

Birdsong Part 1 – Chapter 4

- Stephen was sitting in a café that he regularly ate lunch at when he “saw a familiar figure” (Page 31). He quickly left and discovered that it was Madame Azaire. He ran to catch up with her and they ended up in a small apartment.
- Lucien Lebrun is introduced and it is revealed that Isabelle has been bringing food to families effected by redundancies. “Some of them have five or six children.” (Page 32)
- Isabelle says “I am loyal to my husband.” (Page 33) When Stephen finds out about this, which would presumably lessen his advances towards her, only instead he kisses her on the cheek as he leaves.

Birdsong Part 1 – Chapter 5

- In this chapter the reader is presented with some background information on Isabelle. Her maiden name was Fourmentier and “was the youngest of five sisters,” (Page 34) and had “disappointed her father by not being the son he had wanted.” (Page 34) Because of this, he didn’t pay any attention to her and everything she did was not good enough.
- Due to her large family and lack of compassion from her parents “The closest thing she had to a confidante was her sister Jeanne,” (Page 35) who made sure to look after her.
- Her father “became bored by his houseful of women,” (Page 35) and would often neglect his daughters and refrain from caring for them.
- Her mother “assumed her husband had a mistress in Rouen,” (Page 35) This shows that Isabelle has never been around a healthy relationship and had witnessed her sister having an unsuccessful affair with a married man. Her mother devoted her time to making herself look attractive to men.” (Page 35) As it was the only attention she’d receive.
- Her sister Mathilde was “married off to a local doctor,” which made both Isabelle and her sisters jealous, especially Isabelle as it was assumed that she “would stay and look after her parents.” (Page 36) Rather than marry and live her own life.
- Her sister, Jeanne, was the one she turned to with the revelation of this and she told Isabelle “You must find your own life.” (Page 36)
- Isabelle “loved Jeanne as she loved no one else,” and this is almost foreshadowing future events as she turns to her for advice.
- The reader then finds out about how “At her sister Béatrice’s wedding she met a young infantry officer called Jean Destournel.” (Page 36) Who incidentally, has the same name as her sister. He was the only person besides Jeanne to care for her this much. However, when her father met him he declared “he was too old, too junior in rank, too undistinguished in family and too dilatory in his courtship.” (Page 36) Which ended their relationship.
- Three years after their relationship, Isabelle was still at home “At the age of twenty-three she no longer seemed the baby of the house.” (Page 37) Soon after her father “heard of a local family called Azaire,” (Page 37) at a party. He “liked the look of René Azaire.” (Page 37) and had grown tired of Isabelle living at home. “Isabelle’s father saw a solution to a number of difficulties.” (Page 38)
- “Isabelle, who longed to be free of her parents’ house, agreed,” (Page 38) She was interested in Lisette and Grégoire and “She wanted to help them.” (Page 38) She had also agreed that “she and Azaire should have children of their own.” (Page 38) And thus Isabelle became Madame Azaire.

(Page 100) Stephen was impeccably happy and Isabelle “shook her head incredulously from side to side with closed eyes.” (Page 100) The realisation of what she had done had not yet hit her.

- Stephen reassured her “It’s not the first time a wife has left her husband.” (Page 100) Stephen was scared of what Azaire would say, but he kept a calm front for Isabelle. “He felt it was important that he and Isabelle concentrated on themselves.” (Page 101)
- “Occasionally the gloomy river would be caught by moonlight when the railway travelled alongside before retaking its own course through cuttings and embankments whose high sides enclosed it in darkness.” (Page 101) Isabelle drifted to sleep on the train and “dreamed of pale faces beneath rose-coloured lights;” (Page 101)
- “They stayed in a hotel in the spa town of Plombières.” (Page 101) And “For the first three days Stephen and Isabelle barely left their room. Isabelle was tired by the journey and the strain of what she had done.” (Page 102) Her actions had finally caught up with her. “Stephen would sit beside her for hours.” (Page 102) It wasn’t until “the fourth day Isabelle ventured with him for a walk.” (Page 102)
- On this walk Stephen told Isabelle about his life “My father worked for the post office in a flat part of England called Lincolnshire. My mother worked in a factory. They were not married, and when she became pregnant he disappeared.” (Page 103) Isabelle noticed “there seemed to be no emotion in his voice,” (Page 103) like he wasn’t excited reminiscing about his life. “She was fond of me but never looked after me much.” (Page 103) He told her about his grandfather and how “He also taught me how to steal and how to fight.” (Page 103) And how “he would have bare-knuckle fights for money.” (Page 103) Stephen tends to reveal stories from his childhood only after significant events.
- Then, his “grandfather was arrested on some small charge and was sent to prison.” (Page 103) And as a result he was “taken into a home.” (Page 104) He didn’t like the home, he thought it was “as though we were all being reduced to numbers, to ranks of nameless people who were not valued in the eyes of any one individual.” (Page 104) Which is foreshadowing.
- Finally reveals that “One day I had a fight with a local boy, and I hurt him much more than I meant to.” (Page 104) He tells Isabelle that he can “remember seeing him sink to the ground and wondering what I had done.” (Page 104) But because he was too young to stand trial he was never prosecuted, although the incident was reported in the local paper and Stephen says that “a man I had never heard of called Vaughan must have read about it.” (Page 104) He was much like Isabelle and would “have done anything to escape from the institution.” (Page 104) So agreed to him becoming his guardian.
- Vaughan sent him to “A school where they teach you Latin and Greek.” (Page 105) Isabelle said “You seem so old to me,” (Page 105) due to his “big, sad eyes.” (Page 105)
- They travelled South after a week and Stephen turned twenty-one. “They stayed until some money arrived for Isabelle wired from Rouen by Jeanne, whom she had contacted by letter.” (Page 106) They rented a small house and Isabelle wrote to Margueritte, asking her to send them some items. “Stephen did not mind the feeling of loneliness,” (Page 107) and “had found a job as an assistant to a furniture maker.” (Page 107) When they went to sleep “the closeness of Isabelle’s unconscious body made him feel uneasy,” (Page 108) as if the guilt was overpowering him subconsciously.

(Page 132) He was aware that "It would make no difference to the outcome of the war whether he himself lived or died;" (Page 132)

- "Let them die, he prayed, shamefully; let them die, but please God let me live." (Page 132) He thought about his childhood "There was nothing to make it seem a life worth saving." (Page 132)
- Jack made his way to the Captain's quarters "He was ready to die." (Page 132) Stephen is introduced "Pipe smoke obscured the contents of the room." (Page 133) He quickly noticed "It was better made than most of the squalid arrangements he had seen." (Page 133)
- Stephen had no recollection of charging him "noticed the almost empty bottle of whisky that stood on the table." (Page 133) He was told to sit down "He didn't want to sit on a chair that might belong to the officer commanding the infantry." (Page 134)
- "In the centre of the formation was a carved wooden figure." (Page 134) Which is what Stephen used to make.
- They got to talking and Jack was impatiently waiting to see about the charge. "No further action." (Page 135) Jack was relieved and asked if he could go home to see his ill son. "We're undermanned as it is." (Page 136)
- Jack asked if Stephen had children and he replied with a no, to which Jack said "I'm out here with men getting killed all round me and it's him that's in danger." (Page 136)
- Stephen tells Jack that he'd like to go into the tunnels and how the soldiers are "terrified of being blown up from underneath." (Page 136) Jack "suspected they were drunk." (Page 136)
- When he left "From the officers' dugout behind him came the sound of piano music." (Page 138) Even though the foot soldiers and tunnellers barely had enough rations.

Birdsong Part 2 – chapter 2

- "The miners were allowed to go to a village further back than their usual billets for a rest." (Page 139) When they travelled there "they found it hard to march." (Page 139)
- "He felt as though he were walking across a ravine and the road was a hundred feet below." (Page 139) He had to jerk himself awake as "he had been walking in his sleep." (Page 139) He and all the other soldiers hardly ever got to rest. "Wheeler had to be pulled from the ditch." (Page 139)
- When they got to the square "two small boys were playing." (Page 140) They acted as if there was not a war zone close to them, it's as if not even the effects of war effect the playfulness of children.
- There was a woman's voice "it spoke an unfamiliar language with a harsh accent that was strange to his ears." (Page 140) The soldiers would have had a hard time grasping each language in each place they would go.
- "O'Lore and Fielding, had fallen asleep where they lay on the cobbles." (Page 140) They were so tired that they could fall asleep on even the most uncomfortable floors. He looked at Shaw "His unshaved face was black with dirt." (Page 140)
- A dog came over to where the soldiers were sat. It "rested its head on Shaw's motionless knee." (Page 140)
- "Captain Weir directed them to a barn on the outskirts of the village." (Page 140) Even though these soldier's lives were constantly at risk and they had been forced to sleep in the trenches, they were still not given a proper bed. "Many men dropped their packs and slept on the first piece of straw they could find." (Page 140)

- "His skull was throbbing beneath the surface with a broken, accelerated pulse." (Page 145) This is a typical sign of a hangover. "He needed to go and reassure the men in his platoon." (Page 145) He was quick to find Brennan and Douglas "with perhaps sixty cigarette ends on the ground beside them." (Page 145)
- "He was not a popular officer." (Page 145) He was unable to encourage the soldiers to fight "he himself did not believe there was a purpose to the war or an end to it in sight." (Page 145) He was reprimanded by Captain Gray for "telling one soldier he believed the war would grow very much worse before there was a chance of its getting better." (Page 145)
- "Stephen had been promoted from the ranks because he had a better education than most of the others." (Page 145) Captain "Gray picked him out and sent him back to England for a spell with an officer cadet training unit." (Page 146) Gray wanted Stephen "to be re-presented to them as a different and superior being who had magically acquired the attributes of an officer." (Page 146)
- "His dry mouth did not relish the forced jollity." (Page 146) The shells were still falling "it accelerated closer to them. Brennan and Douglas flattened themselves against the front of the trench as it went over." (Page 146)
- "Stephen saw that Douglas's hands were now shaking badly as he rubbed his face." (Page 146) Stephen made his way along the trench to talk to the other men. They "regarded Stephen as little more than a symbol of some distant authority in front of whom they were supposed to behave well and be respectful." (Page 147) Due to Stephen's friendship with Weir "Stephen had learned about as much about the tunnellers as about his own men." (Page 147)
- "The ones he liked best were Reeves, Byrne and Wilkinson." (Page 147) They "never volunteered for anything dangerous but retained a compelling and relentless dislike for the enemy." (Page 147) Stephen found them "fundamentally silent." (Page 147) This shows how fearful everyone was of the shells that were falling around them.
- "They feared shell wounds more than bullets because they had seen the damage they did." (Page 147) Tipper screamed out "His thin body was rigid and they could see the contortions of his facial muscles beneath the skin. He was screaming for his home." (Page 147) This would have alarmed the other men "Tipper's face appeared to have lost all its circulation. The whites of his eyes, only a few inches from Stephen's face, bore no red tracery of blood vessels; there was only a brown circle with a dilated pupil floating in an area of white which was enlarged by the spasmodic opening of the eye." (Page 148) His "iris lost all light and sense of life." (page 148)
- "I don't want this here." (Page 148) Stephen made Reeves and Wilkinson take Tipper away.
- "This eruption of natural fear brought home how unnatural was the existence they were leading; they did not wish to be reminded of normality." (Page 148)
- "At Ypres and in other actions they had been able to prepare themselves to die." (Page 148) At this point in the war, soldiers expected to die, but they would have rather done it in a much painless way. "Men who had prepared themselves to walk into machine guns or defend their trenches to the last could not face death in this shape." (page 148)
- "Reeves had searched for his brother but had found no trace to bury." (Page 148) This shows how the soldiers tended to be left scattered about and unrecognisable, buried in mass graves. "He was my own flesh and blood." (Page 148)
- "Stephen began to be worried about the effects on all the men in his platoon." (Page 148/9) This shows that Stephen is caring "The senior officers would not confide in him;" (Page 149) This is because he is younger than what they are, he has nothing in common with them.

- "Horrocks in white cassock over khaki trousers, bald head gleaming, was standing with bands and prayer book on raised ground like a useless earthbound bird;" (Page 218)
- "He felt no fear for his blood and muscle and bone." (Page 219) The bad weather had caused the attack to be delayed two days "Gray's face was a line of whipped anxiety." (Page 219) Gray said that "The German wire is already cut and many of their guns destroyed. Casualties will be at ten per cent." (Page 219)
- Gray said "If I die, Wraysford, and you are still alive, I want you to take charge of the company." (Page 220) Stephen asked why "you are a mad, cold-hearted devil and that is what we are going to need." (Page 220) He told Stephen "The wire isn't cut," (Page 220) and "The shells have just not gone off." (Page 220) He told Stephen "Don't tell them, just pray for them." (Page 220)
- "At nightfall they wrote letters." (Page 220) Weir wrote to his parents "We expect that this push will end the war," (Page 221) and "I ask you not to worry about me." (Page 221) tipper wrote to his parents "I am so proud to be back with them," (Page 221) and "we can't wait to let Fritz have it!" (Page 221) He also wrote "Tomorrow we will know if we will be seeing each other again one day," (Page 221) and "I am not frightened of what is waiting for me." (Page 221)
- Stephen "felt a terrible anger coming over him." (Page 222) He wrote to Isabelle "I have no one else to write to." (Page 222) He wrote "I am trying to contemplate my death," (Page 222) and "you are the only person I have ever loved." (Page 222) He wrote "I am frightened of dying. I have seen what shells can do." (page 222)
- Jack Firebrace wrote to his wife "I believe it was God's will." (Page 223) He talks about John "He has given back to me memories of him when he was a little boy." (Page 223) He writes "I think we will win a big victory." (Page 223)
- Byrne wrote to his brother, even though he was not a regular correspondent." (Page 223) When he had finished "he could not bring himself to seal the envelops." (Page 223)
- "Eight hours before the revised time of attack the guns went quiet." (Page 224) It was presumed that they were saving shells for the morning but "no man slept." (Page 224) Stephen "went to Hunt, who was kneeling on the trench floor, praying." (Page 224)
- "There was for once no sound of birds." (Page 224)
- Gray informed them "The attack will be at seven thirty." (Page 224) In the daylight "The men's faces cowered and haunted when they were told." (Page 224)
- "Men drank greedily." (Page 224) They saw "the earth ripped up in fountains in front of the German trenches." (Page 225) Stephen watched as "Some men taking photographs from their pockets, kissing the faces of their wives and children." (Page 225)
- "Skylarks wheeled and sang high in the cloudless sky." (Page 225)
- "The air overhead was packed solid with noise that did not move." (Page 225) The "German fire began at once." (Page 225) Stephen waited to tell the men when to attack "The second hand of his watch in slow motion." (Page 225) He "felt alone, as though he had stumbled on this fresh world at the instant of its creation." (Page 225)
- "Stephen saw men trying to emerge from the trench but being smashed by bullets before they could sound." (Page 226) Stephen started walking "his skin tensed for the feeling of metal tearing flesh." (Page 226)
- Hunt fell down "Stephen saw his head opening up bright red under machine gun bullets as his helmet fell away." (Page 226) Then "Stephen went down. Some force had blown him." (Page 226) Luckily "There was no wound." (Page 227)
- "There was a man beside him missing part of his face, but walking in the same dreamlike state." (Page 227) Men were running up and down trying to find a way through the wire

- Stephen “could not comprehend the lengths to which they allowed themselves to be driven.” (Page 282) He found “that there were no boundaries they would not cross.” (Page 282) They “looked like creatures from some other life.” (Page 282)
- “They were built to endure and to resist.” (Page 282) Stephen knew “they had locked up in their hearts the horror of what they has seen.” (Page 282) Stephen saw the “burden of their unwanted knowledge.” (Page 283) He himself “did not feel hardened or strengthened by what he had seen.” (Page 283)
- Stephen could picture the men who used to be in his platoon “he could not always say to whom the flesh belonged.” (Page 283) Some were “reduced to particles so small that only the wind carried them.” (Page 283)
- Gray became battalion commander “the crows wheeled in delight,” (Page 283) at part of the remains of Harrington’s leg.
- “The bursts of light as shells exploded could be viewed as comforting.” (Page 283) Stephen was “sharing with a young red-headed subaltern called Ellis.” (Page 284) Ellis “smoked incessantly,” (Page 284) but never drank. He told Stephen “I want to go to Amiens.” (Page 284) He asked Stephen if he had been before, he told him “It’s got a fine cathedral.” (Page 284) He said “It’s a cold building.” (Page 284)
- Stephen went to check on the men, they had “scraped sleeping holes for themselves in the front wall.” (Page 284/5) He knew “It was almost seven years since he and Isabelle had left on the night train.” (Page 285) He believed that “surely the place could hold no disquieting reminders.” (Page 285)
- Stephen spoke to Weir, there was a “new consignment of canaries.” (Page 285) They went back to the dugout and drank whisky. Ellis thought Weir “looked too old to be crawling underground with explosive charges.” (Page 285)
- “Weir had been on leave in England.” (Page 285) When he arrived “The maid opened it and asked who he was.” (Page 286) He had not been home in two years “his telegram had gone astray.” (Page 286) His mother was out but his father was in the garden “The denseness of the silence pressed into his ears.” (Page 286)
- He found his father and asked what he was doing. His father responded “without looking up.” (Page 286) He praised the toad he was feeding “He’s a champion, this one.” (Page 286)
- “Weir wondered if he was going to say any word of greeting.” (Page 287) He went upstairs “he was waiting for the moment when the familiar wash of normality would come over him and he would be restored to his old self.” (Page 287) His “clothes were too big on him.” (Page 287) His chest of draws didn’t look normal “it was hard to imagine that he had seen it before.” (Page 287) He looked out of his window “the familiar recollection did not bring back any sense of belonging.” (Page 287)
- “Weir ate the meal alone in the dining room.” (Page 288) When he spoke to his parents he “could think of nothing to say.” (Page 288) He and his father spoke about the war “we’ve read about it in the paper.” (Page 289) Weir told him “you can’t imagine.” Page 289) His father told him “Everyone’s doing their bit.” (Page 289)
- “He went out into the garden and sat on a bench where he lit a cigarette and raised the bottle in his trembling hand.” (Page 289)

Birdsong Part 4 – chapter 2

- Weir asked Stephen to tell him his fortune “He wants me to tell him he’s going to survive.” (Page 290) He tells Ellis that “This is voodoo I invented to pass the long hours.” (Page 290)

thousands of tons of Flanders soil." (Page 300) Weir "went white as the earth rocked under them." (Page 300)

- "Weir was so angry that he had stopped trembling." (Page 300) Stephen came with him to the tunnels "He picked up a canary in a small wooden cage and turned to face Stephen." (Page 300) Stephen "not often felt himself out-argued by Weir, saw that he had little choice." (Page 300)
- Weir asked whether he was reluctant to go underground because he was badly hurt last time. Stephen responded with "I'm not frightened of going underground." (Page 301) He was, in fact, afraid of the bird.
- "The opening was not much more than a rabbit hole." (Page 301) Weir went through first "holding the handle of the canary's cage in his teeth." (Page 301) Stephen was "breathing hard." (Page 301)
- "The bird was chirping, though whether from fear or happiness he could not say. Stephen shuddered at the sound." (Page 301) In the tunnels "the rats played and feasted on the unrepresented corpses;" (Page 302) Stephen believed that "Anything was bearable provided he did not have to come too close to that bird." (Page 302) Weir realised that the blast had completely destroyed the tunnel "They'll both be dead." (Page 302)
- "There was something unsettling about the silence." (Page 303) Weir said "Shaw was one. The other was called Stanley." (Page 303) Stephen asked what they do now "We say a prayer. We're all buried in the end." (Page 303) Stephen "ached with fear." (Page 303)
- When they went to leave, Weir's "trailing pick caught against the clay above." (Page 303) The clay fell on to his arm as he "let out a cry." (Page 303) He told Stephen to grab the bird but the cage was empty "You cannot under any circumstances leave a bird free." (Page 304) It was a court-martial offence. Stephen "could feel his heart thudding on the floor of the tunnel;" (Page 304) He was "sodden with sweat." (Page 304) He reached out towards the bird and its wings touched his hand "Stephen screamed." (Page 305)
- When Stephen got the bird he gave it to Weir and said "You must kill it." (Page 305) Weir couldn't bear it, so he asked Stephen to "the two men looked at each other over the tiny yellow head between them" (Page 306) Stephen put his knife away "He fought back the rising tears." (Page 306)
- "With teeth clamped very tight together he held out both hands to Weir." (Page 306) He "jumped as he felt the battering of wings against the palms of his hands." (Page 306) Stephen could feel "the feathery weight beneath his face." (Page 306) He tried to not think of the bird "but no other thought would lodge in his mind." (Page 306)
- "He longed for the mud and the stench, for the sound of shells." (Page 307) Weir told him "You're a brave man, Wraysford." (Page 307) When they existed, Stephen went to get help for Weir. He climbed "in the yellow light, beneath the rain." (Page 307)

Birdsong Part 4 – chapter 4

- "The next day the train took them into a countryside almost buried by the debris of conflict." (Page 308) After "almost three years of fighting the ground had become littered with the light-industrial detritus of war." (Page 308) They saw "the first trunk not blasted and blackened by shells, but still covered with brown bark and crowned with branches in which pigeons and thrushes were gathered." (Page 308)

- They drank brandy, which “made Jeanne feel dizzy, though it seemed to have no effect on Stephen.” (Page 433) She “could see he was making efforts for her benefit.” (Page 433)
- “She was hoping that his forced lightness of spirit would still be with him.” (Page 434) He hugged her thighs and “She felt him begin to sob.” (Page 434)

Birdsong Part 6 – chapter 3

- “The men were guardedly hopeful that their next attack would be their last.” (Page 435) There were celebrations “Stephen had acquired a reputation for survival.” (Page 435) Others “regarded as a lucky charm.” (Page 435)
- The tunnellers were doing trench maintenance. It was used as a listening post “apparently still undiscovered by the enemy.” (Page 435)
- They were eating tinned stew with “fresh cabbage.” (Page 435)
- Cartwright went to see Stephen. He had a “sense of grievance that made him a tenacious arguer.” (Page 435) He told Stephen that he needs to inspect the tunnel. He said “I’ll come and inspect it.” (Page 436)
- “The autumn light showed the blackened, splintered stumps of what had once been trees.” (Page 436) Stephen looked up at the sky before going underground “It was a clear, pale blue with a few high clouds. The tarpaulin-draped entrance to the burrow was dark.” (Page 437) And “It would be the same underground as here in the warm air, with the birds singing and the gentle clouds above them.” (Page 437) He thought back to the first time when he went underground “He himself had changed since then;” (Page 437)
- He climbed down the ladder and “felt the splintering wood of the ladder against his hands.” (page 437) When they reached the bottom “the would all go down the main one.” (Page 437) They had to “go into a parallel tunnel to protect them.” (Page 438)
- “The air had a dense, damp quality. They strained and gasped at they went through a small opening.” (Page 438) There was “no fear or sense of the unusual.” (page 438) When the tunnel became narrower, they were “obliged to go down on all fours again.” (Page 438)
- Crawshaw “made a downward motion with both hands.” (Page 438) Stephen “could feel his heart moving slowly against his ribs.” (Page 439) Evans “lay tight against the tunnel wall, like an unwashed and unqualified doctor listening for signs of hostile life.” (Page 439) He closed his eyes, wondering if “he might drift off to a final sleep.” (page 439)
- “He could sense their fear through the tension of the bodies that pressed against his.” (Page 439) he noticed that “Trench conditions had improved.” (page 439) He “had no fear of going forward provided he felt he could get back.” (page 440)
- Crawshaw carried a revolver “Stephen guessed he was trying to show them how fearless he was.” (Page 440) He thought back to “the feelings of tenderness he used to have for the men.” (Page 440) He “could remember this compassion, but he no longer felt it.” (Page 440)
- “Lorimer’s face tightened.” (page 440) Jack heard the enemy retreating “The air was driven from his chest before he could complete the sentence as an explosion drove them backwards into the tunnel walls;” (page 441) Stephen’s head hit wood “still he was not dead.” (Page 441)
- “He tried to move but felt himself pinned down, as though the earth had wrapped him in heavy, comfortable blankets and was urging him to sleep.” (Page 441) The sound was “replaced by the familiar sound of human agony.” (Page 441)

- The hole after the blast was even smaller “when he first felt the size of it Stephen cried out in despair.” (Page 470) He “had no way of killing himself unless he took the knife from his pocket and applied it to an artery.” (Page 470) He “enjoyed the familiar feel of the single, scrupulously sharpened, blade.” (Page 470)
- Stephen tried to keep Jack conscious “Jack, you have to want to live. You must believe.” (Page 471) Jack was babbling. He spoke about when Shaw “Tore his cross off.” (Page 471) He said about his son “I’m glad he’s dead. I’m glad.” (Page 471) He said that he didn’t want to go home “I don’t want their pity.” (page 471) He said that when he dies “I’ll be with the men who understand.” (Page 471) He didn’t want to go back to Margaret “I couldn’t talk to her anymore.” (Page 471)
- Stephen spoke about the first time he went to Amiens “At that age you have no fear.” (Page 472) He said “No one had ever loved me.” (Page 472) And “I made my own reasons for living.” (Page 472) He said he would “chew my way out like a rat.” (Page 472)
- “I fell in love with her and I believed she loved me too.” (Page 472) He continued even though Jack wasn’t listening “Maybe I was just relieved, overwhelmed by the feeling that someone could love me.” (Page 472)
- “It sounded to Stephen as though Jack was choking.” (Page 472) Stephen “began to knock rhythmically with the end of his knife against the wall of chalk.” (Page 473)
- “Levi followed the other two with a mixture of eagerness and apprehension.” (Page 473) Lamm found a watch “It was a present that had been given to him on some family occasion by their father.” (page 474)
- “We’ve established what happened and we can take your brother back to the surface and give him a proper burial. If we continue underground think we would jeopardize our own lives for no real purpose.” (Page 475) Levi said “They don’t want to be left beneath this foreign field.” (Page 475)
- Stephen “estimated that he and Jack had been underground for five or possibly six days.” (Page 476) He had to “hold his body rigid to prevent himself from screaming.” (Page 476) Stephen said “I’ve never had a parcel.” (Page 477)
- “I’ll be the rescue party.” (Page 477) Stephen said “I don’t want that.” (Page 477) Jack said “The racking, rattling sound filled the narrow space, then stopped. Jack let out a long final exhilaration as all the breath left him and his body fell back in the end he had wanted.” (Page 477) Stephen “felt bitterly alone.” (Page 477)
- “He cursed Jack for dying, for not believing in the possibility of rescue.” (Page 478) The German soldiers heard Stephen’s tapping “It could have been a rat, he thought at first, but it was too rhythmic and too far underground.” (Page 478) Levi said “I don’t believe anyone could be alive after all this time.” (Page 478/9) They believed it to be a British soldier “Then it would be the man who killed my brother and his two companions?” (Page 479)
- Kroger began “to feel light-headed with grief and fatigue.” (Page 479) He “felt only the compulsion to carry on.” (Page 479) The closer they dug the more “The sound of tapping was frantic and much closer than before.” (Page 480)
- There was another explosion, Stephen covered his head with “the imagined fall of the world.” (Page 480) He “thought of Jeanne and of the astonishing smile that rose like a sunburst to her eyes.” (Page 481)
- Levi began “throwing out the earth behind him like a dog.” (Page 482) e “loosened the earth sufficiently at the end of Stephen’s coffin.” (Page 482) Stephen “could see light from some lantern swaying in the tunnel ahead of him. There was air. He could breathe.” (page 482)
- “They were clothed in the German feldgrau.” (Page 482) Stephen’s “hand went to pull out his revolver, but there was nothing there.” (Page 482)

- At the restaurant “She found the news harder to break than she had expected.” (Page 491) She “ordered expensive wine.” (Page 491) As they drank “Elizabeth ached for a cigarette.” (Page 491)
- “I’m expecting a baby.” (Page 492) Her mother said “Well done. I’m delighted.” (Page 492) Elizabeth asked “aren’t you going to ask who the father is?” (Page 492) She responded “Should I? Does it matter?” (Page 492)
- Elizabeth was surprised by how calmly Françoise had taken the news.” (Page 492) She told Elizabeth “My own mother wasn’t married to my father.” (Page 492) Elizabeth was confused “Grand’mère is not my real mother.” (Page 492)
- “Your grandfather married Grand’mère, Jeanne, in 1919, after the war.” (Page 492) She asked if Isabelle was mentioned in the journals “She was my mother. She was Jeanne’s younger sister.” (Page 493) She told her “She brought me up and she loved me like her own child. Your grandfather went to stay with a family before the war. He had an affair with Isabelle and they ran away together. When she discovered she was pregnant, she left him and eventually went back to her husband.” (Page 493)
- “He didn’t find out until he was about to marry Jeanne. I was sent to Jeanne from Germany, where I had been living, because my real mother had died. She died of flu.” (page 493) She told her about Max “he died himself not long afterwards.” (Page 493) She told Elizabeth “Where there is real love between people, as there was between all of us, then the details don’t matter.” (Page 494)
- “He didn’t speak for two years after the war.” (Page 494) She said “I never heard him speak then. And Grand’mère said it was two years of silence.” (Page 494)
- They had moved to England “He talked and was very kind to me. He spoiled me really. But he wasn’t in good health.” (Page 494) He never spoke about the war “From that day on it was as though it hadn’t happened.” (Page 494) He died when “He was only forty-eight.” (Page 494) He “never really recovered.” (Page 494)
- She said “I wish so much he could have seen to it.” (Page 494) Jeanne “nursed him like a mother.” (Page 495)
- Elizabeth attended the antenatal clinic “She found herself referred to as ‘elderly’ by members of the staff.” (Page 495) During classes “Elizabeth made a note to ask for an epidural at the earliest permissible moment.” (Page 495) The “skin of her abdomen was subject to sudden bulges and rippling distortions as it stretched and turned.” (Page 495)
- “Most of the questions at the antenatal class had been concerned with what the women called getting their figures back.” (Page 496) She “was preoccupied by an intense curiosity about her child.” (Page 496) She “could not quite believe that she and Robert had created an autonomous human life from nothing.” (Page 496)
- “Robert managed to arrange matters so he could join Elizabeth for the week before the birth.” (Page 496) His wife “believed he was travelling to Germany for a conference.” (Page 496)
- “The cottage was situated by a track on the side of a hill.” (Page 497) Just like the cottage Stephen and Isabelle stayed in. Then “She began to feel short, sharp contractions.” (Page 497) She “thought of her grandmother, Isabelle, and wondered when and how she had given birth.” (Page 498)
- “In a few days nothing will ever be the same again.” (Page 498) Elizabeth said “I just can’t imagine it.” (Page 498) She felt more contractions “She mentioned nothing to Robert.” (Page 498)