it when Duff finds the end of his chain. Sean runs out of camp into the bush, running until his brain slows his panic. Then he returns, circling to enter camp from the opposite side. He goes immediately to the wagon as he has left his rifle by Duff's hut. He fumbles with the lock, grabs a rifle from the box and loads it, and goes slowly towards Duff's hut, calling his name. The chains hold and he is crouched over, his back to Sean, making small mewling sounds. He calls again. Duff spins, crouches and growls, froth coating his beard. He charges and the chains hold. Sean brings the rifle up, but remembers his promise. Sean orders the servants to go down river until it is over. Then Sean watches as Duff shakes, shambles around the hut, and tears out his hair in agony.

Before sunset, Duff has his first convulsion, bending over backwards until his spine snaps. Sean jumps up and, standing over Duff, puts an end to his suffering. He wraps his friend in a blanket and sits in a chair beside the bed the rest of the night. In the morning he finds Mbejane waiting in camp. They gather wood and build a funeral pyre, Sean lights the pyre and never looks back.

Guilt and grief work on Sean. His mind plays it over and over. Locked in grief, he has no interest in life, even when Mbejane comes to him with camp business. Days later Mbejane tells him elephants are near. He walks up the bank to find his horse saddled, and throws himself into the hunt, returning to camp only for fresh horses and to bring in ivory. Finally, Mbejane tells him there are better ways to die than to work to death. Sean says he looks healthy, and Mbejane says that perhaps from horseback all men do. Sean faces Mbejane, telling him that from now on they will all hunt on foot and the first one to ask for help earns the right to be called a woman. It is a challenge that appeals to Mbejane, and for three days they hunt, taking down three bulls. Then Sean takes off his boot revealing the blister and blood stuck to this sock. He asks how far back to camp and Mbejane tells him they can be there by dark. He carries Sean's rifle for him, never cracking a smile. When they return to camp, Kandhla brings him water to soak his foot and after letting the timing build, Mbejane finally clears his throat and says "Nkosi, I would set fifty head of oxen as your marriage price—if you were my daughter." A split second of silence follows and then they all laugh heartily for the first time since Duff's death.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 7-9 Analysis

When the dog dies, Duff knows his fate. It is only a matter of time. Fear starts to nibble at him, and Sean does what he can to distract him. He has nightmares foretelling his change that follow him into the next day, and he asks Sean to stay with him. Sean reads to him, but drifts off, and when he awakens it is to the movement Duff is making. He finds Duff crouching and growling, and likely should have shot him there and then to put him out of his misery, but his promise to his friend will not let him. It is a double edged sword though, as he is forced to watch his friend worsen instead. Finally, hours later when Duff convulses so terribly that his back snaps, Sean is forced to do the one thing he promised his friend he would not do. He must shoot now and does, but then he begins to second guess his decision and his timing. Guilt and grief go hand in hand, picking at his brain until he wishes he could do it all again. He might have remained locked in his own misery, but Mbejane finds a way to get through to him. It is his Zulu confidence that allows him to approach Sean the way he does, a familiarity none of the other servants would have dared, but in response, Sean is pulled out of himself and thrown into the hunt instead. He does so without rest, replacing his sorrow with hunting, sleeping little and ranging far. When Mbejane questions his work-till-he-drops ethic, Sean responds with a challenge Mbejane cannot resist. Once all men are afoot, the contest is equal, and it takes only three days before Sean asks to return to camp. Mbejane keeps an air of solemn dignity as they walk back to camp, and he remains serious while Sean soaks his foot and is fussed over by the servants. Only after allowing the suspense to build correctly does he finally deliver the line that he would gladly pay fifty head of oxen as his marriage price if he were his daughter. The camp cracks up, laughing until tears come, and finally easing the sorrow in Sean's heart a little bit. He will never forget, but it will no longer paralyze him either.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 10-12

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 10-12 Summary

In November the weather changes and Sean decides to cross the river. The first wagon gets stuck in the sand and finally they cut the oxen free, and build a crossing to get the wagons, ivory and supplies over. It takes three days after which Sean declares a holiday. Kandhla is grilling a guinea fowl when Nonga points to a rider approaching. A white man, with a big ginger beard and thick arms rides in, dismounts, and greets Sean in Afrikaans. Sean invites the man who calls himself Jan Paulus Leroux, to lunch. His wagons are an hour or two behind him with his mother, father, little sister and wife, he tells Sean, and he adds that Sean had better move his wagons. Sean is sure he has not heard correctly at first, but when he repeats himself Sean stops smiling. They exchange words, and he rides off asserting he will have the camp.

When he returns with his wagons, he goads Sean and they grapple chest to chest, evenly matched with weight and determination. Oupa Leroux, commands them to stop, but Ouma springs to their defense. She reminds him how he liked a good fight in his youth, and Oupa backs off. Soon they are fighting again, and much later, Sean feels himself being ministered to by Ouma as she gushes over how he held his own. Behind Ouma, he becomes aware of another presence. Katrina looks at Sean with her green eyes and he stops thinking about everything else. Ouma notices, and sends her out to help with chores. The next time Sean wakes, he stumbles painfully out of his own wagon to find Mbejan, who gives him an invitation to dinner at the Leroux camp.

Sean accepts, dressing in his good clothes and boots, and limps over exchanging a terse greeting with Paulus. Ouma ladles out food that is so good he eagerly consumes the plateful and accepts more. Not to be outdone, Paulus continues to eat as well. Plate for plate they go until again a draw is declared. The next morning Sean plans to invite them to dinner personally and perhaps wrangle an invitation for coffee, but Hlubi comes running with news of a large herd, and tells him that the man from the other camp has seen it also. He is swifter of foot and beat him back and while Sean may have ignored the ivory in favor of Katrina before, news that Paulus is interested changes that. He tells Hlubi to lead him to the herd, but limited to the speed of Hlubi's feet, the Leroux's catch him easily. They agree to hunt together and Jan Paulus takes the right flank, Oupa the left and Sean the middle. They race for the herd firing, loading and firing again until they are too exhausted to continue. Sean is finishing a kill shot, putting a wounded animal out of its misery when Jan Paulus walks up. A wounded elephant charges him from the bush and Sean tells him not to run. Sean gets on his horse and fires. It chases him and he fumbles trying to reload, taking the kill shot just in time. The angry elephant falls to the ground in front of him.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

When Sean and his wagon train cross the river, he is disappointed and intrigued at the same time by the evidence of a previous camp. He has come to think of this as his own playground, and while he resents the intrusion, he is also suddenly lonely for company of his own kind. When Jan Paulus rides up, they exchange excited greetings until Jan tells him to move his camp. Then the tone changes, and Sean is ready to do battle. They exchange words and he rides off, telling Sean he had best move by the time they come back. He rides off, and Sean steams while he waits for them to come back. By the time the Leroux clan returns, Sean is ready for battle and hardly allows Jan Paulus to dismount before jumping in. They scrap in fine fashion, equally matched in strength and determination. When they are spent, it is a draw. With no real winner decided, everything becomes a contest. Sean is invited to their camp the next day for dinner, and even the food becomes a way to pit themselves against each other. Still, eating until they both throw up, a winner is not decided. The next day, a herd is reported close by and Sean, Jan Paulus and Oupa hunt them together, with arrangements to split the take in thirds. When they have hunted to exhaustion, Jan Paulus approaches Sean and as they are talking, an injured elephant charges Jan Paulus. In the frightening moments that follow, Sean manages to turn the elephant from Jan Paulus to himself, and then kill him just inches from his own demise.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 13-15

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 13-15 Summary

That night they camp between the legs of an elephant, drinking coffee, and Paulus thanks Sean. Oupa says they need men and wagons to get the ivory back to camp before the rains hit and Sean springs up, saddling his horse before they can object. Oupa asks Sean to help get his camp across the river before he comes back and Sean agrees, half expecting them to follow him. Before getting to camp, he cleans himself up, and then stops to change before going to the Leroux's. He calms the women who are convinced something is wrong, and spends an engaging evening telling stories.

The next morning he moves their camp, spending most of the day coaxing wagons and oxen over. He cleans up and is ready for the evening when the women meet him with parcels of food and coffee ready to go. When he gets to them, they comment on how long it took, and Sean gets busy helping to remove the rest of the ivory. After three days Sean's share is the equivalent of a good day at the exchange. They take the ivory back, unloading Sean's share and continuing across the river. Jan Paulus invites him to dinner, and he goes, but Oupa sees to it he and Katrina are not left alone.

The rains begins around midnight and by morning the river is raging. The Leroux camp is gone, and Sean can think of nothing but going after her. As he dresses, he tells himself he will marry her. He runs down the bank and into the swollen river. The current sweeps him away and he goes miles downriver, surfacing now and then just long enough to get a mouthful of air. He manages to get to the other side, and makes his way back to the camp site to the relief of his servants on the other side. Then, he sets out following their wagon tracks in the mud. When he finds them hours later, Sean asks for Katrina right away. Paulus laughs. Oupa puts himself and his horse between them, but Ouma is on Sean's side. She drags Oupa out of the way and finally Sean gets to Katrina. He proposes there and then and sobbing Katrina cannot answer immediately, but Oupa takes that as a bad sign and tries to separate them. Ouma understands that Kristina cries from joy, and by the time everything is settled, she is staying with Sean and Oupa and Ouma are leaving her with a dowry of four wagons and four horses. Oupa gets out the Bible, and makes Sean swear to the heavens that he will look after his woman until a priest can be found. Sean swears, and after many tears the Leroux depart without Katrina. At first she is frightened, but when she looks into Sean's eyes, she feels his love and it gives her comfort. She will not allow him to sleep in her wagon until a priest can be found, although she is happy to perform any other wifely duties. Sean reluctantly agrees, knowing she has made up her mind.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 13-15 Analysis

The Leroux's have new respect for Sean that evening as they camp between the legs of an elephant. When Oupa suggests someone go back to get a wagon and extra men, he is thinking of making the trip himself, but Sean is so quick to get to his feet that he is left with little choice but to allow him to go in his stead. He asks Sean to help his women get their wagons across the river before he comes back, and Sean agrees, happy that he will maybe get to spend some time with Katrina. He cleans up on the way back to camp, and then stops at his wagon to change before going over to the Leroux's camp. They talk until it is too late to move the wagons and Sean is up early in the morning to do it instead. He spends most of the day in the water, helping wagons and oxen across, and when he is done and looking forward to relaxing again, the women have other ideas. They have packed food and coffee for him so that he can return to the men and help finish. He gets the message and reluctantly goes. Sean's share will amount to the same as a good day at the stock exchange and he is pleased. They ride back to camp and drop off his share, telling him to come for dinner when he is cleaned up. He does, hoping to spend more time with Katrina but Oupa has other ideas. He can see the look on Sean's face and ushers his daughter to the wagon as soon as dinner is done. The next day, the rains have swollen the river, and when Sean gets outside he sees that the Leroux's have gone. Sean is beside himself. He cannot imagine letting her go, and makes the surprise decision then and there to marry her. All he has to do now is swim a swollen river, track them through the rain and mud through miles to catch up, and convince Oupa of his intentions. None of it seems like a big obstacle to him and he starts out despite Mbejane's objections. Oupa tries to keep them apart when he finally finds them, but between Jan Paulus shouting encouragement and Ouma dragging Oupa out of the way, Sean is able to propose to Katrina. It is decided that she should go with four wagons and four horses, and Sean is overjoyed and filled with love for her. She is scared for a minute but she turns to him and falls deep into the love in his eyes.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 16-18

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 16-18 Summary

Sean decides he will show her how displeased he is with her behavior, but sitting next to her he finds himself talking up a storm. The rain holds for three days, and together they walk, collect mushrooms and talk. The nights are hard, and Sean finds himself making excuses to touch her, but though she wants him to, she is fearful. Once he promises to do no more than kiss her (under penalty of never being able to touch her again), she allows him closer. Finally the river drops enough to get the wagons across. The last wagon holds Sean, Katrina and the servants. Sean stands behind Katrina, his arms around her waist to steady her, but the water piles up against the wagon and tips it over, throwing them all onto the opposite bank in the knee deep water. Sean picks Katrina up and carries her to his laager while she protests half-heartedly, holding tightly to him.

After the rains, grass shoots appear where before there was only dust. Game scatters, and Sean's scouts report no signs but he has a new quarry now, and he sets his mind to winning her over. The more he learns, the more enchanted he is. She can handle a rifle, ride astride, cut hair, cook and so much more. Only sixteen years old, Katrina is naive in many ways. One day she finds the extra clothing and cot in Sean's wagon and he tells her, knowing she will understand. Christmas comes, she bakes a cake and they exchange gifts. When the new year begins and Sean has not hunted elephant in six weeks, Mbejane comes to him as spokesman with the question, "Did we come to hunt, or what?" They head north, the strain beginning to show on Sean. Miserable, he is making the servants miserable, and the only happy one is Katrina. The Zulus can see the trouble, but cannot understand it. They all share Mbejane's assessment that it is a stupid stallion who does not know how to kick down a fence.

One morning they rise and after breakfast Katrina asks him not to go hunting. They spend the day with the dogs, picking mushrooms instead. Resting when they have a basket full, Sean pulls her down to him, but the dogs start calling an alarm. Sean sits up and sees a leopard, beautiful and regal, sitting not far away. The dogs leap off to chase before Sean can stop them, and he runs after them helplessly coming across one dog victim after another. Finally, he catches up to the leopard who is circling the three dogs left. The big cat looks around and leaps into the air, pouncing on Sean. He struggles to keep the big cat from biting him, while his claws do their damage. Using his knife, he slashes at it, desperate to take it down before it kills him. Open in two places, Sean thinks he may die. Just as the cat is going to finish him off, Thief jumps in, saving Sean's life. When Katrina catches up, he is barely alive and the cat is dead.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 16-18 Analysis

Sean is not happy with Katrina's decision to keep him at arm's length until a priest can be found, but even though he wants to be distant and barely polite as a response, he cannot. She is the light that he, like a moth, is drawn to, and all he wants is to know more about her. They walk in the rain, collect mushrooms, and talk about everything. The river finally drops enough to cross wagons so Sean gets everyone across. The more he learns about her, the more he loves her. Rain has encouraged growth in previously dry and barren areas, and as a result the game scatters, making hunting scarce, but Sean does not care. Katrina is quite happy, but Mbejane is elected by the servants to inquire as to whether they are there to hunt or not. Sean gets the message, and they head north. Sean is miserable. The nights are hard and he spends long hours with the dog Thief instead of with Katrina. Mbejane sums it up nicely when he comments to the servants one night that it is a stupid stallion who does not know how to kick down a fence. They agree. One morning as Sean is readying to go, Katrina asks him to stay instead. He agrees, and they spend the day picking mushrooms. In the afternoon, resting together on a blanket, they are interrupted by the dogs' hunting brays. They sit up to see a leopard sitting close by, and the dogs take off after it. Sean can hear the chase change, as, one by one, the big cat eliminates his dogs. He follows the sounds until he comes upon them. The cat is surrounded by three dogs, one of them Thief, and Sean watches him circling. Suddenly he leaps at Sean, who raises his hands to shield his face from the cat's jaws. The cat slashes with his feet, opening Sean up as he uses his knife on the cat, trying to save his own life. When Katrina finds him, he is clinging to life, and the big cat is dead. For days, he lives in a sea of pain and hallucinations until after a long five days he finally opens his eyes to a tired Katrina. Her eyes light up with surprise and happiness and she encourages him to rest so he does.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 19-21

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 19-21 Summary

Mbejane helps Katrina to clean Sean's wounds. She brings him food, he eats and then sleeps again. Mbejane builds him an open sided shelter to allow air circulation around his wounds, and a bed of poles and leather thongs. Katrina goes to get pillows and blankets and Sean slowly heals. In the mornings he holds court from his bed, and discusses everything from the health of the oxen to hunting conditions. Finally, after much longer than really necessary, Katrina finally allows Sean to get up, and after a week of hobbling around camp, the unsteadiness leaves his legs. One evening he hunts fresh meat with Mbejane, and he manages to kill an eland. Mbejane goes back to get servants to help carry it to camp. They eat well, but Katrina seems distant. Finally Sean offers to escort her to her wagon, but she defers, asking that he leave Thief with her instead. He agrees, confused, and goes to bed. When he gets there, he finds cleanly pressed sheets instead of the rough blankets he is used to, and remarks aloud at the curiosity before getting into bed. She comes to him then and tells him what is on her mind. When she came to him at first, she loved him and thought they would have a lifetime to enjoy that love. Then she saw him torn and bleeding in the bush and realized their lives might be over before they even started. She unbuttons her clothing and lets it fall, telling him all she has is her body and her love, and asks if that is enough. Finally, the consummation takes place.

The following morning, she asks Sean to put his name in her family bible, showing him the space where they will put their children's names. Her belly begins to grow soon after, and Sean's love for her grows with it. Before they know it, she is in her third trimester, and Sean must bring a priest back to their camp soon if they are to avoid having a bastard child. He instructs Mbejane to watch over Katrina while he is gone. Katrina understands the necessity for the trip and sheds no tears as he readies to go.

Sean and Hlubi travel as fast as possible to the mountains and then struggle to find a pass through them, often backtracking. Going down the eastern slope is easier they soon ride into a village at the bottom. They dismount, and one old man shuffles forward. Sean smiles, and the old one leads him to a seat while the rest of the villagers come out. Sean manages to make it understood that he is looking for Nova Sofala. The old one appoints himself their guide offering to lead them, but Hlubi tells Sean that he has a thorn in his foot and would rather stay until Sean returns. Seeing Hlubi glance toward a young native girl, he tells Hlubi smiling that the thorn is not in his foot.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 19-21 Analysis

It takes considerable time for Sean to heal, during which he enjoys Katrina's mothering, while the open sided shelter Mbejane builds for him helps his wounds heal. Slowly he regains his strength, and takes over the duties of running the camp again. It is long overdue that Sean finally struggles out of bed. He spends another week in camp before venturing out the first time with Mbejane to hunt for fresh meat. He manages to kill an eland, and they all eat well that night, but Katrina is distant. She goes to him and tells him that she realizes something important. At first, she thought they would have lots of time together, but now realizes that life is short, and withholding herself from him, she might not ever know her husband before it is too late. Then she lets her clothing fall, and offers herself to him for the first time. In a short time, her belly begins to grow, and with more love than he thought previously possible, Sean watches her with wonder and disbelief. She becomes more beautiful every day, and before long he can feel their baby moving inside her. One day, she mentions to him that if they do not find a priest soon, their baby will be a bastard. Sean realizes the truth of it, and makes immediate plans to cross the mountains and find one. He instructs Mbejane to stay with her, and taking Hlubi with him, he heads for the hills. Finding a way up proves much more difficult than finding a way back down the other side, and they backtrack many times, unable to continue. Finally, on the eastern slope, they see a village. Entering it, the villagers flee and Hlubi shakes his head disgusted. Monkeys, he calls them. They dismount, and after drawing in the sand with a stick for a few minutes, one of the elders comes out. It takes little time for Sean to explain that he is looking for Nova Sofala, and the old man offers to guide them there. When Sean gets back on his horse, he finds Hlubi reluctant, but soon realizes that it is a girl he is interested in, not the thorn in his foot.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 22-24

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 22-24 Summary

The old man leads Sean to Nova Sofala where the sentry takes Sean to the Commandant. Sean tells him his problem, and finds there are three Jesuit priests in the fort—all eager for employment. He meets the missionaries at dinner, and chooses the youngest because he likes the sound of Father Alphonso's name. They drink, toasting everything and everyone, and swear a mutual oath of friendship and loyalty. Sean leaves early the next morning with the old man and the priest, and two days later they are back in the old man's village. Sean gives him a hunting knife in payment but never even dismounts. Hlubi has trouble disengaging himself from the three native girls who believe he married them.

Nine days from Nova Sofala they encounter the Sabi river again. Hlubi tells Sean they are two hours upstream from the wagons, and Sean will not stop for the night. He pushes until he can see Katrina's lantern in the distance. Thief barks a welcome and Mbejane races out telling Sean he has not much time. The birth has begun. Sean jumps off his horse and races to her side, the relief in her face evident when she sees him. Sean quickly brings the priest in to perform their marriage. The priest asks Sean for the ring, but in his haste Sean forgot a ring, and the priest will not continue. Sean asks Mbejane to bring his rifle, and when he does Sean throws a gold sovereign to the ground and shooting a hole in it, creates a ring. He put it on her finger and when Father Alphonso finishes the last few latin phrases, Sean throws him out.

It takes little time from this point until Katrina delivers a baby boy. Sean has never seen her so beautiful. He begs her to stay in bed for a day or two, but Katrina will not. Mbejane wants to see him to hold his child, and the other Zulus soon take up the chant. Sean holds him awkwardly at first, and slowly he relaxes and smiles. Mbejane asks the name of his son, and Katrina gives the name they decided on. Dirk, meaning dagger. It meets with great approval.

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 22-24 Analysis

The old man from the village leads Sean to Nova Sofala, where he is fortunate enough to find three priests to choose from. He stays at the fort long enough to clean up, have a meal, and drink with the Commandant, but the next morning he is on his way back. Choosing the youngest priest because he thinks the name Father Alphonso is regal sounding, they hurry back to the village, picking up Hlubi and then continuing on their way. It is nine days after leaving the fort before they reach the Sabi river. Sean finds out that they have a two hour march ahead of them before they will reach the wagons and is unwilling to stop for the night. The sight of Katrina's lantern is like a beacon and Sean



gratefully enters camp with Thief barking a welcome. Mbejane comes out of the wagon telling Sean he is just in time. He dismounts and she is relieved to see him. Sean calls in the priest, but before he will perform the ceremony, he insists on a ring. Sean has nothing but takes a sovereign and shoots a hole through it. He places it on Katrina's finger and kisses her as the priest finishes, and then kicks him out. His son is born shortly after. The next morning, she refuses to stay in bed and Sean hovers around her anxiously. Mbejane asks the baby's name, and Sean and Katrina tell him their son's name is Dirk—as in dagger. They all agree it is a very good name.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 25-27

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 25-27 Summary

Having a child affects Sean immediately. In a joyous fog of proud paternity, he watches Katrina feed their son. When the rains threaten, he decides to return to a valley on the other side of the Sabi to wait it out and let their son get strong, and then head to Pretoria to sell the ivory. The camp is joyful. Mbejane makes a cot out of cedar wood, and Sean begins a cabin. The servants soon join in, and it becomes a sturdy home with thatched roof and a fireplace. Christmas and New Year's comes and goes, and the rainy season abates.

Their second baby is starting to show and, short of supplies, it is time to go. By end of July, they reach the Limpopo river and find a place to cross. It takes three days to get everything over and when they are done, everyone is beat. The next morning, Katrina looks pale. Sean worries. He leaves her to rest, supervising the reloading of the wagons, and at the end of the day the sight of her scares him. He asks if she is sick and she lets her eyes travel to the chamber pot on the floor half full of liquid colored like milk stout. She tells him it is blackwater, confirming his worst fears. Malaria's most malignant form, the disease attacks the kidneys, and turns them into fragile sacks of blood that can burst with the slightest movement. He tells her to be still, but by nightfall she is in the grips of delirium. Thrashing she refuses to drink, but Sean forces her, knowing she has to flush her kidneys. Mbejane takes Dirk out of the trailer, cot and all. Shortly after dark, Kandhla comes, bringing a liquid made from the bark of the maiden's breast tree, telling Sean to make her drink it. Sean realizes that Hlubi made the thirty mile round trip in under six hours and has to smile despite his distress. Sean and Kandhla make Katrina drink and she passes frothy black liquid four times during the night. She goes from delirium to comatose. Kandhla brings another pot of medicine and Katrina's second son is stillborn. Grief-stricken Sean wraps his son and buries him in the woods. Then he waits while she hovers near death.

Katrina loses much of herself to the illness. Physically weak, the fever does its damage to her body, and her mind. With no strength left to fight, she mourns the loss of their baby, and neither Sean nor Dirk seem able to reach her. She picks listlessly at her food, and seems to take enjoyment from nothing. It is months before Katrina can sit unassisted in bed, and still longer before she can travel. Even then, a mere two hours in a litter carried by Zulus is exhausting to her. Halfway to Magaliesberg, Mbejane reminds Sean of the buried ivory, but Sean is not interested. It belongs to Duff. Mbejane does not argue.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 25-27 Analysis

Sean finds fatherhood a life-altering experience. He loves to watch Katrina with the baby and Dirk rapidly becomes the center of everything. Even the Zulus fight amongst themselves to spend time with the Ngosi's son. Sean and the servants build a cabin and their happiness blooms. When they are in danger of running out of supplies, Sean moves their camp across the Sabi. It takes three days and everyone is exhausted afterward. They sleep and in the morning Katrina looks pale and drawn. Sean hovers around her anxiously, and then supervises the reloading of the wagons. When he returns to her, what he finds is frightening. Katrina has a malignant form of malaria called Blackwater that turns the kidneys into fragile sacks of blood that can easily burst. He begs her to lie still, but by nightfall she is in the depths of delirium. Hlubi runs thirty miles back to the hills to get bark from the maiden's breast tree and making a liquid, Kandhla brings it to Sean, telling him to make her drink it. Even in his grief, Sean recognizes the depth of loyalty it takes to accomplish this feat. Katrina's second son is stillborn, and Sean grapples with grief and worry as he hovers over her in attendance while she lay comatose. Slowly she regains her health, but her mind is reluctant to return. She mourns the loss of her baby, and neither Sean nor Dirk are able to break through. She picks listlessly at her food, and requires months of recuperation before she is ready to begin the trip to civilization. They begin slowly, traveling only a few hours each day until Katrina is stronger, and halfway to Magaliesberg, Mbejane reminds Sean of the wagon load of ivory buried near by. Sean does not want it. It belongs to Duff, and he leaves it where it is and although Mbejane does not understand it, he will not argue with Sean either.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 28-30

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 28-30 Summary

Two months after leaving the Limpopo river, they arrive in the settlement at Louis Trichardt. Sean finds the doctor, and after looking at Katrina he tells Sean he should thank his maker that she survived both the malaria and the loss of her child. Katrina will require a year of healing. Six months from now, Sean should give her another child to replace the one she lost, but most of all, he tells Sean, love her. The doctor refuses payment, but Sean instructs Mbejane to take him a large tusk. Three days later they begin the last leg of their journey.

Katrina sees to Dirk gaining strength rapidly, but nothing touches the depression. Just before Christmas 1895, their wagon train climbs the hills above the city and they look down on Pretoria. They make camp on the roadside out of town, and Sean dons his best clothes and boots. He works his way to a store he and Duff dealt with before and waits inside for Mr. Goldberg. Goldberg tells him that the market for ivory is no good and he can hardly give it away now, but Sean has asked the ruling prices only two days previous. He offers to take his twelve wagon loads of ivory elsewhere, but Goldberg ushers him into the back office. Two days later each tusk has been weighed and the columns of numbers agreed on, and they still haggle on a price. Finally they agree and an assistant begins counting out gold in piles of fifty on the counter. Sean fills two canvas bags and heads for the bank. That night, Katrina asks him if they have enough to buy the farm yet, and Sean says they do but first he wants to make one more trip into the bush veld. Then he takes her to the fanciest dress shop in Pretoria for half a dozen dresses and a shawl that catches her eye. Overwhelmed, she bursts into tears, and Sean takes her back to the carriage.

They spend the night at a hotel, have dinner sent up to the room, and Katrina falls into bed. Sean goes down to the bar, missing Duff, and runs into Dennis Petersen from Ladyburg. Catching up, he learns Dennis married Audrey Pye, and Ada owns a dress shop, but most disturbing is that Garry lost half his cattle to an epidemic cattle disease called rindepest, and has mortgaged the family farm again. Sean decides he wants to go home. Sean believes Katrina is well enough to travel so they take a gentle buggy ride to Johannesburg the next morning and visit all of the old haunts, including the offices, the exchange, and even the Candy Deep. Katrina feels an evil presence there and begs Sean to leave. They go into town for dinner and while they are eating, Candy shows up with a man on each arm. Stunning, she is surprised to see Sean and even more surprised that he is married. Katrina takes a dislike to Candy, believing she and Sean have more than a friendship. When she pleads exhaustion, Candy whispers to Sean, asking him about Duff, but Katrina thinks they are arranging a meeting.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 28-30 Analysis

Katrina is slowly improving, but when they reach Louis Trichardt, Sean's first concern is to find her a doctor. The doctor examines her and declares her very fortunate to have survived. He tells Sean her recovery could take up to a year, and after six months it might be a good idea to consider giving her a child to replace the one she lost. Meanwhile, he prescribes love. Sean sells the twelve wagons of ivory, and after three days of rest, they begin the trip to Pretoria, arriving just before Christmas in 1895. Sean takes Katrina out to buy new dresses and, weak, she agrees to whatever Sean wants. Exhausted afterward, Katrina and Sean go back to the room, eat and Katrina gets into bed. He goes to the bar for a drink and runs into Dennis who is now married to Audrey Pye. Sean asks about his mother, finding out that she now runs a dress shop, and all he finds out about Garrick is that he has fallen into a bottle lately. Garrick lost half the stock to rindepest and had to mortgage the farm. Sean decides that he wants to go home. Sean believes Katrina is well enough to travel so they take a gentle buggy ride to Johannesburg. Sean and Mbejane show Katrina the haunts of his past. They go to the office, the exchange and even to the Candy Deep before going to the hotel for dinner. Katrina does not like the mine, and her feelings of reservation keep growing. She asks Sean if they have enough for the farm she wants them to buy, and Sean says they do, but he wants to do one more year in the bush first. Katrina agrees. While they are eating dinner, Candy suddenly comes down the wide staircase with a man on each arm. She fawns over Sean, and Katrina forms an instant dislike for her. Feigning a headache, she asks Sean to take her upstairs, and he agrees but on the way out of the restaurant, Candy whispers in his ear. When Katrina asks him about it, he tells her that Candy just said goodnight. He is so preoccupied with what she really asked that he does not see the look of disbelief on her face. Katrina thinks they are arranging to meet later, but Candy just asks him about Duff.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 31-33

Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 31-33 Summary

The next morning Sean wakes to a splitting headache. Katrina's mood has not softened and she asks him if he is coming to church. Sean declines but she is determined to go, and takes Dirk with her. When the knock comes on the door, Sean yells come in, surprised to see Candy. He tells her she has to leave because his wife would never understand her in the room, but Candy tells him that one of her people is watching her. She sits down, and promising not to cry asks how Duff died. Sean does not want to tell her but finally relents. They talk for some time, catching up until Sean notices the time and tells Candy she has to leave before Katrina gets back.

He gets into a shower and is toweling off when Candy returns with Dirk. Sean comes out of the bathroom and finds Katrina lying on the bed staring at the ceiling. He crosses to her and asks her what is wrong, but there is no life in her eyes. He runs to get a doctor and after examining her, he gives her a sedative and tells Sean he is not sure what is wrong. Calling it paralytic hysteria, he tells Sean all they can do is wait. Worrying all day takes its toll and Sean stretches out on the bed beside her and drifts off. She waits until she is sure he is asleep and then stands over him for a moment, realizing she still loves him. That morning, coming out of the sweet shop with Dirk, she sees Candy coming out of the hotel, and she can still smell Candy's perfume in the air. Believing that Sean arranged to meet with her while she was in church, she is devastated. She kisses him gently, almost changing her mind, but then puts on a coat, and adds an entry to her bible before leaving. When Sean wakes the next morning alone and dressed on the bed, he begins looking for Katrina, relieved at least that she has gotten out of bed. Katrina is nowhere to be found. He goes to Candy for help and she expands the search, and gives Sean a drink.

By nightfall when there is still no word, he is frantic with worry. Candy shows up and Sean realizes that he has never told Katrina he loves her, and is just now understanding the depths of that love. He sleeps fitfully in a chair and wakes drawn to the bible. He opens it and sees the fresh entry beside her name. She had penned in the date of her death. Suddenly, Sean knew where she is. In the early morning light, he races to the Candy Deep and finds her green shawl caught on the barbed wire fence. He goes back to the hotel and tells Mbejane to get the carriage. Then he packs their things and taking Dirk downstairs he tells Mbejane to head for Pretoria. Dirk asks if mummy is coming, but Sean tells him no. Mbejane takes them back to where the wagons were held in Pretoria and Sean decides to head back to the bushveld. Perhaps after a year, he tells himself, he will be ready to go back to Ladyburg.



Part Three, The Wilderness: Chapters 31-33 Analysis

Sean does not attend church with Katrina the next morning, and she is not happy about it. Still stinging from watching him dance with Candy the night before, she goes alone with Dirk. Candy watches her leave, and then heads to their room to talk to Sean. Sean is horrified when she comes in, knowing full well that Katrina will not understand, even if the visit is innocent. Candy tells him that one of her men is watching Katrina, so they need not worry. They talk for some time, and Sean finally admits that he truly loves his wife, although he has never come right out and told her. They catch up, and Sean realizes that they have been talking for some time. Nervous, he says goodbye to Candy, and then gets into a shower. By the time he is toweling off, Katrina and Dirk are back. Dirk runs in with candy to share, but Katrina is just lying on the bed when he comes out, staring at the ceiling and unresponsive. He runs to get a doctor, but the doctor is no help. He sedates Katrina and Sean, exhausted, lies down beside her and falls asleep. When she is sure of his even breathing, she gets up. Looking down at him sleeping, she almost changes her mind, but then resolutely she puts on her coat, adds one more entry to the bible, and quietly leaves. When Sean wakes, he is at first relieved that she is out of bed, but then begins looking for her. He becomes more and more frantic, eventually enlisting half the town to help find her, but there is no sign. By the next morning he is frantic. He picks up the bible, and opening it finds the entry she wrote under her date of death. Stunned, Sean suddenly knows where she is. He races to the Candy Deep, but all he finds is her shawl snagged on the barbed wire fence at the top of the shaft. Devastated, he goes back to the hotel, telling Mbejane to get the carriage. He packs his things and grabs Dirk who asks him innocently if mummy is coming. Sean tells him that she is not, and struggles not to cry as they leave, headed for Pretoria. A year in the bush veld to heal, he tells himself, and then perhaps back to Ladyburg with his son. It is an ending, but also a beginning and Sean struggles to cope as the carriage rolls toward the wagons in Pretoria.



Characters

Sean Courtney

Twin to Garrick Courtney, Sean is a self-assured and strong-willed young man. His confidence emboldens him in ways that sometimes get him into trouble, but he is intelligent and can back up his forward attitude. Cocky in his youth, he never shies away from conflict, even encouraging it at times. When a hunting accident causes his brother to lose a leg, his guilt is so great that he often finds himself doing both their chores, but he does so without complaint. When he returns from the Chelmsford conflict to find Garrick and his girlfriend Anna married, he has nothing but good wishes for them, especially when he finds out that Anna is expecting, but then Anna corners him and tells him she still loves him, confessing the baby is his. The idea of his brother's wife coming to him lovingly repulses him, and he pushes her away, but she gets her revenge. She tells Garrick that Sean attacked her. The lie is enough to set brother against brother, although each man would cite a different reason. Garry believes his brother attacked his wife, and Sean believes Anna finally told Garrick the baby is Sean's. Sadly, he knows he cannot stay, and leaves that night with Mbejane, heading north without a particular destination.

He finds a traveling companion when Dufford Charleywood helps him in a bar fight, and a quick friendship is forged. They establish a mine in Witwatersrand that, after some ups and downs, makes them a couple of the richest men in the area. They live high, in a place where money is no object and people are expendable. Money becomes all, and they sell out their company, and eventually their souls. When greed has them eager to take down their partner, Hradsky, they are caught in a trap of their own making, and lose everything. Sean is not as disturbed by this turn of events as Dufford is. He merely packs their things and sets out for a new adventure.

The wilderness teaches Sean a great deal. He learns that money does not matter. It cannot buy happiness, or friends, although it can seem as though it can for a while. He learns by the death of Charleywood that his friendship is irreplaceable. He learns that promises must sometimes be broken, and he learns to free himself. Then he meets Katrina and his whole life changes again as he discovers a depth of love he had no idea existed. She gives him a son, and is pregnant with a second when illness almost takes her from him, but she survives, although their second son does not. He takes her to civilization, introducing her to the life he once led, and she develops extreme self-consciousness and lack of self-esteem. When Candy comes to say hi, she wilts and senses that there was much more between them. Sean fails to see how deeply bothered she is, and though she begs him to leave, he does not understand. He dances with Candy, making Katrina even more uncomfortable, and in the end she believes he is still interested in Candy. When he is too hung over to attend church the next morning, Candy stops in after Katrina and Dirk have gone ahead without him. She wants to know what happened to Duff, and she and Sean catch up until he tells her nervously that she should go. Unfortunately she is seen leaving by Katrina and smelling her perfume in



their room is the final straw. She lays on the bed staring at the ceiling, and though Sean fetches a doctor, he tells Sean nothing can be done. When Sean dozes off, she gets up quietly and putting a last entry into her bible, she throws herself down a shaft at the Candy Deep mine. Sean is devastated when he realizes what has happened, and packs immediately, knowing he will not be comfortable there. All he can think of is getting back into the bushveld as fast as he can with Dirk and maybe, much later, back to Ladyburg.

Dufford Charleywood

Meeting Sean during a bar fight in Dundee, Dufford offers Sean a partnership in business. Tall, and with a soothing English voice, Dufford has a gauntly ravaged face that greets you with sincerity. A gentleman, he neatly uses his cane to dispatch two of the men intending to fight Sean. Though employed at Dundee Collieries, Ltd. when they meet, Duff leaves his job to work with Sean. Having learned his mining skills in Canada, Duff is invaluable to Sean.

Dufford Charleywood is the fourth and youngest son of sixteenth Baron of Roxby. Raised on the end of a horsewhip, he had little respect for his father who dies at the age of sixty-two after being kicked by a horse. He leaves home shortly afterward with three months allowance in his pocket. A lean man, he is agile and well-muscled, able to hold his own in any circumstance. A fiercely loyal friend, Dufford makes a lousy mate, leaving the only love in his life the eve before their wedding. Candy does not forgive him, but Sean does, and together they become millionaires in Johannesburg, but with great wealth comes responsibility. It is a lesson they do not learn until they have lost it all. Dufford thinks life is over when he makes the mistake of over selling shares of CRC and loses everything, but Sean helps put him back together. They leave with only horses and supplies and a group of loyal Zulus.

Duff is not as fond of the wilderness as his best friend and business partner is. He makes it clear from the beginning that hunting appalls him and he spends his time half-heartedly panning along the way. Still, the ideas he contributes to their partnership make up for his lack of hunting enthusiasm. Suggestions like burying the ivory along the way and picking it up on the way back make tremendous sense to Sean and saves much work. Burying takes time, but when they are done, they sit contentedly. Duff leaves the area to relieve his bladder before turning in, and although Sean calls and warns him, he is unable to return to camp before a rabid jackal reaches him. Bitten on the face and wrist, Dufford is afraid. It is not a feeling he is used to. The servants build a shelter away from camp and the thirty day wait for symptoms begins. On the eighteenth day when the dog is shot, frothing and screeching, Duff loses hope. He rages and rants, but soon realizes the futility and he makes Sean promise that he will not use a rifle on him. Sean honors that promise, even when the madness takes Duff and he lunges at Sean. Still, unable to break his promise, he stays with his friend until convulsions hit Duff so hard that his spine snaps. Then, quickly, Sean ends his life, breaking his promise.



Mbejane

A Zulu from the Chaka's blood, Mbejane, meaning Rhinoceros, is part of the original patrol of four mounted white men and half a dozen Zulus that are sent to scout towards the northeast. He takes the reins from Sean's horse while Sean drinks and Sean likes him immediately. He wears only a kilt of civet cat tails. He has no rattles, no cloak and no headdress. He carries a black rawhide shield and two short stabbing spears. His chest is broad and his stomach muscles ripple with strength. Somewhat arrogant, as he is not only Zulu, but of royal descent, he carries his spear against Cetewayo, the current king. Mbejane's father was the heir to the throne, but was killed by the man now holding the title. He is alone in the world, feeling that aloneness acutely.

Mbejane is a man of many talents and strengths. A formidable hunter, tracker, and friend for life, Mbejane is the reason Sean is still alive. Forging a friendship during the Chelmsford Zulu campaign, he devotes his life to the service of Sean Courtney. Overconfident at times, likely because of his lineage, Mbejane feels free to disagree with Sean, though not disobeying of course. He begins by saving Sean from the Zulus when they are scouting together, returning to Ladyburg with Sean when the conflict ends. When Sean leaves Ladyburg, he gives Mbejane the option of coming, but it is an easy choice. He leaves his woman and willingly follows Sean on foot wherever he goes. He guards the wagon train on their journey, and fills whatever duties the Nkosi Sean might require. A loyal servant, he even dons livery for Sean for a short time, but quickly reverts to his loincloth at first opportunity. When Katrina comes into Sean's life, he adds this responsibility to his duties without question. Guarding her while Sean fetches a priest, he helps deliver their first son, and is his nursemaid afterwards as well. All this is done with the utmost respect and dignity, forming a bond with Sean that lasts a lifetime. When Sean loses his wife, Mbejane is there to help with Dirk and to take Sean back to the bushveld.

An amazing man, he lives his life putting a white man and his family before himself, his own family, and his own life if necessary. His loyal and dedicated service earn him a place with Sean that borders on family, a bond that will only be broken by death.

Katrina Leroux/Courtney

Katrina is a soft spoken, and simple country girl that Sean finds traveling with her family in the bush veld. She is slim and elegant for her age, and she marries Sean at the tender age of sixteen, but Ouma Leroux has coached her well. She can ride, cook, clean, cut hair and she is beautiful and untarnished as well. Coming from a small family, she has been relatively sheltered all of her life. She is vulnerable, easily embarrassed and innocent to the core. When she accepts Sean as a husband, they are deep in the bushveld, and Sean swears on the family's Bible that he will look after her for the rest of his life. Then they part company, and Katrina is left with Sean. She is afraid for a moment at first, but looking into his eyes she sees love, and relaxes. They soon fall into a wonderful routine, and Katrina truly enjoys the role of wife, but refuses to be intimate



with Sean before they are officially married by a priest. She sticks to her moral high ground until one day Sean wrestles with a leopard and almost dies. They lose three dogs in the encounter as well, but Katrina only has eyes for her husband. She relaxes her position, finally understanding that fate could take him from her before they ever consummate the marriage. When she finds herself well into pregnancy, she reminds Sean that if he does not find a priest soon, their child will be a bastard. He leaves immediately, and she waits in the camp alone with Mbejane and the other servants. Sean gets back just in time to marry her before she bears him a son they name Dirk.

Katrina thinks she knows all about love and marriage and Sean, but one trip to civilization unravels it all. They only return needing supplies, but Sean wants to show her some of the life he led. He buys her new dresses and a shawl, and takes her on a tour of the offices, stock exchange and the Candy Deep. She shudders there, feeling a malevolent presence at the mine. Sean takes her to a fancy dinner, and runs into Candy. Katrina senses he and Candy are more than friends, and she gets her first and last taste of jealousy. Instead of talking to Sean about it, she takes seemingly incriminating evidence to heart without giving him an opportunity to explain. Believing he has been unfaithful, she slips out of their room while he sleeps, and throws herself down the Candy Deep.

Candella Rautenbach

Candy runs Candy's hotel, serving high class cuisine to a discriminating clientèle. She is Nordic, tall, blonde and with flawless skin. She fills her clothes, front and back, very nicely and is noticed by every man who enters her hotel. She wanders from table to table, greeting her guests and is surprised by the simple show of manners that Sean and Dufford give her when they stand as she approaches. They ask her to join them and Duff tells her that he is Mr. Courtney's mining advisor, and after she tests Duff's knowledge, she tells them about the land claims she holds. She adds that she is in negotiations with the South African Mining and Lands Company, and Sean, playing his role, drops Mr. Hradsky's first name Norman casually. She decides to show them her claims, and when they buy them from her, she asks in addition only that they name the mine after her, which they do.

She helps the boys more than once, loaning them money, and even feeding them when they are down on their luck. She is a shrewd entrepreneur though, and her risk pays off. The mine is a huge success and her buyout with interest is enough for her to construct a two story hotel on her own property. Elegant and rich, she is easily a catch. She falls hard for Duff, and he comes within hours of marrying her before he backs out, breaking her heart. A woman of great class, she makes no scene, retreating to her hotel to suffer in silence. In a moment of weakness, she spends the night with Sean, and it is a one time event they will both remember fondly. When Duff and Sean go broke and leave Johannesburg, Candy is saddened but cannot believe her eyes when she sees Sean again. She blunders when she exclaims her surprise that he is married, embarrassing his wife, but tries to cover, not realizing how naive Katrina is. Behaving as she always



has, Candy dances with Sean and lets her arm rest on his when they talk. She would probably admit that she enjoys making Sean's wife jealous.

When Katrina vanishes, she tries to convince Sean that she is just punishing him, and helps in the search to find her, convinced she is hiding to punish Sean. When he realizes what Katrina has done, Sean does not even stop to say goodbye to Candy.

Garrick Courtney

Garrick is Sean's twin brother, and the milder of the two. Slim of build, Garry's wrists and ankles are much like those of a girl's. He is freckle-faced, with pale blue eyes and hair that grows wispy and brown. He suffers from constant hay-fever, giving his eyes a slightly pink look. He defers often to his brothers stronger personality, and loses a leg as a result. This accident shapes the rest of his life. He is not sent to the front lines with Sean and his father when war comes with the Zulus, but becomes a hero in his own right when he saves the men he is with from wave after wave of Zulu attacks. Later, when he returns home, he finds Sean's girlfriend Anna. Believing Sean and his father are dead, Anna and Garrick wed to give the child she carries a name and a home. He is understandably stunned when he returns home to find Sean alive and well.

Norman Hradsky

A former employer of Dufford Charleywood, Hradsky is a Jew who commands respect but does not always get it. He speaks with a stutter that tends to be so severe that he has someone else talk for him most of the time. He is already mining at Witwatersrand before Sean and Duff arrive. He is a wicked task master with little patience for disloyalty. He has one daughter, whose involvement with Duff is responsible for him being run out of his job. He and Duff meet again in Johannesburg, and Norman has to constantly restrain himself as Dufford uses every opportunity to needle him. When Duff and Sean strike it rich, he approaches them about a partnership, making the offer so attractive financially that they cannot say no. They help him form a stock exchange at his suggestion when he tells them innocently that it will enable access to funds for further investments.

He enjoys the stock exchange, every day sitting across from his nemesis, never once letting on. He lures them in slowly, giving them a taste of high finance, and engaging them in smaller deals that increase both their coffers. However, Hradsky hears every barb Duff throws. He swallows every insult and ignores all bait. One day, he sends his henchman Max to Sean and Duff. Believing he is acting alone, they strike a deal with him. Together, they plan to bury Hradsky. It is a big risk, and things have to be just right, Max tells them. Meanwhile, Norman and Max leave town on business, setting the trap. In an effort to force the bank into dumping Hradsky's stock, Sean and Duff flood the market with their own stock to drive the value down. Norman quietly and quickly buys up the stock, leaving them penniless. When he reveals himself at the end in the exchange, he revels in the look on their faces, and has every intention of turning the screws until



they hurt, but Sean talks him into letting them leave with their horses and belongings, and fifteen hundred in cash.

In the end, Hradsky owns it all.

Max

Max is Norman's gopher. He does all of Norman's talking and takes an enormous amount of abuse because of it. Teased by everyone, he has no trouble with his conscience when he approaches Sean and Duff with his scheme. While he has little respect for Norman, he has even less for the men who have needled him for years—Dufford Charleywood among them. It is easy for them to believe that he would sell out his boss for a hundred thousand pounds, and they can hardly believe it when they see him standing there with Norman. It is his revenge as well.

Anna Van Essen/Courtney

As a child, Anna has long brown legs, a small face framed with black hair, and a pointed chin. She has eyes for Sean from the beginning, when they attend the same school and even bribes him with her mother's well-known shortbread. When Sean rides past the Van Essen farm, she often comes running, asking to be taken along. Though Sean does not want her along at first, her naked body at a fishing hole soon changes his mind. Once she understands her power over him, the dynamics of their relationship changes. She flirts and he follows, until she finally gives in, allowing him to sleep with her before he goes off to war. Though it is a one time occurrence, Anna soon realizes she is pregnant, and her life as a child is officially over.

When the war is over and her father is lost in the conflict, life's hardships increase. She believes Sean and his father are both dead, and she goes to Garrick knowing that he will come to her rescue. He does as predicted, and while they are on their honeymoon, Sean returns home. It is a shock that Anna can hardly grasp. Sean is happy for them both, and Anna rankles at being referred to as his little sister. She makes Garry tell Sean she is pregnant, and instead of understanding the baby is his, he offers congratulations and is excited for them. When Anna finds herself alone in the house with Sean, she summons her strength and courage and tells him she loves him and that the baby is his. Unable to deal with having Sean so close, and angry that he would refuse her, she tells her new husband that Sean attacked her. She is responsible for driving Sean from his home, and sets him on a lifetime of adventure.

Francois du Toit

An old friend of Dufford Charleywood's, Francois du Toit is a small man with a round brown face and a moustache reminiscent of the whiskers of a fox terrier. He wears a derby hat, pulled down hard to his ears, giving the overall effect of a dapper little man. Francois and Duff work the diamond fields together and Duff saves his life when he



pulls him out of a cave in after the rocks break his legs. Now leery of a noise the earth makes underground, he is much more careful, but still working for the same man and company. The South African Mining and Lands Company is his employer, and Francois is highly dependent on the employment. To repay Duff for saving him, he gives him information about the gold reef they are working, and his information is largely the reason Duff and Sean become millionaires. A loyal friend, he also shares with Duff information about Candy and the claims she has for sale. It is payment of his debt to Duff in full.



Objects/Places

Theunis Kraal

Homestead of the Courtney family, located near Ladyburg. Consisting of over 5000 acres of prime grazing land, and 2000 head of cattle and oxen, Theunis Kraal is a respectable and profitable concern.

Ladyburg

The closest town to Theunis Kraal, Ladyburg is a town with burnt brick or whitewashed houses, wide streets and a center square.

Pietermaritzburg

The next town over from Ladyburg, Pietermaritzburg is the town that Garrick and Anna go to in order to get married. The Cathedral on Church Street is the place they choose, with its stained glass window and bell tower.

Dundee

A day's ride from the mouth of the pass into the mountains, Dundee is where Sean meets Dufford Charleywood, who becomes his equal partner in their mining ambitions.

Witwatersrand

Meaning the ridge of white waters, Witwatersrand is where Sean and Duff head to find gold. They build the Candy Deep mine and become millionaires, and then lose it all because of their own greed. In an effort to take down a rival, they leave themselves open, and Hradsky takes them down. One of the richest finds, Witwatersrand makes and breaks many, and is the reason for the explosive growth of Johannesburg.

Xanadu

Name of the house that Dufford Charleywood and Sean Courtney build after becoming millionaires at Witwatersrand. Sitting on a hundred acres of extensive gardens, Xanadu is remarkable. It has a black and white marble staircase, beds made out of heavy oak and views that look out across the whole valley.



Candy Deep

Name of the mine that makes Dufford Charleywood and Sean Courtney millionaires. Candy Deep is located at Witwatersrand.

Little Sister

Secondary mine opened after Candy Deep strikes gold.

Nkosi

Mister or Sir. A title of respect given to an adult male by a Zulu servant.

Nkosikazi

Missus or Madam, this is a title of respect given to a woman by a Zulu servant.



Themes

Wealth vs Love

Sean believes his happiness is wrapped up in the wealth they accumulate, and in that wealth he feels safe. Life is easy, and as their claims produce, he and Duff live large. They drink to excess, eat to excess and forge a dependency on money. He lives to regain his wealth. It is what he starts out to do with Duff and their search for ivory leads to Duff's death. At that moment, wealth ceases to have so much allure or meaning. When Sean returns to civilization, bringing ivory out of the bush, he leaves Duff's share buried. Though worth a fortune, and easily doubling his wealth financially, he just leaves it. Given a choice, it is probable that Sean would give his half of the ivory if he could have Duff back.

When he meets Katrina, Sean's life changes again. Having found love, his whole demeanor is different. He defers to her where he never would have in the past. Women mean little to him before he meets Katrina and when he sees her for the first time, he gets lost in her. He cannot think of anything else but her, and winning her becomes more important than the huge amount of ivory they have just found. He is willing to give up a great deal to get to her, even putting his own life at risk to cross the swollen river when he realizes that it separates them. He wins her family over and she leaves with Sean, and he is content for the first time. He is willing to do whatever she wants. All she has to do is mention it and Sean moves mountains to accomplish it for her. When Sean becomes injured, and lies close to death, he finally figures out the truth. Life and happiness have little to do with wealth. The ivory does not matter.

When Katrina sees him close to death, she comes to the same realization. Their time together is short. Though until this point she has withheld sex from Sean, telling him that she wants their marriage blessed by a priest first, when she sees him close to death she suddenly knows that she can lose him altogether. The fear that overcomes her is almost more than she can bear. Her virginity is her wealth, but without Sean and his love, her wealth was meaningless. This changes her outlook considerably, and she welcomes Sean eagerly when he is well.

Finally, when Sean tells Candy that Duff is dead, Candy wants to know all of the details, but Sean wants to spare her that. He tells her that it does not matter. "He's gone, that is the only thing that matters, he's gone and left us richer for knowing him and a little poorer for having lost him," he tells her sadly. Katrina thinks they are having an affair. She realizes for the first time that she hardly knows her husband, and he is quite comfortable in this lifestyle of the wealthy, while she is not. Katrina smells Candy's perfume on Sean and he has no idea she is feeling so insecure. She simply fades into herself, not speaking. He summons a doctor, but the doctor finds nothing physically amiss. When she disappears, he moves heaven and earth to find her, offering a reward and searching until he can hardly stand and he realizes where she is. Full of grief, Sean almost loses himself again, but with a son dependent on him, he gathers himself



together and makes a decision. While he can go anywhere, the only place he wants to be is home. Again, wealth is pitted against love and love wins.

Working Wealthy vs Working to Become Wealthy

When Sean sets out to find his way in life, he leaves his wealth to his unborn child. Setting out, he meets Charleywood who leads him to Witwatersrand. They work to become wealthy. Anticipating great things, they strive hard each day, working their bodies and minds to exertion each night. It is a good life and one that suits Sean well. He is a dedicated worker, who does not shirk a task no matter how unpleasant. He begins with a good work ethic at home on Theunis Kraal and he keeps it throughout his travel to Witwatersrand. It is part of the formula that makes the two men rich. When Duff leaves to get the stamp mill, Sean throws himself into the work. Instead of relaxing a little while he has the opportunity, which many men might have done, Sean works himself and his men harder. He never sets a task to his workers unless he is willing to work side by side with them.

Dufford Charleywood wants a big strike. He is willing to work hard for it, but there is a limit to his output if his spirit is low. He does very well as they get started, before they become millionaires. When they strike it big, the first thing he does is pull Sean out of the mine. Then they became the working wealthy. It is the difference between blue collar and white collar workers. As working wealthy, the only way they get their hands dirty is if they do it taking the financial rug out from under someone else. It is a world that Sean is largely lost in at first, but unlimited money corrupts absolutely and in time Sean is drawn into the world of high finance and dog eat dog philosophies. It is a change that does not suit him, and though he manages it, when what goes around comes around and they find themselves on the wrong side of a takeover, Sean realizes he is glad—broke, but glad. He throws himself into hunting ivory to survive, and Duff mopes. Without money, he is bored and agitated, and though he pans half-heartedly off and on, it is obvious that he far and away prefers the life of the white collar worker.

Wilderness vs City Life

Throughout this story, Sean has the opportunity to live both lifestyles. He lives in the deep wilderness, both with Dufford Charleywood and with Katrina Leroux. It is a life that suits him. He hunts for food and ivory, and takes his wagon train from watering hole to watering hole, moving with the seasons. When his wagons are laden with ivory tusks, he goes into the city to sell and bank his income. This money resupplies him for the next year out. Sean is lean, well muscled and in prime condition during his wilderness periods, both single and married. It might be suggested that a single man with a friend can easily exist in the bushveld, but Sean does it as easily with wife and child. It is where he feels most natural and at ease with himself. There is no stress nature can throw at him that he cannot handle.



In city life, Sean slowly transforms. With Dufford, he becomes self-involved and self-serving, allowing greed to dictate his behavior. Whereas in the bush he recognizes that plentiful ivory means there is lots to go around, when the commodity is gold or money, greed overrides common sense and is an addiction. Sean is not happy until he has it all, or loses it all. There is no such thing as enough to go around. Dog eat dog and survival of the fittest may seem like terms that belong in the wilderness but they apply more to city life. The law of the jungle is not in the jungle anymore. Sean realizes this when they are bankrupted, and happily goes back into the wilderness whereas Duff is lost in what he has lost. He cannot see that he has gained his freedom from the chains that wealth brings.



Style

Point of View

Written in three parts, *When the Lion Feeds* is written using a narrator style. A finely woven tale, it begins at the Courtney homestead, Theunis Krall, where the family business is cattle. Part one is Natal, and covers the Courtney family's involvement in the Chelmsford conflict. Part one introduces us to the Courtney twins and takes them from happy childhood to uncertain adulthood in a very short time. The narrator takes the reader through the conflict with the Zulus at the Chelmsford campaign and the events that have Garrick come out alone but a hero. When Garry believes he has lost his father and brother, and finds himself the Lord of the manor, he quickly learns that he would happily trade it all to have his brother Sean back. He marries Sean's girlfriend when he finds out she is carrying Sean's child, and when they return from their honeymoon, they are stunned to find Sean at home. Garrick tells Sean that Anna is expecting, and Sean is congratulatory, not realizing the baby is his, and when Anna finally corners him and tells him she still loves him and their baby, he makes it clear to her that she is now Garrick's wife. He wants nothing to do with her that way. Angry, she lies to Garrick and sets brother against brother.

Sean leaves, believing his brother is angry that the baby is Sean's. Part two takes the reader to Witwatersrand where gold mining takes Sean from poverty to millionaire. Making friends with Dufford Charleywood in his travels, together they operate one of the richest mining concerns in Witwatersrand until greed becomes their undoing. More money is the primary reason they form a partnership with Hradsky, and allow him access to stock. Later, led into a trap by Hradsky's gopher, Max, they believe Hradsky is vulnerable and, in a bid to take him over, flood the market with their stock, trying to force the price down in the hopes the bank will dump Hradsky's collateral stock. However, instead the stock they put on the market is quietly bought up, and when Dufford overextends them by offering more stock for sale than they own, he seals their fate.

Having lost everything, Sean, Dufford and a few loyal Zulu natives leave Witwatersrand. Part three brings the reader into the African wilderness. It is a segment of great loss—as Sean sadly watches his friend die, unable to ease his suffering—and also of great love. When Sean meets Katrina, he knows that he is lost without her. Risking his life to keep from losing her, he follows her family's wagons for miles before finally catching up to propose to her. Their life in the bushveld takes Sean higher emotionally than he has ever been, and he realizes that true wealth and sovereigns have little in common. However, when he takes her to Johannesburg, she sees him in an entirely different light. Jealous for the first time, she lacks the experience to deal with it. Feeling she has failed, she takes her own life and Sean finds himself a single father, headed home for the first time in many years.



Setting

Beginning in Port Natal in the 1870's, *When a Lion Feeds* opens at Theunis Kraal—the homestead of Waite and Ada Courtney and their two sons, Garrick and Sean. They are cattle ranchers in Africa at a time when Zulu nations are pitted against each other and against the encroaching white man. Waite is asked to recruit a commando force from the men of Ladyburg, and though they are a motley-looking crew, they make up in heart what they lack in panache. When the Chelmsford Zulu campaign is over, Waite is dead, along with many of the men from Ladyburg and when Sean returns home, things quickly become complicated. After a conflict with Garrick over his wife and Sean's former girlfriend Anna, Sean is forced to leave his home in Natal and, with Mbejane, heads north. They go through Pietermaritzburg and continue north to Dundee where Sean meets Dufford Charleywood and his life changes again. Duff is a miner with experience, and when they find out there is a large strike at Witwatersrand, they waste no time leaving. They push hard, finally getting through the twisted pass at Drakensberg. On the other side, the mountains drop away and they continue until they find the road to Witwatersrand. From paupers to millionaires and back again, by the time Sean and Duff leave Witwatersrand, they are known by one and all.

When they leave Witwatersrand and Johannesburg behind them, Duff and Sean stop in Pretoria long enough to resupply, and then head north. In the first three days, they travel over fifty miles. They are in the high veld now, where it is possible to find the underground rivers by the dark green and extremely high trees that grow over them. Everything else is the brown of Africa. They keep the mountains to their left after they leave Louis Trichardt, the most northerly white man's permanent habitation, in order to avoid the Kalahari desert. They travel far into the wilderness where the elephants still roam free and the Zoutpansberg mountains soften into a tail. Water is scarce, and when a good camp is found, they stay for a few days giving everyone a chance to recharge. When Duff is bitten by the jackal, Sean ends up working his way back slowly, after his mind has time to adjust. He meets his wife, and takes her back to Pretoria and then on to Witwatersrand where he loses her. From there, all he wants is to find his way back to the wilderness with his son, and perhaps, a year or so later, head back to Theunis Kraal and Garrick again.

Language and Meaning

When *When a Lion Feeds* is written primarily in English, but is salted with both Afrikaans and Zulu dialects. Many words are interjected to lend credibility to the story, such as the terms of respect used by Zulus for white men and women. There are also references made to homesteads as Kraals, and diseases like rinderpest in cattle, a disease so deadly that it wiped out entire herds in some cases. There are local and historical food references, including kudu liver, giraffe marrow, kabobs of elephant heart, duiker liver, iguana lizard and even yellow mouthed bream. Afrikaans is spoken by the Leroux family and Sean is referred to as Meneer by them. The Zulus also bring flavor to the story with



their language and homespun curatives, such as maiden's breast tree bark to battle blackwater, a malignant form of malaria.

Structure

When the Lion Feeds is written in three parts. The first part covers the Courtney family in Port Natal. It covers the Chelmsford Zulu campaign, Waite's death, Garrick's marriage and Sean's return. Part two covers Sean's meeting with Dufford Charleywood, and takes the reader to the gold rush at Witwatersrand. Part three takes the reader back into the wilds of Africa where hunting elephants is a way of life. The reader is taken on a circular journey of Africa from Natal to Witwatersrand, into the wilderness, back to civilization and then back to the wilderness again.



Quotes

"His Excellency has gazetted me full colonel and ordered me to raise a commando from the Ladyburg district," p. 93.

Waite Courtney to the men of Ladyburg.

"...only a fresh caught catfish flops on its belly..." p. 138.

Mbejane to Sean when Sean attempts to sneak up on him at night.

"Now I'll tell you the truth. What I have within me you gave me. It's yours! Not Garry's," p. 170.

Anna telling Sean the truth about the baby she is carrying after she has already married Garrick.

"We're finished forever!" p. 174.

Spoken by Garrick to his brother Sean when he thinks that Sean has attacked Anna.

"You're giving your half share of Theunis Kraal and all the cattle to your brother's first born!" p. 176.

Mr. Pye to Sean when he sees the note Sean writes giving his share of the family spread to his brother's son.

"One thing's certain—that sample was stinking with gold," p. 187.

Duff's answer to Sean's question about whether they are chasing rainbows by leaving to find the gold strike.

"We might find the ground for fifty miles around as thick with claim pegs as quills on a porcupine's back," p. 187.

Duff's description of what the gold find might look like.

"To Candy and the Candy Deep—may one grow sweeter and the other deeper with each passing day," p. 205.

Duff's toast when the agreement for the sale of Candy's claim is signed.

"Mush, you shag-eared villains. What's going on here, a trade union meeting?" p. 209.

Dufford to Sean and workers when he returns with the stamp mill.

"Well, if you two beauties want to own a mine by tomorrow you'd better sober up," p. 213.

Candy's warning to Sean and Duff when the titles are in question.

"..First she takes you into her warm, soft body, which is pleasant, and then she tries to take you into her warm, soft mind, which is not so pleasant," p. 217.

Statement by Duff to Sean and part of his personal opinion regarding women and marriage.



"Where's the gold?" p. 231.

Sean's question to Duff after ten tons of rock have been processed.

"She didn't—she was like a bunch of ripe grapes with the bloom on them," p. 253.

Charleywood describing Hradsky's daughter to Sean.

"Something always dies when the lion feeds—and yet there is meat for those that follow him," p. 371.

Spoken by Hlubi to Sean and Duff as they get ready to leave Xanadu for the last time after being wiped out financially by Hradsky.

"One minute they were sleeping and the next you were ripping them with bullets the way the hounds ripped that fox," p. 385.

Duff trying to explain to Sean why he does not like hunting.

"Wine and mankind have this in common. They can find perfection only in age, in a lifetime of seeking. Yet in the finding they find also their own destruction," p. 399.

Said by Duff to Sean as he contemplates his own mortality, chained and counting the days.

"Only a rogue and a brave man can break an oath," p. 404.

Mbejane's answer to Sean when Sean explains his predicament where his promise to Duff is concerned.

"It's a stupid stallion that doesn't know how to kick down a fence," p. 453.

Mbjane's comment to the other Zulu servants regarding Sean's inability to break down Katrina's defenses.

"He's gone, that is the only thing that matters, he's gone and left us richer for knowing him and a little poorer for having lost him," p. 517.

Sean to Candy when she asks what took Dufford's life.



Topics for Discussion

What does Garrick use to get out of work, or avoid situations he found unpleasant? This 'leverage' is likely to last a lifetime. Who is this leverage used against and why will not this person do something to change the situation?

Why does Sean lie for Garry when Waite returns to find the cattle dead from dip poisoning?

How do Duff and Sean lose their entire fortune? The actions taken by Sean and Dufford that lead to their financial ruin come as a result of what action? Discuss the factors that lead to their undoing. What is the underlying reason for the takeover and which events cause it?

What promise does Sean make to Duff and then break later? Discuss his options.

Throughout this novel, Sean earns income in many ways. Discuss which are most profitable and why.

Why is Katrina reluctant to be a complete wife to Sean in the beginning? What prompts her to change her mind? Katrina has occasion to feel this way a second time. What prompts the feeling and what does Sean do to fix it?

What three things convince Katrina that Sean is unfaithful and prompt her to take her own life? What does she do before she leaves that finally shows Sean where she went? What should she have done differently?

Why do the Zulu tribe attack the men at Chelmsford? The conflict is fought by Zulus on both sides. Discuss why.

Sean almost dies three times. What promise does he make the first time and what does it change, if anything? Why does he jump into the swollen river that almost takes his life the second time? What gift is he given the third time and by whom? Which brush with death is most life-altering and why?

Hradsky proposes the formation of a stock exchange. Name the reasons he gives his peers for wanting to create it, and then give his ulterior motive—the one he does not reveal. Discuss how he could have been kept at bay instead of ending up with it all.