

CHAPTER 21

Summary

The hermit whets his knife, preparing to kill Edward. Miles Hendon enters the hovel, and the hermit tells Miles that he has sent Edward on an errand. Miles realizes the hermit has lied when the hermit tells Miles he's an archangel. Miles waits until he decides that Edward has become lost. The hermit offers to help find him, but both are beaten by Canty and Hugo, who "rescue" Edward.

Question to think about

How does Miles know that the hermit has lied about Edward being sent on an errand? Why is he so easily deceived?

CHAPTER 22

Summary

Now that Edward is back with the gang, Hugo "tortures" the king by stepping on his toes. King Edward beats him in a quarterstaff fight and gains the respect of the rest of the gang, earning the nickname "king of Gamecocks." Hugo feels vengeful toward Edward and puts a "clime" on Edward's leg to torture him while making him beg. The slave from Chapter 17 strips Edward's bandage off because of Edward's kindness toward him. The Ruffler appoints him to steal instead of beg, a worse punishment for Edward. Hugo is happy; now that Edward has to steal, he plans to get Edward arrested. Hugo steals a bundle from a woman, passes it off to Edward, and runs off. Edward drops it, but the woman sees him and catches him. The crowd wants to thrash him, but he is saved by Miles, who tells the crowd to leave it to the law.

Questions to think about

1. Why is Hugo so intent on destroying Edward?
2. Why is Edward so bent against begging or stealing? What does that say about his character?