

Name:

Jackaby by William Ritter
Study Questions

Chapter 1:

1. What is the setting of the novel?
2. Who is the narrator? What do we know about her?
3. Where does the narrator go first when she first docks? What does she ask the bartender?
4. How did the narrator get to America?
5. Who does the narrator meet at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 2:

1. Where does Abigail go at first for a job?
2. She finds a posting for a job at the post office—what is unusual about it?
3. What is some of the background information we learn about the narrator?
4. How did the narrator tell her parents she was going to America?
5. Where does she go for the job? What happens? Whose house is it?

Chapter 3:

1. How does Jackaby explain he knew where Abigail had been when they were in the tavern?

Chapter 4:

1. How does Abigail gain access to the crime scene?
2. What does Abigail say to Jackaby that explains why her ruse was so believable?
3. What does Jackaby see as they approach the crime scene that Abigail cannot?

Chapter 5:

1. Where does Jackaby take Abigail?
2. Who do we meet in this chapter? Describe him.
3. Describe what they find in the crime scene.
4. Who is the victim?
5. What is particularly odd about the crime scene considering what has happened to the victim?
6. What does Detective Crane say about Mr. Henderson?

Chapter 6:

1. How does Mr. Henderson describe the cries he is hearing?
2. When they enter the apartment, what is odd about Mr. Henderson?
3. What does Jackaby give Mr. Henderson to help him?
4. What did Mr. Henderson hear the night of the murder that stood out to him?

Chapter 7:

1. Who is Mona O'Connor?
2. Describe her conversation with Jackaby before she invites him in.
3. Who is Mrs. Morrigan?
4. What, ultimately, is Mrs. Morrigan?
5. What does hearing the cry of a banshee signify?

Chapter 8:

1. Describe Commissioner Swift.
2. Why does Jackaby tell Abigail the job is hers if she wants it?
3. What is odd about the third floor of Augur Lane?

Chapter 9:

1. When Abigail is exploring the house, what does she find on the desktop?
2. What keeps bothering Abigail as she's wandering around the house?
3. What does she find in the laboratory?
4. How are the two bedrooms she explores different?

Chapter 10:

1. Who is Commissioner Swift's connection at the newspaper?
2. What did Jackaby discover?
3. Describe all the details that Abigail and Jackaby discuss.

Chapter 11:

1. What did Jackaby notice in the Emerald Arch Apartments that Abigail did not?
2. When they get to the telegraph office, who comes up to Abigail and what does she say?
3. What is Jackaby's power? What term does he use to describe it? How many people can have it at one time?
4. Who is Hatun? What is special about her?
5. What is Hatun doing when they approach her?

Chapter 12:

1. Who is Hatun gathering food for?
2. What did Hatun see when she was at the crime scene?
3. Why does Hatun claim the suspect see her?

Chapter 14:

1. What is Jackaby's system of organizing his books?
2. Who is Jenny and how does she introduce herself to Abigail?

Chapter 15:

1. Who is Douglas? What is his story?
2. Describe the third floor of Jackaby's house.

3. Jenny asks Abigail if she has feelings for “him.” To whom is she referring, and how does Abigail respond? Who does she actually have feelings for?
4. How did Jenny and Jackaby meet?

Chapter 16:

1. What has Jackaby discovered about all the locations on Bragg’s murders?
2. Where has Jackaby discerned the murderer lives?
3. Why are Jackaby and Abigail now in danger?
4. What does Jackaby offer Abigail at the end of this chapter?
5. Who dies in this chapter?

Chapter 17:

1. In order for Jenny to be able to touch things, what must she be wearing?
2. What is Jackaby preoccupied with making in his laboratory?
3. What has happened to Abigail’s green day dress?
4. Jackaby suggests that Abigail go ask Douglas for some dresses to wear. Where did he get them from? What does Jenny offer instead?
5. What do we learn about Jenny’s history, specifically about her fiancé?
6. Who shows up at the end of the chapter to inform them of Mr. Henderson’s death?

Chapter 18:

1. Detective Crane asks Inspector Marlowe to position officers outside of Mr. Henderson’s apartment, but he declines. What does Detective Cane do?
2. When Detective Cane says he doesn’t have any family and Abigail says he must be lonely, what does Detective Cane say?
3. What did Detective Cane overhear the night Mr. Henderson died?
4. How did Detective Cane know something was wrong?
5. What is different about Mr. Henderson’s crime scene from Mr. Bragg’s crime scene?
6. What has been removed from Mr. Henderson’s hand?
7. Why was Detective Cane not part of the pursuit of the suspect?
8. What is the real reason Inspector Marlowe had Detective Cane bring Jackaby to the crime scene?
9. What happens to Jackaby and Abigail at the end of this chapter?
10. Why does Mona O’Connor accuse Jackaby of lying to her? What does that signify?

Chapter 19:

1. Why does Jackaby think it’s good luck that they’ve been throw in jail?
2. What does Jackaby suggest about the suspect?
3. What does Abigail notice about Mr. Henderson’s crime scene that leads her to believe that Detective Cane is hiding things from them?
4. What does Inspector Marlowe use as proof that Abigail and Jackaby are withholding evidence?
5. What did Abigail ask the guard at her cell door about his searching Jackaby’s house?

Chapter 20:

1. Describe Abigail's interrogation.
2. Who shows up during the interrogation, effectively ending it?
3. What happens to Jackaby and Abigail at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 21:

1. Who does Jackaby suspect is the killer as soon as the banshee's cry increases?
2. Why is Detective Cane at the police department?
3. What does Jackaby ask Detective Cane that sparks Abigail's curiosity?
4. Who all can hear the banshee's cry?

Chapter 22:

1. What changes for Jackaby and Abigail?
2. Why are Abigail and Jackaby released?

Chapter 23:

1. What is Jackaby's theory about why Mrs. Morrigan was killed?
2. Who was first at Mrs. Morrigan's murder scene?
3. When Jackaby goes to see Mrs. Morrigan's body, what does he do?
4. What does Mona say to Jackaby?
5. What does Jackaby say to do when Marlowe officially invites him to help with the case?

Chapter 24:

1. What two things does Jackaby mutter that he'll need?
2. Who does he run off after when they get to the town square?
3. What does Hatun tell Abigail when she indicates going after Jackaby?
4. Once the policemen start congregating in the square, what does Abigail notice about Charlie in comparison to the others?
5. How do the policemen react to Jackaby's involvement?
6. What does Jackaby announce to them and how does Commissioner Swift respond?

Chapter 25:

1. What happens to Detective Charlie Cane?
2. From where does Abigail get lead? How does Jackaby react?
3. How does Abigail get separated from Jackaby in the woods?
4. Who does Abigail find hunched over the fallen O'Doyle in the woods?

Chapter 26:

1. Who is the monster that has been killing in New Fiddleham?
2. Who helps rescue Abigail?
3. Describe the battle Abigail witnesses.
4. What does Abigail do to try to help?
5. Who ends the battle at the end of this chapter? What does he quote?

Chapter 27:

1. What kind of creature is Commissioner Swift?
2. How is Commissioner Swift's hat responsible for keeping him alive?
3. Who does Marlowe think is responsible for the murders?
4. What happens to Commissioner Swift?

Chapter 28:

1. Who comes to Augur Lane to help with Abigail's and Charlie's injuries?
2. What does Jackaby perceive as the real threat to Charlie outside of his injuries?
3. What is Charlie?
4. What two stories do Jackaby's paintings represent? What is their significance?

Chapter 29:

1. How does Abigail feel in comparison to the "spectacular" people she is surrounded by?
2. How does Jenny comfort Abigail?
3. How did Jackaby go so long without realizing what Swift actually was?
4. Who does Jackaby explain is partially responsible for Mr. Henderson becoming victim number 2?
5. Who does Jackaby explain is responsible for Mrs. Morrigan's death?
6. What position has Marlowe been temporarily granted and what does he plan to do with it?
7. What has Marlowe offered to do for Charlie?
8. Who will be honored at the town's memorial?
9. What is Jackaby's worry about Abigail and her job as his assistant?

Chapter 30:

1. Why does Jackaby insist on bringing a knapsack with him to the memorial?
2. What reasons does Jackaby give Abigail for not wanting her in the field anymore?
3. Who does Abigail overhear singing at the memorial?
4. What does Jackaby put on top of Swift's coffin? Why?

Chapter 31:

1. Who does Abigail receive a letter from? What does it say?
2. What is the next case Jackaby receives?
3. How does the argument between Jackaby and Abigail about Abigail's responsibilities resolve? What is her reasoning?
4. What does Jackaby give Abigail?