

Wolves of the Calla Study Guide

Wolves of the Calla by Stephen King

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Plot Summary

Wolves of the Calla is the fifth novel in the *Dark Tower* series by Stephen King. In this novel, Roland and his ka-tet, Eddie, Susannah, and Jake, are following the Path of the Beam in their quest to find the Dark Tower when they are met by a group of people from a nearby community called Calla Bryn Sturgis. These people have been plagued by what they call Wolves for many generations. The Wolves come to their community and steal one child from every set of twins born in the community, only to return them weeks later with brain damage and a tendency to grow to giant size. Some people in the community want to stand up against these Wolves for the first time and are eager to enlist the gunslinger's assistance. At the same time, Eddie has made the ka-tet aware of a potential problem for a rose that exists in 1970s Manhattan that is somehow connected to the Dark Tower. Roland, too, has discovered a problem with Susannah that he has chosen not to tell anyone, including her husband. *Wolves of the Calla* is a continuation of Roland's quest for the Dark Tower that sidelines the ka-tet and leaves the reader anxious to see if they can survive yet another set of travails.

Roland and his ka-tet have been traveling for a while, following a road that happens to follow the Path of the Beam. Roland becomes aware of a group of people following them, but he is not concerned about them because he does not sense any malice in them. The night before this group of people finally approaches Roland and his ka-tet, Eddie and Jake experience *todash*, a way of being transported to another world without actually being a part of that world. Jake and Eddie *todash* to Manhattan on the same day Jake first died in the 1970s. Eddie and Jake follow 1970s Jake into the book store where Jake bought Charlie and the Choo-Choo as well as a riddle book. While there, Eddie and Jake watch as a group of mobsters Eddie is familiar with harass the store owner, Calvin Tower, over an agreement to sell a vacant lot to Sombra Real Estate. At the same time, Roland wakes in the night to find that Susannah has taken on the personality of a woman who calls herself Mia and is in the swamp, feeding.

The next morning, Roland, Eddie, Jake, and Susannah discuss Eddie and Jake's experience and what they saw in the bookstore. A short time later, a man from the group that has been following them introduces himself. This man, Father Callahan, tells them that the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis would like to employ their services as gunslingers. Eddie is surprised to discover that Father Callahan is from their world. Father Callahan promises he will tell them his story and how he came to be in Calla Bryn Sturgis, but first he wants Roland to promise that he will take from him a magic ball that has been hidden inside his church for several years. Roland promises.

Roland and his ka-tet meet the other members of Father Callahan's group and discuss the Wolves that have been stealing children from the people of the Calla for many generations. Roland discusses the situation with his ka-tet and they agree that they have no choice but to honor the gunslinger tradition and help these people, even if some of them do not want their help. That night, the entire ka-tet goes *todash* and returns to Manhattan where they visit the vacant lot Calvin Tower owns and see the rose that grows there. The rose is somehow connected to the Dark Tower and the entire ka-



tet agree they must do whatever they can to protect it. Eddie suggests a scheme in which they would offer to buy the vacant lot.

Roland and his ka-tet travel to Calla Bryn Sturgis and begin getting to know the people there while making plans to fight the Wolves on their behalf. At the same time, Roland tells Eddie that he believes Susannah is pregnant with the child of a demon and that she has created a new personality called Mia in order to deal with the unpleasantness of this pregnancy. Eddie promises to watch Susannah carefully for signs of this personality emerging as well as the progressing pregnancy. At the same time, Roland has Eddie, Susannah, and Jake get to know the people of the Calla. Eddie hears a story from an old man who claims to have fought the Wolves once and revealed what hides under their masks. Roland learns about a group of women in the Calla who throw plates in the tradition of the rice Queen the town's people honor. With all this information, Roland begins to devise a plan to fight the Wolves.

As Roland and his ka-tet get to know the town's people, Father Callahan tells them his story. Father Callahan was once a priest in a town called Salem's Lot. This town was besieged by vampires and Father Callahan escaped, but not before drinking the blood of a vampire. Father Callahan went to New York, where he discovered he could identify vampires and began killing them. Soon a group of people began searching for Callahan in order to stop him from killing vampires. Eventually this group of people caught up with Callahan and he jumped out of a window to escape sure death. Instead of dying, Callahan was transported to another world where he was given a magical ball and instructed to keep it until the day he met a gunslinger. Now Callahan gives this ball to Roland.

Eddie and Roland go to a cave with Black Thirteen, the magic ball Callahan gave Roland, and use it to open a door there that will take Eddie back to Manhattan. Eddie convinces Calvin Tower to sell him his vacant lot, but not before Calvin Tower insists that Eddie push his precious collection of rare books through the door. At the same time, Jake wakes in the middle of the night to see his friend, Benny's father, speaking to the local robot and then sneaking off into Thunderclap. Jake is suspicious because everyone in the Calla is afraid of Thunderclap because that is where the Wolves live. A few days later, Jake follows the path he saw Benny's father take and discovers that Benny's father has been communicating with the people who send the Wolves.

Susannah soon realizes that she is pregnant and she approaches the subject with the other members of her ka-tet. They tell Susannah about Mia and warn her to let them know if she ever feels Mia coming out. Susannah promises, but she breaks this promise when labor begins at the same time they are preparing to fight the Wolves. Susannah makes a deal with Mia, telling her she will help with the birth of the demon child if Mia will hold off until after the fight with the Wolves. The fight with the Wolves is less dramatic than the people of the Calla expected it to be, ending in mere minutes with the deaths of all the robotic Wolves that have been stalking them for generation after generation. When all is said and done, two people are dead, but all the children are saved.



During the celebration, Roland and his ka-tet become aware that Susannah is missing. They follow her tracks and find that Susannah has gone through the Unfound Door and taken Black Thirteen with her. It appears that there is no way to follow her. However, Roland shows everyone a book he found among Calvin Tower's rare books that he believes might allow them to open the door once more. This book is called Salem's Lot and it tells Father Callahan's story in vivid detail. Callahan is shocked by this, but Roland and his ka-tet, especially Eddie, are more focused on finding a way to open the door and rescue Susannah.



Prologue, Roont and Part 1, Todash: Chapter 1, The Face on the Water and Chapter 2, New York Groove

Prologue, Roont and Part 1, Todash: Chapter 1, The Face on the Water and Chapter 2, New York Groove Summary

Roland and his companions, his ka-tet, are on a quest to find The Dark Tower, a mystical building that is thought to be the center of all worlds. Roland and his ka-tet have been through several battles, all personal, emotional, and physical, and their goal seems no closer in sight. All are frustrated and losing sight of what it is they have been fighting so hard to find.

In Prologue, Roont, a farmer in a small community called Calla Bryn Sturgis, learns that the time has come again for the Wolves to come. This community has a large number of twin births, and once a generation one twin from each set between the ages of five or six to fifteen are taken. The children are almost always sent back, but they come back brain damaged, many unable to walk or talk or even care for themselves. When these ruined, or roont, children reach puberty, they go through a fantastic amount of growth in a short time, leaving them giants. All of these children will die at an early age, but not before they have become a serious burden to their families. This farmer, Tian Jaffords, cares for his own twin and that of his sister, as well as his own children that consist of two sets of twins and a singleton. Tian does not want his own children to suffer what his twin did. Tian calls a meeting of the men in the community and suggests that they stand up and fight the Wolves this time. At first Tian has lots of support, but then several objectors begin injecting reality into the discussion. While these men do not want to see another batch of children lost to the Wolves, they also do not want to see the town destroyed by the vengeful Wolves. It seems the consensus has gone against Tian until Pere Callahan tells the group that a ka-tet of gunslingers is coming their way and perhaps they should speak to them about helping in a fight against the Wolves.

Roland and his ka-tet are following the Path of the Beam. Time had seemed to stop for Eddie, but recently it has begun again. The beginning of time seems to have taken place about the same time they became aware of a group of people following them. Jake is concerned that these people might mean trouble, but Roland assures them that he does not believe these people are malicious. That night, the ka-tet stops to make camp in the middle of the road in order to keep their fire from the trees of the forest that surround them on both sides. The ka-tet eats muffin balls Jake found in some bushes and then settle to bed. Roland warns them that the muffin balls might bring on some interesting dreams.



Jake and Eddie discover that they have actually been transported to New York somehow in the year 1977, the same day Jake died the first time. Eddie and Jake find each other on the street seconds before 1977 Jake walks past. Eddie and Jake follow 1970s Jake as he explores Manhattan before going into the second-hand bookstore, Manhattan Restaurant of the Mind, where he bought two books that saved the ka-tet on several occasions in the time since Jake's first death.

As Jake and Eddie follow 1970s Jake, they realize that the people around them cannot see them. They also sense a darkness around them that they cannot explain. Eddie is worried by these things, but Jake is fascinated with his past self and is enjoying watching him play out his final moments in this world again. In the bookstore, Jake and Eddie watch as 1970s Jake buys the books and listens to a story from one of the old men sitting in the store. When 1970s Jake leaves, Eddie hesitates, feeling as though he should stay. A moment later three men Eddie knows from his time in New York before he became a part of Roland's world come to the bookstore. These men are gangsters and they appear to have business with the owner of the store. Eddie and Jake follow these men as the owner leads them into a storeroom that also contains his office. As the mobsters discuss a piece of paper with the store owner, Eddie stands behind them and reads the paper. Eddie begins to hear chimes that are both beautiful and sinister as he reads, telling him that it is time to return to Roland's world. Eddie reads quickly before he senses himself beginning to fall into some sort of darkness and he is consumed with a fear of becoming lost forever in this nothingness.

Prologue, Roont and Part 1, Todash: Chapter 1, The Face on the Water and Chapter 2, New York Groove Analysis

In the prologue, the reader is introduced to a group of people who are simple farmers and ranchers dealing with a situation that calls to mind an old John Wayne or Clint Eastwood movie. The people in Calla Bryn Sturgis are simple people, trying to make a living out of the land, living in a town that is much like the small towns that populate so many Western movies and novels, trying to find a way to fight against the evil that is coming to steal half of their precious children away. Then the reader moves on to the first chapter of the novel and finds Roland, a gunslinger, and his ka-tet coming toward this little village. It does not take much foresight for the reader to realize that Roland is the gunslinger the Old Fella told the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis about and that it is he they hope will help them fight these Wolves who steals their children for frightening and unknown reasons.

Important in the prologue is the introduction of three characters, Tian Jaffords, Andy, and Pere Callahan. Tian Jaffords is a small farmer who uses his sister, Tia, to help him plow his fields. Tia was damaged by whatever it is the Wolves do with the children and is now a helpless giant who does not know to be offended when her brother uses her to pull a plow. Tian learns that the Wolves are coming again and has visions of two of his precious children turning into a dumb giant just like Tia. Tian wants to fight, showing the



reader that this man is strong and that he is the driving force behind the decision to fight the Wolves. Andy is a robot who somehow knows when the Wolves are coming. The people of the Calla are dumbfounded by Andy, unsure of where he came from, why he is there, or how he knows when the Wolves are coming. However, the reader should surely suspect that a robot in this little Old West town is unusual and that he might be a clue to the motivations behind the Wolves if not the Wolves themselves. Pere Callahan is not from the Calla, but has become a member of their community just the same. Callahan too seems to have inside information, aware that a group of gunslingers are coming to town even before they reach the town limits. Callahan will prove to be important to the plot, the reader just does not know how at this point.

Roland and his ka-tet should be familiar to the reader since this is the fifth book in which they have appeared. Roland and his ka-tet have been traveling for many weeks by the time the reader of this novel is introduced to them, and they are tired. Not only this, but they are being followed and they are concerned that trouble is coming because trouble seems to constantly find them no matter where they are. Roland assures his ka-tet that the people seeking them are not malicious, but past experience leaves them unsure. Eddie and Jake go to sleep one night and are somehow transported to another place and time. Jake is excited because he has returned to his final day in Manhattan, but Eddie is worried that there is a reason why they have been transported to this place. Soon Eddie finds a reason. The man who owns a bookstore where Jake bought some books that have proved useful on his quest with Roland is in trouble with some mobsters whom Eddie will kill at a future date. This coincidence leaves Eddie convinced that this is the reason he and Jake are there, so Eddie quickly reads a contract the mobsters are discussing with the store owner in order to tell Roland about it when he returns back to Roland's reality.

The way Eddie and Jake traveled is interesting, especially the chimes they hear when moving between realities. The chime will allow the reader to recognize the mode of travel later in the novel when certain characters hear it again. Also interesting during this travel is that the author of Jake's book is changed and the name Stephen King appears on a menu board in the window of the store. These facts will be touched on again in the novel, but will not be fully explained in this novel, but perhaps a later one in the series.



Part 1, Todash: Chapter 3, Mia, Chapter 4, Palaver, and Chapter 5, Overholser

Part 1, Todash: Chapter 3, Mia, Chapter 4, Palaver, and Chapter 5, Overholser Summary

Roland wakes to find Susannah making her way to a nearby swamp. Susannah is not herself, Roland can see, but she has taken on the personality of Mia. Susannah suffered multiple personality disorder when she first came to Roland's world, but with his help she was able to consolidate those personalities in one, Susannah. Now, however, Roland is afraid Susannah has become pregnant with the child of a demon she was forced to distract while Roland and Eddie saved Jake some weeks before. Mia has been created to deal with this unfortunate circumstance. This is not the first time Roland has seen Mia; she wakes often in the night to feed her baby animals she kills in the night, but he has chosen to keep this information to himself for fear of upsetting Susannah or having to convince Eddie that the child is not his. However, Roland is beginning to realize that the time to share this disheartening news is approaching.

Roland and his ka-tet sit around their camp discussing the night's events. Eddie and Jake explain what happened to them and Roland explains that they went todash. Jake tells how the name of the author on his book, Charlie and the Choo-Choo, had changed and they realize that the new name has nineteen letters. Nineteen has come up a lot lately and they are all beginning to believe it means something, but are unsure what. Eddie tells about the mobsters who came to visit the store owner, Calvin Tower, and the contract they were discussing with him. The contract gives a company called Sombra first rights to buy a vacant lot a year after the contract was signed. Roland and his ka-tet realize this vacant lot is the same one where a rose that is somehow connected to The Dark Tower is growing. Roland and his ka-tet realize someone else, possibly one of their enemies, wants the rose. Eddie suggests that they buy the lot and protect the rose. The only problem is they need a way to go not only back to 1970s Manhattan, but to 1960s New York so that they can get some of the money Susannah, as Odetta Holmes, inherited from her father. Roland is unsure how they can find a way to travel to specific times, aware that the doors that connect these worlds are rare. As they discuss this, a stranger walks into their camp and tells them he might have a way to help them with their dilemma.

The stranger is Pere Callahan, the priest from Calla Bryn Sturgis. The first thing Eddie notices about Pere Callahan is that he is from their world, though he left four years after Eddie. Callahan tells them that the people of the Calla need to ask for the gunslinger's help. Callahan also tells Roland he has an object that he would like Roland to take if he should come to the Calla. Callahan introduces Roland and his ka-tet to the rest of his party. Susannah is appointed a role in which she is allowed to sit back and observe rather than participate, because Roland values her opinions about people. Callahan



introduces Tian and Zalia Jaffords, small hold farmers; Ben Slightman, a ranch foreman, and his son, Benny; and Wayne Overholser, the biggest farmer in the Calla. Overholser immediately takes control of the conversation and asks Roland a great many questions, clearly suspicious of him as a gunslinger from the house of Eld. Despite these questions, Roland likes Overholser. Jake immediately hits it off with Benny. Although Benny is older than Jake, he has seen little of the world and is somewhat less mature than Jake. The group from the Calla invites Roland and his ka-tet to lunch at their camp. The ka-tet is excited because they have not had a good meal in weeks, but cautious as well. When they reach the camp, the ka-tet is shocked to find a robot named Andy tending to the meal.

Part 1, Todash: Chapter 3, Mia, Chapter 4, Palaver, and Chapter 5, Overholser Analysis

While Eddie and Jake are gone, Roland watches over Susannah as she slips into the personality of another woman and feeds on toads and bugs that live in the swamp. Roland has observed this behavior before and is aware that Susannah is pregnant with a demon child and has created this new persona to deal with the unpleasantness of that situation. The reader who has read the earlier books in the series know that Susannah suffered from multiple personality disorder when she lived in our world and was known as Odetta Holmes. Roland reconciled Susannah's two personas into one and had thought that the days of multiple personalities was behind them, but it seems that Susannah's mind has once again sought to find a way to deal with an unpleasant circumstance. Susannah is unaware of what is happening, as are her husband and adopted son, leaving Roland with the burden of being the only one to know. This secret is difficult for Roland to keep, but he feels he is protecting his ka-tet. However, the reader suspects that this secret can only bring trouble for Roland and his companions.

In the morning, the ka-tet discusses the events of the night before, minus Susannah's explorations. It is decided that Jake and Eddie went todash, an act of moving between worlds that was used by a group of people called Manni. The Manni people were mentioned in the prologue, therefore the reader knows they will be a part of the unfolding plot and wonder if they have something to do with what happened to Eddie and Jake. However, it will later be revealed that the todash took place not because of the Manni people, but because of an object Father Callahan has in his church that he is anxious for Roland to take possession of. The reader is unclear what this object is at this point, but those who have read the earlier books will recognize the comparison Jake makes to the Wizard's Glass. Eddie tells about the conflict between the bookstore owner and the mobsters, coming to the conclusion that he and Jake went todash because they were meant to become aware of this conflict. It is also established that the conflict between Calvin Tower and the mobsters is related to a vacant lot where the ka-tet know a rose grows, a rose that has some connection to The Dark Tower. Now Eddie decides that the ka-tet must protect this rose, adding another conflict, and possible avenue of danger for the ka-tet, to the story.



Father Callahan joins the ka-tet and tells them about the Calla's need of gunslingers to help with the Wolves. Significant about Callahan's introduction to the ka-tet is the fact that he is also from Eddie, Jake, and Susannah's world. Eddie is excited to meet someone who is not only from his world, but also his time. Eddie and Callahan understand each other's speech, a speech that is filled with slang that is comforting to Eddie. Also interesting about Callahan is that his name has nineteen letters in it, a coincidence that continuously appears in many things the ka-tet comes into contact with. Callahan's name also contains the word Calla, something Eddie finds interesting. It appears that Callahan is destined to play a large role in the ka-tet, but it is unclear at this point what that role will be. Finally, the other members of the Calla's party are introduced. The only person of significance in this first introduction is Wayne Overholser. The reader met Overholser in the prologue where he was a loud voice of dissent during the meeting Tian Jaffords called. His presence here is surprising until the reader realizes that he is simply attempting to make sure Roland is really a gunslinger from the house of Eld as he claims to be. Overholser is like a father figure, attempting to be sure his children's caregiver is legitimate before giving grudging approval. His presence in this situation suggests resistance in Roland and his ka-tet's involvement in the Wolves situation, adding yet more tension to the plot.



Part 1, Todash: Chapter 6, The Way of the Eld, and Chapter 7, Todash

Part 1, Todash: Chapter 6, The Way of the Eld, and Chapter 7, Todash Summary

The people from Calla Bryn Sturgis tell Roland and his ka-tet about their community and the other Callas around them. They also talk about the Wolves, explaining how in the Callas a twin birth is more common than a singleton birth and how the Wolves come once a generation to steal one child from every set of twins. The children are returned by train weeks later, but their brains are damaged, leaving many of them unable to feed themselves, speak, or dress themselves. As these children mature, they reach a point in which they grow at incredible, painful speed and become giants. These children then die early deaths, often growing old quickly when they reach their early thirties. When Roland asks for a description of the Wolves, he learns there are normally around sixty who come to the Calla and each rides a gray horse.

After lunch, Eddie slips away to go to the bathroom and runs into Andy. When Eddie tries to ask Andy about the Wolves, Andy asks for a password and refuses to speak about the Wolves without one. A short time later, Roland feels the need to put on a demonstration of the ka-tet's abilities. Roland has Jake shoot a plate out of the air and then Eddie and Susannah catch the minute pieces that come back down to the ground. It is an impressive display, but it seems that Overholser still is not satisfied.

Roland and his ka-tet discuss what they have heard. Roland is curious how all sixty of the Wolves could have a gray horse, the beginnings of an idea wiggling at his subconscious. Roland tells his ka-tet that they are obligated to help the people of the Calla because of the way of the house of Eld. Eddie is unhappy with this, but they all understand that Roland has a code he lives by that is very important to him, therefore they do not argue.

When the ka-tet goes to sleep that night, all four, plus Oy the billy-bumbler, go todash to Manhattan. When Roland finds Susannah, she has her legs even though Susannah lost her legs when she was pushed in front of a train. Roland knows this means that Mia was in charge of Susannah's body when she went todash. This is confirmed when the ka-tet reach the vacant lot where the rose grows and Susannah becomes frightened. The others all feel a sense of peace and are drawn to the sweet music they can hear coming from the rose. Roland has Susannah wait outside the fence with Oy while he, Eddie, and Jake visit the rose. Susannah stares at a clock and suddenly becomes aware that she has lost time. Susannah's legs also disappear. Susannah is afraid Detta has returned. Susannah becomes more frightened when she sees a woman who appears to be dead. When Susannah sees another dead person, she begins to scream for Eddie, Jake, and Roland. The men reluctantly turn to leave the rose. Jake grabs something he saw on the ground and follows. Roland explains to Susannah that what



she saw was the vagrant dead, a phenomenon that often accompanies todash. When the ka-tet return to Roland's world, Jake shows them what he took from the vacant lot. It is a bag that would normally hold a bowling ball with the slogan from a local bowling alley on it. However, the name of the bowling alley has changed from Mid-Town to Mid-World.

Part 1, Todash: Chapter 6, The Way of the Eld, and Chapter 7, Todash Analysis

The reader learns more details about the Wolves and what their actions cause the children of Calla Bryn Sturgis. The children suffer from some sort of brain surgery or brain altering procedure that leaves them brain damaged and also affects the growth centers of their brains. It is tragic, but the reader now has a clue as to the reason the Wolves are stealing the children, even if the true motive is still deeply masked. Roland and his ka-tet clearly feel empathy for these people, but Eddie voices a reluctance to get involved, causing a delay in their own quest. It seems to Eddie that it is more important at this point to concentrate on protecting the rose. This need to protect the rose is even more deeply felt when all four members of the ka-tet todash to the vacant lot and feel the magical powers of this rose. Just being near the rose leaves Eddie, Jake, and Roland desperate to make sure nothing evil comes near it and increases the sense of urgency surrounding the rose. However, Roland's sense of duty and tradition will not allow him to refuse the people of the Calla. Roland is a member of an ancient gunslinger family and he feels it is his duty to adhere to the code. As his ka-tet, it is also the duty of Eddie, Jake, and Susannah to follow to code as well.

Susannah's condition is becoming more obvious in Roland's eyes, and even Susannah is beginning to notice small things, like missing time. It seems Roland is not going to be able to keep Mia a secret for much longer despite his desire to keep Susannah's pregnancy a secret until the rose has been protected and the Wolves defeated. Again the reader wonders if keeping this secret will cause trouble for Roland, especially since it has become clear to the reader that honesty is an essential element in the relationship Roland has with his ka-tet. Also important in these chapters is Susannah's sighting of the dead people and the bag Jake took from the vacant lot. The people Susannah sees, the vagrant dead, are people who are stuck in the same sort of state that the ka-tet find themselves in when they go todash. It is something that happens quite frequently when a person goes todash and it will happen to another character later in the novel, allowing Roland to recognize the state this character was in at the time of his sightings. The bag that Jake finds is a bowling bag that seems like nothing more than trash. However, Jake feels compelled to pick it up, as though the rose has left it there specifically for him, and Roland tells him that there will be a use for it later, telling the reader that this bag is significant even though the purpose has yet to be revealed.



Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 1, The Pavillion, Chapter 2, Dry Twist, and Chapter 3, The Priest's Tale (New York)

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 1, The Pavillion, Chapter 2, Dry Twist, and Chapter 3, The Priest's Tale (New York) Summary

Roland and his ka-tet ride to Calla Bryn Sturgis with the Calla people. Roland looks down on the town and feels a sense of homecoming because the Calla looks a lot like the place where he grew up. Roland tells his ka-tet that there will be a party at the Pavillion that night and that they should be careful about how much they drink during the celebration. Roland also instructs Jake to spend the night with the Slightman's because he has developed a friendship with Benny Slightman and Roland feels this will open a door with Slightman's boss, rancher Eisenhart. When the party reaches the heart of town, they find the entire community silently waiting to get a look at the legendary gunslingers. Roland and his ka-tet dismount their horses in front of the Pavillion and begin to introduce themselves. Roland then urges Eddie to talk, which upsets Eddie because he is not comfortable speaking in front of crowds. The crowd appears to be accepting of the gunslingers, however. There is a large dinner after the introductions and then the members of the ka-tet are allowed to mingle with the people. Later, Susannah gets on the stage and sings a song for the crowd and then Roland climbs the stage. Roland asks the crowd two of the traditional questions required of people who need a gunslinger's help. Roland receives a positive response to these questions, but he does not ask the final question that will bind him and his ka-tet to helping the people of the Calla. Then Roland sings and dances to a traditional song of the Calla that Roland remembers from his own childhood. Afterward, Roland, Eddie, and Susannah settle down to rest at Father Callahan's rectory.

In Dry Twist, Roland wakes stiff and sore. Roland is worried that the pain in his joints is more than just stiffness, but arthritis. Father Callahan's housekeeper, Rosalita, rubs Roland down with an ointment she made herself that successfully reduces the pain and stiffness. Rosalita warns Roland that his problem is arthritis and it will only get worse. Roland agrees and makes her promise she will keep this information to herself because Roland does not want to worry his ka-tet with the possibility that he might not be able to finish their quest. When Eddie wakes, Roland takes him outside and tells him about Susannah. Roland expects Eddie to be upset, but Eddie is only concerned for Susannah. Eddie promises to watch Susannah for signs of trouble, but is concerned with Roland's insistence that they not tell Susannah or Jake about what is happening to her.



Father Callahan begins telling Roland, Eddie, and Susannah his story. Father Callahan is an alcoholic who requested multiple transfers from large parishes to smaller ones until he ended up in a small Maine town called Jerusalem's Lot.

Shortly after the death of a young boy, Callahan is approached by a writer who tells him a story about vampires. Callahan goes with the writer and another boy to the house where the vampire lives and watches as the writer is forced to kill a young woman he had fallen in love with. Later, Callahan goes with the young boy to his home to check on the boy's parents. They find the parents dead. They also find Barlow, the vampire. Barlow attacks Callahan and forces him to drink his blood. Afterward, Callahan attempts to enter his church, but his hand is burned when he touches the door. Callahan runs away, buying a bus ticket to New York. Callahan spends the next few months living on the streets, getting a job only when he needs money to buy alcohol. Eventually Callahan stumbles into a shelter called Home, where he befriends the two men running the place. Callahan sobers up and after a while is offered a job at Home.

At the same time, Callahan becomes aware that he can see vampires and soon learns that there are three classes of vampires and the most common is a type of vampire that can infect other people, but can also be out day or night, unlike other vampires who cannot be out in the sun. One of the men Callahan works with, Lupe Delgado, is bitten by a vampire. Callahan becomes concerned for his friend, especially when he goes out into the alley one day and finds a man biting Lupe's neck. Callahan kills the vampire and watches as his body turns to dust. Unfortunately, Callahan is unable to save Lupe. Lupe contracts AIDS and dies a short time later. After Lupe dies, Callahan begins drinking again and returns to the streets. Whenever Callahan sees a vampire sucking the blood of a victim, he kills them. Callahan's actions attract the attention of a group of people Callahan refers to as the Regulators. Soon lost pet posters begin appearing all over the city with a description of Callahan. Callahan decides it is time to get out of town, so he crosses a footbridge into New Jersey and finds a job at a little diner.

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 1, The Pavillion, Chapter 2, Dry Twist, and Chapter 3, The Priest's Tale (New York) Analysis

The reception for Roland and his ka-tet appears to be warm and welcoming, although there remains some people in the crowd who question Roland's claims of being a member of the House of Eld and his ability to protect the town from the Wolves. This reserve might explain why, later, Roland refrains from asking the crowd the third, most important, question that will bind him and his ka-tet to the protection of the Calla from the Wolves. Even Eddie questions Roland's motives for his continued restraint, but the reader gets the impression that Roland is finally in his element for the first time since he was many years younger. This is emphasized when Roland dances the rice dance, a traditional dance of the Calla that Roland remembers from his youth. This sense of homecoming for Roland is also emphasized by the setting. The Calla is like a small



community from a Western movie, falling into line with the idea of Roland as a gunslinger.

Secrets are becoming a theme of Roland's existence. Roland wakes in pain and realizes that his routine stiffness has become something more sinister. Roland is developing a bad case of arthritis and is afraid that it will leave him unable to continue his quest. Roland chooses not to say anything to his companions, afraid of how they might react if they learn soon he might not be able to travel with them. At the same time, Roland confesses to Eddie what he believes is going on with Susannah, but emphasizes his desire to keep this information from both Susannah and Jake. Again the reader wonders how Susannah and Jake will react when the truth finally comes out.

Father Callahan begins telling his story. Significant to the fan of Stephen King is the fact that Callahan was a minor character in another novel King wrote, *Salem's Lot*. Callahan begins his story from the pages of *Salem's Lot* and then expands it, talking about what happened to him when he ran away and found himself lost in New York. Important about Callahan's story is his ability to see vampires. Callahan believes that drinking the blood of the vampire in *Salem's Lot* left him with this ability. At the same time, however, it appears that Callahan is experiencing episodes of *todash* when he sees these vampires because he hears the same chimes that Eddie and Jake remarked on when they first went *todash*. This leads Roland to believe that Callahan has possession of an item, the same item Callahan made Roland promise he would take, that caused himself and his *ka-tet* to go *todash* themselves. Roland is also beginning to wonder if Callahan might not be destined to be a part of their *ka-tet* based on several coincidences in his story and their experiences.



Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 4, The Priest's Tale Continued (Highways in Hiding), Chapter 5, The Tale of Gray Dick, and Chapter 6, Gran-Pere's Tale

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 4, The Priest's Tale Continued (Highways in Hiding), Chapter 5, The Tale of Gray Dick, and Chapter 6, Gran-Pere's Tale Summary

Callahan lives and works in New Jersey for a while. Callahan becomes aware that worlds shift around him. One day the money in his wallet will have the proper presidents on the proper denominations, but other days some of his money will have presidents he has never heard of. Not only that, but the name of the town and the diner where he works changes without warning. Callahan continues to drink. When Callahan begins to see lost pet posters again, he decides to move on. Callahan spends five years on the road, always moving on again when the posters begin to appear. While in California, Callahan sees an article in the newspaper describing the attack by a couple of men known as the Hitler Brothers on his old friend from Home, Rowan Magruder. Callahan immediately flies back to New York to see Magruder. Callahan stops his narration here because it is time to show Roland the object he has hidden in his church. Roland is frightened of this object because he knows what it is. The object is Black Thirteen, a ball with a red eye in it that is capable of many terrible and wonderful things. Roland notices a symbol on the box in which the object is kept, a symbol meaning unfound. Roland promises Callahan he will take the object off his hands very soon.

Roland goes out to Eisenhart's ranch. After dinner, Roland and Eisenhart sit outside watching Jake and Benny playing in the barn. Eisenhart talks about Tian Jaffords' desire to fight the Wolves, explaining to Roland why he thinks it is a bad idea. Eisenhart, like several others in town, is worried that if they stand up to the Wolves, the town will be burned and the people will lose everything. Then Eisenhart tells Roland the story of Lady Oriza and how she killed Gray Dick in revenge for her father's murder. Lady Oriza invited Gray Dick to dinner, promising they would both eat naked and rid the dining room of all weapons so that he would not have to fear her, or her him. Unknown to Gray Dick, however, Lady Oriza had a special dinner plate that was sharpened on all sides but one. As they sat down to eat, Lady Oriza threw the plate and cut off Gray Dick's head. This story leads to a demonstration Eisenhart's wife, Margaret, wishes to show Roland. Margaret is a member of a group of women called Sisters of Oriza who practice throwing plates. Margaret throws the plate with deadly aim, giving Roland an idea of how to improve their defenses against the Wolves. Roland asks about the other ladies



of the group and arranges for them all to meet him at Callahan's in ten days. Roland also requests that Susannah be shown how to throw a plate.

Eddie and Susannah are spending the night with Tian Jaffords and his family. Eddie and Susannah enjoy spending time with the children, but find the tension between Tian and his grandfather somewhat uncomfortable. After dinner, Eddie and Tian's grandfather sit outside to talk. Old Jamie Jaffords tells Eddie about a time when he was young, when he and a couple of his friends decided to stand up to the Wolves. They waited out on the east road and attacked the Wolves as they road by. All of Jamie's friends were killed, but not before the lone woman was able to kill one of the Wolves by throwing a plate at its head. Jamie says they took the mask off the dying Wolf and tells Eddie what he saw underneath, something Jamie has never told anyone but his own son.

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 4, The Priest's Tale Continued (Highways in Hiding), Chapter 5, The Tale of Gray Dick, and Chapter 6, Gran-Pere's Tale Analysis

Callahan talks about his world changing around him, of different realities where people he has never heard of are President of the United States and on United States currency. This again makes the reader wonder if Callahan is not going todash like Eddie, Jake, Roland, and Susannah have done. This also seems to connect Callahan to The Dark Tower since this tower appears to be the center of all worlds. Perhaps Callahan is somehow going todash without realizing it. Callahan is also on the run from the Regulators, a group of people who appear to be attempting to stop Callahan from killing vampires for some unknown reason. The reader sees by this that Callahan's life must be in danger. With the knowledge that Jake came to Mid-World because he died, the reader wonders if the same did not happen to Callahan and thus explains his presence in Calla Bryn Sturgis.

Roland visits with the Eisenharts where he watches Jake playing like a little boy for the first time in a long time. Jake has been forced to grow up quickly, therefore his time with Benny Slightman is precious and rare for him. This easy enjoyment of life for Jake makes the reader somewhat weary that something will not happen to end the fun for Jake, but at this point the reader is happy to see the little boy act like a child for once instead of the gunslinger he has been forced to become. Later, Roland is given a demonstration by Eisenhart's wife, Margaret, in which she throws a plate in similar fashion to an old story about Lady Oriza, the goddess of rice. Roland is so impressed by this demonstration that he asks to see more by all the women of Margaret's group, the Sisters of Oriza. Roland also asks that Susannah be shown how to throw a plate, suggesting that Roland is thinking of using these weapons to help make up for the lack of gun power among the people of the Calla.

Finally, Eddie visits with Gran-Pere Jaffords and learns that Jamie Jaffords once stood up against the Wolves and was able to kill one of the Wolves. This kill was done with a plate thrown by a young woman Jamie knew as a young man and enabled him to



discover that the Wolves were vulnerable to their simple weapons. Jamie also removed the mask of this Wolf and saw what lies underneath, something that Eddie fails to reveal to the reader at this point but which seems to explain a great deal to Eddie, suggesting to the reader that the Wolves are someone or something Eddie understands and could defeat. This injects hope into the plot as the theme of fight against injustice is illustrated.



Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 7, Nocturne, Hunger, Chapter 8, Took's Store; The Unfound Door, and Chapter 9, The Priest's Tale Concluded (Unfound)

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 7, Nocturne, Hunger, Chapter 8, Took's Store; The Unfound Door, and Chapter 9, The Priest's Tale Concluded (Unfound) Summary

Eddie wakes to discover that Susannah is gone. Eddie sits in the dark of the old barn where he and Susannah insisted on sleeping and listens for any sound indicating where Susannah might be. Eddie is afraid to wake Susannah, afraid of coming face to face with Mia. When Eddie hears Susannah returning to the loft, he pretends to be asleep, while lying in fear that Mia might have harmed one of the Jafford children. At the same time, Jake finds himself inside Susannah's dream, watching Mia search for something to eat in a large, abandoned kitchen, and finally settling on a pork roast that she has to steal away from a rat. When Jake comes out of the dream he is startled awake. Oy comes to Jake and leads him out of the tent where he is sleeping with Benny. Oy leads Jake to the edge of the river that divides Calla Bryn Sturgis from Thunderclap. From his vantage point, Jake is able to see Benny's father, Ben Slightman, speaking to Andy. Slightman then climbs up the far embankment toward Thunderclap.

Jake and Roland ride into town together. Jake is bothered by both the dream he had and what he saw, but decides to keep the information about Slightman to himself until he can learn more. Jake discusses Susannah with Roland, however, accusing Roland of keeping secrets and dividing the ka-tet at a time when they need each other more than ever. Roland tells Jake that he has kept Susannah in the dark for a reason, but if Jake feels she should know the truth, that he should feel free to tell her. When Roland and Jake arrive at the Jafford farm, Roland speaks to Zalia about the Sisters of Oriza, asking her to show Susannah how to throw a plate. Roland then sends Eddie, Jake, and Susannah into town with instructions to go to Took's store, make some purchases, and then sit on the porch outside. Eddie, Jake, and Susannah spend all their money, making a great show of putting the arrogant store owner in his place. Afterward, they sit outside where it seems everyone in town comes to speak to them. At the same time, one of the Manni takes Roland to a cave called Doorway Cave. This cave is where the Manni found Callahan many years ago and where stands a door that is not connected to anything visible in this world. As Roland studies the door, on which is the same unfound mark as on the box that holds Black Thirteen, he hears voices calling up at him as though from the depths of his own subconscious, pulling out his deepest regrets.



Roland ignores the voices as he studies the door, convinced that this door is the key to protecting the rose.

Roland and his ka-tet rest after their trying day. After dinner, Callahan continues his tale. Callahan returned to New York to visit Magruder, only to run into Magruder's angry sister. When the sister leaves the room, Marguder tells Callahan to be careful because the men who attacked him were looking for Callahan. Callahan goes for a walk through the city, finding himself pulled in the direction of Home and the vacant lot where the rose grows. Callahan is accosted on the street by two men who drag him into an empty Laundromat. Callahan is forced on the ground where one of the men begins to cut a swastika into his forehead. Before the man can finish, two other men break into the Laundromat with a bright light and a gun, forcing Callahan's attackers to flee. Callahan cannot see their faces, but notices a ring on one of their hands. Callahan recovers for a time in the hospital and then returns to his vagrant life. One morning while sleeping off a drunk in a Topeka jail, Callahan has a seizure. This seizure is rock bottom for Callahan, forcing him realize he is wasting the life that his saviors so gallantly saved. Callahan stops drinking and begins working in a homeless shelter in Detroit. When the shelter receives a letter saying they are going to be the recipients of a million dollar charitable donation, Callahan thinks nothing of attending a meeting at the business offices of The Sombra Corporation. However, the donation turns out to be a ruse to get Callahan into the hands of a group of people much worse than the Regulators.

The meeting was to take place on the thirty-third floor. When Callahan and his companions go into the conference room, Callahan instantly knows something is wrong. The man at the head of the table has a wound on his forehead that looks almost like an eye. When Callahan realizes what is going on, he jumps out the window. Instead of dying, however, Callahan wakes in an old barn. A man is there who gives Callahan Black Thirteen and tells him to give it to the gunslinger if they should ever meet. Callahan is then pushed through a door and finds himself in Calla Bryn Sturgis. Callahan works for a time as a handyman before returning to his religious calling.

After Callahan is done telling his story, Roland and his ka-tet discuss it. It seems to Eddie that Callahan's saviors had to have been Calvin Tower and his friend from the bookstore. Jake too recognizes this. Then as the ka-tet is about to break for the night, Susannah announces that she believes she is pregnant.

Part 2, Telling Tales: Chapter 7, Nocturne, Hunger, Chapter 8, Took's Store; The Unfound Door, and Chapter 9, The Priest's Tale Concluded (Unfound) Analysis

Eddie is aware now of Susannah's secret, but has elected not to tell her. When Eddie wakes in the night, he is frightened for Susannah because it is clear that Mia has emerged once more. What frightens Eddie more, however, is the possibility that Mia might hurt one of the Jafford children. Eddie's fear might seem unlikely for a man who



supposedly loves his wife, but when the reader takes into account that Mia is not Eddie's wife, perhaps the reader realizes that fear is exactly what Eddie should be feeling. At the same time, Jake finds himself lost in Susannah's dream. This not only shows Jake's unique abilities to read other people's minds, but it also reveals to Jake the secret Roland has been keeping from him. Jake is deeply offended and worried that by keeping secrets Roland is breaking the trust of the ka-tet at a time when they need to as close as ever. Jake's questioning of Roland reveals Roland's insecurities as a leader and his fear that every step he makes is the wrong one. This allows the reader to empathize with Roland, who otherwise is held up as some sort of religious figure or icon that is difficult for the reader to understand. Roland's insecurities make him more human and therefore make him more sympathetic.

Jake also witnesses Ben Slightman walking a path into Thunderclap, a place most of the people of the Calla are frightened to speak of, let alone go to. This action, coupled with the fact that Andy, the strange robot, was with Slightman, makes Jake wonder about Slightman's loyalty to the Calla. However, Jake is afraid of hurting his new friend, Benny, so he refuses to say anything to anyone about what he has seen. At the same time, Eddie, Jake, and Susannah sit outside Took's store in order to allow the people of the Calla to see them and to answer some of their questions in an attempt to earn the Calla's trust. At the same time, Roland goes to the Doorway Cave where he finds a door similar to several he used in previous novels within this series. This door, along with Black Thirteen, might prove to be the key to saving the rose, as it will provide a way for one of the ka-tet to return to Manhattan and make a deal to buy the vacant lot.

Callahan tells the rest of his story, revealing how the Regulators first hired a couple of sadists to attack Callahan, and then employed someone more powerful, someone Callahan does not completely understand, to kill him. This implies to both Callahan and the reader that Callahan is someone or has done something that has gotten the attention of Roland's enemies. The reader is unclear on why this might be, but agrees with Roland when he suggests that Callahan is meant to be a part of his ka-tet. When the ka-tet learn that Callahan met with someone Roland and Jake also know and that this person gave him Black Thirteen, it seems to prove that something bigger is at work in this story and that they were meant to cross paths with Callahan.



Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 1, Secrets, Chapter 2, The Dogan, Part 1, and Chapter 3, The Dogan, Part 2

Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 1, Secrets, Chapter 2, The Dogan, Part 1, and Chapter 3, The Dogan, Part 2 Summary

Roland discusses with Father Callahan the possibility of aborting Susannah's child, unaware of the Catholic opinion on abortion, and finds Callahan not only against the idea, but threatening to end the support of the Calla should Roland suggest such a thing to Susannah. Roland agrees to drop the idea. Eddie tells Roland what Jamie Jaffords told him about the Wolves, causing Roland a great deal of excitement. Later, Roland, Eddie, and Jake go out to the Jaffords where Susannah demonstrates her new ability to throw the plate. Susannah has designed a double holder for the plates that allows her to throw two at once, and she has become very efficient at it. Jake is upset all day, thinking again and again about what he saw Slightman doing. However, Jake continues to keep this information a secret. That night the Sisters of Oriza gather at Callahan's rectory where they each display their abilities with the plates. Roland is pleased with all except one, whom he decides to assign to guarding the children rather than fighting in the front lines with him and his ka-tet. Later that same night Roland tells Eddie he wants him to go through the Unfound Door and arrange to buy the vacant lot from Calvin Tower.

Eddie and Roland take Black Thirteen and place it in the bowling ball bag Jake took from the vacant lot. Eddie and Roland then make their way to the Doorway Cave where Eddie prepares to go through the Unfound door. Eddie ignores the voices calling to him from his own regrets and concentrates on New York. When Eddie has the city in his mind, he motions for Roland to open the box. The cave is suddenly filled with the maddening chimes they both heard when they went todash and the door opens. Eddie steps through and finds himself on Second Avenue in Manhattan. Eddie makes his way to The Manhattan Restaurant of the Mind and finds the mobsters are once again harassing Calvin Tower. Eddie marches into the office and stops the mobsters from burning Tower's rare book collection and convinces them to leave. Afterward, Eddie and Tower talk. Eddie asks about the books the mobsters were about to burn. Tower shows Eddie one of the books, a Western called The Hogan. However, the cover and title page were misprinted and the title appears to be The Dogan. What surprises Eddie more, however, is the name of the author: Ben Slightman Jr. Not only this, but the copyright is also misprinted, making it appear that Ben Slightman Sr. is the author.

Eddie then tries to convince Tower to leave town. Tower retrieves an old envelope and tells Eddie he will do as he asks if he can tell him the name written on a piece of paper in the envelope. Eddie names Roland, which is correct. Tower agrees to leave town and



to sell the vacant lot to Eddie, but has one request. Tower wants Eddie to push his rare book collection through the door. Eddie agrees. When Eddie returns to the Doorway Cave, he tells Roland about the book, The Dogan, and how he thinks it means that Slightman is dirty. Roland agrees, confessing he already suspected Slightman because he is the only person in the Calla who wears glasses. However, Roland insists there is nothing they can do, that the next move is up to Jake.

Jake implements a plan he has secretly been thinking over for days. Jake waits until Benny is sound asleep and then he sneaks out of the house, following the path he saw Ben Slightman take days before. Jake quickly discovers a trail that turns into an unkempt road. This road leads Jake to a small building that appears to have been some sort of observation post called The Dogan. Jake guesses the password and goes inside, exploring the computer terminals and video screens that show images of the inside of this building as well as various points in the Calla, including inside Callahan's rectory. While Jake is exploring, he hears Slightman and Andy coming. Jake hides in a bunkroom and listens while both Slightman and Andy make a report to some computerized response system. It is obvious to Jake that Slightman is giving away all their plans to whoever sends the Wolves to the Calla. When Jake returns to Eisenhart's, he knows he must tell Roland what he knows now. However, Jake is still reluctant because he does not want his friend to know his betrayal.

Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 1, Secrets, Chapter 2, The Dogan, Part 1, and Chapter 3, The Dogan, Part 2 Analysis

Roland once again proves his naivety of our world when he approaches Father Callahan about aborting Susannah's demon child. Roland has no idea why Father Callahan becomes so upset at the idea, but knows if he loses Callahan's support with the people of the Calla he will not be able to win a fight against the Wolves. Therefore, Roland agrees not to pursue that avenue. At the same time, Roland continues to make plans to fight the Wolves, clearly planning to use the Sisters of Oriza to throw plates and to add to the three guns Roland and his ka-tet carry. It appears that everything is going forward in the plan against the Wolves, but Roland has still failed to reveal his plan to either the reader or the ka-tet.

Eddie has been urging Roland to allow him to do something about the vacant lot in Manhattan ever since going todash. Finally Roland takes Black Thirteen out of the church in order to help Eddie do just that. Roland places Black Thirteen in the bag Jake found in the vacant lot, suggesting to the reader that this is exactly the purpose the rose had in mind for this bag all along. Eddie goes to Manhattan and saves not only Calvin Tower's life, but also his rare book collection. Tower is not overly impressed by Eddie, however, showing the reader how selfish and self-centered people of our world can be compared to the civilized people of the Calla, though a savvy reader could draw a line of comparison between Tower and people like Overholser who are reluctant to accept the gunslinger's help. Tower's reaction also shows the reader some of Eddie's personality,



revealing his darker side and the depths he is willing to go to to protect the rose, especially when the reader realizes Eddie was serious when he threatened to kill the wives and children of the men harassing Tower. Finally, Tower insists Eddie push his rare book collection through the door, although Tower cannot see the door. This action introduces a new object into Mid-World that the reader cannot help but wonder if it will be significant at some point. It seems everything Roland touches becomes important at some point, so there is little doubt that this will prove the same.

Jake decides to investigate Slightman's actions rather than reveal what he knows to Roland in order to protect his friend in the event that Slightman is innocent. Unfortunately, Roland already knows Slightman is bad based on the fact that Slightman is the only person in the Calla who has eyeglasses, making it seem as though he got these glasses from a source not available to the rest of the people of the Calla. Jake investigates and finds an outpost that appears to be some sort of observation point for someone and it also seems that someone has been keeping tabs on the Calla, especially Callahan. This seems to suggest to the reader that a community much more advanced than the people of the Calla once lived in this area and that they might be the ones behind the Wolves. Jake also overhears Slightman making a report to these same people, cementing his suspicions. Now Jake must face one of the most difficult situations of his young life, the betrayal of someone he has come to care for. This touches on the theme of love. Jake has grown attached to Benny Slightman, actually acting like a kid with him for the first time since coming to Mid-World. However, the time has come to put away childish things for poor Jake.



Part 3, Wolves: Chapter 4, The Pied Piper, Chapter 5, The Meeting of the Folken, and Chapter 6, Before the Storm

Part 3, Wolves: Chapter 4, The Pied Piper, Chapter 5, The Meeting of the Folken, and Chapter 6, Before the Storm Summary

Roland and his ka-tet are at the Pavilion planning for the meeting they will hold there in four days. Jake has told everyone about The Dogan and Slightman's betrayal. Jake asks Roland not to kill Slightman, but Roland refuses to make any promises. Eddie speaks to Callahan about Tower, suggesting that Callahan go to Manhattan to find out where Tower went and then to check up on him. While Roland and his ka-tet are talking at the Pavilion, Andy arrives, leading a group of children in song. It reminds Eddie of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Later that same day, Roland takes Callahan to the Doorway Cave and holds open Black Thirteen to allow Callahan to go to Manhattan. Callahan retrieves the zip code Eddie instructed Tower to leave for them and then goes to library to look it up. While Callahan is gone, Roland begins to look through the books in Tower's rare book collection. Roland finds one that he believes might be of use to them someday and places it back on the shelf upside down so it will be easy to find again.

Tian Jaffords opens the meeting Roland has called to discuss his plan to fight the Wolves. Most of the people in attendance are supportive of the idea, but there are still a few dissenters in the crowd. Roland handles the crowd well, asking them again the questions that will bind them together in their fight against the Wolves. Roland then tells the people of the Calla to bring their children to the Pavilion the night before the Wolves are due to come. Roland does not say where he intends to take the children, but the general consensus is that he plans to take them to some cave near Doorway Cave. Then Roland reveals that the Wolves are not living creatures, but robots that he and his ka-tet have encountered in the past. All through Roland's speech, there are a few who speak out against what he wants to do, but Roland handles each one easily. When the meeting is over, the people gather for a meal. Roland pulls Slightman aside and asks him to help guard the children. Slightman agrees.

Eddie takes Callahan back to Doorway Cave so he can contact Tower. First Callahan goes to the library to find a picture of the place where Tower has gone in Maine in order to help him visualize it. Callahan brings back a picture of a church in the Maine town that looks a lot like Callahan's church in Calla Bryn Sturgis. Callahan goes back through the door, concentrating on the picture, and finds himself in a small Maine community. After stopping at the general store for a piece of salami and a newspaper, Callahan goes to the post office to leave a note for Tower with instructions on where to meet at a later time. At the same time, Eddie begins to hear a voice coming from Black Thirteen.



When Callahan comes through the door again, he finds Eddie about to throw himself off a ledge. Callahan pulls Eddie back and they return to the Calla. The next morning, Susannah becomes aware of some lost time and is frightened that the demon child is nearly delivery time. At Eisenhart's, Jake is wracked with guilt over what he sees as his betrayal of Benny, causing a rift between the two friends.

On Wolves Eve, Roland, Eddie, Callahan, and Jake ride out to the east road where they dig a couple of holes. Back in town, Eddie and Tian Jaffords corner Andy near Rosalita's outhouse. Eddie shoots out Andy's eyes and forces him into the outhouse where there has been a lock installed on the outside. Once Andy is confined, Eddie attempts to access his programming with a password. Eddie tries nineteen and ninety-nine, two numbers the ka-tet has come into contact with numerous times recently, but neither works. However, when Eddie puts them together he is able to instruct Andy to shut himself down. That night, the parents bring their children to the Pavilion where everyone shares a large dinner. The atmosphere is more subdued than before, but there is still an air of celebration. Roland puts this down to hope. Overholser approaches Roland and tells him one of the men he had planned on having guard the children has become ill. Overholser surprises Roland by volunteering to take the man's place. Roland quickly agrees.

Part 3, Wolves: Chapter 4, The Pied Piper, Chapter 5, The Meeting of the Folken, and Chapter 6, Before the Storm Analysis

The plans for Roland and his ka-tet's attack against the Wolves is coming together. As Roland makes final plans with his companions, which the reader notes includes Callahan, Andy comes up the street leading the children in song. This appears to be innocent, but knowing that Andy works with those who send the Wolves, Roland and his ka-tet no longer trust the robot. In fact, they all feel a certain distaste whenever they see Andy now. Therefore it should not surprise the reader when they learn that shutting down Andy is a part of their plan. Andy is an enigma. No one knows where Andy came from, who programmed him, or why he seems to know when the Wolves are coming. This added to Jake's sighting of Andy with Slightman on two occasions, one of which Andy made some sort of report. Clearly Andy is a plant by whoever controls the Wolves and Roland has recognized this. The fact that Eddie is able to figure out Andy's password just testifies to the odd coincidence of the numbers nineteen and ninety-nine constantly making appearances in their lives. At the same time, as Roland rids himself of an enemy, he finds a previous enemy turning into a friend. Overholser has changed his mind about Roland's fight against the Wolves and decided to join him by becoming a guard over the children. This change of mind shows not only Overholser's concern for his community, but the trust this town has in Roland and his ka-tet, leaving the reader hoping Roland is able to save these people from the Wolves.

Callahan travels several times to 1977 in order to follow up with Calvin Tower in their quest to protect the rose. These visits do not culminate into much, but they show the



power of the Unfound Door and Black Thirteen, foreshadowing a moment later in the novel when this power will be significant to one of the main characters. Tower's situation is left alone after this as the characters become wrapped up in the fight against the Wolves. Therefore, the reader must wait until the next book in the series. At the same time, Jake is struggling with his relationship with Benny because of what he sees as his betrayal of their friendship. Not only does this touch on Jake's maturity level and how he must deal with things most children his age do not, but it also illustrates the theme of love in that Jake's emotional attachment to Benny has caused these feelings of betrayal. Most readers might see this as part of growing up, but Jake has already done so much growing in such a short time, it is sad to see him struggle once again with these difficulties. At the same time, Susannah is becoming aware of more lost time and pains that suggest her demon child is coming close to its due date. Susannah is worried, afraid she might go into labor during the fight against the Wolves, leaving the reader to wonder what will happen if Susannah's concerns come to fruition.



Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 8, The Wolves, and Epilogue, The Doorway Cave

Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 8, The Wolves, and Epilogue, The Doorway Cave Summary

Roland and his ka-tet ride out to the east road with a hundred children and their guards as well as the Sisters of Oriza. Roland rides with Slightman, who confesses to Roland his betrayal of the Calla and asks if Roland plans to kill him. Roland admits that he thought about it, but that he does not see the need to do that just yet. When they arrive at the east road, however, Roland surprises Slightman by not taking the kids to the cave Slightman told the Wolves where they could find the children. Instead, Roland sends the kids up the road to the cave to leave their scent and random objects, then has them return and hide in a rice field. Jake, a set of twins, and Benny are the first up the road, and therefore the last to return. On their way back, one of the twins falls and breaks his ankle. Jake and Benny carry the young man back to the road where Roland and the other gunslingers are waiting in a hole dug the previous day beside the road. The Wolves are already on their way and Roland is afraid they might see Jake and his friends, giving away their secret. However, Roland takes the chance and gestures for the four children to take a spot in the hole. When the Wolves arrive, Roland and his group allow them to move past them and begin up the road to the caves before revealing their position. Roland and his group begin firing their guns and throwing their plates, taking out the Wolves who remained behind in order to use their dead bodies to block the escape route of those Wolves who went up the road to find the children. When the other Wolves return, they are blocked on the road by the dead bodies and make an easy target to the gunslingers.

As the battle rages, some of the Wolves are able to make their way to the ditch where the gunslingers hide. Margaret Eisenhart is killed when a Wolf cuts off her head with a lightsaber. When Margaret's head flies toward Benny, he panics and climbs out of the hole. Another Wolf throws two sneetches at him. Jake is able to stop one of the sneetches, but not the other. Benny is killed. Jake is overwhelmed with grief when the fight is over, despite the celebration that is taking place around him. When Slightman discovers his son's body, the pain is even more intense for Jake, who feels somehow to blame. However, this grief does not stop the celebration the people of the Calla feel as they come out to the east road to join their children. Eddie becomes distracted not only by the grateful displays of the Calla people, but also by the nature of the weapons the Wolves carried. Eddie is amused to see that the Wolves carried lightsabers just like those from the movie Star Wars. Eddie also notes the name Harry Potter on the sneetches, but does not know what it means. Finally, Eddie also notices that the Wolves themselves look similar to a nemesis from a Marvel Comic.



As the celebration unfolds, Susannah is no longer able to hold off Mia, who has been attempting to take over her mind since moments before the fight began. After a short time, Roland and his ka-tet realize Susannah is missing. Roland, Eddie, Jake, and Callahan follow the trail up to Doorway Cave. Halfway up the steep mountain trail they find Susannah's wheelchair. Further up, they find a scooter someone provided for Susannah. In the cave itself, Susannah is gone, but so is Black Thirteen. It appears that there is no way to open the Unfound Door and find Susannah. Eddie is frantic, demanding Roland find a way to rescue his wife. Roland pulls the book from Tower's shelves that he had noticed before. Roland gives the book to Callahan and tells him the book might be the key to opening the door again. Callahan looks at the book and is shocked to see the title, Salem's Lot. Callahan looks through the pages and is shocked that a fictional novel could know so many details about his experiences in Salem's Lot. Callahan insists he is not a fictional character.

Part 3, The Wolves: Chapter 8, The Wolves, and Epilogue, The Doorway Cave Analysis

The battle with the Wolves is a success, illustrating the theme of fight against injustice in the best sort of way, and Roland's ka-tet survives without injury. Unfortunately, two of the Calla have died, including Benny Slightman. Jake is devastated by this death, feeling as though it is his fault somehow. This touches once again on the theme of love, as well as Jake's forced maturity. Jake is still a child, a child who grieves for his friend, but he is also a gunslinger who must live with the adult guilt of a man who could not use his unique skills to save the one person he should have saved. Once again Jake is forced to grow too fast. At the same time, Susannah is battling a fight of her own, trying to keep Mia from taking over her mind before the fight is over. Susannah wins the battle, but loses the war when Mia takes control in the moments after the fight. Susannah disappears in the aftermath of the battle.

Eddie is a husband before he is a gunslinger; therefore, his fear for Susannah overrides all else. Eddie wants to save Susannah from whatever evil her demon child represents, but Susannah has taken Black Thirteen, the only key to open the Unfound Door. Eddie is desperate, but Roland insists they must focus on priorities. Roland has found a book that he believes might be a key to opening the door, but insists that their priority is the rose. After all, if the rose dies, all worlds could cease to exist, leaving Susannah's battle moot. Eddie disagrees and conflict develops between teacher and student. At the same time, the book Roland has found is Stephen King's own Salem's Lot, in which Callahan is a minor character. Callahan reads passages from the book and is shocked to find his most intimate thoughts, thoughts he never shared with anyone, are written in this fictional novel. Callahan insists he is not fictional, that his experiences are real, but the presence of this book leaves everyone, reader and characters, to wonder what exactly all this means. Unfortunately, this idea will not be explored in this book but in the next installment in the series, leaving the reader anxious to read the next novel.



Characters

Roland Deschain

Roland is a gunslinger from a world different from this one. Roland was trained as a young man, taught to fight with his heart rather than his gun, to believe in ka, and to trust in those around him. Roland is on a quest to find the Dark Tower, a mystical place that is supposed to be the center of all universes. Roland is quite old and has been traveling a long time. Roland once was the member of a ka-tet, a group of like-minded individuals traveling on the same quest together. However, all members of Roland's ka-tet have died, leaving him alone. Through the first four novels, Roland has found three new companions who have become a part of his new ka-tet. These three look to Roland as their leader, their dinh, a role that he is not comfortable with. Roland worries that he might not be intelligent enough or trust in ka enough to give his companions the leadership they need.

In this novel, Roland and his ka-tet are distracted from their quest when they come into contact with a group of people from Calla Bryn Sturgis who want their help in stopping an attack by a group of creatures the townspeople call Wolves. These Wolves have been attacking the small community for many generations, taking a single child from the many groups of twins. For hundreds of years, the town's people have been struggling against these attacks, but have never organized a fight against them. Now they want Roland to come and fight the Wolves. Roland agrees, bound by his honor as a gunslinger. However, while Roland and his ka-tet organize to fight these creatures, they must deal with problems of their own. Roland has discovered that Susannah has once again split into a new personality and is to give birth to a demon child. At the same time, Roland finds himself suffering with arthritis and is afraid that he will soon be unable to continue his quest for the Dark Tower.

Roland is a single minded man who reminds the reader of a preacher or a heavily burdened sheriff from some old Western movie. Roland wants to reach his destination, filled with the belief that if he does not find the Dark Tower in time it will die and all worlds will cease to exist. At the same time, Roland is concerned that when he and his ka-tet find the Dark Tower, they will find its top floor empty and already beyond redemption. With these things on his mind, Roland must also worry for his companions, afraid for Susannah in her struggles, as well as the effect these struggles will have on Eddie, her husband. Roland is also worried that Jake is growing up too quick and that his shortened childhood will turn him into a bitter man. Roland carries a large burden on his shoulders, leaving the reader filled with empathy and hope for this struggling hero.

Susannah Dean/Odetta Holmes/Detta Walker/Mia

Susannah Dean is the composition of a woman named Odetta Holmes who suffered from multiple personality disorder and lived with a dark personality named Detta Walker.



When Susannah came to Roland's world, Roland was able to help her to consolidate these personalities and create Susannah. In time, Susannah fell in love with fellow traveler, Eddie Dean, and took his last name as her own. In a previous novel, Susannah was forced to distract a demon while Eddie and Roland rescued Jake. During this time, it appears, Susannah became pregnant with a demon child. As a result, Susannah's mind created a new personality, called Mia, to deal with the unpleasant circumstances of this child.

Susannah is a strong personality who has been known to face the most unpleasant aspects of life and live to tell about it. Susannah loves Eddie deeply and adores Jake, a young man she has taken on as a sort of adopted child. Susannah also loves and respects Roland. Susannah is a gunslinger in her own right, capable of almost magical gun play. In this novel she also learns to throw plates in the tradition of Oriza, the Queen of Rice. Susannah is aware of her dark past and knows about Detta Walker. Susannah has put all that behind her and does not expect to go through anything like it again. Therefore, when Mia makes her first few appearances, Susannah is completely unaware and unprepared.

Susannah slowly comes to realize she is pregnant due to the physical changes in her body. However, Susannah continues to be ignorant of Mia's existence until her ka-tet is finally forced to tell her about it. Susannah takes this news in stride, unhappy with the existence of this other person, but determined to overcome it. When Susannah and the rest of the ka-tet are preparing to battle the Wolves, Susannah becomes aware that Mia is trying to take over her conscious mind. Susannah fights it, making a promise to Mia that she will help with the birth of the baby the moment the fight is over. Susannah keeps her promise and disappears almost the moment the battle is won. Eddie insists on going after Susannah, but when it becomes clear she went through the Unfound Door and took Black Thirteen with her, it seems no one will ever see Susannah again.

Eddie Dean

Eddie Dean is a product of the eighties. Eddie grew up in New York, the younger brother of a young man he worshipped, even when his older brother became a heroin addict. Together, Eddie and his brother fell into the dark shadows of drug addiction, becoming involved with dark characters that made their lives difficult. Eddie continued to seek drugs when he came into Roland's world, once begging Roland for the chance to move through one of the magic doors in order to buy drugs in his old world. However, Eddie has finally overcome his drug addiction and become the strong, capable man that Roland always knew he could be.

Eddie goes to dash with Jake in the beginning of this novel, traveling to Manhattan in the 1970s. Eddie and Jake follow 1970s Jake on the day of his first death. In the bookstore where Jake bought a couple of used books, Jake and Eddie witness a couple of mobsters Eddie knew from his life in New York threaten the bookstore owner. After returning to Roland's world, Eddie and Jake are able to figure out that the bookstore owner owns a small vacant lot on which grows a rose that is somehow connected with



the Dark Tower. The following night, Eddie once again goes to dash, this time with the entire ka-tet, where they are able to visit the vacant lot and the rose. Later, Eddie visits Manhattan again and convinces the bookstore owner to sell the vacant lot to him in exchange for saving the bookstore owner's valuable book collection.

Jake Chambers

Jake Chambers is a young boy, twelve years old, who died in this world where he lived in 1970s Manhattan. Jake would later die again when Roland drops him into a dark abyss, an event for which Jake likes to think he has forgiven Roland for, but which still bothers him. In this novel, Jake befriends the young son of a ranch foreman in Calla Bryn Sturgis. This young man, Benny Slightman, while older than Jake, is more of a child than Jake has ever been allowed to be. Jake and Benny play together, doing things Jake has never been allowed to do in either this world or Roland's. For the first time, Jake is truly a kid, and even has a good friend.

Jake embraces his new role of child despite the preparations for the battle against the Wolves that goes on around him. Unfortunately, Jake's carefree lifestyle does not last long. One night while camping out with Benny, Jake sees Benny's father talking to Andy, a robot, and then disappearing into the part of the forest that borders an area known as Thunderclap, the place from which the Wolves come. At first Jake resists what he has seen, unwilling to do anything that will place his friendship with Benny in danger. However, Jake knows that his commitment to the ka-tet is stronger than this new friendship and decides to investigate. Jake learns that Benny's father is a traitor to the town's people and that he is helping the Wolves by giving information about where the children will be hidden when the Wolves come.

Jake fights within himself what to do with what he has learned about Benny's father. Jake does not want to hurt Benny, but he knows that Benny's father must be dealt with. Jake tells Roland the truth and begs him not to kill Benny's father. At the same time, Jake becomes aware that Susannah has developed a new personality and that she is carrying a demon child. Jake also becomes aware that Roland knew this and did not tell anyone. Jake becomes afraid that keeping secrets among the members of the ka-tet will cause the ka-tet to fall apart. Jake tells this to Roland, who finally agrees that Susannah must learn the truth despite the bad timing of the situation. Jake and Roland make amends and are able to fight side by side against the Wolves.

Father Donald Callahan/Pere Callahan/The Old Fella

Father Callahan was an ambitious priest who developed a drinking habit almost the moment he left the seminary. Callahan moved from parish to parish, hoping to find a situation that would not leave him bored and lost in the bottle. Eventually Callahan came to take over the parish of a small community in the town of Jerusalem's Lot, Maine. While there, Callahan became acquainted with a writer and a young boy who were convinced that vampires lived in a haunted house on the edge of town. Callahan went



with these two to the house and discovered the truth. Later, Callahan battled against the vampire, being forced to drink the vampire's blood. Callahan went then to his church, but was burned and forced to turn away. Callahan took a bus to New York where over time he discovered he could see different types of vampires. When one of these vampires attacks a friend of Callahan's, he kills it. Soon Callahan finds himself killing many vampires and becoming a target of a group of creatures he calls the Regulators who are trying to stop him from killing vampires. Eventually this group of Regulators turn to another group of people who corner Callahan, resulting in his jumping from the thirty-second floor of a high rise building.

After jumping out of the window, Callahan somehow finds himself transported to another world. Callahan meets a man who gives him Black Thirteen and tells him that he will be sent to a place where he is to await the arrival of a gunslinger and his ka-tet. Callahan is then to give Black Thirteen to this gunslinger. Callahan then arrives in Calla Bryn Sturgis where he works as a handyman for many years before returning to his religious roots. It is as a priest that Roland finds Callahan. Callahan tells his story to Roland and his ka-tet, leaving Roland convinced that Callahan is meant to be a part of their ka-tet. Callahan helps Roland plan for the fight against the Wolves. After the battle, Callahan goes with Roland, Eddie, and Jake as they search for a missing Susannah. Once in the cave where the Unfound Door is, Callahan becomes aware of a book Roland found several days before that tells the story of Salem's Lot. Callahan is shocked by this book because it tells his story in a fictional format, but tells it so detailed and complete that Callahan begins to wonder if his entire life has been one of fiction.

Ben and Benny Slightman

Ben Slightman is a ranch foreman in Calla Bryn Sturgis. Slightman is among the people who approach Roland and his ka-tet on the Path of the Beam. Slightman is against the townspeople asking Roland to defend them against the Wolves, but has come along because he wants to meet a real gunslinger. Roland finds Slightman to be a quiet, gentle man who seems to hold his opinions because they are the opinions of his employer. However, Slightman has a child who was a twin, although one child died. Slightman is unsure if his son is at risk of being taken by the Wolves since his twin has died. He is afraid of losing his only surviving child.

Benny Slightman is Slightman's son. Benny is older than Jake, but in many ways is much more immature. Benny is still a carefree child where Jake has been forced to grow up by circumstances. Benny and Jake become good friends; therefore, when Jake learns that Slightman has become a spy for the Wolves in exchange for gifts and a guarantee that his child will be spared, Jake struggles with his next move. Jake does not want Benny to lose his father or to be hurt by the circumstances, but Jake is an honorable person and must tell the truth in order to protect the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis.



Tian and Zalia Jaffords

Tian and Zalia Jaffords are a young farming couple. Tian and Zalia are both twins whose twin was taken by the Wolves and returned roont. Tian and Zalia also have two sets of twins as well as a singleton. Tian is the first of Calla Bryn Sturgis to learn that the Wolves are going to come soon. Tian is angry and does not want to lose two of his six children as he did his sister, so he decides to call a meeting. Tian tells the other men of the community that he believes they should stand up to the Wolves and stop them from taking the children. At first it seems Tian has a great deal of support, but soon reality begins to frighten the people of the community and they refuse to fight. It seems hopeless until Father Callahan announces that he has reason to believe a group of gunslingers are coming toward their town and that these gunslingers could help them fight.

Tian, Zalia, and Father Callahan lead a group up the Path of the Beam to encounter the gunslingers. Father Callahan is able to convince the gunslingers to help them, but there are still people who do not like the idea of fighting. Tian and Zalia give Eddie and Susannah a place to stay one night and introduce them to Tian's grandfather who offers them a story that helps Roland decide how to fight against the Wolves. Later, Zalia teaches Susannah how to throw the plate like Oriza. In the end, Zalia is among the women who throw plates with Roland and his ka-tet and help defeat the Wolves.

Wayne Overholser

Wayne Overholser owns the largest farm in Calla Bryn Sturgis and is therefore an influential man in the community. Overholser is against the idea of fighting the Wolves from the first suggestion, but agrees to go along to intercept the gunslingers in order to make sure that the interests of all the citizen of Calla Bryn Sturgis are looked after. Overholser makes his feelings known to Roland immediately, posing difficult questions for Roland and refusing to be persuaded by legend. Despite Overholser's attitude, Roland likes him immediately and befriends him. As Roland and his ka-tet settle in Calla Bryn Sturgis, Overholser continues to voice his opinions. Eventually, however, Overholser changes his mind and supports Roland's efforts.

Calvin Tower

Calvin Tower is the owner of Manhattan Restaurant for the Mind, a small second-hand bookstore in Manhattan. Jake visited this store the day he died and bought two books, Charlie and the Choo-Choo and a riddle book. Both these books would play important roles later when Jake came to live in Roland's world. When Eddie and Jake go todash the night before the ka-tet meet the people from Calla Bryn Sturgis, they find themselves in Manhattan on the same day Jake bought the books. While at the book store watching history repeat itself, Eddie and Jake witness Calvin Tower being harassed by some mobsters Eddie remembers from his life in New York. Later, Eddie,



Roland, Jake, and Susannah realize that Calvin Tower owns a vacant lot where a rose connected to the Dark Tower grows.

Eddie knows that the mobsters harassing Calvin Tower will stop at nothing to get possession of the vacant lot, so he insists that he and the ka-tet should do something to stop them. Eddie suggests they buy the vacant lot from Calvin Tower in order to keep it from whoever the mobsters are working for. Roland agrees and sends Eddie through the Unfound Door in order to make the sale. Eddie ends up saving Calvin Tower from the mobsters and convincing him to leave New York until the deal can be completed. At the same time, Eddie and the others learn that Calvin Tower and friend would later, in the eighties, save Father Callahan from being murdered by a couple of psychopaths during a visit to New York City.

Andy

Andy is a robot who has lived in Calla Bryn Sturgis for thousands of years. No one knows where Andy came from or what his original purpose was. However, Andy is somehow capable of telling the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis about the coming of the Wolves, the only warning they get, so they keep him around even though the robot refuses to do any other work or perform any other tasks. Later Roland and his ka-tet will discover that Andy is working for the people who send the Wolves to the community every generation and that Andy's purpose is to convince one of the townspeople to work with the enemy in order to alert the Wolves to the location of all the children when they come. This time around Andy has convinced Ben Slightman to help them in exchange for a pair of glasses and the promise that his son will be spared. Eddie and Tian Jaffords lock Andy in an outhouse and convince him to shut himself down.



Objects/Places

The Rose

The rose is a rose growing in an abandoned lot in Manhattan that seems to hold the same magical powers as the Dark Tower. This rose is dying and needs Roland and his ka-tet to protect it.

Rare Books

In exchange for selling the vacant lot to Eddie Dean, Calvin Tower insists Eddie rescue his rare collection of first edition and other valuable books by pushing the bookcase containing them through the Unfound Door.

Eyeglasses

Ben Slightman wears a pair of eyeglasses, although no one else in the Calla does, that he claims he bought off of a store boat. However, it later is proven that Slightman got the glasses from Andy and the people who send the Wolves in exchange for information that will help the Wolves locate the children of Calla Bryn Sturgis.

Salem's Lot

Roland and his ka-tet find a copy of Stephen King's Salem's Lot among the rare books Calvin Tower sent through the Unfound Door. This book tells the story of Father Callahan, causing Callahan to question his own existence.

Charlie and the Choo-Choo

Charlie and the Choo-Choo is a book Jake bought in Calvin Tower's bookstore the day he died. This book, along with a riddle book also purchased that day, was used to help save Jake and the ka-tet in a previous incident. After traveling to New York, Jake notices the name of the author of this book has changed.

The Dogan

The Dogan is a book Calvin Tower shows Eddie in Manhattan when Eddie goes to buy the vacant lot. The book is supposed to be called The Hogan, but a mistake was made when this particular book was published. The book is also written by a man named Ben Slightman Jr. and a mistake on the copyright page marks the copyright as belonging to Ben Slightman, implying that the author's father could claim the book is rightfully his.



Light Sabers and Sneetches

The Wolves carry weapons that appear to be sticks of light that Eddie recognizes as Light Sabers from the movie, Star Wars. The Wolves also carry small balls that fly unguided and explode. These balls appear to be similar to the balls used in a game described in the Harry Potter novels. These balls are even marked with the Harry Potter name, although Eddie does not recognize them because he died before the first Harry Potter book was published.

The Unfound Door

The Unfound Door is a door that hangs in a cave overlooking Calla Bryn Sturgis, but is not connected to anything. This door is a portal from the world in which Roland and his ka-tet exist into other worlds and dimensions.

Black Thirteen

Black Thirteen is a small ball with a red eye in it that has the power to open the Unfound Door and transport people to other worlds and dimensions. This ball appears to be evil, nearly convincing Eddie to commit suicide at one point.

Nineteen

Roland and his ka-tet begin to notice that names and other things in which they come into contact add up to nineteen more often than could be coincidental, but they do not know why.

Sisters of Oriza

The Sister of Oriza is a group of women who gather together to honor Oriza, the Queen of Rice, and to learn to throw dinner plates as Oriza is said to have done in order to kill the man who murdered her father.

Manhattan Restaurant of the Mind

The Manhattan Restaurant of the Mind is the name of Calvin Tower's secondhand bookstore in Jake's New York.

Vacant Lot

The vacant lot is a small lot on a corner in Manhattan worth millions of dollars. This lot is owned by Calvin Tower and has been owned by his family for generations. Tower is



under contract to sell the lot to a gangster, someone Roland and his ka-tet believe is intent on destroying the rose growing in the lot. Instead, Tower agrees to sell the lot to Eddie Dean.

LaMerk Industries, North Central Positronics, and Sombra Com

LaMerk Industries, North Central Positronics, and Sombra Company are names Roland and his ka-tet continuously come into contact with. Andy wears a plaque that suggests he was made by LaMerk Industries through North Central Positronics.

Path of the Beam

The Path of the Beam is a mystical trail that Roland and his ka-tet are following in the belief that it will eventually bring them to the Dark Tower. When the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis catch up with Roland and his ka-tet they are following a road that also follows the Path of the Beam.

The Dark Tower

The Dark Tower is a mythic building that appears to have some power that influences behavior, actions, and fate of people and is the center of all universes, similar to Heaven in a Christian definition. Roland and his ka-tet are on a quest to find this mythical tower and to learn if the top room of the tower is empty as people have tried to convince them. Roland believes the tower is dying and hopes to save it when he finds it.

The Doorway Cave

The Doorway Cave is the cave where the Unfound Door is located. In this cave people who stand inside of it can hear the voices of people from their own lives as if the cave is able to read their minds and pull from it their darkest memories. These voices are not kind and often speak of the person's deepest regrets.

Calla Bryn Sturgis

Calla Bryn Sturgis is a small farm and ranch community that is similar to a small town in the Old West when America was expanding. The people of Calla Bryn Sturgis are attacked once a generation and one of each set of twins stolen by what the people call Wolves. Roland and his ka-tet come to this little community to help its citizens.



Thunderclap

Thunderclap is a dark region in the hills overlooking Calla Bryn Sturgis where the Wolves come from.

1970s Manhattan

Eddie and Jake are transported to New York in the 70s, the same year Jake died and came to Mid World, and become aware of danger surrounding a man who owns the vacant lot where the rose is located.



Themes

Spiritual Quest

Roland and his ka-tet, his companions, are on a spiritual quest to find the mythical Dark Tower. Roland is very old and has been on this quest most of his life, but his three human companions have only been on the quest for a short time. Roland believes that the Dark Tower is the physical manifestation of destiny, that it somehow controls the destinies of all people and without it the world would simply cease to exist. Roland also believes the tower is dying, explaining the destruction of the world where he grew up. Roland and his ka-tet hope that when they find the tower they will learn the answers to the mysteries that surround it and are able to keep it from destruction.

There are dark people who are also seeking the Dark Tower. These people continuously come into contact with Roland and his ka-tet, attempting to stop their quest. Roland fights these people when he sees them, but he is not always aware of who the bad people are. Sometimes, Roland and his ka-tet run into people who appear to be kind, but turn out to have ulterior motives. In previous novels, Roland and his ka-tet have had to battle these other people in order to protect themselves and to continue on their quest.

Roland also believes in something he calls ka, which appears to be similar to karma or a strong belief in God. Roland believes that if a person is true to ka, ka will provide help and support whenever it is necessary. Roland often counsels his companions to trust in ka when they struggle with a physical or spiritual conflict. Roland also believes it is ka that has led him on this journey and will help him find the tower, if it is meant to be. Roland is similar to a preacher or other religious figure who is on a quest to find the meaning to life.

Fight Against Injustice

The people of Calla Bryn Sturgis have been plagued by what they call Wolves for many generations. These Wolves come to Calla Bryn Sturgis once a generation and steal one child from each set of twins born to the people of this small community. Due to the fact that these people have more twins than the average population, this means that half of all the children in the community will be taken. These children are returned within a month, but when they come back they are brain damaged, unable to remember how to speak or even walk. Later, as these children grow, they go through a phase of rapid growth that leaves them giants incapable of caring for themselves.

When Tian Jaffords learns that the Wolves are coming, he decides he will not lose another family member to the Wolves. Tian gave up his own twin, Tia, whom he now cares for along with his wife's twin. Tian has two sets of twins of his own now and does not want to see either of his children stolen away only to be returned damaged. Tian



gathers the townspeople together and suggests they can beat away these Wolves if they will stand together. Many people agree with Tian in principle, but are frightened of fighting against a group of Wolves they do not understand and whom they know to be well armed. It is only when Father Callahan tells the group that some gunslingers are on their way that the people agree to consider the idea of fighting back.

When Roland and his ka-tet arrive, the people are excited to meet people who have only been characters of legend for many of them. However, many of the people remain frightened at the idea of standing up against the Wolves. Roland asks the people three questions which traditionally bind him to them and force him to fight their battle even if the people do not want him to fight for them. Roland and his ka-tet make a plan and enlist the help of the few people who support the idea of fighting back. Roland and his ka-tet are successful in their fight, but in the process they discover a traitor among the ranks of the town's people and reveal the motives behind the Wolves' attacks.

Love

The theme of love is touched on in several different ways in this novel. First, there is the love of a parent for their child. The people of Calla Bryn Sturgis have been sacrificing one out of every two children for many generations because they were afraid of the Wolves and unable to draw on the courage it would take to protect their children. However, they are no longer as afraid and are willing to consider the idea of fighting the Wolves. Tian Jaffords spearheads this fight because he loves his five children and he cannot imagine watching as one of these beautiful, intelligent creatures is turned into the bumbling giant that his sister became after she was taken by the Wolves.

Love also is explored when the reader meets Susannah and Eddie. Susannah and Eddie have already been through a great many experiences together through the course of time they have spent as part of Roland's ka-tet. Susannah and Eddie are both from our time and our world, but from different decades; therefore, they never would have known one another if they had not entered Roland's world and become a part of his quest. Susannah has mental health issues and has struggled with multiple personalities in the past. In this novel, Susannah has become pregnant with the child of a demon and has split into a fourth personality to deal with this situation. Eddie does not learn of this until Susannah has progressed far into her pregnancy. When Eddie does learn of this, he places his love for Susannah above all else and pledges to support and care for her. When Susannah disappears after the defeat of the Wolves, it is Eddie that insists on finding her and bringing her back to where she belongs. If not for his deep love for his wife, Susannah could be lost forever.

Jake too finds love in an innocent, childish way. Jake is only a child, a child who died much too young and has seen too many things in the time since coming to Roland's world. In this novel, Jake is given the chance to be a child again. Jake makes friends with Benny Slightman, his father Ben, and the family who own the ranch where Ben Slightman is the foreman. Jake settles in with this group, acting like a child once again. Benny and Jake become fast friends, swinging from a rope together in the barn and



doing all the things little boys should do. However, Jake is forced once again to face reality and to take on a role much too mature for his young years when he realizes Benny's father is a traitor to the townspeople.

Love finally is explored between Roland and the members of his ka-tet. Roland is quite old and has been on his quest for many years. Only recently has Roland taken on the companionship of his current ka-tet, Eddie, Susannah, and Jake. Roland treats these companions as though he is their teacher and they his followers. However, Roland does not feel comfortable in this role and often fears that he is not giving his companions the knowledge and the support they need in order to survive in their new reality. In fact, Roland once allowed Jake to fall into a dark abyss, a situation that Jake struggles to reconcile with the man he knows Roland to be. When Susannah begins taking midnight walks as Mia, the mother of the demon child, Jake is outraged that Roland chooses to keep this knowledge secret. However, the ka-tet is able to reconcile Roland's decision with the reality of the situation and rally together to defeat the Wolves.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is the third person omniscient viewpoint. The novel is told through the eyes of many characters, including Roland and the members of his ka-tet, as well as numerous townspeople from the little community of Calla Bryn Sturgis. The point of view is omniscient in that it allows the reader to see the actions, thoughts, and emotions of the narrating character, allowing a fuller experience within the novel for the reader. This point of view allows the reader to not only see the actions of the characters, but to understand the reasons behind that action.

The point of view of the novel allows the reader to develop a sense of intimacy with the characters. Due to the fact that there are so many important characters in this novel, it is important that the reader be allowed to develop a relationship with each one that allows the reader to care what happens to each character at the climax of the novel when the characters go into battle against the Wolves. This point of view also allows the reader to get to know the town's people of Calla Bryn Sturgis, minor characters who are not as important to the plot as the main characters, but provide the motivation for the main characters to do battle against the Wolves.

Setting

There are two major settings in this novel. The first is Manhattan in the 1970s. This Manhattan is in the world where the reader lives, a world where secondhand bookstores sell first editions of Moby Dick and Elton John blares out of music stores while taxis speed through the streets. This Manhattan is where Jake grew up, where he spent his final afternoon in this reality, and to where he is returned during an episode of todash. The second setting in this novel is Roland's world, Mid-World, where there exists a small ranching and farming community that feels like something out of an old John Wayne movie. This community is called Calla Bryn Sturgis and it is a community that has suffered the indignity of having their children stolen from them once a generation and returned with their minds damaged. It is to this community that Roland and his ka-tet come to help save these people and to find more answers to aid in their quest for the Dark Tower.

Manhattan is a normal setting, a place that the reader is familiar with and feels at home. Manhattan is the epitome of the city setting, a place that is always busy and where a character can be anonymous. This idea of anonymity is illustrated even more when the first time two major characters visit the city they are essentially invisible. In contrast to this setting is the setting of Roland's world. This world is like something out of the Old West, taking the reader into a small, close-knit community where men still toil in the fields all day and women work around the house, baking bread and making clothes. This place is the complete opposite of 1970s Manhattan, a laid back place where



everyone knows everyone else's business. The occasional intrusion of modern technology seems as though it would be jarring, but it is handled with mystery and intelligence, leaving the reader feeling as though anything could happen in this magical world in which Roland and his ka-tet exist.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is English. Eddie, Jake, and Susannah speak an English the reader will know well, language full of modern vernacular and slang that sounds like the language the reader hears in their everyday world. However, when Roland speaks, his language tends to be stiff. Roland is unfamiliar with many of the slang words and phrases which his ka-tet use as an everyday way of expressing themselves; therefore, his language seems more formal than theirs. Roland also speaks with a vocabulary that is common to his home and experiences, using words like ka and ka-tet that the reader might not be acquainted with if they have not read the previous four Dark Tower novels. However, these words are self-explanatory if the reader takes into consideration the phrases and words with which these words appear. Finally, when Roland and his ka-tet come into contact with the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis, they will find that their way of speaking is also unique. These people use phrases that are awkward and clunky at first, but after a while the reader falls into the pattern of the phrases and begins to recognize how like the accent of the people of Maine, the writer's home state, these phrases are.

The language of this novel is art all of its own. The writer uses the language to show differences between his characters, using their way of speaking to characterize them and set them apart from one another. Eddie, Jake, and Susannah all speak modern English, but each character is from a different decade; therefore, their slang and verbiage differs from one another in subtle ways. Roland is an ancient man who has lived a long time in a world different from our own. Roland's way of speaking is stiff, more formal, as though he lived in the days of Kings and Queens. Roland's experiences in a different world from the reader's also shows in his speech as he expresses himself with words and phrases that are not familiar to the reader. Finally, when the ka-tet meet with the townspeople of Calla Bryn Sturgis, they find a group of people who seem to exist in a different time as well and who speak with a formal, gracious sort of speech that is reminiscent of the speech of Easterners in the modern world, specifically those who live in Maine. This speech reminds the reader of the author's home state and becomes even more significant in the epilogue when one of the characters finds a novel written by this same author, adding a sense of mystery to an already striking enigma.

Structure

The novel is divided into a prologue, three parts, and an epilogue. Each part has its own set of chapters, with each set of chapters numbered individually and given a name that relates an action or important aspect included in the chapter. Each chapter is quite long; therefore, each is divided into sections that are numbered, each numbered section dividing a change in narrator or action. The novel is told both with exposition and



dialogue, showing a long, intricate story rather than simply telling a story. Included in the novel are many subplots, stories told to the main characters in a structure that allows the reader to both understand the story is being told, but to also see the story as it unfolded in the eyes of the character who experienced the events involved.

The novel is the fifth installment in a story that has been told in seven parts. The main plot of this novel, as opposed to the main plot of the entire series, is Roland and his ka-tet's agreement to fight a group of Wolves for the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis. The people of this small community have been plagued by these Wolves for many generations. The Wolves steal one twin from each set of families of Calla Bryn Sturgis and return them weeks later, brain damaged. As a gunslinger, Roland feels it is his responsibility to help these people upon their request for his help. Roland and his ka-tet stay in this small community, make a plan, and defeat the Wolves. At the same time, however, Roland and his ka-tet learn of a rose in 1970s Manhattan that is somehow linked to the Dark Tower and in need of their protection. Roland sends Eddie back to Manhattan to procure the land where this rose is growing and in this way protect it. Unfortunately, at the same time all of this is happening, Roland comes to realize Susannah has become pregnant as a result of a time in which she was forced to distract a demon so that Roland and Eddie could save Jake. Susannah, who suffered from multiple personality disorder in her previous life, has created a new personality to deal with this unfortunate situation and is unaware of the pregnancy until it nears the end.



Quotes

"These were the borderlands, and life here had always been strange. Then the Wolves had begun coming and life had grown far stranger. How long ago had it begun? How many generations? Tian didn't know, but he thought 'time out of mind' was too long."
Prologue, p. 11

"Although he had been here enough years to build his strange Man Jesus church and convert half the Calla to his way of spiritual thinking, not even a stranger would have been fooled into believing Pere Callahan was from here. His alienness was in his flat and nasal speech and in the often obscure slang he used ('street jive,' he called it). He had undoubtedly come from one of those other worlds the Manni were always babbling about, although he never spoke of it and Calla Bryn Sturgis was now his home."
Prologue, p. 27

"The dreams, when they came, were not dreams at all. They all knew this except perhaps for Susannah, who in a very real sense was not there at all that night." Chap. 1, p. 47

"Eddie had known who they were since River Crossing, when the old people had knelt in the street to Roland. Hell, he'd known since the woods (what he still thought of as Shardik's Woods), where Roland had taught them to aim with the eye, shoot with the mind, kill with the heart. Not three, not four. One. That Roland should finish them so, complete them so, was horrible. He was filled with poison and had kissed them with his poisoned lips. He had made them gunslingers, and had Eddie really thought there was no work left for the line of Arthur Eld in this mostly empty and husked-out world? That they would simply be allowed to toddle along the Path of the Beam until they got to Roland's Dark Tower and fixed whatever was wrong there? Well, guess again." Chap. 4, p. 110

"He knows it's a dream, something brought on by no more than Slightman's chance remark, and yet he can't escape it. Always look for the back door, Cort used to tell them, but if there's a back door in this dream, Roland cannot find it. I heard of Jericho Hill and such blood-and-thunder tales of pretend, that was what Eisenhart's foreman had said, only Jericho Hill had seemed real enough to Roland. Why would it not? He had been there. It had been the end of them. The end of a whole world." Chap. 7, p. 169

"It was the drink, that was what he came to believe when he finally stopped it and clarity came. Not God, not Satan, not some deep psychosexual battle between his blessed mither and his blessed Da'. Just the drink. And was it surprising that whiskey should have taken him by the ears? He was Irish, he was a priest, one more strike and you're out." Chap. 3, p. 254

"It had been a long time since Roland Deschain had been afraid in the deeply superstitious way that goes with a believed religion. Since his childhood, perhaps. But



fear fell upon him as soon as Pere Callahan opened the door of his modest wooden church and held it, gesturing for Roland to precede him inside." Chap. 4, p. 313

"It happens fast. They have been after Callahan for a long time now, but they waste little time gloating. The doors slam shut behind them, much too loudly and hard enough to shiver in their frames. Executive assistants who drag down eighteen thousand a year to start with close doors a certain way—with respect for money and power—and this isn't it. This is the way angry drunks and addicts on the jones close doors. Also crazy people, of course. Crazy people are ace doorslammers." Chap. 9, p. 455

"Not the rose; the rose was not to be owned (by them or anyone) but to be protected. And they could do it. Maybe." Chap. 1, p. 503

"He reminded himself that if Tower hadn't been stubborn, he probably would have sold the lot to Sombra long before now. The rose would have been plowed under. And the Dark Tower? Eddie had an idea that when the rose died, the Dark Tower would simply fall like the one in Babel when God had gotten tired of it and wiggled His finger. No waiting around another hundred or thousand years for the machinery running the Beams to quit. Just ashes, ashes, we all fall down. And then? Hail the Crimson King, lord of todash darkness."

Chap. 2, p. 539

"No! Susannah cried to the force that was trying to engulf her. And did that force have a name? Of course it did. Its name was Mother, its hand was the one that rocked the cradle, and the hand that rocks the cradle rules the w—" Chap. 7, p. 674

"'Frankie Foyle gave it to me,' Callahan said. His voice was hardly more than a whisper. 'Back in seminary. And Danny Glick...I officiated at his funeral, I think I told you that. That was when everything seemed to change, somehow. But this is a novel! A novel is fiction! How...how can it...!' His voice suddenly rose to a damned howl. To Roland it sounded eerily like the false voices that rose up from below. 'Damn it, I'm a REAL PERSON!'" Epilogue, p. 708



Topics for Discussion

Who is Roland? Where has Roland come from? What does Roland seek on his quest? Why? What is a ka-tet? Who is Roland's ka-tet? Why has Roland chosen this ka-tet? How do these people compare with Roland's previous ka-tet? Why does Roland spend a great deal of time thinking about the past during the planning and fighting against the Wolves? How does the past influence Roland's decisions in the present?

Who is Jake? Why does Jake befriend Benny Slightman? What does Benny symbolize for Jake? How does Jake's relationship with Benny define his relationship with Roland? How does Roland feel about this relationship? How does Roland reveal his feelings for Jake through this relationship? How does this relationship reveal Jake's true maturity?

Who are Eddie and Susannah? What kind of relationship do Eddie and Susannah have? Would this relationship have been allowed to develop in the real world? Why or why not? How do Eddie's feelings for Susannah keep him from repeating the poor choices of his last life? How do Eddie's feelings affect Susannah?

Who is Mia? What is Mia's purpose? Is Mia good or evil? Is Susannah aware of Mia? Who first becomes aware of Mia? How? Why does Roland believe Mia exists? What does Eddie think of Mia? What about Jake? How does Susannah react when she learns of Mia? What pact does Susannah make with Mia?

What are the Wolves? Why do they steal children? What is significant about the children of Calla Bryn Sturgis? Why are there so many twins? What do the Wolves do to the children? Why are the children brain damaged when they return? What causes the children's excessive growth? What is significant about the horses the Wolves ride? What is significant about the weapons the Wolves use? What might all this tell Roland and his ka-tet about the Wolves? What does it tell the readers about the Wolves?

Who is Ben Slightman? Why does Ben turn on the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis? What does Ben hope to get in return? How does Roland feel about Ben's actions? Why does Roland chose not to kill Ben? Why does Roland try to protect Ben when he almost tells the people of Calla Bryn Sturgis what he has done? Does Ben get what he wanted?

Who is Father Callahan? Why does Roland believe Callahan is meant to be a part of their ka-tet? What is the significance of Callahan's arrival in Roland's world? How is Callahan connected to Roland? What is significant about Callahan's story of Salem's Lot and his subsequent travels? What is significant about the discovery of Stephen King's novel, Salem's Lot in the epilogue?

What is the rose? What does it symbolize? Why do Roland and his ka-tet want to protect the rose? Why is Mia afraid of the rose? How is the rose connected to the tower? Who is Calvin Tower? What is the significance of his name? How is he connected to the rose? Why does Eddie attempt to save Tower? Why does Tower save Callahan in his story? What is the connection between these two men?