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Welcome to:



This is a Hypertext Project about the novel *World's End* by T.C. Boyle.

It was created by the English advanced level course 1998-2000 at the EMA-Gymnasium in Herzberg/Harz, Germany.

--- best viewed at 1024x768 with MS IE 4+ ---

# ◀ Summaries ▶



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## Part One

-----SUMMARY PART ONE HERE-----

## Part Two

The second part of T.C. Boyle's *World's End* starts with Walter being in hospital again and realizing that he now has lost the left foot, too. Coincidentally Piet - a friend of Truman - lies in the bed next to him and tells the story of Sachoes, a Native American who sold the land of his tribe. Furthermore he gives Walter a hint where he can find his father. It will be expensive to visit him so Walter asks for a job at Depeyster Manufacturing. Depeyster Van Wart, besides looking forward to the baby his wife is expecting, gets the news that Peletiah Crane had a stroke, which makes Dipe believe that the price for the land he is about to buy will decrease. Then there is a shift back to the 17th century informing us about Jeremias, who refuses the patroon's orders, which later on in the novel's action leads to Wouter's and Jeremy's imprisonment. Jeremias can free his son Wouter - Jeremy has already run away before - but then strangely gives in and promises to be a loyal servant, which disappoints Wouter.

Back in the 20th century, Walter and Jessica meet in a supermarket, where she admits her love for Tom, a reason for Walter to get drunk. In this state he talks to Depeyster, who tries to calm him down. Walter visits Jessica at the cabin and rapes her.

In the past again, Wouter and Hackaliah Crane, who falls in love with Wouter's sister Geesje, become friends. Jeremy suddenly reappears from the woods with a wife and a child. Jeremias, who is suddenly eating all the time, **hier fehlt etwas!!!** Geesje and the van der Meulens die.

Walter van Brunt flies to Barrow, Alasky and finds his father, who tries to explain to him why he left his son and wife back in 1949. He informs Walter about his ancestor Wouter Van Brunt and his friends Cadwallader Crane and Jeremy Mohonk, who are unable to pay the rent to the Van Warts. The patroon terminates their lease, which makes them angry and they damage his house. They run away and hide in a cave, but Wouter goes to the Van Warts, betrays his friends and accuses them of being the main perpetrators. Therefore Cadwallader and Jeremy are sentenced to death. Wouter gets away with some lashes and banishment from Van Wart lands.

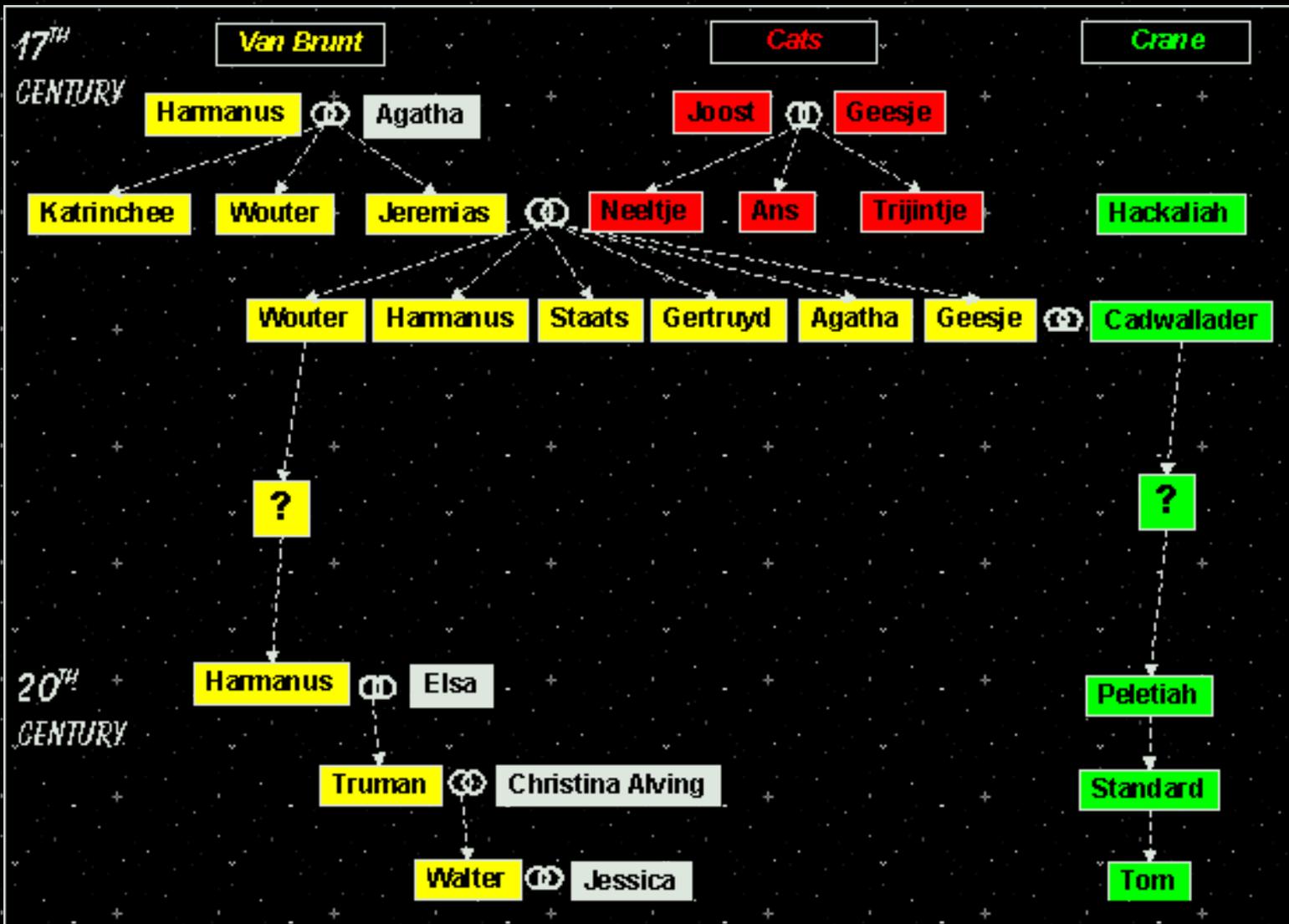
Finally Tom Crane, who is living on the ship *Arcadia* takes Jessica to a party where Walter follows them and discovers her. He unties the boat and hides from Jeremy. Handicapped by two plastic feet, Walter slips in the snow and is unable to get up again. He dies in the snow.

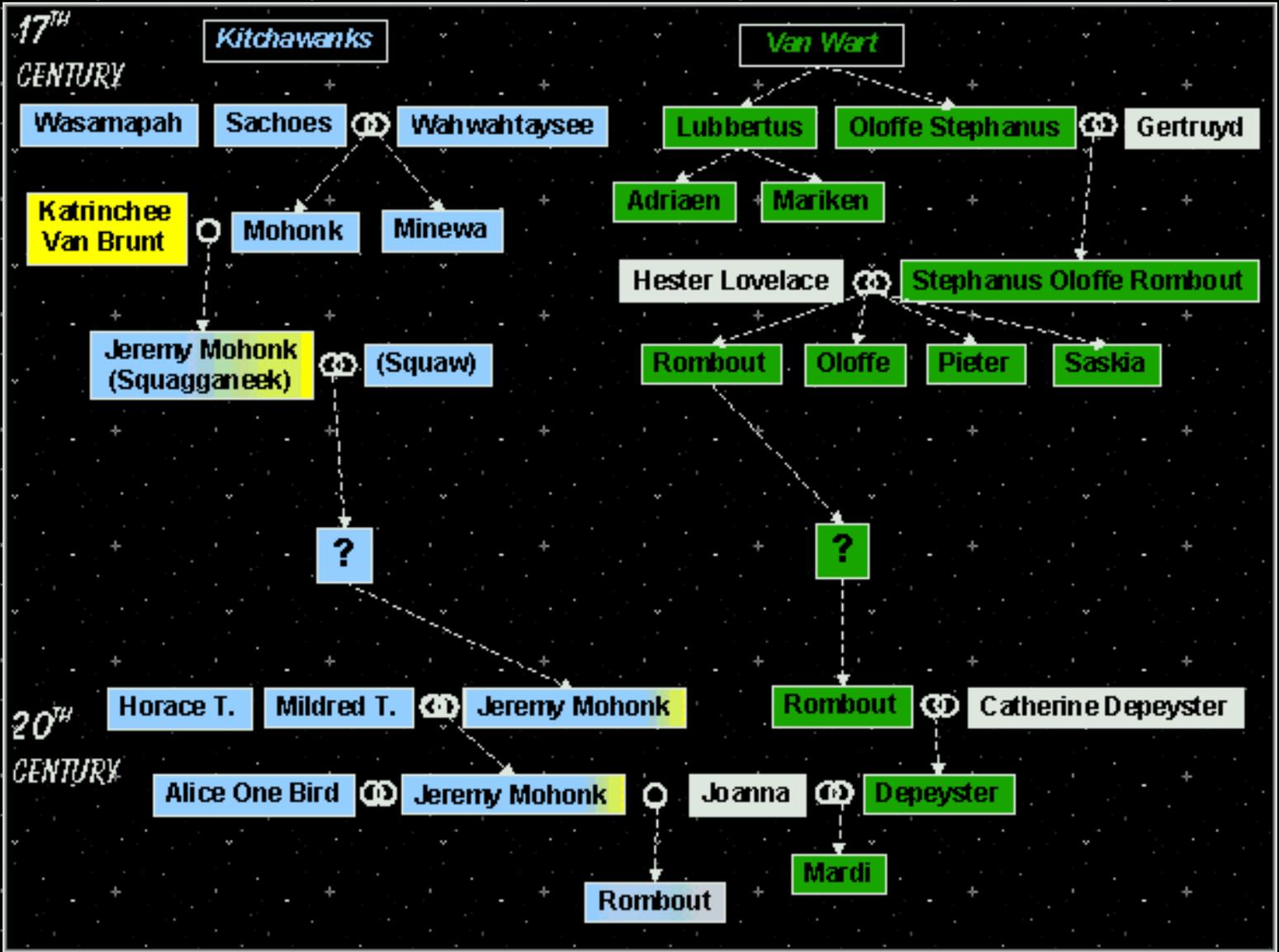
At the end of the novel Depeyster buys Crane's property for a good price and becomes father of a son who is not his own but Jeremy's. He nevertheless names him Rombout, after his father, who sent Jeremy to prison twenty years ago.

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# ◀ The Characters of the novel (1) (2) ▶

## Characterization: Walter





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You can click on the MAIN characters to see a short description or "character summary".

# ◀ Timeline ▶

## 17th, 20th century

<i>DATES</i>	<i>... WHAT HAPPENED ...</i>
March 1663	Harmanus Van Brunt settles down at Van Wart's estate in Northern Westchester at the mouth of Acquasinnick Creek.
Midsummer 63	Harmanus starts eating - Jeremias loses his foot - Harmanus dies.
one month later	Van Brunts' house burns down, Wouter and his mother Agatha die in the flames. Katrinchee disappears with Mohonk.
November	Van Wart's Agent met Jeremias near their destroyed farm.
Winter 1663/64	When the agent returned together with the Schout Joost Cats, Jeremias flees to van der Meulen.
September 9th, 1664	A new English government is instituted in the country.
Winter of 64/65(one year after J. fled to VanD.M.	Katrinchee gives birth to Squagganeek, son of Mohonk and grandson of Sachoes, chief of the Kitchawanks.
May 1666	One month after her 15th birthday, Neeltje Cats meets 17-years-old Jeremias at Jan Pieterse's shop the first time.
Mid-June	After Old Jan has delivered the message that Katrinchee lives like an Indian squaw, Jeremias brings his sister and his nephew Squagganeek to the van-der-Meulen-farm.
Two weeks later	Having trouble with Meintje van der Meulen, Katrinchee, her son, and Jeremias return to their old land at the mouth of Acquasinnick Creek in order to build up their own existence.
Afternoon in July	Jeremias was hit by Joost Cats in the presence of Neeltje because of undermining the schout's authority. Afterwards he was led to the schout's farm and was imprisoned there.
Next day	Jeemias is forced to meet the patroon Oloffte Van Wart; Van Wart decides to regard him as the legal tenant of the land Jeremias cultivated during the last weeks.
Two months later (late September 1666)	Squagganeek is christened, his new name is Jeremy Mohonk.

Late October	Jeremias meets Wolf Nysen in the presence of his nephew, which is supposed to cause bad consequences for them (the following winter is very cold and they nearly starve to death).
January 1667	A butchered doe hanging on their porch (probably from Wolf Nysen) saves their lives from starving. Although Katrinchee advised her brother and her son not to eat the doe, they did eat it. From this day Katrinchee and her behavior changed.
Early March	Katrinchee disappears the second time; she is found dead later and Jeremias buries her next to the white oak..
April	On Neeltje's 16th birthday Jeremias came to take her away from home.
Next day	Having experienced from old Jan where his daughter stays, Joost Cats goes to Van Brunt's farm to bring her back home, but Neeltje refuses to come along with him.
One afternoon in May	Neeltje Cats and Jeremias Van Brunt marry.
Three months later (about August 1667)	Mohonk appears and claims his son Jeremy. Jeremias kills Mohonk.
Five months later (about January 1668)	Wouter Van Brunt, son of Jeremias and Neeltje, is born.
November 1678	Jeremias refuses to cut additional wood the patroon require; that is why Joost and Neeltje urged Jeremy and Wouter to cut it.
Summer of 1679 (one hot August day)	Jeremias objects to follow Stephanus Van Wart's order to widen the street - Joost and Neeltje send Jeremy and Wouter to fulfill Jeremias' work - that is why Joost loses his office as schout - the patroon decides to evict Jeremias after having paid the next rent - Wouter and Jeremy become prisoners at Van Wart Manor.
The next morning	Jeremy escapes, Albregt Van Den Post, the new schout follows him without success - Jeremias and other neighbors go to the patroon, where he falls on his knees and tries to represent the obedient servant in the presence of Wouter - Jeremias is imprisoned, Wouter, because of being disappointed of his father's behavior, runs away to find his cousin, who has found a new home at the Kitchawanks
Winter of 1680/81	Jeremy, not yet 17-years-old, comes back with his wife and a 9-month-old son and settles down in a shack near Jeremias' house.
1682- 1684	Wouter falls in love with different girls and becomes friend of Cadwallader Crane
1684	Cadwallader Crane and Geesje Van Brunt, Wouter's sister, marry.

Late October 1692	Jeremias buries the corpse of Wolf Nysen next to the white oak.
Two weeks later	Jeremias starves because there is not enough food for him - next Staats and Meintje van der Meulen die.
Following Months	Geesje, Wouter's sister and many other people in the region die.
February 1693	People decide to dig up the frozen corpse of Wolf Nysen and to burn it.
Spring of 1693	Wouter takes Jeremias office and becomes farmer.
November, 15th	The rent is to be paid and the Van Wart's organize a feast for their tenants - Wouter, Jeremy and Cadwallader Crane were informed that they are evicted and that they have to leave their farms within the next two days
Evening of the same day	Drunk, the three return to Van Wart Manor, smash its windows, knock down twenty-one-years-old Rombout Van Wart and burn a barn where the farmers deliver their wood
Next day	Stephanus comes to search for the three rebels; he destroys Jeremy's shack and posts a reward for their capture
Six weeks later	Wouter escapes from the cave where they have hidden themselves the last weeks, betrays his friends and begs for forgiveness from the patroon
Short time later	Jeremy and Cadwallader Crane are hanged at Gallows Hill - after a time Wouter is allowed to come back to Van Wart's estate - he become fisherman and founds a family

<i>YEARS</i>	<i>... WHAT HAPPENED ...</i>
1917	Truman Van Brunt is born.
1918	Depeyster Van Wart is born.
1929	Rombout Van Wart loses his wealth in the Great Depression of the 1920s. Jeremy Mohonk is imprisoned for 20 years, because he attacked Rombout Van Wart.
1939	Rombout Van Wart suffocates from an oyster.
1945	Depeyester Van Wart marries Joanna.

1946	Walter Van Brunt is born.
	Jeremy Mohonk gets out of prison.
1948	Mardi Van Wart is born.
1949	After the Peterskill riots Truman Van Brunt disappears in August.
1950	Christina Alving Van Brunt dies of sorrow in November because she thinks her husband betrayed her and her friends.
	Walter, her son, is adopted by his godmother and father, Lola and Hesh Solovay.
1951	One year after Christina's funeral, Truman shows up to see his son.
1957	Truman Van Brunt shows up again but Hesh throws him out.
1958	Harmanus Jochem Van Brunt dies after a stroke.
1968	Walter loses his right foot on his 22nd birthday. Intoxicated he crashed into a road sign, a historical marker.
	A few months later Walter marries Jessica Conklin Wing.
1968-1969	Walter has a love affair with Mardi Van Wart.
	Jessica leaves him and moves in with Tom Crane.
1969	It is mid august when Walter meets Tom and Jessica in the supermarket. He is shocked when finding out that they are together.
	Walter loses his left foot in another motorcycle accident at Halloween (Oct. 31).
	In the hospital he meets Piet Aukema, an old friend of his father's.
	In November Walter Truman Van Brunt freezes to death in the snow after they celebrated the first sailing season of the Arcadia.
	Two weeks later Joanna Van Wart's half-Indian baby is born and Tom Crane sells his property to Depeyester Van Wart.

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## ◀ Absurd Elements ▶

# A Short Definition of the Absurd

Absurd parts of a story are always unreal, exaggerated and contradict the common sense. With absurd elements an author tries to criticise human behaviour, ideologies and institutions. In modern drama absurd and grotesque elements are sometimes used as stylistic means to express the absurdity of human life.

## Some Absurd Elements of *World's End*

### Harmanus' absurd pangs of hunger

Harmanus cannot see parts of his harvest being taken away but wants to have his crop for his family. He feels suppressed by the landowner Van Wart. He is frustrated.

These strange eating habits can also be found in Jeremias, who dies because he does not find enough food (chapter 28), and Walter, who also suddenly feels a mad desire for food (chapter 33).

### Meintje van der Meulen's paralysis

She is only sitting around the whole day doing nothing after Jeremias and Katrinchee returned to live with the van der Meulen. Maybe Katrinchee is the reason for this behaviour because Meintje sees competitor in her. Perhaps she wants to draw the attention on herself.

### Lost extremities

People in *World's End* lose their extremities, in most cases a foot, to an real degree. Some of them come from the same family and lose their extremity at nearly the same place. Here are some examples:

**Chapter 1:** Walter loses at first his right foot, later his left one, too.

**Chapter 2:** Jeremias loses a leg because of a turtle bit. Huysterkarkus has only one eye, we do not know why.

**Chapter 7:** A man loses a finger at the rock concert.

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# ◀ Genetics ▶

## Bound by Fate and Genes

"Walter, that's what, [...] Fate! [...] Doom! History! Don't you see?" (p.423)

"No use fighting it," Truman said. [...] "It's in the blood, Walter. It's in the bones." (p.424)

The following parallels between the Van Brunts can be found:

	<b>the Van Brunt - Van Wart relationship</b>	<b>betrayal of close friends or family</b>	<b>absurd hunger</b>	<b>loss of feet</b>
Harmanus † 1663	oppressed by Oloffte Stephanus Van Wart		pangs of hunger, suicide	
Jeremias † 1692	oppressed by Oloffte Stephanus and Rombout Van Wart		pangs of hunger, dies from hunger	loses his right foot / leg
Wouter 1668-1741	oppressed by Rombout Van Wart, in love with the unattainable Saskia Van Wart	betrays his friend Cadwallader Crane and his cousin Jeremy to Rombout Van Wart		
Harmanus * 1890				
Truman *1917	led astray by Depeyster Van Wart and his republican ideas	betrays his wife Christina and his friends for Depeyster Van Wart		

Walter \* 1946

used by  
Depeyster and  
Mardi Van  
Wart

betrays his wife  
Jessica and his  
friend Tom  
Crane for  
Depeyster Van  
Wart

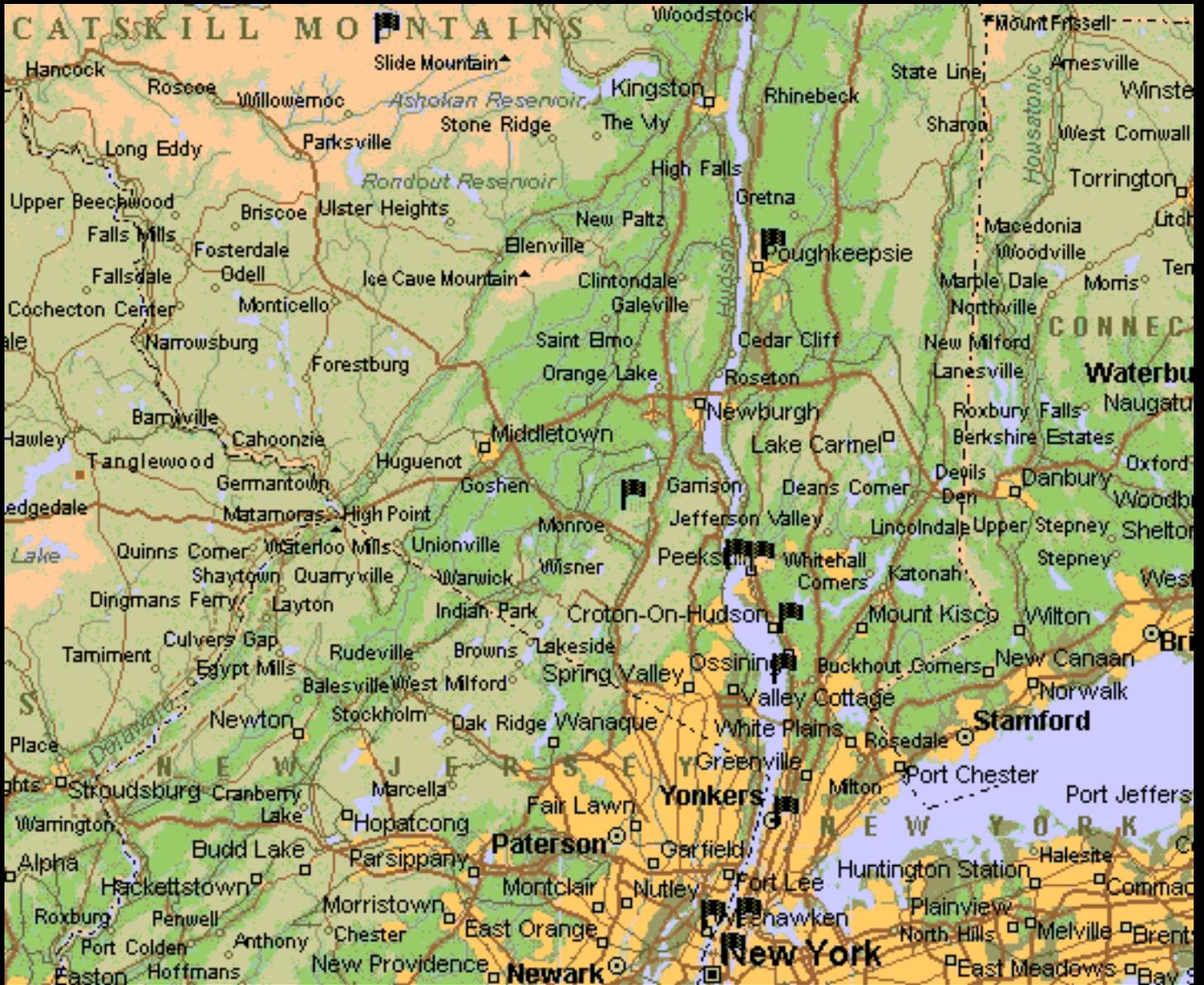
pangs of  
hunger

loses his right  
and left foot

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You can click on the little flags to see some words about the location in reference to *World's End*.

◀ Map ▶



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# ◀ The Indians (1) (2) (3) ▶

## Territorial Expansion

The territorial expansion of the USA into the west was connected with an unfair and brutal war against the Native Indians. The Indians were driven out to the east of the Mississippi or displaced by force in reservations.

Some tribes moved back to the west, but most of them were decimated or even exterminated. Although the Indians could fight against the white man, such moments of success were very short. For example, Phillip, the chief of the Wampanoag tribe, brought the other tribes together to fight against the English colonists in the second half of the 17th century. During the following fights King Phillip's war, which lasted from 1675 to 1676, the tribes could bring a lot of failures to their enemies, but in the end they were defeated and nearly exterminated.

## The Indians

### The early Indians, they...

- ...practiced farming.
- ...hunted animals, especially buffaloes.
- ...gathered cherries and roots.
- ...went fishing.
- ...planted squash, sunflowers, tobacco, pumpkins and beans.
- ...protected their camps by placing them in an ideal position, sometimes surrounded with water.
- ...built a wall of tree trunks around their camps to defend them against enemies and the weather.
- ...buried the dead of their tribes in a sitting position, facing southwest, with their weapons, utensils, ornaments and parched corn.
- ...believed that the bodies of their dead family members would rise from death one time.
- ...believed in the quality of the sexes.
- ...believed in the father's lineage and the mother's inheritance.
- ...divided the duties of the sexes, for example men hunted, fished and did the heavy work such as clearing land, building houses and making canoes, and women tasks were to care for the children, to run the household, to plant, to cook, to prepare skins and to make the needed garments. They also made baskets, clothing and pottery.
- ...wore deerskin breechcloths and the women wore deerskin skirts which reached below the knee. If it was cold outside, they had a wrap-around fur cloak and soft-soled moccasins.
- ...built permanent houses, too. These houses were made from saplings driven into the ground and bent to form a round dome-shaped trellis which was covered with elm chestnuts or other kinds of bark shingles or mats. Along the walls, the sleeping platforms were arranged.

*...spoke a dialect named Munsee (in the north they spoke Mahican). Munsee, Mahican and Unami were closely related to each other.*

*...traded with furs, fruits and food.*

### *Later the Indians...*

*...were supplied by the settlers with hoes, iron, axes, brass kettles, guns, soft warm clothes, needles, beads and bangles.*

*...gave skins of beaver and deer in return to the settlers, and provided them with corn and other foods.*

*...undermined the relations between their tribes by competing for sources of beaver skins and control of trade.*

*...got ill, because they lacked immunity to white man's diseases like smallpox and malaria.*

*...maintained their trade routes against their competitors, the Mohawks and the Mahicans, while trying to trap enough beaver and produce enough food to buy Dutch tools and firearms*

*... were pressed by Dutch expansion in the south and unable to survive there.*

*...sold most of their lands to the English (in the 1700's).*

*...mostly lived in the cities like Ohio, but some of them went back to their old lands to visit the graves of their ancestors and to live and die on their homeland*

### *Today Indians...*

*...have conflicts with the immigrants, because they want to have their lands back again.*

*... are packed together in reservations, which are very small.*

*...have mostly lost their cultures and religions.*

*...quarrel with the bosses of energy-enterprises because they want to have a great share of the treasures of the soil of their countries.*

*...fight to get more rights in modern society.*

*...in the last existing reservations are poor and uncivilized. They often suffer from drugs like alcohol*

*...want to protect what is left of their culture.*

*...want to have more political rights.*

*...insist on an indemnity for their lost countries.*

*...in society and on reservations are in danger of reducing to misery more and more.*

*...adopted the new trends and ways of life of the white society.*

*...because of their big problems they often take drugs to escape from reality.*

# The Indians and the settlers

## An essay about the relationship between the Indians and the settlers in the 17th century and in the 20th century

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, many settlers in the whole world want to begin a new and better life in America, like the Van Brunts from Zeeland. The latter get a piece of land from the Van Warts, which originally belonged to the Kitchawanks and in return, the family has to serve the Van Warts for their whole life.

In 1664 (Sept. 9) the Dutch colony comes under British control and after 55 years of Dutch rule Nieuw Amsterdam is named New York. However, the relations between the landlord on the top and the tenants on the bottom of the social ladder do not change (feudal system), because the Yankees preserve the status quo, of course besides a new language and currency! The wealthy families like the Van Warts, become richer and their tenants are still liable to pay. The immigrants lead hard lives, filled with work and the whole family has to help to harvest enough food and also enough to give to the patroon. The patroon has no compassion for his tenants. When Harmanus becomes ill, Van Wart does not help him, but the Indians do and when Jeremias' family has died and he cannot pay the rent anymore, Van Wart behaves the same way and Jeremias has to leave the land.

But the Native Indians lead a worse life. Before the Europeans arrive, they live in harmony with nature and their environment. When the Dutch, the English and the Spanish come to colonize the newly discovered country, Sachoes, the Indian chief lives with his tribe in this country . But later, the white men take it away from him.

After Minewa who has died, Sachoes and the other Kitchawanks are trading with Jan Pieterse. They change beaver skin against alcohol, axes etc., but the beavers and also other game become rare, like the persecuted Indians. When Jan wants to trade the land of the Kitchawanks, he only negotiates with Sachoes. Jan and his two friends Oloffte and Lubbertus Van Wart, get with the help of Wasamapah the last verst, morgen and acre of the Kitchawank`s homeland. Six months later, Sachoes dies and Wasamapah becomes the Indian chief and the Indians are forced back out of their land.

The settlers overrun the land and drive the Indians out. There are unfair fights between the Indians and settlers in which many Indians die. The settlers also bring in European diseases, which destroy whole Indian tribes. In another way, the alcohol destroys them, too!

The Indians are despised by the whites, but on the one hand the settlers have to fall back upon the Indians, because in the new colonies there are no doctors and they need the Indian knowledge. On the other hand the whites are cast out who fall in love with Indians, like Katrinchee Van Brunt. She is desperate, because Mohonk is addicted to alcohol and leaves her alone with their baby. But she knows, that she cannot go back to the patroon. She fell in love with an Indian and she also gave birth to a bastard. She knows that she would be

punished very hard. That is also the problem when she finds accommodation with the van der Meulen. Meintje van der Meulen wants her and her baby to go away, because Katrinchee is an outsider, a "miscegenator".

Therefore, Jeremias, Katrinchee and her baby move back to their old farm. The patroon is very angry when he notices that, because these people offend his rights and God's law and Jeremias is arrested. But Jeremias does not understand what he has done wrong. He only wanted a piece of land, to work and survive. Jeremias does not know what to do, therefore he comes to an agreement with the patroon and also becomes a tenant.

Because of the injustice and in fear of the future, Jeremias decides to have Katrinchee's son christened in the church and admitted to community as a Dutchman and free citizen of the Colony New York. They hope to become respectable in the eyes of the public, God and the patroon.

When Katrinchee has died and Jeremias takes Neeltje, the schout's daughter, with him, people are immediately convinced that an Indian must have kidnapped her. The young Van Wart wants to exterminate them all. When Jeremias says that perhaps the land and the livestock belong to the patroon, but Neeltje and he do not. The patroon's son smiles and answers that everything belongs to him. They will see it. Then one day, Mohonk comes to the little family to fetch his son, so that a fight between him and Jeremias begins and Mohonk is killed. The Kitchawanks, who only live in Indian Point, have survived the settlers and the diseases, but this attack on a white man will be their end. The schout will see to that.

So Van Wart junior keeps right. The patroon, becoming very unsatisfied with his tenants and their mismanagement, starts to treat them like slaves. The de Vries are the first family who has to leave. 200 people live on the Van Wart estate and they all are treated like slaves. Jeremias Van Brunt and his family should be the next who have to leave their home. But they do not. Jeremias starts fighting against the patroon, but in the end he has to realize, that it is a hopeless fight. Jeremias is only a slave. Only Jeremy is strong enough to escape from his life as a slave and runs away.

In the same year, the patroon lets the roads widen and improves his property at the expense of the Indians and his tenants.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in 1909, Jeremy, the last of the Kitchawanks is born in the Shawangunk reservation near Jamestown. In the morning he goes to school and in the evening his father tells him the old legends of his ancestors. When his father dies, Jeremy has a white man's diploma and decides to leave the reservation. But he is not welcome in Jamestown, because he is an Indian. Therefore he bundles up his possessions and wanders to the East to Peterskill.

It is 1927 and Peterskill is surrounded by the industrial revolution and nobody seems to have ever heard of Indians. The inhabitants only know that these comical types live somewhere in the West.

Jeremy does not like the whites, but he finds a friend in Sasha Freeman. They learn from each other, Jeremy tells him the old legends and in return, Sasha gives him a new point of view and a good friendship.

In 1929, the Depression descends on America and Jeremy loses his job. He therefore goes back to Nyson's Roost to live there. When Rombout Van Wart appears to drive him out, Jeremy hits him and has to go to prison. He hates all these greedy capitalistic whites, because of his soiled blood, because they have stolen his tribe's land and his freedom.

But after some years in prison, Jeremy realizes that he is the last of the Kitchawanks and now he wants to find a wife with constant blood, to keep his race alive. Then in 1946 he is free and goes to the hollowed oak to live like his ancestors in earlier times. When Peletiah Crane, the new landowner, comes to see who is living on his land, Jeremy insists on his right to live there and he is surprised when Peletiah agrees.

For this and other reasons, Depeyster Van Wart hates Peletiah Crane. He is against Communism and Democracy, too. Depeyster is rather a fascist. But in the end he gives up all his ideals and accepts "his" bastard, who is the son of Joanna and Jeremy.

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## ◀ About T.C. Boyle ▶

# T.C. Boyle

Thomas Coraghessan Boyle, the award-winning author of "World's End" was born in Peekskill, New York, in 1949. Being aware of his Irish roots he changed his second surname from John to Coraghessan, the name of one of his Irish ancestors.

Growing up in the Hudson Valley at Peekskill he chose these surroundings as setting for his novel, although he alters some of the places. After having graduated from State University of New York he taught high school English at Potsdam, NY.

In the following years he established himself by publishing several novels. The most famous ones are "Riven Rock", "The Tortilla Curtain" and "World's End" for which he received the Pen/Faulkner Award for American Fiction in 1988.

Today he lives near Santa Barbara, California. T.C.Boyle is married and has got three daughters. Since 1977 he has been a professor of English at the University of Southern California.

## A collision with history

It's Walter Truman Van Brunt's 22nd birthday and all day long he has got "collisions with history". He sees his own dead ancestors whose apparitions are connected to different scents like those of liverwurst or alcohol. It is 1968 and Walter lives with his adoptive parents Hesh and Lola Solovay and has got a girlfriend called Jessica. In the evening of his birthday Walter goes to a bar where he meets Mardi Van Wart, Hector Mantequilla and later in a parking lot also Herbert Pompey. They all get drunk and take drugs and finally decide to swim to the "ghost ships" on the Hudson River. Later, after another apparition of his grandmother and his father, who disappeared at Walter's 11th birthday, he drives home in his car. On the way he has a bad accident which results in Walter losing his right foot.

## O Pioneers !

The chapter "O Pioneers" tells the story of Walter's ancestors and what happens to them. The first Van Brunts, who moved from the Netherlands to America come as servants to Oloffte Stephanus Van Wart. The patron paid for their passage to America. Settled there, they have to pay five hundred guilders in rent, two fathoms of firewood, two bushels of wheat, two pairs of fowl and twenty-five pounds of butter after the first six months. Everything seems all right; the family, which consists of Harmanus, Agatha, Jeremias, Wouter and Katrinchee Van Brunt, brings in a good harvest from the bad land. But one day their luck turns when Jeremias loses his right foot by the snap of a turtle. Harmanus cannot see his son suffer pain and runs into the woods where he catches a bad infection. When lying ill in the kitchen his daughter Katrinchee dumps a hot meal onto him. Harmanus rises and runs into the woods where he finally dies. Agatha, Wouter and Katrinchee, who is in love with the Kitchawank Mohonk, die when the house and everything around it burn down. Jeremias is the only one to survive but because he cannot pay the contribution to Van Wart anymore he has to vacate the premises.

# Ancestral Dirt

Van Wart is sitting in his office, thinking about Depeyster Manufacturing and the success he has had in life in contrast to many other men of his age. He is fifty years old and has reached his personal goals, although he has got some personal problems with his Indian-fascinated wife. Opposite to his wife, Van Wart wishes to have - in addition to his daughter Mardi - a male child, but he never thought of divorce, because nobody of the Van Warts has ever been divorced from their wives. Returned home from his office, Van Wart reads an article in the newspaper, which is about a boy, named Walter Van Brunt who lost his right foot in an accident. Van Wart is sure that he knows the name "Van Brunt" from a long time before. Then he remembers that it was in the riots of 1949. Mardi arrives. She is tired and overhung because of the wild party she had the night before. Van Wart is angry about her dirty, ragged looks, and father and daughter start screaming at each other. Mardi criticizes that Van Brunt is always thinking about money and history, but when her father mentions the name of the boy the article is about, Mardi becomes interested. She reads the article and when her father asks her if she knows the injured boy, she answers mysteriously that she does not know him yet.

# Prosthesis

Two weeks after Walter's accident, he meets Dr. Huysterkark who demonstrates the prosthesis to him. When seeing the plastic foot, Walter panics that he is a cripple now, but the doctor wants to give hope. This effort of the doctor fails, and Walter does not want to hear anything about feet. While Walter is shocked, the doctor tells him about the latest medical success and its great possibilities of offering a new wonderful life to the injured person. Walter gets despaired because of the doctor's sarcastic exaggerations and his future without his right foot. When he is at home in bed, Walter dreams about his father Truman and about his mother, dead and crowded with crabs. The nightmares go on every time he falls asleep. Walter's father appears again, saying that he was a cripple, too. He tells his son that the fact that Walter saw him on the ship was a warning. Truman says to Walter to go back to the place of his accident to read the sign. When Walter awakes, Jessica is there and he thinks about his relationship with her. He comes to the result that he could not have a better wife, so he asks her if she would marry him. Jessica happily agrees.

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## Neeltje waved back

When the agent, who collects the rent for Oloffte Stephanus Van Wart, arrives at the burnt down Van Brunt place for the second time, he brings the schout Joost Cats with him. Cats has three daughters; Neeltje is his oldest. They both try to frighten the boy and want him to say what has really happened, but Jeremias does not answer. Finally the agent accuses the family of setting fire to the hut. After they make sure that Jeremias runs away and they leave the place. Jeremias goes to the van der Meulens, who care for him and tells them the story of how the storm set the cabin in flames when nobody was at home except for him.

In the following summer a dramatic change takes place. The government changes, now the British rule, New Amsterdam becomes New York. For the people the new situation is difficult because they have to learn a new language. Also the new rules bring even higher positions to the landlords. Jan Pieterse, the merchant, is the richest man in town, he buys the Indians land for rum and sells it to the landlords. One day, Neeltje and her father are at his shop. Inside the farmer Heyndrick Ten Haer is telling a story about Wolf Nysen, a Swede who is said to haunt the local woods, when Jeremias sees Neeltje for the first time. Joost is not very pleased about the meeting between the two. When Jeremias goes away he gives Neeltje a cube of candy and she waves back to him when he disappears. Nobody else is waving back.

## The last of the Kitchawanks

Jeremy Mohonk, the last of the Kitchawanks, arrives in town and settles close to the ancient Van Brunt hut. When Rombout Van Wart sees him, he remembers former times when he was a child. The oak with the initials of his great grandfather and feels alarmed. He shouts at Jeremy that he is a menace to the village, but he also wonders why the Indian has green eyes. When Jeremy calls Rombout a criminal, Rombout is shocked and attacks Jeremy. The Indian calls Rombout the trespasser in town, who has stolen the land of his tribe, and hits him with a firewood, so that Rombout falls down unconsciously. At Van Wart's home, Herbert Pompey, the servant, looks for Rombout but cannot find him. He searches at Enzo Fagnoli's and the Blue Rock Inn. He also remembers the stories about Wolf Nyson, his mother told him years ago. He at last discovers the dumb Jeremy Mohonk and the injured Rombout and is shocked. Later a judge asks Jeremy why he came to town but the latter answers that he only wanted to defend his person and his property, because Van Wart's land once belonged to his family. Finally, Jeremy is sent to prison for 20 years. Rombout has to sell the Indian's land but nobody wants it.

# The Finger

Being in his senior year at high school, Walter has three more months to endure before he can accept his diploma. Jessica also goes to school, but in Albany. She spent her Christmas vacation with writing letters to Walter without any response. Also being a senior she plans to study marine biology. Tom Crane is a friend of Jessica and a boon companion to Walter. He dropped out of school, hitchhiked home and moved into the Indian's shack, which is located in the hind of nowhere that belongs to his grandfather, Peletiah Crane. The summer before, Tom put up a porch, installed a chemical toilet and made the place habitable. He now lives there like a hermit, lies on his bed in a sleeping bag and just gets up to eat, drink and to go to the toilet. While lying there and reading fantasy books in the morning and Lenin, Trotsky and Banknin after lunch he feels his independence, self-direction and the joy of sloth.

Two weeks later he goes to a rock concert. It is already dark outside so that he has to feel the way out to Van Wart Road, where his car is parked. While removing the air filter, he sees a luminous and trembling alien spacecraft coming to an abrupt halt above him. Tom freezes to watch it. Every time he touches the flashlight, shadows of a grate hand obliterate the spacecraft and when he releases the aliens return. He plays for a minute or so with the flashlight, then removes the air filter, slams the hood shut and drives off. The concert is held in Poughkeepsie, in the Vassar College gymnasium. He feels great in the crowd people and starts a conversation with a girl called Mardi as suddenly the lights go down to inaugurate the concert. But instead a man appears on the microphone and demands for the crowd's cooperation to search for a finger which a gatecrasher lost by jumping through a window. Mardi's eyes are scanning the crowd and now return to Tom. While fanning out her hair with a reflexive jerk of her neck the finger drops into the seat beside her. She bends over and flicks the finger into the shadowy maw of the bleacher.

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# Patrimony

Walter leaves the hospital on a sunny morning in August, and the first thing he does is go back to the scene of the accident and read the inscription on the road sign he hit the night he lost his foot. The sign turns out to be an historical marker whose purpose it is to remind of a man named Cadwallader Crane who was surrendered to the authorities in 1693 and had been hung along with co-conspirator Jeremy Mohonk in 1694. He reads the message but does not understand it.

The next morning he wakes up at home with the smell of potato pancakes in his nose. They used to be his favorite food but since the accident he feels sick by just thinking of them. When sitting down at the kitchen table Hesh tries to calm Walter down by saying that losing a foot is not the end of the world. But actually it is not his foot that bothers him so much but the question where his real father lives today. Hesh, who hates that topic, tells him to go ahead and look him up and leaves the house angrily. Lola begins to tell Walter the story of the riots, probably for the thousandth time.

Truman Van Brunt married Walter's mother Christina in the fall of 1945 and the next summer Walter was born. Since Hesh, Lola, Truman and Cristina were best friends at that time, Truman asked them to become Walter's godparents and they agreed. In 1949 Paul Robinson gave a concert near the river, on some property owned by Peletiah Crane, Tom's grandfather. No violence was expected just Negroes and Whites together, working people, women, children and old folks enjoying a concert. Hesh and Truman were asked to be in charge of security, just in case. When they got to the concert cars were parked along the side of the road instead of the parking lot. As they came closer, they saw that those people had not come to visit the concert - they had come to prevent it. There were maybe 150 people gathered in front of the stage and maybe 50 of them men, who were armed with anything they could find. The fight started and soon Hash's men were bruised and bleeding. The last hope of help faded, as three policemen showed up and left with the message that Hesh and his people were responsible for this mess and so they had to stand up for it on their own. The cruel fight continued and the situation of Hesh's men seemed hopeless. Their only chance to survive was to get a word out to the world, by informing the New York Times, the governor and the police. Truman as the best runner was the chosen one and vanished accompanied by Piet.

The others had been searching for them for two days without any success, when Truman showed up at Christina and his bungalow. He packed his belongings without responding to Christina's questions and left in Depeyster Van Wart's Buick. It was nearly a year after his wife's funeral when he showed up again at Lola and Hesh's house. Hesh simply knocked him over, for turning his back on his family and betraying them at the concert and left him lying on the front porch.

Here, Walter stops listening he knows the end of the story. While looking up from the table he sees his father's ghost, who tells him not to believe her and reminds him that there are always two sides of a story. Determined to find out what really happened that night he leaves to ask Depesyter Van Wart.

## Among the Savages

After Katrinchee's family died, except for Jeremias, she has a guilty conscience, because she is convinced that she has killed them and shaves her head to do penance. One year later she gives birth to her son Squagganeek. But Mohonk, the father of the child, has changed, he seems to become crazy because he drinks too much gin. Then one day he disappears and Katrinchee goes away with her baby to the Weckquaesgeek Indians. During that time Jeremias has been living with the van der Meulen, who give him love and hope. He also met Neeltje the schout's daughter and he likes her very much. One day, Jeremias gets a message which comes indirectly from Mohonk, and learns that his sister is alive and where she lives. He takes her and her son to the van der Meulen and they are allowed to live in the barn. But Meintje is not happy about it and therefore Jeremias, his sister and her son move back to the old Van Brunt place. Many people help them to make a new beginning, but the patroon is very angry when he hears that some people live "illegally" on his land. Therefore he sends out his schout, Jost Cats, Neeltje's father, who gets into an argument with Jeremias and hits him with his sword.

## Chiefly Nuptial

Walter is searching for Depeyster Van Wart to find out what has really happened in 1949 and whether his father is a traitor or not. But he is not allowed to talk to him, and therefore is surprised when he meets his boss of Depeyster Manufacturing and it is Mr Van Wart. Depeyster tells Walter that his father Truman was a real patriot.

After his accident Walter wants to marry Jessica, because he needs her. Just before the marriage he goes to Tom and on the way, he again has a vision of his grandmother, although Walter thought that these confusing things are finished. She also praises his father and then disappears. Walter wants to talk with Tom about his father, but he learns that Mardi is Van Wart's daughter. Later she appears during his wedding ceremony and invites him to another tour to the ghost ships. She also wants to see his leg without the foot, but that is too much for Walter and he goes away.

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## With The Patroon's Blessing

Jeremias Van Brunt is working in his fields when the schout, who wants to take him to the patroon, finds him. A massive blow drives him to his knees and he passes out. After he wakes up, Neeltje, the daughter of the schout, bandages him. Being badly hurt he has to walk over eight miles until they reach the patroon's farmyard. Here Jeremias gets to eat, to drink and a bed for the night. Neeltje hates her father because of his brutality against Jeremias but she is not able to help him. The next day, Jeremias is brought to the patroon and asks him to prolong his lease. After a discussion with his son, Oloffte Stephanus Van Wart fulfils Jeremias's wish who is very pleased because he thinks that this will impress Neeltje. Back on his farm Jeremias hears that his nephew is going to be christened and sends for the dominie. Dominie Van Schaik is on the way to the Van Brunt's farm when he suddenly notices a figure in the undergrowth, which disappears after a second. He reaches the farm and christens the child Jeremy Mohonk. He wonders about the name because nobody knows, that Jeremy is not Jeremias's son, he is Mohonk's son. A few weeks later, it has become fall, Jeremias is out on his cornfields when he suddenly notices sound and turns around. First he sees a figure, then he realises that it is the giant Wolf Nysen and that he is about to die.

## Landless Gentry

Marguerite and Muriel Mott go to Depeyester Van Wart in order to buy his farmyard but he does not want to sell his land. He is still thinking about the decline of his family property when suddenly his daughter Mardi comes in with some of her friends. Depeyester knows them being drug addicts and homeless people. He is ashamed of his daughter and wants her to go. Both dispute about her way of life until she and her friends leave the farm. In this situation Depeyester remembers the discussion he had with Walter Van Brunt about Walter's father Truman. The Mott sisters, who are real estate agents, offer three thousand and tell Depeyester to think about this, before they leave. Joanna, Depeyester's wife does not return home this day. He thinks she participates in an Indian demonstration but in fact she spends her time with an Indian who is her lover. When she comes home the following evening she sleeps with Depeyester for the first time in fifteen years, because she knows that she is pregnant and she wants him to believe that he is the father.

# The Dunderberg Imp

Walter is waiting for Mardi at the Peterskill Marina on Halloween afternoon. They want to sail to the ghost ships in her boat. While waiting, Walter thinks of his wife Jessica. Jessica counts fish larvae at work and Walter himself is without any work, although Van Wart offered him a desk job. Walter rejected his offer but begins to like Van Wart. Walter has got a bad conscience because he meets Mardi only one month after his marriage to Jessica. Then Walter has got another flashback: He thinks of a billiard game with Jessica, Tom, Mardi and Hector. Mardi wants to know if he meant it for sure- to visit the ghost ships and she asks him if he will accompany her. When Mardi and Walter are on the ship he sees an old ship, a blistered hulk, and notices that someone is living on it. Mardi tells him that it is Jeremy Mohonk, an Indian. The ship is named Kitchawank. Then Walter thinks of an excursion with his grandfather, long time ago. There his grandfather told him that the imp was someone who brought storms and thunderbolts. He told Walter a lot of legends. Captains offered barbados rum to the sea to make the imp like them. Walter and his grandfather sailed to Martyr's Reach, the most formidable reach of the fourteen. Behind it was World's End, a graveyard for sloops and steamers. The weather was extremely bad and only because Walter provoked the imp on their last tour. Two weeks later his grandfather died.

When Mardi is under deck she calls Walter, but he does not dare to go to her, because he knows that this will end with sex. He notices something moving along the rail of the ship and he thinks that it is a hat, a hat the Pilgrim fathers wore. Then he hears a sound, an "odd flatulent sound". Walter thinks that he is seeing bums, just as in the night of his accident. In one of the bums he recognizes the person Walter's father called Piet, but there is nobody walking on the rail.

Mardi wakes him from his daydreams - she is naked...

Although Walter wanted to meet Tom and Jessica at the "Elbow", they come back to the port too late. Mardi and Walter really had sex but now Walter thinks that he is seeing again one of these "phantoms" walking on the dock, but this time it is Jeremy. Jeremy tells him that he knew Walter's father and that he was a "real piece of shit".

# Mohonk, or the History of a Stab in the Back

Mohonk senior, living at the Shawangunk reservation in the beginning of the 20th century, is married to a Seneca, called Mildred Tantaquideon. She gives birth to a son, called Jeremy Mohonk junior, in 1909. Jeremy is the last known surviving member of his tribe- the Kitchawanks.

One day, when some men and women of the tribe are scaling fish, Horace Tantaquideon, Mildred's brother, wants to murder Mohonk senior with a knife. Mohonk survives, but has to sit since this 'accident' in a wheelchair. The kind of tribe an Indian belongs to depends on the place where someone is born and so Jeremy junior is a real warrior from the north, so Mildred thought, but now - after the stabbing - he is one of the Kitchawanks from the south. Mohonk senior can never walk again. Jeremy learns to read and to write at an agency school. In addition to this, his father teaches him the history of his tribe and of his race. One legend is the legend of Manitou. Manitou sent his wife to earth, she sat down in the sea when the whole earth was covered with water, and so she gave birth to dry land then to the plants and trees and at last she gave birth to three animals: to the deer, the bear and to the wolf. Every human being has got his nature from one of these animals. Some people are shy like a deer and some are brave and strong like a bear.

After his dad's death, Jeremy is the last of the Kitchawanks, and he wants to leave the reservation. His mother marries a new man only a little time after her husband's death. Although Jeremy has finished school and has got a "white man's diploma", he cannot make it in Jamestown as an Indian and so he goes to Peterskill. There Jeremy finds work at Van Wart Foundry. At the weekends he hikes up into the hills and one day he meets Sasha Freeman- naked. Sasha is friendly, twenty years old and Jeremy tells him that he is the last of the Kitchawanks. This meeting is the beginning of a very good friendship. They meet nearly every weekend for the next two years and hike out along the river and climb the hills. Jeremy teaches him a lot of things like how to make a campfire or the legends and history of his tribe and how to listen to the footfall of a fox. Eight years later Sasha publishes his first book "Marx among the Mohicans". He is the first and only friend of Jeremy and he teaches him Marxist literature, history and philosophy, like 'property is theft'.

One day Jeremy is climbing the hills and knocks down Van Wart - THE symbol of the expropriator. He comes into prison at the age of twenty. Now his long hair is shortened. He has to stay in prison for the next seventeen years as he behaves rather recalcitrant. In prison he experiences bad punishments by his cellmates and by the guards. He leaves the prison in the morning and in the evening he is sitting at a campfire close to Nysen's roost in the woods. He is living there for one year until Standard Crane discovers him in autumn of 1947. His father Peletiah tells Jeremy that he bought the land from the dead Van Wart. Jeremy is happy about this news and about the fact that Peletiah is of the same opinion about property like him: Peletiah tells him that he can stay

on this land as long as he wants to. Two years later Peletiah allows 20.000 like-minded people to have a concert on his land far of Acquasinnick Creek. On the day of the big concert, there are a lot of arguments and Jeremy gets to know Truman Van Brunt. A lot of people want to assembled people and Jeremy sees in Truman one of the Van Warts and the Van Warts brought Jeremy into prison. Jeremy attacks Truman and hurts him very badly. Truman would have died if there had not been the dwarf Piet.

Six months later Jeremy leaves Van Wartville. He goes back to the reservation near by Jamestown to search for a mother to his twenty sons. He chooses Alice, her two sons by a previous marriage are grown men now and she is nearly forty years old now. Jeremy begins to work in a supermarket, and his wife does not give him the hoped for sons. Jeremy is unhappy and goes from Jamestown to Peterskill and back for some time. He is fifty years old when he meets Joanna Van Wart.

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# The Wailing Woman

In October 1666, Jeremy is 2 ½ years old. Until recently, his name has been Squagganeek and he has lived in an Indian village. Now he is sitting under the kitchen table, rehearsing his first favorite Dutch words, while his mother, Katrinchee is doing housework. In an unattended moment Jeremy crawls to the door and though he knows that it is strictly forbidden to him, he runs to the place where his peglegged uncle Jeremias is burning stumps. There he first meets Wolf Nysen, the Swede. After this day, all luck seems to have left the small family. After a bad harvest, they almost starve to death in the extremely cold winter.

One day in January, they are already feeding from the stock of seeds of the following year, a doe - already butchered - hangs from the roof of the porch. Katrinchee reacts almost hysterical. She fears the deer and does not want it in the house. Jeremias fancies the deer coming from Staats, his adoptive father, but Katrinchee knows that Staats has nothing to eat himself. She is sure that it has come from her father to punish her. But Jeremias and Jeremy fry the meat and eat it.

One night Jeremias wakes from cold air on his face and finds the door open and snow coming in. Katrinchee is gone. He follows her footprints and finds her in her nightdress under the white oak tree, her hair cut with a knife. She has done it because she feels guilty of her fathers suicide. From this day on Katrinchee stops eating and grows thinner and thinner. In early March she disappears again and Jeremias does not find her though he goes to his far away neighbors, relatives and the Indians, where Katrinchee and Jeremy stayed before they returned to Jeremias.

Finally, when the snow is melting, Jan Pieterse, the shopkeeper, finds her dead body at the foot of the blue mountain. When burying his sister, Jermias regrets having left Schobbejacken, Holand. He feels sorry for himself, his parents and little Wouter. But he regains his strength, accepting that he is down, but not defeated.

During the funeral supper Staats offers Jeremias to come back to them anytime. But Jeremias wants to go on farming because he has a contract with the patroon.

Anyways, he accepts that he cannot go on farming without someone to help him. He decides to search Neeltje Cats.

# Tofu

Jessica, being married to Walter for 12 weeks, and Tom Crane, are at Tom's place. Tom is simultaneously feeding the fire, cooking a meal of Tofu and vegetables and serving wine. Jessica is sitting completely dressed on Tom's six feet high bed, up there is the warmest place in the cold room.

In the morning Jessica's car would not start but Walter, unemployed after his accident and still in bed, did not want to help her and advised her to call Tom. This did not help her because Tom's place is too far away.

Thinking of her career, Jessica decides that she would not stay at home and asks her father to drive her to work. After work, Tom gives her a ride home on his Suzuki 50 where they find Walter gone. Jessica follows Tom to his place for dinner and leaves Walter a note. Both are worried about Walter, who has grown strange after his accident. He even hallucinates: seeing his long dead relatives and ancestors and his father.

A visitor appears at the cabin who by noise on the steps they first fancy to be Walter, but it is Mardi. Mardi behaves extremely extroverted and is obviously on drugs, which gets hard on Jessica's nerves. They smoke some of Mardi's hash and soon, perhaps because of the combination of the meal, the wine and Tom's homegrown hash, Jessica feels extremely sick and hastens to the door. There she finds - Walter. She and Tom welcome him by embracing him and slapping backs.

Mardi does not move at all but she sends him a special lascivious smile and offers him her pipe, which he accepts. Jessica notices Mardi's smile as well as the special expression in Walter's eyes. This and his behavior towards Mardi evoke jalousie in her and bring back the great sickness that forced her to the door with the feeling of being poisoned.

# Martyr's Reach

Christina is despaired. Truman treats her coldly and he does not take any notice of his wife. He looks like a zombie and he is drunken every evening. Christina does not know what happened to her husband, but she knows it is not another woman. Maybe, he works too much. He changed, when he started writing his thesis.

One day, when Truman is at work, Christina takes a look at his thesis. *Manorial Revolt: The Crane / Mohonk Conspiracy*. She reads the first five pages and after that, she thinks that these things could have influenced her husband.

After Truman got his diploma, his behavior does not change. Some days later, Truman and Christina want to go to the concert. On this morning, Truman smiles at his wife and he is playing with his son Walter. For Christina this is a glimmer of hope to make a new start with him. But during the concert, Truman disappears. Two days later, Christina has still no sign of life of him. She has

not slept since he disappeared and all around her are dark grimaces. Then Truman comes home. His clothes are covered with blood and he smells of alcohol. He does not say a word to Christina. He pushes her away and packs his bag. Then he leaves the house and drives away. When Christina looks at the leaving car, she notices Piet looking out of its window.

The same day, Christina's parents arrive. They broke off their holidays to support their daughter. Christina seems to be far away in her thoughts and insensible. From this time on she does not want to live any more. She stops eating and is finally taken to hospital where she is supported intravenously. In her weak condition, she is dreaming of her happy times with Truman.

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## Sons and Daughters

On Neeltje's 16th birthday, Jeremias comes to take her with him. Without saying a word to her family, Neeltje goes with him.

When her father comes home, his wife and Neeltje's two sisters tell him that Neeltje has disappeared. Joost Cats is sure that Indians took his helpless daughter and abducted her. He runs to the patroon to get some help. The son of the patroon wants to kill all Indians and suddenly, an old Indian appears. His name is Jan and he has a message of Neeltje. He should deliver greetings to Neeltje's father. When Joost asks him where his daughter is, he describes Jeremias van Brunt, the cripple.

On the next morning, Joost Cats and the jongheer set out to Jeremias. Joost wants to get his daughter back. When they arrive, Neeltje and Jeremias are lying in bed. Joost calls Neeltje a bitch and tries to kill Jeremias. But Jeremias knocks him out.

Two weeks later, Jeremias and Neeltje get married. Even Neeltje's father is with them.

Three months later, Mohonk, Jan and another young Indian come to Jeremias' and Neeltje's home. Mohonk wants his son Jeremy back, who is living with Jeremias and Neeltje. They start fighting and Jeremias kills Mohonk. The next morning, Wahwahtaysee arrives to take her dead son home. Five months later, "Wouter", the son of Jeremias and Neeltje is born.

## Collision the Second

Walter is celebrating New Year's Eve 1968 in a house of a stranger, where Mardi took him. While he is searching for her, he has a flashback. He thinks of his wife Jessica who loves him and does everything for him. Nevertheless, Walter has an affair with Mardi. One day, Jessica caught them in the act and left him. All his friends and parents avoid Walter, but today he misses Jessica. Back in reality, Walter is in the bathroom and suddenly sees his grandmother sitting in the tub. He gives no attention to her and leaves the bathroom to search for Mardi. But Mardi left the party with another man - Joey. Walter leaves the party too and drives away on his bike, drunken and stoned.

Suddenly he is surrounded by a platoon of motorcycles, whose drivers are dead men. Walter is very confused and he even notices his father at the back of his bike. Suddenly his father gives Walter a shove, who loses control and falls down on his left side.

# The Hoodwinking of Sachoes

Walter wakes up in hospital, surrounded by Hesh, Lola and Jessica. When he recognizes Jessica, he wants her to go away. Walter gets to know that he can be lucky to be alive after his accident and that he 'only' lost his left foot. Some days later Mardi and Joey visit Walter at the hospital. Walter finds Mardi guilty of his accident because she left him alone at the party. They quarrel about it and finally Mardi and Joey leave the room. Walter is so furious that he begins to shout so that the doctors have to give him a tranquilizer. When Walter wakes up, the bed next to him is occupied. When he identifies the man, Walter is shocked. It is a man of his dreams - Piet Aukema. When Walter introduces himself, Piet suddenly remarks that he knows Walter's father. Even Lola remembers Piet, and the other way round. Later, Walter asks Piet about his father. He tells some stories and brings the conversation round to Sachoes and what had happened in the 17th century. Walter remembers a story about Sachoes - the hoodwinking of Sachoes: Jan Pieterse sold axes and other possessions to Sachoes and his tribe. In return Pieterse got land from the chief. Oloffte Van Wart, a friend of Pieterse, tried to get the land with the help of Pieterse. He persuaded Sachoes to give his land to them for many presents. Later Sachoes was elated how many new things he got for a piece of land. But he did not know that his brother Wasamapah also hoodwinked him. The whole tribe saw Sachoes as a traitor, because he sold a large part of the land. Wasamapah took his position as chief. Sachoes finally died from grief. Then Piet talks about Walter's father and tells him that he is teaching in Point Barrow, Alaska. To search him, Walter needs a lot of money. When Walter leaves the hospital, he directly goes to Depeyster Manufacturing and asks for a job.

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## Open House

In this summer Depeyster is delighted because his wife Joanna is pregnant and he is sure that he will be the father of a male heir to Van Wart Manor.

Depeyster is leading visitor groups through house and grounds, and one member of this group, Marguerite Mott, reports that Peletiah Crane has had a stroke and that his grandson Tom has to overtake his office. Depeyster happily assumes that the price for the acres he wants to buy from the Cranes will lower as a consequence. His positive thinking is destroyed by his wife's apparition. She looks completely like an Indian, wearing Indian clothes and decoration. The bewildered visitors slowly come back to their conversation after Joanna's entrance. Depeyster tries to calm down the visitors by stating that Joanna's outfit has only been put on for the visitors.

After that Mardi enters the room, red-faced, just wearing an imitated leopard-skin bikini. She greets the visitors, heads to bar, downs two glasses of sherry and leaves the room with Walter. Shortly after these incidents, the group says good-bye. Joanna tries to sell Indian pottery at the front door. Mardi and Walter smoke pot and have sex in Mardi's room.

## In de Pekel Zitten

In November 1678, Jeremias refuses to cut the wood the patroon Stephanus Van Wart requires in addition to the usual rent. That is why Joost Cats and Neeltje urge the children to cut the wood for their father to avoid Van Wart's punishment.

The next year in summer, the patroon forces his tenants to widen the road leading through his estate. Joost takes this message to Jeremias, but his son-in-law objects to fulfill this order; his son Walter and his nephew Jeremy, who both admire Jeremias' behavior, are of the same opinion and they are not willing to follow the urge neither of Joost nor of Neeltje.

When the tenants meet with the patroon - who is striving for possessing the biggest estate in the colony - in order to widen the street, the patroon notices that Jeremias is absent. He sends Joost to force his son-in-law to arrive within the next hour, but Joost only returns with Wouter and Jeremy. They tell Van Wart that Jeremias has just refused to come and that Jeremias is not ill, as Joost has tried to apologize Jeremias' absence.

As a result of this, the patroon hands over Joost's office to Albregt van den Post and decides to evict Jeremias after he has paid the next rent.

# The Grand Union

In the beginning of the chapter Tom Crane, the saint of the forest, is walking down the aisles of the Peterskill Grant Union, a shopping center, buying his vegetarian basics. While he is picking out his groceries, he is lost in dreams about his soulmate Jessica, his bees at the shack, his garden and the Arcadia. But suddenly, his happy dreams are interrupted by someone saying 'Hello' to him. It is his oldest and closest friend Walter Truman Van Brunt, Jessica's husband.

Tom is very shocked, and does not know what to say. Walter asks Tom the question he feared most. He asks him about Jessica and what she is doing. Tom does not know whether he should tell him that they are living together in his shack. But then Jessica joins the two, and tells Walter right away that she is in love with Tom now. No one is feeling good in the situation they are in. Tom, who feels like he has betrayed his friend, does not say anything, but Walter and Jessica are very upset and quarrel about the past. After a while Walter just pushes his cart around the corner of a shelf and leaves. The rest of the day Tom and Jessica stay at home, while Jessica is sobbing and Tom tries to cheer her up. At night, Tom is lying beside Jessica, realizing that she is still feeling something for Walter. He feels jealous, is afraid to lose her, regrets what he has done and is sad.

# A Question of Balance

Walter Truman Van Brunt is still at the supermarket, picking out his groceries as if nothing has happened. When Walter is then finally checking out, he looks up and searches for Jessica and Tom, but both of them are gone. He does not want to believe that Jessica is now living in that old shack together with Tom. Being very angry and upset, Walter buys a bottle of scotch, drinks some of it and drives away heading for Laura's, Van Wart's secretary's, house.

As Laura is not at home, Walter empties the bottle of scotch. He is cursing and dying from self pity. When Walter is driving away, totally drunk, he drives to Van Wart Manor.

On his way he almost has an accident again, but finally reaches Van Wart Manor unhurt. But Mardi does not want to see him, because she is waiting for her boy-friend, Rick. She is stoned and just screaming at Walter to go away. Before Walter leaves the house, he meets Depeyster Van Wart, who listens to all his problems, and tells him to forget Jessica and Mardi because they are not worth him. Walter tells Van Wart that he wants to go and see his father, but Depeyster tells him to stay for a while because he does not want him to leave his job. Then suddenly Walter runs out of the house and drives back home, where he has to throw up.

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## Between a Rock and a Hard Place

In the summer of 1679 when the patroon Stephanus Oloffte Rombout Van Wart wants to widen roads and improve his property, he gets to know defiance. Jeremias is the trouble-maker and Stephanus shows his tenants who the boss is. Because Jeremias' oldest son, Wouter at the age of 11 and a half, confronts the patroon and defends his father he immediately becomes imprisoned with his half-Indian cousin Jeremy like hardened criminals. The stern patroon will only free them when Jeremias begs on his knees for the privilege of serving him. When his boys shall come on stocks Jeremias comes with all the neighbors. Jeremy, being the son of Mohonk son of the Sachoes, can run off before the schout, Aelbregt van den Post, can put his feet into the foot holes and his hands into the wrist holes of the stocks. The schout follows the young boy into the woods without success. Being afraid and left alone Wouter stays at the place keeping out of more trouble and puts himself into the stocks. The patroon, on his horse with two pistols in his hands, stops the crowd of his tenants trying to keep control. Only Jeremias walks straight forward to free his son. After he freed him his whole expression changes into defeat. He finally begs the patroon for forgiveness and wants to be a loyal servant like anyone else, which his son Wouter will never understand. Jeremias has to stay in stocks for one week being fed by his adoptive mother Meintje van der Meulen and his wife Neeltje Cats. His adoptive father, Staats, and half-brother Douw watch over him. Mostly Jeremias' soul is hurting, he has worked for nothing all his life and is as well an obedient tenant as his parents. Wouter runs into the woods, trying to get hope from his cousin. After a long search without success he goes back home to his mother, who cures him. Wouter does not accept his father and thinks he is a coward and a fool. Wouter will see his new ideal, his cousin Jeremy, again 18 months later.

# Such Sweet Sorrow

After coming out of hospital, Walter walks through the woods to Tom Crane's cabin trying to find his wife Jessica. In the night of Halloween, he has lost his second foot and now has a hard time walking on two prostheses. When he reaches the cabin he notices that only Jessica's Bug is parked in front. He knocks at the door and calls her name. She opens the door with a surprised look but then asks him in. They do not know what to say, then sit down, drink cheap wine and talk. Walter wants to go to Alaska to find his father because his bedmate in hospital knew Truman and said that he was in Alaska. She just tries to tell him some unimportant things about the environment, war, etc. In his own way he says good-bye to Jessica: he violates her. When it is over she looks whipped and wounded. He leaves her being scared of what he has done. In Alaska he finds his father.

## Costumes

Joanna Van Wart meets Jeremy Mohonk for the first time when she comes to Jamestown and asks Jeremy for the way to the social hall, because she wants to bring the things there that she collected in Peterskill. Jeremy shows her the way and the same night, they go to a motel and have sex. Jeremy likes the good-looking woman and is especially fascinated by the fact that she is Rombout's daughter-in-law. When Jeremy wants to go back to his shack in Peterskill, Joanna takes him with her and brings him food and other things. After three years, Jeremy tells Joanna that he wants a son, who he thinks shall be his revenge. When he tells her that he wants to live on a boat at the marina, she does not like the idea, because Depeyster has a boat there, too, but she gives him the money. When she visits him, being already pregnant, he sends her away saying that he does not want her or her child. The next morning he is gone. On Halloween, Peletiah Crane dies and Depeyster is in high spirits, because he thinks that it is now easy for him to buy the Crane property. He wants to go to a Halloween party at the Outhouses like every year and asks Joanna to come with him this year.

# Van Wartwyck, Sleeping and Waking

In the winter of 1680/81 Stephanus' cousin Adriaen, a fat and stupid young man, comes to Van Wart Manor. Jeremias and Neeltje begged the patroon's pardon the summer before. Their son Wouter feels betrayed because his father is no longer the self-confident man he used to know, but submits himself to the patroon. Wouter goes to Hackaliah Crane's kitchen school and becomes the friend of Cadwallader, Hackaliah's son. The young man visits the Van Brunts very often and after some time, falls in love with Wouter's sister Geesje. Wouter again feels lonely and betrayed.

One night, Jeremy comes back from the woods. He brings his wife, a Weckquaesgeek girl, and a nine-months-old boy with him. The Van Brunts are very happy, but Jeremy does not talk to them. He builds a wigwam near the farm and lives there with his family.

At the end of October 1692, when Jeremias goes to the woods, he finds Wolf Nysen's body. He lays him out in his house and after three days, he buries him under the white oak next to Katrinchee and Harmanus. After the funeral, Jeremias starts eating very much. He grows very thin, because there is never enough to eat for him and after two weeks, he dies outside the house in search of food. The van der Meulens, Geesje and many other people from the region also die. Wolf Nysen's grave is hacked open and the body burned, as the people attribute the many deaths to him.

When spring comes, everything turns to good again, but it is already said that there will be a fight between the Van Warts and the Van Brunts.

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## Barrow

Walter takes a plane from Fairbanks to Barrow where he hopes to find his father. Flashed by the low temperatures and the life threatening cold he gets off the plane and enters the seemingly only cafe in Barrow, which is full of Eskimos. There he finds out that his father works as a teacher and lives right across the street. The reunion of Truman and his son is not very emotional because Walter is almost frozen to death and cannot even move to hug his dad. After warming up with some gin, Walter has to realize that his father did not open one of the many letters he had sent him. Furthermore he does not seem to feel extraordinary guilty about what he did to Walter and his mother. So Walter tells him about the enormous emotional conflict he had to solve in his childhood because of the fact that his father had run away and his mother got sick and finally died of it. Listening to his son and his story Truman falls asleep. As he wakes up, he claims to tell HIS story.

## Truman's Story

Walter has to find a way to understand his father's side of the happenings in the past, which is not easy because he has been influenced by Hesh and Lola for so long. First Truman tells him about the feelings he had for Christina and how Depeyster came in his life. He emphasizes that in the beginning after he had met Christina he did not have any contact with Depeyster and joined the party as she did. Then two years later he met Depeyster again which - from Truman's point of view - was not accidental but planned by his old army fellow. Fact is for Truman the high number of seemingly coincidental encounters with this patriot who - helped by Piet - tries to convince Truman of republican ideals. Regarding these ideals Truman still today is convinced that he betrayed his family and friends for a 'higher principle'. Disgusted by the lack of sense of his father Walter has to vomit. Later on Truman tells Walter about the feelings of hate he had towards himself after he had done it. He also informs Walter how Sasha Freeman had planned the riots to get publicity and about the attack by the Indian. Walter instead of accepting his fathers point of view of the past and his feelings as reasons for his actions is not satisfied with it and wants to know the 'real reasons'. So Truman after calling his son "a real masochist" draws the attention onto Cadwallader Crane and Jeremy Mohonk.

# Gallows Hill

In his father's house in Barrow, Alaska, Walter lays eyes on the manuscript with the title *Colonial Shame: Betrayal and Death in Van Wartville, The First Revolt* of more than 1000 pages, which Truman has been working on for the last twenty years. Then his father starts telling him in detail what it is about.

In 1693, when the rent for the patroon is due, the Van Warts organize a big feast for their tenants. Wouter Van Brunt brings everything he has to pay for this year, while his former friend Cadwallader Crane is not able to deliver all the butter, wheat or hens, because his wife died and his stocks were plundered. So he tries to settle the lack by increasing the amount of firewood he transports to the manor. Wouter's cousin Jeremy Mohonk, who has been living in a corner of the Van Brunt farmland with his Indian wife for 12 years now, does not care at all about paying rent, nor about attending the festivities. After the party, the old commis informs Cadwallader and Wouter that their lease is terminated and they have to leave their farms within two days. Wouter only paid the lease which was valid for his father, not for him. Jeremy Mohonk is also evicted. The three protest against the patroon's arbitrariness. Drunken they smash the manorial windows, knock down Stephanus' son Rombout Van Wart, and burn the barn to which the farmers have delivered their wood. When Stephanus comes to the village the next day, he is searching for the three rebels with a small combat troop, destroys Jeremy's shack personally, has a gallows erected and posts a reward for their capture. But for six weeks they are able to survive undiscovered in a cave. Then, Wouter leaves them alone and furtively, knocks at the manor's door and begs for mercy. He accuses Cadwallader and Jeremy to be the main perpetrators. The result is that these two are sentenced to death in its cruelest form and Wouter gets away with some lashes and banishment from Van Wart lands. He even returns some years later, becomes a fisherman and founds a family.

Truman finishes the story and tells Walter about the unlucky fate that he named his son like this "scumbag", this traitorous Wouter without knowing. But Walter suddenly accuses him of being completely crazy, leaving his family behind because of this 300 year-old rubbish, and sets out for flying back home.

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## Hail, Arcadia!

Tom Crane now spends most of his time on the *Arcadia*, the “pot ship”, which symbolizes the hippie ideals. Here he is second mate, transformed from the “Saint of the Forest” to the “Holy Man of the Hudson”. Furthermore, he left his shack and moved into his dead grandfather’s old farmhouse with Jessica, who is studying marine biology at N.Y.U. now.

One day, the *Arcadia* crew and Jessica are sailing through stormy weather to a hippie party at Garrison to celebrate the sloop’s first birthday. Tom, being stoned, meets Mardi, who chides him to live with Jessica, tries to turn him on and warns him of her hippie-hating father. Then he is roaming disorientedly through the snow until he finds the party tent and the ship again, where he falls asleep in the galley with Jessica.

## World’s End

Walter Van Brunt, LeClerc Outhouse, Depeyster Van Wart and a stranger are at Depeyster’s home after the rally against the landing of the *Arcadia* at Garrison, which Depeyster had organized, failed because of the bad weather conditions. Suddenly Walter suffers stomach pains, which are triggered by the desire to eat. He starts eating up all the food he can find. While he is eating in the kitchen Mardi shows up. Mardi tells Walter that she is going to Garrison and leaves. After a while Walter follows Mardi. Even though he is not sure about his business there, he reaches the parking lot at the station and parks his car. The party is still going on and he enters the tent. Many people are at the party but he does not recognize anyone he knows until he discovers Jessica. Walter decides to hide in order to observe Jessica. Time passes and the party begins to break up. Tom and Jessica leave and return to the *Arcadia* which is tied to the dock. Walter is waiting until all people are vanished and makes his way down to the dock. He unties the ropes that keep the *Arcadia* tied to the dock and the ship vanishes into the night. Because of the snow and his prostheses he falls down. All of a sudden a boat with a man aboard comes along. Once Walter recognizes Jeremy he panics and tries to run away. Moving away from the dock he can hide in the dark when he hears a loud and terrible noise.

# Heir Apparent

Depeyster is sitting in his office. He is worrying about his wife Joanna, who is supposed to deliver a baby that day. Depeyster is very excited about this and calls home several times because he fears complications. He receives a call from Marguerite Mott, who tells him that he can buy the Crane property. After Peletiah has died Tom needs money in order to repair the *Arcadia* which had an accident after Walter had untied it two weeks before. Depeyster tells Marguerite to buy the property for \$60.000, a prize less than what he had offered before. With this property he fulfills one of his life-time goals. He realizes that this was made possible by Walter, who spent his life for him because after he untied the boat he died in the snow.

Another of his life-time goals is a son but there are complications with the delivery. The doctors have to do a C-section. Depeyster is waiting at the hospital for the results of the surgery. Everything turns out well and his wife delivers a baby boy. Even though he realizes that it is an Indian's baby because of the dark skin and his eyes, he seems to accept it and names him Rombout, after his father.

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## ◀ Characterization ▶

### Analysis of Walter's character

Walter is a young man who does not show any feelings. He represses his feelings, which under stress and drugs are sometimes released. Walter often drives under the influence of alcohol and drugs or has an affair with other women although he is married. He does not care about social values and is not able to control his drives. This behavior proves Walter's weak social identity and weak superego. He is dominated by his personal identity and has a strong ID. Walter's EGO is not well-balanced, he is not able to find I-identity in his life. He is alienated from himself and society.

Walter does not know where he belongs to. His mother is dead, his father has disappeared and he has no real friends. Because of his strong will to have roots and his real family around him, Walter fills the gaps his father and his mother left with imaginations or day dreams of lost or disappeared family members. Being unable to understand why his father left him and his mother died, Walter indulges in self-pity. The loss of his feet definitely aggravates this situation and can also be seen as a symbol of losing balance in life.

Not having internalized the role SON in his childhood, Walter now is not able to accept a role like for example HUSBAND. He distances himself from his roles and the social expectations connected to these roles. He can be called an externalized character type: During socialization he did not internalize norms or develop a sound conscience. He only follows his personal wishes, regardless of other people's feelings. His reasons for doing right are avoidance of punishment and the superior power of authorities. Thus, Walter cannot be placed on an advanced level of moral development. According to *Kohlberg* he has not even passed the first stage of the Preconventional Level. This level is called "The Stage of Punishment and Obedience". Human beings in this stage obey rules, avoid punishment and do no physical harm. The latter is not quite true of Walter, as he violates his wife Jessica in Tom Crane's cabin. Stage two of Kohlberg's moral development, "The Stage of Individual Instrumental Purpose and Exchange", assumes that right is what is fair, that is, what is an equal exchange, a deal, an agreement. One thus acts to meet one's own interests and needs and lets others do the same. Walter does not reach this stage. He has an affair with Mardi only three weeks after he got married to Jessica and rapes her, when she left him for Tom.

When analyzed with *Erikson's* theory of Psychosocial Development, Walter can be located in the 5th stage of Erikson's model. This stage is called "Identity vs. Role Confusion": Adolescents must integrate various roles (here: son and husband) into a consistent self-identity. If they fail to accomplish this they may experience confusion over who they really are. Walter is definitely confused about who he is and when he is told about his roots, his family's past, by his father, he cannot accept it, probably because it is too painful and he has denied it for too many years.

It seems to be a rather logical result of his unstable character that Walter is easy to influence. Not only does he readily believe the dangerous human manipulator Depeyster Van Wart, when he tells him that his father was a patriot and not a traitor, although his adoptive parents and other people have been telling him the opposite for a long time, he also does whatever Mardi Van Wart suggests or wants from him without thinking about her motives or the consequences for his life.

Walter does not show any empathy. He has never learned how to behave in a partnership or to treat friends the right way. The proof can be found in his behavior towards his adoptive parents, in his marriage and his last act of cutting loose the Arcadia, the fulfillment of his best friend's life. From women Walter expects either sex (Jessica, Mardi, Depeyster's secretary) or motherly care (Christina, Lola, his grandmother). Not once in the novel does he treat women as equal partners or confides in them, which can be understood as a hint at his misogynist character.

Quite a few parallels can be seen between the lives of Walter and "Milkman", the young protagonist of Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. Milkman, like Walter, does not know about his roots. He is trying to establish a good relationship to his father, which comprises a denial of his African roots. Milkman also feels misunderstood by society and only in the course of the novel learns not to use but to love women. This is the major difference between the two: Milkman's character develops in a positive way when he finds out about and accepts his roots, whereas Walter has to die as a traitor at the end of the novel, unchanged by the knowledge he gathered about his family. Perhaps the fate of his family of traitors decided this way, as his father alluded to in Barrow.