

CHAPTER 27

Summary

Edward and Miles experience jail life. A man almost murders a woman their first night there. The prisoners call Hendon "the impostor," recalling Edward's "Foo-foo the First" from his gang experience. The jailer brings old family servant Blake Andrews to acknowledge Miles, but Andrews denies Miles. The jailer says Miles will hang, and he and Andrews joke and laugh. When the jailer leaves, Andrews acknowledges Miles and helps him by smuggling in food. Miles reserves the best morsels for the king, who cannot eat jail food. Andrews tells the family story to Miles: When Arthur died six years ago, Miles' father wanted Hugh and Edith to marry, but Edith held out for Miles. When the letter arrived with news of Miles' death, she held out for another three months, then married Hugh by Richard's deathbed. Andrews tells Miles the rumor that Edith found drafts of the death letter among Hugh's things. Hugh has been evil to everyone in the meantime. The king is befriended by two women imprisoned for minor offenses. He is happy to find them absent from the cell in the morning, believing they have been freed. He and the other prisoners are led outside to witness the women being burned at the stake.

Questions to reflect on

1. How does Miles' prison identity relate to Edward's experiences?
2. Who are the villains of this novel? Why are they villains?
3. Who are the heroes of this novel? What makes them heroic?

CHAPTER 28

Summary

Still in prison, Miles is punished for his bad attitude, and the king almost gets put in the stocks. Hendon is put into stocks, and eggs are thrown at him. The king tries to defend Hendon, but Hendon protects the king by saying he's mad and takes Edward's lashes without a word. The king is thankful and dubs Hendon Earl. Hendon looks at the situation with irony, but sees love behind the gesture. The other prisoners, as a tribute to his bravery, no longer joke about Hendon being "the

impostor," and they thrash a prisoner who teases him unknowingly.

Historical Note

- The allusion to the king being scourged in this chapter refers to Henry II, who was scourged at the tomb of Thomas a Becket in 1174 as penance for inspiring Becket's murder. Becket had stopped Henry from extending his power to control the Catholic Church in England.

Questions to reflect on

1. What are the stocks?
2. Why is Edward's gesture touching to Miles Hendon, if he doesn't believe Edward is king?