

Wizard and Glass Study Guide

Wizard and Glass by Stephen King

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

<u>Wizard and Glass Study Guide.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Contents.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Plot Summary.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Wizard and Glass.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Chapter 4.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Part 2, Susan: Chapter 1.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Chapter 5.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Chapter 7.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Chapter 10.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Part 3.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Chapter 4.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Chapter 6.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Chapter 9.....</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Part 4:.....</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Characters.....</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Objects/Places.....</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Themes.....</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Style.....</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Quotes.....</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Topics for Discussion.....</u>	<u>44</u>

Plot Summary

WIZARD AND GLASS is a fiction novel, the fourth in Stephen King's Dark Towers series that tells the tale of Roland Deschain's quest for the Dark Tower. Roland Deschain, Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy the billy-bumbler have escaped the ruined city of Lud on Blaine the Mono. Unfortunately, Blaine is planning to derail himself at the end of the line in Topeka. Roland challenges him to a riddling contest, and if they win, they get to keep their lives. Eddie keeps asking silly, nonsensical riddles until Blaine's circuits are fried and his power gives out. The gunslingers arrive in Topeka, Kansas but find it deserted. They realize this world is similar but different from their own. Roland tells his friends a story of his youth after he became a gunslinger. He travels with his friends Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns to Hambry, a town in the Barony of the Mejis. They discover the mayor and ranchers of the town are working with the rebel John Farson, as well as three men known as the Big Coffin Hunters. Roland also meets Susan Delgado, a teenage girl who is supposed to become the Mayor's gilly or concubine. However, she and Roland fall in love, making him neglect his duties and frustrating his friends. Eventually, Roland comes to his senses.

Roland, Cuthbert and Alain are framed for the death of the mayor, but Susan helps free them from prison. They split up and Roland, Cuthbert and Alain manage to kill the traitorous men and two of the Big Coffin Hunters. They trap Farson's men in a canyon with a thinny, a portal to other worlds, and block off their escape. However, Susan has been captured by the townspeople and her aunt Cordelia, who believe Susan to be a whore and a traitor. They tie her up during the Reaping Day festivities and set her on fire. Roland sees this in a glass orb called the Wizard's Glass and learns he will have to give up the people he loves to ensure the Dark Tower doesn't fall. Roland finishes his story, and he, Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy continue onward. They find pairs of ruby shoes, which let them gain entry to the Emerald Castle. They confront Walter, who disappears, leaving the Wizard's Glass behind. Roland shows his friends how he accidentally killed his mother, Gabrielle Deschain, when he was younger. His friends vow to stick by him, no matter what the cost. They leave the castle and continue on their quest for the Dark Tower.



Wizard and Glass

Summary

WIZARD AND GLASS is a fiction novel, the fourth in Stephen King's Dark Towers series that tells the tale of Roland Deschain's quest for the Dark Tower. The story picks up at the end of the third novel in Mid-World, where Roland Deschain, Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy the billy-bumbler have escaped the ruined city of Lud on Blaine the Mono. Unfortunately, Blaine is planning to derail himself at the end of the line in Topeka, killing him and all on board. Roland and the others challenge him to a riddle contest, and if they win, they get to keep their lives. Roland says his experience of riddling contests in his home city of Gilead will allow them to tell quality riddles, as well as a riddle book Jake bought in New York City before he came to Roland's world. Susannah, Eddie and Jake have all been drawn into Roland's world from New York City. Blaine agrees to the contest. (Part 1: Riddles, Ch. 1, "Beneath the Demon Moon" (I)) Roland asks Blaine not to listen as the gunslingers decide how to approach the contest. They choose to test Blaine using riddles escalating in difficulty for the first round. Jake, Susannah, Eddie and Roland each ask Blaine one riddle to test his weaknesses; however, Blaine answers all easily and gets upset at the easy, child's riddle Jake asks first. (Ch. 2, "The Falls of the Hounds") Roland continues to riddle Blaine.

Jake notices his injured hand has healed, and Blaine said he has done it using the pad on the arm rest. He tells Jake he can also offer him a sexual experience with a beautiful woman from his world, but Jake laughs when Blaine mentions Edith Bunker from All in the Family as an option since she is not a sex symbol. The group notes that Blaine made a mistake and are hopeful that he may make another one and they can win their lives. Blaine stops at the Falls of the Hounds to charge his batteries and makes the walls of the carriage transparent so they can see the falls. He turns up the volume extremely high as punishment for Jake's laughing at him. When the train starts again, Roland has almost exhausted his supply of riddles, and Blaine begins his final run to Topeka. (Ch. 3, "The Fair-Day Goose") Eddie begins to think there is a way to trick Blaine. Roland finishes his riddles, and Jake tries the difficult ones from his riddle book. When they finish, Eddie offers to try some for Blaine, just to past the time until they are all killed. He again asks the first riddle Jake asked, "What has four wheels and flies?" and Blaine is again angered by its silliness. Eddie keeps asking silly and nonsensical riddles despite Blaine's protests until Blaine's circuits are fried and his power gives out. The train coasts to a stop, jarring up against the concrete barrier at the end of the line.

Analysis

Roland Deschain treats the riddling contest with honor, going through the motions of a traditional Fair-Day contest in Gilead and instructing the others to do the same. Blaine is a self-centered, suicidal mono and has no patience for their insults. He is used to getting his way and controlling the people of Lud. The gunslingers are afraid of



offending him, since Blaine can hurt them on the way to their deaths as he exhibits by escalating the sounds at the Falls of the Hounds. The group is hopeful, though, that Blaine has made a mistake, since it means there are things he does not know. Their hope seems fruitless, however, when Blaine continues to answer all the riddles immediately. It is Eddie Dean's jocular nature that saves them in the end, even though Roland has frequently dismissed his joking as useless. Only Eddie catches on that Blaine did not like the first riddle since it was a silly one and realizes the key to breaking Blaine is by giving him even sillier riddles to answer. Blaine's circuits fry and Eddie is the hero saving all their lives. This shows that Roland needs the help of his friends to complete his quest.



Chapter 4,

Chapter 4, Summary

(Chapter 4, "Topeka") When Roland Deschain, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy get out of Blaine's carriage, They hear a sound like a saw wobbling. The sound makes Roland almost faint. Regaining his composure, he says he will tell his companions about it later. The gunslingers arrive in Topeka, Kansas but find it deserted. They see corpses and find a newspaper with a story about a superflu that has wiped out most of the population in the world a year before Eddie left it. (Chapter 5, "Turnpikin") Everyone looks to Eddie, who says there was nothing like that when he was in New York City. They realize this world is similar but different from their own, especially since there are cars and sports teams that don't exist in their world. They find a wheelchair for Susannah, who lost her legs after being pushed in front of a subway train in New York City before coming to Mid-World. They continue to a park across the road, where they find an old train engine sitting in a ruined park. Jake realizes this engine is Charlie the Choo Choo, featured in another book he bought in New York City.

After leaving the park, the group continues down the highway, putting old, useless bullets in their ears to drive out the sound of the thinny. One night while camping, Roland tells them of his boyhood and becoming a gunslinger at fourteen by using his hawk as a weapon to beat his teacher, Cort, in his manhood test. He says he will tell them how he met his first true love, Susan, and the events that led to him beginning the quest for the Dark Tower. Roland says his father, Steven Deschain, knew Marten Broadcloak, the wizard, goaded Roland into taking the test and hopefully failing, because Marten was having an affair with Roland's mother Gabrielle Deschain. However, Roland passes, and goes to visit a whore because he thinks that he is now truly a man. His father finds him there and wakes him angrily. Roland tells him about the affair. However, Steven says he has known about Marten and Gabrielle for two years. He says he will send Roland away with a mission for his safety with some of his friends.

Chapter 4, Analysis

The world that the gunslingers arrive in is different from the one in which they first embarked on Blaine. They have come through a thinny, a doorway between worlds, and left Roland's world behind. They end up in a world much like our own, except the population has been wiped out by a superflu. This world is actually the world in which Steven King's *THE STAND* takes place. The park where they find Charlie the Choo Choo is called Gage Creed Park, which is a character in Stephen King's *Pet Semetary*. This shows how all his novels can be considered different worlds in one universe, although it doesn't seem that any of them are our world. Charlie the Choo also reminds them of Blaine, the suicidal mono. Roland tells his friends why he was sent away from Gilead—to be safe from the wizard Marten. He was the youngest gunslinger ever to

earn his guns after Marten tricked him into taking the test, and Marten will not be pleased that his plan did not work.



Part 2, Susan: Chapter 1,

Part 2, Susan: Chapter 1, Summary

Rhea of the Coos, a witch, has received a box from three men called The Big Coffin Hunters that she is meant to keep safe. She takes the box outside her shack to open it, taking out a glowing pink orb in which she sees Roland Deschain and his friends approaching the Mejis. She hears a girl coming up the hill, singing, and runs to hide the orb. (Chapter 2, "Proving Honesty") She shoves it under the bed, but the box clicks open a little and reveals a pink light that can be seen from the next room. Susan Delgado approaches the hut, singing to herself, and sees the witch run inside the cottage but pretends she hasn't noticed and keeps singing. Once in the cottage, she gives Rhea money as payment for ensuring that Susan is a virgin for Mayor Hart Thorin, who has bought her to have his baby. While Rhea examines the money, Susan catches a glimpse of the object hidden under the bed. Rhea sends Susan for firewood, and Susan watches through the window as Rhea hides the orb in a hidden compartment in the floor. She hurries to gather the firewood before Rhea notices she has been gone a very long time.

When Susan returns, she strips and Rhea physically examines her to ensure she is a virgin. Rhea finds her honest and gives her a note saying so but tells her the mayor should not have sex with her until after Fair Day in the fall. She hypnotizes Susan and gives her instructions on what she should do when her virginity is gone. (Chapter 3, "A Meeting on the Road") Susan meets a boy on the road who introduces himself as Will Dearborn and who escorts her to the edge of the village. He tells her he and his friends were sent from the home to count items for the Affiliation as punishment. When they get to the edge of the village, Susan asks Will that, next time he sees her, he pretends they are meeting for the first time. (Chapter 4, Long after "Moonset") Will Dearborn, really Roland Deschain, returns to camp where his friends, Cuthbert Allgood, calling himself Arthur Heath, and Alain Johns, calling himself Richard Stockworth, are. Roland sees a white shape and strikes it, sending a rook's skull flying into the dark. The skull is Cuthbert's, who calls it the lookout and usually keeps it on the pommel of his saddle.

Susan also returns home and tells her Aunt Cordelia Delgado what happened at Rhea's. Cordelia is suspicious because Susan seems flushed. That night as Susan lies in bed, she thinks about Will Dearborn. At the Travellers' Rest, an inn in Hambry owned by Coral Thorin, the Mayor's sister, Eldred Jonas, one of three men known as the Big Coffin Hunters, sits playing cards. Clay Reynolds, another Coffin Hunter, comes down and sits with him, while the third, Roy Depape, is with a whore. They discuss the three boys who are there to count things for the Affiliation and agree that the boys should stay at a ranch house far from the places they shouldn't see. Jonas says he plans to move on Cordelia Delgado to get more information about the town, since she is a spinster and probably knows more than she lets on. He also says if the three boys act up and get too close to finding out what they are doing, they won't kill them, but will punish them if need be.



Part 2, Susan: Chapter 1, Analysis

Rhea of the Coos does a favor for the Big Coffin Hunter by hiding the globe. The fact that they trust each other and Rhea's attitude towards Susan indicates no good can come of them having the ball. Susan is disgusted by Rhea, but Susan must be polite because Rhea could claim she is not a virgin and her family wouldn't get money from the mayor. Susan clearly has no feelings for the mayor, since she is happy to learn her deflowering will be postponed, but her Aunt Cordelia has talked her into being his gilly. Susan looks on this as a job that needs to be done, but once she meets Will Dearborn, her resolve is shaken. She finds herself attracted to this mysterious, young boy but tries to deny the feelings out of a sense of duty. She asks Will to pretend they've only met for the first time, hoping to leave their relationship at one moonlit walk. Cordelia first shows her suspicious nature when Susan comes home, but Susan manages to brush her off. Will, actually Roland Deschain, also finds himself thinking of Susan that night. He and his friends are in town on a mission for the Affiliation and do not trust the townspeople. Eldred Jonas, likewise, has learned of the three boys from the Affiliation and does not trust the boys. He plans to use Cordelia to get information, since he is sure the spinster knows much about what goes on in Hambry, so he believes he can charm her into telling him.



Chapter 5,

Chapter 5, Summary

Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns present themselves to Sheriff Herk Avery as three boys sent to count goods for the Affiliation as punishment. Avery makes it clear he doesn't think much of their city ways but invites them to a dinner at Mayor Hart Thorin's home. When the boys leave, the men say they think the boys are soft, and the boys think that the sheriff is a liar. At the Mayor's dinner, the boys meet the mayor, Kimba Rimer, Eldred Jonas and Susan Delgado. Roland keeps his promise and pretends to be meeting Susan for the first time, but Cordelia is suspicious of the way Susan looks at Roland. During dinner, Roland learns that Susan is to be the mayor's gilly, or concubine, to bear him a child, and Roland is disgusted because he sees how upset Olive Thorin, the mayor's wife, is from their actions. A rancher named Hash Renfrew tells Roland there are about 600 horses in Hambry. After the dinner, the guests dance and after several rounds, Roland finds himself dancing with Susan. She thanks him for being discreet and for his propriety, and he tells her he is surprised she knows what propriety is.

(Chapter 6, "Sheemie") Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns leave the party at Mayor Hart Thorin's house. Susan Delgado prepares for bed, angry at herself, the mayor, her aunt Cordelia, and most of all Will. Olive Thorin, in her room, thinks about how much more humiliation she will have to endure before Susan returns to her aunt pregnant. The Traveller's Rest is still full of people, since the regular townspeople do not go to bed as early as the gentry. Sheemie Ruiz, the mentally retarded boy who cleans up, trips over someone's leg and spills alcohol on Roy Depape's legs. Roy, planning to kill the boy, is about to make him lick his boots clean when Cuthbert walks in with his slingshot and demands Depape let Sheemie go. Depape won't agree, and Cuthbert shoots a metal ball at his hand. Clay Reynolds comes up behind Cuthbert with a gun and tells him to stand down, but Alain appears behind him with a knife and threatens to cut his throat. Eldred Jonas, watching from outside, makes sure Roland Deschain isn't around before putting his gun to Alain. However, Roland saw Jonas look around before entering the inn and hid. When Jonas goes back inside, Roland comes up behind Jonas with his knife. Everyone stands down, and the Coffin Hunters and the gunslingers go before Sheriff Avery, who makes them promise to get along and stay out of each others' ways. Jonas later yells at Depape for letting the scene happen.

Chapter 5, Analysis

Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood, and Alain Johns are pretending to be rich men's sons that are sent to count supplies in Hambry as punishment. In reality, they are also on the lookout for suspicious activity and signs that the men of Hambry are in league with the rebel John Farson. On the opposite side, Eldred Jonas, Clay Reynolds and Roy Pape are the Big Coffin Hunters who are the go-between with John Farson and Kimba



Rimer. Jonas is not suspicious of the boys until they are challenged at the bar. Jonas is amazed that Roland was able to get the drop on him and knows that their position in town has been shaken by what's happened. Jonas knows they have now drawn the boy's attention and will have to tread carefully. Roland asks the ranchers how many horses they have, which he can later try to verify to determine if they are honest. He also finds himself disappointed in Susan, realizing she is not more more than a whore willing to give her virginity away for money. Susan is shocked by his comment and his disdain, leaving her to struggle with her choice.



Chapter 7,

Chapter 7, Summary

(Chapter 7, "On the Drop") Susan Delgado and her aunt fight the next day over Susan's role as gilly. Cordelia wants the money and believes Susan should be grateful, but Susan says she is nothing more than a whore for him. Angered, Susan goes out to ride, finding she can't stop thinking about Will Dearborn. Earlier that week, Sheemie arrives and gives flowers, but Susan hides the note before Cordelia sees. The flowers are from Will as an apology, and he asks to see her, but Susan sends back a message refusing. However, she now runs into Will on the Drop. They talk and he asks her how many horses are on the Drop. After figuring, they come to about 1,000, much less than the ranchers said. Susan cries because she is ashamed of herself, and she and Will kiss. She asks him to stay away from her, since they can't be together because of her situation with the Mayor. Alain and Cuthbert are at the dock counting nets while Roland is with Susan. Once all the boys are back at their bunkhouse, a pigeon comes with a message. Roland makes them send back a message saying everything is fine, even though there are unusual things going on, like the large number of horses. Alain picks a golden hair from Roland's collar, showing it to Cuthbert. Roland sits down, daydreaming about Susan.

(Chapter 8, "Beneath the Peddler's Moon") Roy Depape is riding the gunslinger's backtrail at Jonas' command. He finds an old man in another town who has recognized the boys as gunslingers, and Roland as the son of Steven Deschain. Depape kills the man before riding back for Hambry. He sees a pigeon flying while he's riding and tries to shoot it down, but misses. Roland, Cuthbert and Alain go to look at the canyon, where there is a thinny, or door between worlds. (Chapter 9, "Citgo") Susan Delgado receives a gift from the Mayor Hart Thorin, a horse that used to belong to her family. She runs into Alain and later discovers a note from Will in her bag asking her to meet him at the Citgo. She finds Cuthbert and hands him a purse, pretending he dropped it. He takes it and delivers the note inside to Roland. The note says she can't meet; however, she later sends a note with Sheemie telling Roland to meet her in an orange grove by the Citgo. Rhea watches them meet in the pink Wizard's ball, hoping to see something she can use against Susan. Roland and Susan kiss, and he tells her his true name, about the extra supplies he's seen in town, and the gunslingers' true purpose in town. They walk through the Citgo, and Roland realizes the townsmen have been using it to prepare for something, perhaps hoping to use the oil for the rebel John Farson's machines. They kiss again, but Susan senses Rhea and mutters for the witch to begone. The orb goes blank.

Chapter 7, Analysis

Susan Delgado is still upset by Will Dearborn's comment regarding her propriety. She fights with her aunt Cordelia, a spinster who only wants the money and prestige the



family will receive if Susan goes through with being the mayor's gilly. Angry with her aunt and with herself for allowing Will Dearborn to make her question her resolve, she finds she can't avoid Will no matter how hard she tries. She also wants to help Will, since he needs an unbiased person to tell him about Hambry. She starts to give in to her feelings and lets her heart rule her actions. However, Roland is doing the same thing, which worries his friends. Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns are concerned that Roland is too tied up in his feelings for Susan and won't be able to lead them if trouble comes. After their run-in with the Big Coffin Hunters, Jonas is already suspicious of them and has sent Roy to find out who they are. It is a successful mission, and soon Jonas will be watching the boys more carefully. The ranchers have also been proven to be liars, leading the boys to believe the ranchers and gentry of the town are indeed in league with the rebel John Farson.



Chapter 10,

Chapter 10, Summary

(Chapter 10, "Bird and Bear and Hare and Fish") Two weeks later, Maria, Susan's maid at the mayor's house, comes to get her because one of her dresses for Fair Day has been damaged. Susan must go to the mayor's house so a new one can be fitted. Susan is very angry and agitated when she returns from the mayor's house, and Cordelia asks what happened while she was there. Susan tells her aunt that, while trying the new dress on, Mayor Hart Thorin came in and fondled her, thrusting against her until he ejaculated. Susan is disgusted by this, especially since the mayor will probably continue to do this every chance he gets. Cordelia doesn't think it is a big deal and thinks Susan is making too much of it. Angry now at her aunt as well, Susan rides away again, until she meets Roland. They talk and Susan asks Roland to love her if he will. They make love; however, Rhea is watching in the Wizard's Glass, anxious to see how her trickery will work once Susan has lost her virginity.

Rhea waits for Susan to follow the directions she gave the girl while she was in a hypnotic trance, but Rhea's cat bumps the ball and it goes blank. Rhea is furious at the cat but cannot get the image back. While Susan and Roland are drowsing, Susan wakes up in a daze and goes to the river to cut off her hair. Roland wakes and stops her, waking her from the trance before she can cut off too much. He hypnotizes her and learns that Rhea told her to do it after she lost her virginity. Cordelia leaves a store and runs into Eldred Jonas, who flirts with her. When Susan arrives home, Cordelia thinks there is something off about her and resolves to keep an eye on her. (Interlude: "Kansas, Somewhere, Somewhen") Eddie Dean asks Roland how he knows every part of the story when he obviously couldn't have seen what his enemies were doing. Roland asks if Eddie is tired, and Eddie bristles, but he realizes that Roland is making fun of him. They realize time is different, and Eddie says it seems like Roland has been talking for days. Susannah, Jake, and even Oy tell Eddie to let Roland talk, and Roland continues with his tale.

Chapter 10, Analysis

Susan Delgado is finally driven into Roland Deschain's arms after the Mayor Hart Thorin attacks her. She is disgusted by his coarseness and needs the purity of Roland's love to erase the feelings of shame inside her. Rhea is the only witness to Susan's betrayal of the mayor, and after Roland stops Susan from cutting her hair, Rhea will probably use this knowledge to get her revenge. Cordelia, who doesn't trust Susan in the first place, suspects something is going on in Susan's life to make her act out and tries to keep careful watch on her. In the present, Eddie Dean wonders how Roland could know so much about events for which he wasn't present. Roland does not answer but asks if Eddie is tired, since the story has been going on for a long time, but it is still the same

night. This seems to be Roland's way of saying magic is responsible for him knowing what he does.



Part 3,

Part 3, Summary

Summer ends, and Roland Deschain and Susan Delgado continue to meet and make love, falling more and more in love. Cuthbert is unsettled, frustrated, and jealous about their relationship and voices his concerns to Alain. One night in Traveller's Rest, Eldred Jonas sits with Kimba Rimer. Clay Reynolds and Roy Depape approach and tell Jonas they think it's time they had a look around the gunslinger's bunks, but Jonas refuses. Rimer also thinks the boys should have moved on to counting horses, but Jonas doesn't think the boys are that sly. Rhea is still angry because the Wizard's Glass refuses to work. (Chapter 2, "The Girl at the Window") However, Rhea realizes if she tells Cordelia Delgado that her niece has been sleeping with Roland Deschain, she can still get back at the girl. Cuthbert and Alain confront Roland when he returns from being with Susan. Cuthbert tells Roland his plan to give the sheriff a list of ranches they will visit and a schedule, allowing the ranchers to make sure only the amount of horses they want the boys to see are there. That way, the boys will not have to reveal they know about what's going on in town. Roland agrees and wants Cuthbert and Alain to go, but they tell him Roland is their leader and it will not look right if he doesn't go.

On the way, the gunslingers pass Susan's house, and Susan and Roland wave calmly to each other, but Cordelia sees and suspects something is going on between them. When the boys arrive at the sheriff's, their plan goes off well and the sheriff is pleased. Jonas, however, is suspicious that the boys would give them exactly what they wanted. (Chapter 3, "Playing Castles") Cordelia Delgado comes to Eldred Jonas and tells him of her fears about Susan hanging around with Will Dearborn. Jonas promises to look into it for her, worried what else the boy might be hiding if the boy managed to put something over on them all with Susan. Jonas goes to the Citgo and checks it, believing the gunslingers may have been out there. He finds the Rook's skull which had been on Cuthbert's saddle. Coral Thorin goes into her bar, The Traveller's Rest, and has some whiskey. Rhea's cat jumps up to the bar with a note that signifies Rhea needs more liquor. Coral writes back "tomorrow" and sends the cat back. She offers to have sex with Jonas, and he accepts. Before going upstairs, he tells Reynolds to put men on guard at the Citgo, and that he plans to move the tankers soon.

Part 3, Analysis

Roland Deschain and Susan Delgado continue their love affair, but it is getting more dangerous to do so. Rhea knows about their affair and still plans to get back at Susan. Rhea knows that if she reveals the affair to Cordelia, Susan's aunt will not tell the mayor, but Susan will still be in trouble and the affair will surely be ended. Cuthbert Allgood realizes their situation is precarious and they should send for help. However, Roland doesn't want to do so because he wants to spend more time with Susan Delgado. Cuthbert gets angry at Roland, since Roland seems to have forgotten all



about their mission. Cuthbert is also jealous of Roland because Roland became a gunslinger before them and has now found love and had sex before them. Cuthbert comes up with a plan to buy them some time, but worries that Roland may not snap out of his reverie before it's too late. Now knowing that the three boys come from the line of gunslingers, Jonas is ever more suspicious and learns that the boys have been at the Citgo. However, he is also distracted by a woman, Coral Thorin, as he begins a sexual relationship with her. He still plans to move the tankers at Citgo before Roland and his friends have a chance to tell anyone else about them.



Chapter 4,

Chapter 4, Summary

Roland promises Cuthbert that tomorrow they will send a message home about the things they found. Sheemie takes the alcohol up to Rhea, even though he is scared of her. Jonas visits the boys' bunkhouse while they are away, vandalizing it to make it look like some kids had done it but also snooping around. He kills the pigeons and finds where the boys' guns are kept. Out in the ranch, Alain comes up to Roland and tells him his sixth sense or the Touch is telling him something is wrong. Roland tells him to keep counting, and Alain realizes Roland knew someone was at the bunkhouse. Rhea gives Sheemie a note to give to Cordelia. The gunslingers discover the wreckage, and Cuthbert is angry at Roland. Alain tries to calm him down, but Cuthbert goes for a ride and runs into Sheemie, who tells him about the note. Jonas meets with a man in black, a wizard named Walter, one of John Farson's men. Cuthbert returns and calls Roland outside, surprising him by punching him in the face. He tells him about Rhea's note, and Roland realizes he has been a fool and starts to cry. He apologizes to Cuthbert, then the three ride to Rhea's. Roland threatens her not to cross them again, killing her pet snake. Rhea puts the snake's dead body around her neck, vowing to get revenge.

(Chapter 5, "Wizard's Rainbow") Roy Depape and Clay Reynolds come to see Eldred Jonas, who is in Coral Thorin's bedroom. Reynolds reports that the tankers are being moved each night. They meet with one of John Farson's men, Latigo. Jonas tells Latigo they sent the gunslingers a message to stay out of town on Reaping Day, since the locals don't want outsiders at their festivals. It is a lie but will keep the boys thinking that they will make their move on Reaping Day. However, Jonas and his men plan to take the boys the day before Reaping Day. Susan meets Roland, Cuthbert and Alain and apologizes if she's messed up their plans. Both Cuthbert and Alain assure each other they don't hate her. They are now ka-tet, one from many. They tell Susan that John Farson intends to use the oil from Citgo to power weapons made by the Old People and must have a way to refine it. Roland says he thinks they can lead Farson's men into Eyebolt Canyon and into the thinny, creating a rockslide and fire behind them so they can't escape. They will also have Sheemie help them. They tell Susan they have silenced Rhea, and while wondering how Rhea knew she and Roland had had sex, Susan says, "It's pink." Roland, Alain and Cuthbert realize she is talking about the Wizard's Glass, and Roland hypnotizes her. Roland's father, Steven, had told them about the Wizard's Rainbow, thirteen different glass orbs with different powers. He warned them Farson may have found the pink one. When Susan awakens, they decide to take the orb from Rhea. The group splits up to complete their tasks.

Chapter 4, Analysis

Roland Deschain again wants to delay seeking help with the situation in Hambry, but Cuthbert is insistent. Roland finally agrees to wait one more day, so he has another



chance to see Susan. While they are counting, Alain realizes something is wrong at the bunkhouse, but Roland restrains them from returning because they do not want things to come to a boil yet. However, when they return, Cuthbert is furious that they still have not sent for help and that Roland let this happen to their things. His anger is validated when he learns that Roland has put them all at risk since Rhea knows about his affair with Susan Delgado. Roland finally realizes that he has been leading them astray and apologizes. The three then begin to fix their situation by riding to Rhea's and threatening her if she interferes again. Susan Delgado meets Cuthbert and Alain formally, and they find mutual respect for each other. The gunslingers also realize that Rhea has the Wizard's Glass, a powerful object that should not be in the hands of the enemy. As for Jonas, things are escalating as Farson's men are arriving to take the tankers and other supplies for Farson. He thinks he has gotten the boys out of the way for now.



Chapter 6,

Chapter 6, Summary

As the harvest year draws to a close in Hambry, Sheemie fills the beer tanks at the Traveller's Rest. He then goes to meet Susan at the Mayor's storage sheds, where she helps him load his mule with barrels full of fireworks to take to the gunslinger's bunkhouse. Alain and Cuthbert get the ambush ready at Eyebolt Canyon. While in her stable, Susan looks at her father's books that detail the horses' bloodlines and realizes pages are missing. This makes her believe that her father's death truly wasn't an accident. Cordelia startles her and the two argue, Susan leaving and vowing never to stay there again. Susan believes Cordelia knows more than she will admit about Patrick Delgado's murder. Susan meets with Roland, who tells her she should escape to Gilead if anything happens to them and tell Steven Deschain what happened. Susan also realizes she is pregnant with Roland's child. Cordelia takes Susan's clothes and puts them on a stuffy-guy, lighting it afire and watching it burn. She wants nothing to do with her niece any longer. (Chapter 7, "Taking the Ball") At the mayor's house, the advisor Kimba Rimer wakes up and finds Clay Reynolds in his room. Reynolds taunts him and then stabs him to death. Depape kills Mayor Hart Thorin, leaving the rook's skull in his room.

Sheriff Avery, the Big Coffin Hunters, and the townsmen arrest Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns for the murders. While they are taken into custody, Roland realizes Eldred Jonas failed his manhood test to be a gunslinger and was sent west. Maria wakes up Susan and tells her what happened, helping her escape from her room at the mayor's house. Rhea is watching a townswoman in the Wizard's Glass when the Big Coffin Hunters come to take the glass back to give to Farson's men. They are shocked to see how gaunt and putrid she has become, since she can't stop watching the ball. (Chapter 8, "The Ashes") Susan rides by her aunt's home, who confronts her and throws ashes at her, cursing her. Susan tells her aunt she forgives her for what she did to Pat Delgado. Susan goes to the bunkhouse, then gets Sheemie to help her by setting off fireworks to mask the sound of gunshots as she frees the boys from prison. She is forced to shoot Dave Hollis and Sheriff Avery, although Dave was not so much part of the conspiracy as trying to do the right thing. She helps the boy disguise themselves and they escape.

Chapter 6, Analysis

Roland Deschain, Alain Johns, Cuthbert Allgood, Susan Delgado and Sheemie Ruiz are now all working together to thwart John Farson's plan for Hambry. They will use the fireworks to explode the oil derricks at the Citgo, as well as lead John Farson's men into the thinny, trapping them by lighting a fire behind them. However, before they can do so, Jonas gets to them by killing Mayor Hart Thorin and Kimba Rimer, leaving Cuthbert's rook skull as evidence the boys did it. The boys are arrested for the crime. Meanwhile,



Susan discovers that her father's death was not an accident, and Cordelia must have known about or at least have suspicions. Susan knows her aunt, who is now losing her mind, has to live with the knowledge of what happened. Susan bravely helps Roland, Cuthbert and Alain escape from jail, although she is forced to kill Dave Hollis, who did not have a part in Farson's plot and just made a stupid decision to try and disarm her. She also kills Sheriff Avery, a full participant in the plot. Rhea has been almost fully consumed by the Wizard's Glass.



Chapter 9,

Chapter 9, Summary

Roland, Cuthbert, Susan, Alain and Sheemie meet in the stables. Roland says they are done playing games and it is time to be real gunslingers. They go to the Citgo and use firecrackers to light the oil derricks on fire. Eldred Jonas is having sex with Coral Thorin when he realizes the Citgo is exploding. Clay Reynolds comes to tell him the gunslingers have escaped. He tells Reynolds to put together an advanced party. At a hermit hut in the woods, Roland takes Susan aside and tells her he loves her. Jonas makes arrangements with Coral Thorin to meet her outside town if things go wrong. He, Reynolds, Rhea and their party are riding along the Drop. Susan and Sheemie watch as Roland, Cuthbert and Alain leave to ambush the men. Alain uses the touch to determine the men are coming. Rhea calls Jonas to her, and shows him Susan sitting on the steps of the hermit hut. Alain tell Roland the men have turned around, and there is a larger group behind them that they are probably waiting to catch up.

Jonas redirects the men and leaves to capture Susan, although he don't notice Sheemie, who follows them. When Fran Lengyll arrives, Susan tells him she knows he killed her father. Jonas takes the Wizard's Glass from Rhea and forces her to leave, although she curses them. Reynolds takes Susan into town, while the rest of the men proceed to the oil tankers. Rhea comes to Cordelia and convinces her their ruin is all Susan's fault. Roland, Cuthbert, and Alain watch the party pass and sneak up behind them, dropping several men before the rest of them know what's going on. They kill Fran Lengyll, Hash Renfrew, Roy Depape and Eldred Jonas. Roland takes the Wizard's Glass off Jonas, looking into it. (Chapter 10, "Beneath the Demon Moon (II)") Coral Thorin locks up Susan Delgado in the mayor's house. Rhea and Cordelia Delgado arrive at the Travellers' Rest and incite the townspeople against Susan. Sheemie also arrives at the mayor's house and meets Olive Thorin, who says she will help him free Susan. They and Susan's maid Maria pretend the home is on fire to trick the guards and free Susan. Roland sees in the glass his future, including that he will lose everything he loves for the tower and then passes out. His friends revive him and he tells them he has chosen the Dark Tower over Susan, and he hopes Susan can live a happy life.

Roland, Cuthbert and Alain ambush and attack Latigo and the rest of Farson's men. When the men follow the gunslingers, they lead them into Eyebolt Canyon and the thinny, lighting a fire behind them so they are all forced into it. The gunslingers scale the wall of the canyon to escape, while all the men are either forced or drawn into the thinny. Meanwhile, Susan and Olive are escaping from the mayor's home but run into Clay Reynolds. Olive tries to shoot him but she is too slow and is killed. Rhea tells the men to bind Susan and they place her in the witch's cart. They take her to the center of town and tie her on the Reaping Day bonfire makings. The townspeople cheer as Rhea and Cordelia light the bonfire, and Susan cries out her love for Roland as she burns to death. Roland watches her death in the Wizard's Glass and cries out, knowing he can't



save her. He faints and his friends carry him away from Hambry, carrying him until he awakes, a ghost of his former self.

Chapter 9, Analysis

Roland Deschain's time in Hambry has come to an end. His plan to blow up the Citgo and to get John Farson's men to ride into the thinny has succeeded; however, he has paid the price with the loss of Susan Delgado. Olive Thorin shows she has no hard feelings for Susan, even though her husband only wanted the young girl. However, she dies for her trouble after helping Susan escape from jail. Rhea of the Coos and Cordelia Delgado band together against Susan and incite the townspeople to burn her at the stake. The townspeople only know that Susan helped free the murderers who killed Mayor Hart Thorin and his advisor, Kimba Rimer. Roland is too involved in his plot and is unable to save her, but he does see her death in the Wizard's Glass. He believed his choice to follow the Dark Tower would mean that Susan could live a happy life without him, but Susan has been too involved in their plot and dies. Much how Roland is distracted from his tasks by Susan, Jonas is with Coral when he learns the gunslingers have escaped and the Citgo is blowing up. Jonas catches a break when he sees Susan in the Wizard's Glass and is able to capture her, but Roland ultimately has the upper hand and kills Jonas and his men. The glass has shown Roland he will lose what he loves in his quest for the Dark Tower, and his losses have already begun.



Part 4:

Part 4: Summary

Roland Deschain finished telling his story to Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy, which has managed to take a single night due to the weird time around the thinny. Roland feels better now that he has told his story. Roland says he saw the Wizard's Glass three times after that, once when it revealed the entire story of what happened in the Mejis to him. The second time, he saw there was to be an assassination attempt of Steven Deschain's life. He says he also saw Rhea again but will not say more. They continue their journey, and he tells them that he heard Clay Reynolds became a bank robber with Coral Thorin as his sidekick and lover, but both were killed after a botched robbery. Sheemie followed Roland and his friends to Gilead, but his fate after that is unknown. Cordelia died of a heart attack or stroke before the bonfire burned out. As Roland and the others walk along the interstate, they see pairs of shoes for each of them in the road. (Chapter 2, "Shoes in the Road") They reach the shoes and realize there is a ruby pair for each of them to wear, much like Dorothy's ruby slippers in the WIZARD OF OZ. Eddie, Susannah and Jake explain the story to Roland. They put the shoes on when they come to an Emerald Castle, clicking their heels in unison to open the gate.

(Chapter 3, "The Wizard") The gunslingers come to a reception room. They are confronted with a screen like Blaine the Mono's travel map, and someone speak in Blaine's voice, claiming to be Oz. Oy pulls back a curtain, revealing Andrew Quick, the Tick Tock Man who abducted Jack in Lud. A man appears in a throne and tells Quick to kill him, but Eddie and Susannah shoot Quick. Roland recognizes the man as Marten Broadcloak, also known as Walter and Randall Flagg. Flagg shows him the pink Wizard's Glass. Roland uses the gun Jake brought to shoot Flagg, but Flagg disappears. (Chapter 4, "The Glass") Roland uses the glass to show his friends how he accidentally killed his mother, Gabrielle, when she hid behind the drapes in her room and them came out, startling him into shooting her. Gabrielle had held a belt in her hands, a gift for Roland, but Roland thought it was a snake and she was Rhea. (Chapter 5, "The Path of the Beam") Roland and his friends leave the vision and find the Path of the Beam again, which leads to the Dark Tower. A note from Flagg tells them to renounce the tower, and Roland tells them his quest gets his friends killed and they should only continue with him if they truly want to do so. However, realizing they are true gunslingers now, they all agree to continue.

Part 4: Analysis

In the present, Roland ties up the loose ends of his tale. He reveals the fates of several characters, as well as how the Wizard's Glass affected his family when he returned to Gilead. In the glass, he saw a plot to kill his father, Steven Deschain. His mother, Gabrielle Deschain, was to stab his father in the night. Roland shows his friends what



happened when he went to confront his mother. She hid when he entered the room, and when she came out, he was startled and shot her. Roland again loses someone he's loved because of what he's seen in the glass ball. He believes his mother had a change of heart and wanted to apologize to him since she had made him a belt. Roland carries a lot of guilt because he believes he has killed many that he loves in order to reach the tower, including Susan and his mother. When the group continues on their journey, they come across red shoes they must wear to enter the Emerald Castle. Dorothy's journey is a quest like Roland's. When they get to the castle, Roland faces his old nemesis, Randall Flagg. Flagg warns him to stop trying to reach the Dark Tower but disappears when Roland tries to shoot him. Eddie and Susannah Dean and Jake Chambers tell Roland that despite his tales of loved ones who've fallen along Roland's journey, they will stick by him and the ka-tet continues their journey.



Characters

Roland Deschain

Roland Deschain is a gunslinger from Gilead and son of Gabrielle and Steven Deschain. He is on a quest to find the Dark Tower, the nexus of all worlds. During his quest, he has been joined by Susannah Dean, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, all of New York, and a billy-bumbler named Oy, forming a ka-tet. The three have traveled through the ruined city of Lud and begin the novel riding on Blaine the Mono, a suicidal train who wants to kill them all when he crashes at the end of the line in Topeka. They manage to outwit Blaine, mostly because of Eddie's riddling, and debark safely in a version of Topeka, Kansas, except everyone has been killed by a flu virus. Roland realizes a thinny is nearby, a portal between worlds, and the group will have to go through it.

Before they completely go through the thinny, Roland tells Susannah, Eddie, and Jake about his lost love, Susan Delgado, over a night's campfire. Roland earns his guns at the young age of fourteen and is sent by his father to the Barony of the Mejis with his friends, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns. Their official mission there is to count items that could be useful to the Affiliation, but they are really trying to detect any sign that the government there is in league with the rebel John Farson. Roland uses the name Will Dearborn while in Hambry. Roland meets Susan and falls in love, but matters are complicated because the mayor and other men in town are in league with John Farson. Roland and his friends try to foil the people's plot to supply Farson with oil and horses but only partially succeed because Susan is caught by the townspeople and burned to death at the stake for helping Roland. Roland is powerless to save her. Back in Topeka, Roland and his new friends go through the thinny and continue their journey after facing down Walter, Roland's nemesis.

Susan Delgado

Susan Delgado is a teenage girl who lives in Hambry. She is promised as a gilly or concubine to Hart Thorin, the mayor of the town. Susan and her Aunt Cordelia have struggled with money ever since her father, Pat Delgado, was killed. Cordelia and Susan have a strained relationship, often fighting over her agreement with the mayor. Susan later finds out one of the other ranchers, Fran Lengyll, is responsible for her father's murder. Susan goes to Rhea of the Coos, who ensures that she is a virgin and tells her not to have sex with Hart Thorin until after the Fair-Day. On the way home, Susan meets Roland Deschain and is attracted to him. When she sees him again, he has found out she is a gilly and is rude to her. However, he later apologizes and begs her to meet with him. She agrees hesitantly and shows him the horses of Hambry, much more than the ranchers indicated previously. She tells him they must not see again. However, after an unpleasant encounter with Hart Thorin, she meets Roland and the two of them have sex and begin to fall in love. Susan eventually becomes pregnant with Roland's child.



Susan and Roland continue to meet, but Roland and his friends are arrested for killing Mayor Hart Thorin and his advisor, Kimba Rimer. Knowing Roland and his friends didn't do it, she rescues them from prison but is forced to kill the sheriff and a deputy. While Roland and his friends are preparing to ambush the Big Coffin Hunters, Eldred Jonas, the leader, sees Susan in the Wizard's Glass and captures her. She is imprisoned in the mayor's home, but his wife, Olive Thorin, helps her escape. However, they are stopped by another Coffin Hunter, Clay Reynolds, who gives her to Rhea and her aunt Cordelia. Her aunt is now crazy, and the two women take Susan and tie her to the Fair Day bonfire. They and the rest of the villages burn her alive, and Susan screams out her love for Roland.

Susannah Dean

Susannah Dean/Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet and the common law wife of Eddie Dean. She lost her legs after a subway accident in New York City before being pulled into Roland's world. Her original name is Odetta Holmes, but she had a violent split personality named Detta Walker. She changed her name after Roland helped her merge into a single person. She has fallen in love with Eddie Dean and the two consider themselves married. She joins Roland, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy on their journey to find the Dark Tower.

Eddie Dean

Eddie Dean is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet and the common law husband of Susannah Dean. A former heroin addict, Roland pulled him from New York City into his world. Eddie loves to joke and saves their lives by telling Blaine the Mono silly, nonsensical riddles, frying Blaine's circuits.

Jake Chambers

Jake Chambers is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet. He is originally from New York City but first appeared in Roland's world after he was hit by a car and died. Roland met him while first chasing Walter through the desert, but Roland let Jake fall so as not to lose pursuit. Roland later saves Jake from being hit in New York, and with the help of Susannah and Eddie, pulled Jake back into his world.

Oy

Oy is a billy-bumbler who befriends Jake Chambers and becomes part of the ka-tet with Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Susannah Dean. He is a creature from Roland's world and is almost able to talk, limited to repeating words he hears spoken.



Cuthbert Allgood

Cuthbert Allgood is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet along with Alain Johns and is Roland's best friend. The three boys come to Hambry and learn of the gentry's consorting with John Farson, the rebel. Cuthbert is a humorous, fun-loving individual who keeps a rook's skull on his saddle that he calls the lookout. When Roland starts to fall in love with Susan Delgado, Cuthbert is jealous and frustrated because he believes she will keep them from their duty. He escapes with Roland and Alain to Gilead after they foil the rebels' plans.

Alain Johns

Alain Johns is a member of Roland Deschain's ka-tet and one of his best friends, along with Cuthbert Allgood. The three boys come to Hambry and learn of the gentry's consorting with John Farson, the rebel. Alain is stocky, strong, and sensitive, and is known as Richard Stockworth while in Hambry. He has a special gift called the touch, a sixth sense that allows him to know what is happening when he is not present. He escapes with Roland and Cuthbert to Gilead after they foil the rebels' plans.

Blaine

Blaine the Mono is a suicidal train that leaves the city of Lud after releasing gas to destroy the inhabitants. Roland Deschain, Eddie Dean, Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy get onto Blaine to escape the city and make a deal with him that he will not kill them if they can pose a riddle he is unable to solve. Unfortunately, Blaine's databases are expansive, and he is able to solve all their riddles until Eddie begins to try low-class, nonsensical riddles that fry Blaine's circuits. The train cruises to a stop with a jolt, but everyone is able to get off safely.

Walter O'Dim/Marten Broadcloak/Randall Flagg

Walter O'Dim/Marten Broadcloak/Randall Flagg is a wizard or a dark man who appears to Roland at various times in Roland's life. As Marten Broadcloak, he had an affair with Roland's mother, Gabrielle Deschain, and prompted Roland to take his manhood test early in hopes Roland would fail. As Walter, he meets with Eldred Jonas in Hambry. Roland meets him again, in the guise of Randall Flagg, outside Topeka, and tries to kill him, but Flagg disappears after warning him to renounce the Dark Tower and leaving the Wizard's Glass behind.

Eldred Jonas

Eldred Jonas is the leader of the Coffin Hunters. He was once a candidate to become a gunslinger in Gilead but failed his manhood test and was sent West. He comes to



Hambry in the employ of the rebel John Farson. He works with the Kimba Rimer and Mayor Hart Thorin, as well as the rest of the ranchers to get oil and horses for Farson. When Roland Deschain and his friends arrive, Jonas tangles with them several times and gets them framed for the murder of the mayor. However, Roland escapes with the help of Susan Delgado and ambushes Jonas and his men, killing them. Jonas also has a sexual relationship with Coral Thorin while in Hambry.

Clay Reynolds

Clay Reynolds is a member of the Coffin Hunters along with Eldred Jonas and Roy Depape. He and his friends work as paid mercenaries for the rebel leader John Farson. He survives the events in the Mejis and is later killed after robbing a bank with his new gang, which includes Coral Thorin.

Roy Depape

Roy Depape is a member of the Big Coffin Hunters. He threatens Sheemie Ruiz after Sheemie spills beer on him in the Traveller's Rest, but Cuthbert Allgood saves Sheemie and shoots Depape in the hand with a slingshot. Depape is killed when Roland Deschain, Alain Johnson and Cuthbert ambush the traitorous men.

Cordelia

Cordelia Delgado is the aunt of Susan Delgado. She convinces Susan Delgado to offer her services to the Mayor Hart Thorin so he can have a son. Cordelia is infatuated with Eldred Jonas, but when he eventually snubs her for Coral Thorin, it begins to drive her crazy. She also becomes suspicious of Susan's relationship with Roland, believing they are having sex no matter how much Susan denies it. She eventually snaps and incites the townspeople to burn Susan to death in a bonfire. She dies of a heart attack or stroke soon after.

Rhea of the Coos

Rhea of the Coos is a witch who lives outside of Hambry. Eldred Jonas gives her the pink Wizard's ball, which can see what people are doing without their knowledge.

Hart Thorin

Hart Thorin is the mayor of Hambry in the Barony of Mejis. He has allowed the Coffin Hunters and Lord Rimer to convince him to help the rebel John Farson. However, Thorin is not very concerned about what this means for the Mejis because he can only think of Susan Delgado, his gilly. He has paid Susan so that he can have sex with her to have an heir. He is killed by the Bog Coffin Hunters.



Coral Thorin

Coral Thorin is the sister of Mayor Hart Thorin. She enters into a sexual relationship with Eldred Jonas and helps the Coffin Hunters kill Mayor Thorin and his advisor Lord Rimer, pinning the murder on the gunslingers.

Sheemie Ruiz

Sheemie Ruiz is a mentally retarded man who befriends Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns after Cuthbert saves him from being killed by the Coffin Hunters. He forms an attachment to them and sometimes carries messages for Roland to Susan Delgado. Sheemie later helps the gunslingers as they try to thwart John Farson's plans, and helps Susan Delgado escape after she is locked up for treason. He survives the events of the novel.

Lord Rimer

Lord Rimer is the advisor to Mayor Hart Thorin, who first invites the Coffin Hunters to come to Mejis. He is killed by the Coffin Hunters, along with Mayor Thorin, so the murders can be pinned on Roland Deschain and his fellow gunslingers.

John Farson

John Farson is a rebel leader who forms an uprising against the gunslingers of Gilead. The Coffin Hunters are in his employ.

Gabrielle Deschain

Gabrielle Deschain is the mother of Roland Deschain and the wife of Steven Deschain. She is the lover of Marten Broadcloak and is involved in a plot to kill Steven Deschain after Roland returns to Gilead. Roland goes to see her but she hides; when she comes out from the curtain, he sees the movement and is unable to stop himself from shooting her. She dies, clutching a belt she has made for Roland as a piece offering, indicating she may not have been going through with the plan to kill Steven.

Herk Avery

Sheriff Herk Avery is the sheriff in Hambry, and a member of the alliance that supports John Farson.



Steven Deschain

Steven Deschain is the father of Roland Deschain and the husband of Gabrielle Deschain. He is a gunslinger in Gilead and is aware his wife is having an affair with the wizard, Marten Broadcloak. He sends Roland and his friends to Mejis to keep them safe from Marten.

Cortland Andrus

Cortland (Cort) Andrus is the gunslinger instructor in Gilead. He teaches Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns. Roland faces Cort in his test of manhood using a hawk as a weapon, which tears open Cort's face. Cort later succumbs to the wounds. Cort was also known as a great riddler and won many riddling contests before the war came to Gilead.

Andrew Quick

Andrew Quick, the Tick-Tock Man, is a survivor of the destruction in the city of Lud, where he kidnapped Jake Chambers, later rescued by Roland Deschain. Quick appears to Roland and his friends in the Emerald Castle outside Topeka, pretending to be the Wizard of Oz, but is soon shot dead by Eddie and Susannah Dean.

Olive Thorin

Olive Thorin is the wife of Mayor Hart Thorin. She still loves her husband but harbors no ill will towards Susan for agreeing to be Hart Thorin's gilly. She helps Susan Delgado escape after she is captured by The Coffin Hunters but is later shot by Clay Reynolds.

Dave Hollis

Dave Hollis is a deputy sheriff in Hambry. He is killed by Susan Delgado when she breaks Roland Deschain, Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns out of prison.

Latigo

Latigo is one of John Farson's men.

Hash Renfrew

Hash Renfrew is a rancher in the village of Hambry and an ally of the Big Coffin Hunters.



Maria

Maria is Susan's maid at the Mayor's house.

Jamie DeCurry

Jamie DeCurry is a member of Roland Deschain's first ka-tet along with Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns.

Patrick Delgado

Patrick Delgado is the father of Susan Delgado and the brother of Cordelia Delgado. He is killed before the events of the novel by Fran Lengyll, an old family friend, in order to hide a conspiracy to supply the rebel John Farson with horses and oil.

Fran Lengyll

Fran Lengyll is a rancher in the Mejis. He kills Susan Delgado's father to hide Fran's connections with the rebel John Farson.

Stanley Ruiz

Stanley Ruiz is the bartender at the Traveller's Rest.

Sheb

Sheb is the piano player at the Traveller's Rest.

Pettie

Pettie is a whore at the Traveller's Rest.



Objects/Places

The Dark Tower

The Dark Tower is the nexus of all universes, including our own. Roland Deschain is obsessed with the tower and will do anything to reach it, even if it means sacrificing his friends.

Ka-Tet

Ka-tet is a group of people who are bound together by ka, or fatee. Roland Deschain forms two ka-tets, one in his youth with Alain Johns, Cuthbert Allgood, and Jamie DeCurry, as well as one as an adult with Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy the billy-bumbler.

Ka

Ka is another word for fate in Roland Deschain's world.

The Affiliation

The Affiliation is the name for the rulers of Gilead and Mid-World, and the gunslingers serve it. Its rule comes under question when John Farson rebels and fights against them.

Wizard's Rainbow

Wizard's Rainbow is the name for seven spheres that have magical powers. Roland Deschain comes across the pink one, which shows the onlooker the darkest acts humans make.

Reaping

Reaping is a festival celebrated in the fall in the Mejis. During the celebrations, people throw dummies stuffed with straw onto bonfires.

Hambry

Hambry is a village in Mejis which Roland and his fellow gunslingers visit to determine whether the governing body there is in league with the rebel John Farson. Susan Delgado is born and raised there.



Thinny

A thinny is a place where the barrier between worlds is thin, and sometimes people may use them to pass to other worlds. One is located in Eyebolt Canyon outside of Hambry, and one is located outside of Topeka.

The Travellers' Rest

The Travellers' Rest is an inn in Hambry.

Mejis

Mejis is a land in Roland's Deschain's world of Mid-World. It includes the village of Hambry.

Gilead

Gilead is the home city of Roland Deschain and is the base for the higher classes and gunslingers.

Beams

The Beams are beams which hold together worlds and cross at the Dark Tower. By breaking the beams, the fabrics of all worlds is torn apart.

Citgo

The Citgo is an abandoned oil pumping station outside of Hambry.

Barony

Barony is a group of cities, similar to a state in our universe.

Lud

Lud is a ruined city that Roland Deschain and his friends depart from at the beginning of the novel.

Topeka

Topeka is a city in Kansas. The Topeka that Roland Deschain, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and Oy come across is similar to the Topeka in our world, but the world they are in has suffered a serious flu virus that killed most people. It is believed to be the same world where Stephen King's novel *THE STAND* takes place.



Themes

Foresight

The Wizard's Glass is a round glass ball that glows pink and offers the onlooker a glimpse of things that other people are doing, most frequently in the present but sometimes also in the past or future. The ball is a dangerous, intoxicating thing, as Rhea of the Coos learns when she keeps it for the Big Coffin Hunters. Rhea takes pleasure in watching the evil things people do to each other and is so wrapped up in what she sees in the ball she neglects care for herself. When Roland Deschain kills her snake, Rhea only wraps it around her neck and lets it decompose there. When she eventually emerges from her home, others are shocked at her mangy and malnourished appearance. When others see the glass ball, it also compels them to want to hold and use it. Eldred Jonas in particular feels drawn to it but dies before he can be as consumed as Rhea. When Roland gets the ball, he sees that he has a choice to live and love Susan or continue the quest for the Dark Tower and save all the worlds from destruction. He makes his choice, thinking Susan will move on without him, but she dies consumed by flames. Roland later sees that his mother means to kill his father and uses the glass to show his new ka-tet how he ended up killing his mother because of it. The foresight offered by the ball is a dangerous thing, and it is clear some things are better left unseen. The knowledge of what people do in their private lives can be disturbing, or rewarding in the case of Rhea, but such knowledge can also be maddening.

Time

Time is more flexible in Roland Deschain's world in the present. When he tells the story of his adventures in the Barony of the Mejis, it takes only a night, although it is clear the story is quite long and encompasses several weeks. However, in the past, time is more steady, and in both time frames the events in the novel are closely tied to the phases of the moon as a measure of time. The journey of Roland's ka-tet in the present begins under the Demon Moon, foreshadowing the sad events that come about at the end of his story about Susan Delgado. In the past, when Susan first goes to see Rhea of the Coos to prove her virginity and later meets Roland, it is under the Kissing Moon. This foreshadows their eventual romantic relationship, and the joy that youthful love can bring. As the moon phase changes to the Peddler's Moon, Roland and Susan have begun their relationship in earnest, and they both feel full of promise for the love they share. However, Roland and his ka-tet are discovering that things aren't what they seem in the Barony of the Mejis and know they must soon choose a path to do something about it. While the moon is the Huntress Moon, the situation becomes critical. Roland's love for Susan has delayed the gunslingers' chance to get help, and the boys are locked in a game of cat and mouse with Eldred Jonas and the Big Coffin Hunters, each trying to outsmart the others. When the moon returns to the Demon Moon, it is all over for the lovers, as Susan is captured and burned at the stake, now lost to Roland forever. The

phases of the moon set the stage for the action in each section and foreshadow what is to come for the characters.

Fate

Ka or fate is a very important concept in Roland Deschain's world. For the gunslinger, ka is the reason for everything he does, and it governs the lives of everyone in existence. Roland does not believe in coincidence, especially with the many connections he finds on his way to the Dark Tower. Instead, he believes it is his destiny to climb the Dark Tower and find a way to stop the Beams that hold the world together from breaking. Part of his destiny is also to form ka-tets, which are groups of people who are linked by fate to achieve a goal. When Roland is young and he and his allies are fighting John Farson, the rebel, he forms a ka-tet with Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns while they travel to the Barony of the Mejis. While there, Roland falls in love with Susan Delgado, which threatens to split the ka-tet apart. Alain also believes in the power of ka, but Cuthbert dismisses it more readily and thinks that people only use it as an excuse, calling it everyone's favorite "whipping boy." The group does come back together, however. In Roland's present, he has formed a ka-tet with Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and Oy the billy-bumbler. This group shares the common goal of trying to reach the Dark Tower. Even though his friends throughout his life may help him on his way, Roland is a slave to ka and will leave them behind or lead them in to harm, if it means that he will reach the Tower. It appears that Roland needs to learn not to trust entirely on fate and to make his own choices; otherwise, he will also face ruin and destruction in the end.



Style

Point of View

THE DARK TOWER IV: WIZARD AND GLASS, is told primarily through a third-person, omniscient point of view in both the present and the past storylines that the novel encompasses. The novel first follows Roland Deschain's ka-tet of Eddie and Susannah Dean, Jake Chambers, and the billy-bumbler Oy as they leave the ruined, death-filled city of Lud and search for the Path of the Beam. Using this point of view allows the readers to see everyone's thoughts, which is especially important when Roland tells the story of his youth and journey to the Barony of the Mejis. In these sections, Roland tells the story, but it is written from the third-person, omniscient point of view, and Roland can see into the minds of all the characters there, even events for which Roland wasn't present. However, Roland explains this when questioned by Eddie that he later saw all the events in the Wizard's Glass. Without this explanation, the reader would be left wondering how Roland knew what his enemies, including Eldred Jonas and the Big Coffin Hunters, were thinking during that time. If the story was told only from Roland's point of view, it would be a much leaner and less fulfilling story, as the reader would not understand the moves each side makes to try and come out on top in the final battle. Giving a plausible reason for Roland knowing everything that happens, allows the reader to believe in the characters and the story Roland tells.

Setting

THE DARK TOWER IV: WIZARD AND GLASS uses several different settings while weaving together stories in the past and present. The novel operates on the idea that there are countless worlds, some very similar to others, and doors between the worlds do exist. In Roland's present time with his new ka-tet, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and the billy-bumbler, Oy, the group travels through several worlds. They begin in Roland's world, one which seems like it could have been similar to ours but has moved on, and the people have lost the knowledge of how to use technology. They travel into another version of Topeka, Kansas, which also seems the same as our world; however, the population has died from the superflu, and there are sports teams and cars that Eddie and Jake haven't heard of, signifying it is another world. The group eventually moves back into Roland's world through the thinny and resumes their journey for the Dark Tower. The city where Roland grew up, Gilead, feels like a medieval village. Also in Roland's past, he and his friends Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns travel to the Barony of the Mejis and the village of Hambry. This area, along with the majority of Roland's world, appears much like people lived in the west in the 1800s in America. With the use of Spanish language phrases and item names, it appears the Mejis is a correlation to Mexico or perhaps the American southwest. This setting and the western theme give the novel flavor and an authentic feel.



Language and Meaning

THE DARK TOWER IV: WIZARD AND GLASS primarily tells the story of a young Roland Deschain on his first big mission with his friends Cuthbert Allgood and Alain Johns. This story takes on the tone primarily of a western novel. The three boys are gunslingers, and the world they inhabit is like the modern world regressed back to the climate of the 1800's in the United States. While the characters do come across modern places like the Citgo, they do not have the technology to use them or understand how they work. The language used reflects the western feel of the novel, as well as using Spanish words to reflect the feel of the Mejis. The story also takes on the characteristics of a doomed romance with Roland and Susan Delgado as the stars. Since we know from the future scenes with Roland, Susan is not with him, it makes the tale of their courtship take on a bittersweet tone from the very beginning. In Roland's present time with his new ka-tet, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers and the billy-bumbler, Oy, the tone and language used is more modern, as it would be if western characters were placed in a world with a more modern time frame. Roland is a bit lost in the world; for example, the others have to explain the story of The Wizard of Oz to him so he can understand how it is relevant to their situation. Still, the group has a sense of togetherness and Roland acts as the center, or father-figure, of the group. The tones reflects that the group as a whole are gunslingers, who will let nothing stand in their way as they try to find the Dark Tower.

Structure

THE DARK TOWER IV: WIZARD AND GLASS, is the fourth novel in Stephen's King's Dark Tower series. The novel is divided into six sections, including: "Prologue, Blaine"; Part 1: "Riddles"; Part 2: "Susan"; Interlude, "Somewhere, Somewhen"; Part 3, "Come, Reap"; and Part 4: "All God's Chillun Got Shoes." Each section is named to describe the main events that will happen within: for example, in the prologue, we are introduced to the suicidal mono, Blaine. In Part 2, Roland meets Susan and becomes enamored with her; she becomes his whole world. The novel concerns both events in Roland's future and events in his past. The four sections of Prologue, Part 1, Interlude and Part 4 all take place in the same time, the present where Roland Deschain is traveling with his new ka-tet, Susannah and Eddie Dean, Jake Chambers, and the billy-bumbler, Oy. This sections outline the ka-tet's attempts to follow the Path of the Beam and reach the Dark Tower. The other sections, Part 2 and Part 3, are a tale told by Roland to his new ka-tet. That tale references his past life and what happens to him after he becomes a gunslinger and falls in love with Susan Delgado. By interweaving the two plotlines together, it shows how past events have shaped and formed Roland's character in the future. The events also seem to take place in only one night, because time is tricky in Roland's world. Overall, the structure allows the reader to experience both the past and the present and see how the former colors the latter.



Quotes

"YOU ARE RUDE AND ARROGANT," Blaine said. 'THESE MAY SEEM LIKE INTERESTING TRAITS TO YOU, BUT THEY ARE NOT TO ME.'

'Oh, I can be much ruder than I have been.' Roland of Gilead unfolded his hands and slowly got to his feet. He stood on what appeared to be nothing, legs apart, his right hand on his hip and his left on the sandalwood grip of his revolver. He stood as he had so many times before, in the dusty streets of a hundred forgotten towns, in a score of rocky-cannon killing zones, in unnumbered dark saloons with their smells of bitter beers and old fried meals. It was just another showdown in another empty street." Prologue: Blaine, pg. 3.

"Ok Blaine. You asked for it. Here comes the cruncher. Why did the dead baby cross the road?" Part 1: Riddling, Ch. 3: The Fair-Day Goose, pg. 56.

"Go then, there are other worlds than these." Part 1: Riddling, Ch. 4, Topeka, pg. 80.

"It'll be a Western,' Eddie said. 'All Roland's stories are Westerns, when you get right down to it.'" Part 1: Riddling, Ch. 5, Turnpikin', pg. 103.

"He (Roland) fetched a sigh — the deep sigh of a man who contemplates some arduous piece of work — and then tossed fresh wood on the fire. As the flames flared up, driving the shadows back a little way, he began to talk. All that queerly long night he taled, not finishing the story of Susan Delgado until the sun was rising in the east and painting the glass castle yonder with all the bright hues of a fresh day, and a strange green cast of light which was its own true color." Part 1: Riddling, Ch. 5, Turnpikin', pg. 116.

"As the stranger came up beside her, she forgave herself a little for not hearing him approach — there was no buckle or bell on his gear that she could see, and everything was tied down so as not to snap or flap. It was almost the rig of an outlaw or a harrier (she had the idea that Jonas, he of the wavery voice, and his two friends might have been both, in other times and other climes) or even a gunslinger. But this man bore no guns, unless they were hidden. A bow on the pommel of his saddle and what looked like a lance in a scabbard, that was all. And there had never, she reckoned, been a gunslinger as young as this." Part 2: Susan, Ch. 3, A Meeting on the Road, pg. 148.

"If it's ka, it'll come like a wind, and your plans will stand before it no more than a barn before a cyclone." Part 2: Susan, Ch. 3, A Meeting on the Road, pg. 165.

"I have no opinion,' Cuthbert said brightly. 'No, none at all. Opinion is politics, and politics is an evil which has caused many a fellow to be hung while he's still young and pretty.' He leaned forward and tapped the rook's skull with his knuckles. 'The lookout didn't care for him, though. I'm sorry to say that our faithful lookout thought Sheriff Avery a fat bag of guts without a trustworthy bone in his body.'" Part 2: Susan, Ch. 5, Welcome to Town, pg. 199.



"More laughter from the Mayor's party; Rimer had leaned over from the next table, where he was presiding, to contribute some witticism. It must have been a good one. This time even Jonas was laughing. Susan put a hand to her bosom, then took her napkin and raised it to wipe a tear of laughter from the corner of her eye. Thorin covered her other hand. She looked toward Roland and met his eyes, still laughing. He thought of Olive Thorin, sitting down there at the foot of the table, with the salt and spices, an untouched bowl of soup before her and that unhappy smile on her face. Seated where the girl could see her, as well. And he thought that, had he been wearing his guns, he might well have drawn one and put a bullet in Susan Delgado's cold and whoring little heart." Part 2: Susan, Ch. 5, Welcome to Town, pg. 218.

"'Mayhap we'll meet again, sai,' Jonas said. 'Mayhap we will,' Roland said, and swung up into his saddle.'" Part 2: Susan, Ch. 6, Sheemie, pg. 241.

"Roland of Gilead found himself remembering a cook named Hax, dangling at the end of a rope while the rooks pecked up scattered breadcrumbs from beneath the dead man's feet. He had died for Farson. But before that, he had poisoned children for Farson. 'Death,' he said, 'is what Farson's all about.'" Part 2: Susan, Ch. 9, Citgo, pg. 317.

"Susan looked at her, mouth drawn down in a trembling arc, eyes filling with tears again. I've met someone I love! That was what she would have told her if she could. Don't you understand how that changes things? I've met someone I love! But if Aunt Cord had been the sort of person to whom she could have said such a thing, Susan would likely never have been impaled on this stick to begin with." Part 2: Susan, Ch. 10, Bird and Bear and Hare and Fish, pg. 329.

"Bird and bear and hair and fish. Give my love her fondest wish." Part 2: Susan, Ch. 10, Bird and Bear and Hare and Fish, pg. 341.

"True love, like any other strong and addicting drug, is boring — once the tale of encounter and discovery is told, kisses quickly grow stale and tiresome... except, of course, to those who share the kisses, who give and take the caresses while every sound and color of the world seems to deepen brighten all around them. As with any other strong drug, true first love is really only interesting to those who have become its prisoners. And, as is true of any other strong and addicting drug, true first love is dangerous." Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 1, Beneath the Huntress Moon, pg. 355.

"Cuthbert and Alain watched Roland's descent into addiction first with disbelief, envy, and uneasy amusement, then with a species of silent horror. They had been sent to what was supposed to have been safety and had discovered a place of conspiracy, instead; they had come to take census in a Barony where most of the aristocracy had apparently switched its allegiance to the Affiliation's bitterest enemy; they had made personal enemies of three hard men who had probably killed enough folks to populate a fair-sized graveyard. Yet they had felt equal to the situation, because they had come here under the leadership of their friend, who had attained near mythic status in their minds by besting Cort — with a hawk as a weapon! — and becoming a gunslinger at the unheard of age of fourteen. That they had been given guns themselves for this mission



had meant a great deal to them when they set out from Gilead, and nothing at all by the times they began to realize the scope of what was going on in Hambrytown and the Barony of which it was a part. When the realization came, Roland was the weapon they counted on. And now — 'He's like a revolver cast in to water!' Cuthbert exclaimed one evening, not long after Roland had ridden away to meet Susan." Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 1, Beneath the Huntress Moon, pg. 359.

"Hear me well, Rhea, daughter of none, and understand me well. I have come here under the name of Will Dearborn, but Will Dearborn is not my name and it is the Affiliation I serve. More, 'tis all which lies behind the Affiliations — 'tis power of the White. You have crossed the way of our ka, and I warn you only this once: do not cross it again. Do you understand?" Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 4, Cuthbert and Roland, pg. 435.

"Some colors of the Wizard's Rainbow are reputed to look into the future. Others look into the other worlds — those where the demons live, those where the Old People are supposed to have gone when they left our world. These may also show the location of the secret doors which pass between the worlds. Other colors, they say, can look far in our own world, and see things people would as soon keep secret. They never see the good; only the ill. How much of this is true and how much is myth, no one knows for sure." Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 5, Wizard's Rainbow, pg. 456.

"It is the closing of the year; it is also the closing of the peace. For it is here, in the sleepy Out-World Barony of Mejis, that Mid-World's last great conflict will shortly begin; it is from here that the blood will begin to flow. In two years, no more, the world as it has been will be swept away. It starts here. From its field of roses, the Dark Tower cries out in its beast's voice. Time is a face on the water." Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 6, Closing the Year, pg. 467.

"You're in the West. The soul of a man such as you can never leave the West. You'll live in exile and die as you lived." Part. 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 7, Taking the Ball, pg. 501.

"The boys waited for the party to pass, holding their horses heads in case one of them took it in mind to whicker a greeting to the nags so close by. When they were gone, Roland turned his pale and unsmiling face to his friends. 'Mount up,' he said. 'Reaping's come.'" Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 9, Reaping, pg. 576.

"Cordelia Delgado raised her head and looked around at the men. She took a breath, pulling the sour, intermingled smells of graf and beer and smoke and whiskey deep in her spinster's lungs. 'Take her. Ye must take her. I say it in love and sorrow, so I do.' Silent. Their eyes. 'Paint her hands.' The glass gaze of the thing on the wall, looking in its stuffed judgment over the waiting room. 'Charyou tree,' Cordelia whispered. They did not cry their agreement but sighed it, like autumn wind through stripped trees." Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 10, Beneath the Demon Moon (II), pg. 588.



"'Inside the ball, I was given a choice: Susan, and my life as her husband and father of the child she now carries... or the Tower.' Roland wiped his face with a shaking hand. 'I would choose Susan in an instant, if not for one thing: the tower is crumbling, and if it falls, everything we know will be swept away. There will be chaos beyond our imagining. We must go... and we will go.'" Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 10, Beneath the Demon Moon (II), pg. 605.

"The cornshucks blazed up at once, dazzling Susan with yellow light. She drew in a final breath of cool air, warmed it with her heart, and loosed it in a defiant shout: 'ROLAND, I LOVE THEE!'" Part 3: Come, Reap, Ch. 10, Beneath the Demon Moon (II), pg. 633.

"'Martin,' Roland said. He held out his left hand, the one which was still whole. 'Marten Broadcloak. After all these years. After all these centuries.'
'Want this, Roland?' Eddie put the gun he had used to kill the Tick Tock Man in Roland's hand. A tendril of blue smoke was still rising from the barrel. Roland looked at the old revolver as if he had never seen it before, then slowly lifted it and pointed at the grinning, rosy-cheeked figure sitting cross-legged on the Green Palace's throne.
'Finally,' Roland breathed, thumbing the trigger. 'Finally in my sights.'" Part 4: All God's Chillun Got Shoes, Ch. 3, The Wizard, pg. 672.

"'Next time I won't leave. Renounce the Tower. This is your last warning. And have a great day! — R.F.'" Part 4, All God's Chillun Got Shoes, Ch. 5, The Path of the Beam, pg. 689.

"The Path of the Beam. Somewhere ahead, where this Beam intersected all the others, stood the Dark Tower. Eddie thought that, if the wind were right, he would almost be able to smell its sullen stone." Part 4, All God's Chillun Got Shoes, Ch. 5, The Path of the Beam, pg. 694.



Topics for Discussion

How does Roland Deschain's quest for the Dark Tower affect his relationship with others, both in the past and present? Do you think he will succeed in his quest, and if so, is it worth the losses? Why or why not? What do you think will happen to his relationship with his new friends?

Roland Deschain and Susan Delgado's love complicates both their positions in Hambry. How does Roland's friend, Cuthbert Allgood, view his friend's love affair? If the two hadn't fallen in love, how might the outcome of their actions in Hambry changed?

Ka, or Fate, is important to Roland Deschain. How does the notion of ka affect the character's actions, both in the past and present? Can anyone change their fate, or is everything predetermined? Why or why not? Which events in the novel seem more like coincidence?

Compare and contrast Cuthbert Allgood and Eddie Dean. Which characteristics do they share? How does Roland Deschain relate to both of them? What does it say about Roland's fate that he makes two similar friends at different points in his life?

How does the movie, WIZARD OF OZ, influence the novel. Are Roland's quest and his friends similar to Dorothy's quest to get home? What do each of his friends, Jake Chambers, Eddie and Susannah Dean, want for themselves, if anything?

How many worlds do Roland and his friends travel through on their quest, in both the past and the present? How is his world, and the world where the population is wiped out by the superflu, related to ours? What remnants of the past in Hambry show this connection?

Does the Wizard's Glass, which allows people to see things that are actually happening, do more harm than good? How does it affect the people who look into it, especially the witch Rhea of the Coos? For what reason would such a glass be worth keeping, or should it be destroyed? Why or why not? How does looking into the glass affect Roland's life, and how might it been different if he hadn't?