

**Patusan.** Remote district of a native-ruled state in the Malay archipelago. About forty miles inland from the sea, it is located on a river between two prominent hills with a deep fissure between them—a geographical fact that may be interpreted as a symbolic reference to Jim's own divided nature. Patusan is nominally ruled by a corrupt rajah who allows his subjects to be robbed and extorted by a series of local strongmen. This situation is possible because Patusan is dominated by an old European fort whose rusty cannon can easily overwhelm the local residents. Sent to Patusan as a trading agent by Marlowe, Jim restores order to the community, whose people gratefully dub him "Tuan (Lord) Jim." Jim thereby achieves some peace of mind but when his well-intentioned actions in a later crisis cost the lives of villagers, he willingly allows himself to be shot as an act of penance.

**Malabar House.** Social club at an unspecific location that is frequented by English and other Europeans doing business in the East. There, amid wicker chairs, potted plants, and little octagonal tables with candles shielded in glass globes, Jim first tells Marlowe his story in a long and sometimes excited oral narrative. The gulf between Jim's experience on the rusty steamer *Patna* and the background and expectations of the European settlers and merchants is highlighted by the setting, which attempts to re-create, as much as possible, the atmosphere of a conventional English club.

\***Asian port cities.** After losing his certification as a ship's mate, Jim moves about among such cities as Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Penang, and Batavia, working as a water-clerk. As a water-clerk, he acts as advance salesperson for ships' chandlers that sell nautical goods and supplies. It is his job to solicit business from ships newly arrived in port and steer their captains to do business with his employers. Although he is an outstanding water-clerk he continues to move eastward, leaving each job as word of his connection with the *Patna* affair reaches the port. Marlowe sometimes encounters Jim in these ports, while at other times he hears of the man's restless journey ever eastward.

—Michael Witkoski

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## Lord of the Flies

*Author:* William Golding (1911–1993)

*First published:* 1954

*Type of work:* Novel

*Type of plot:* Fable

*Time of plot:* The future, during a nuclear war

*In this novel, a tropical Pacific island with lush vegetation and a pristine beach provides unrestrained freedom for a group of British schoolboys stranded when their airliner goes down and leaves them the only survivors. Their idealized island playground becomes a war zone for the boys until a British cruiser finds and rescues them.*

**Pacific island.** Unnamed tropical island on which the novel is mainly set. The island serves as a metaphor for society in general, providing the setting for the boys' trials and adventures. Through the use of the only symbol of authority they have, a conch shell, they try to re-create British civilized society. The conch, like a whistle, yields an assembly of older boys and "littluns." Throughout the novel, the group who identify themselves as choir boys, and are under the leadership of Jack, progressively stray from the civilized behavior of the assembly area and into irresponsible anarchy.

**The Scar.** Meeting place where the boys, led by Ralph, hold assemblies in imitation of Great Britain's Parliament. Created by the plane crash, free of tropical vegetation, and level and sandy, it is the site of three crude huts. It is also the site of the docking of the rescue cutter that comes ashore from the cruiser.

**Mountain.** Site selected by Piggy and Ralph as the most obvious place to build a signal fire for smoke, the means of attracting rescuers. Irresponsibility by the littluns allows the fire to get out of control, taking the life of a littlun. Jack's hunters cause the keepers of the fire to abandon it for the joy of hunting. The fire goes out; the possible rescue ship passes without seeing the smoke. The mountain is also the place of "the beast" that Simon sees.

**Castle Rock.** Headquarters of Jack's gang, this place is unlike the rest of the island. This piece of rock, barren of vegetation, is slightly set apart from the main part of the island. Easily defended, this rocky place is the site of the violent death first of Simon, then of Piggy, and the planned site of Ralph's violent death. However, Ralph escapes to the thick tropical vegetation of the main island.

**Altar of the "lord of the flies."** Sacrificial site, located in the tropical forest, at which a slaughtered sow's head stuck on a sharp stick drips with blood and is covered with flies. This is also the site of Simon's hallucination or conversation with the beast, wherein he recognizes that this beast is the evil within all humanity, not an external force or form. Instead of creating fear in Simon, as it does in the hunters, this beast seems able to communicate with Simon.

**Tropical jungle.** Simon's place, where he goes to observe nature and contemplate the evil and violence within each of the boys. This is also the place where Ralph finds sanctuary when the hunters set the island on fire, hoping to smoke him out and use his severed head in sacrificial ritual.

**Latrine.** Communal toilet area, away from fresh water and huts, that allows a vestige of British civilization until it is abandoned by the boys in favor of irresponsible freedom.

**Cruiser.** British warship that represents safety, comfort, rescue, and civilized society, even though it may be headed into unsafe water in wartime conditions. To the boys, however, it is salvation.

—Anna Hollingsworth Hovater

## Lorna Doone

*Author:* R. D. Blackmore (1825–1900)

*First published:* 1869

*Type of work:* Novel

*Type of plot:* Adventure

*Time of plot:* Late seventeenth century

*Set in mostly real places during the midst of real historical events, this long-popular adventure novel features dramatic moorland settings.*

\***Exmoor.** Moorland in southern England overlapping the counties of Somerset and Devon. The flat sweep of moorland south of Plover's Barrows farm has bogs here and there with brushy areas around them. Deep ravines run inland from the sea. The fertile valleys are either wooded or farmed. "Exmoor has changed little since the time in which *Lorna Doone* is set. From his childhood home in nearby Newton, Glamorganshire, R. D. Blackmore could see the heights of Exmoor. The roads across the moors are often deep in mud and prone to being covered with dense fog. Dulverton, the home town of John Ridd's great-uncle Reuben Huckaback lies at the southern edge of the moor.

**Plover's Barrows.** Farm of the protagonist and narrator, John Ridd. Located in the East Lynn River valley, it is the largest of three farms in the valley and is the closest to the coast. The farmyard is surrounded by outbuildings—a barn, a corn-chamber, a cider press, a cow house, and stables—and orchards lie beyond. The farm's rooms are underground so that both people and animals are warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The farmhouse has a kitchen and parlor downstairs and several rooms upstairs. John Ridd's room, under the rafters, faces east and from the latticed window he can see

the yard, the wood-rick, and the church in the village of Oare in the distance.

**Doone Valley.** Home of the outlaw Doone clan; an oval-shaped green valley surrounded by eighty-to one-hundred-foot cliffs of sheer black rock. The valley is traversed by a winding stream, on the banks of which are fourteen one-story square houses built of stone and wood. Sir Ensor Doone's house is closest to the Doone-gate. Carver Doone's house is lowest in the valley.

**Doone-gate.** Entrance to Doone Valley. Approached along a straight track, it has three archways, above which a huge tree trunk is suspended, ready to be dropped to bar entrance to the valley. A ledge twenty feet above the road provides a good defensive position. Inside the central archway, a crude cannon guards the entrance. Sentries are posted in a niche part way along the passage.

Another approach to the valley lies hidden in an ash wood. A wooden door leads to a low, narrow passage which comes out at the top of Doone valley.

\***Bagworthy Water** (BADJ-wer-thee). Called "Badgworthy Water" on modern maps, a stream that flows two miles below Plover's Barrow, into the Lynn River Valley. On either side of Bagworthy Water lies dense Bagworthy Wood. Following the water upstream through the wood, it opens into a pool. At one side water cascades over a cliff as a water slide.

At the top of the cliff is the secluded area of Doone Valley in which John Ridd meets Lorna Doone, an ostensible member of the outlaw family. At the top of the slide, Lorna's bower is reached by stone steps leading to a narrow ivy-covered crevice. The chamber, open to the sky, is eighteen or twenty feet across, and its walls are adorned with living ferns, moss and lichens. Grass and moss cover the floor, around the edge of which are seats of living stone.

\***London.** Great Britain's capital city, which John Ridd first visits in 1683. In contrast to Exmoor, London is a hideous and dirty place, although some of its shops and their signs are very fine. Its streets are very noisy, filled with coaches and people and footmen rushing about. John takes lodgings in the house of a fellmonger abutting the Strand, which runs from Temple Bar to Charing (then a village surrounded by fields). The house of Earl Brandir, Lorna's guardian, is at Kensington. It is approached along a lane between fields from Charing Cross.

**Wizard's Slough.** Mire in Exmoor in which Carver Doone dies. Located at the end of a gully south of Black Barrow Down, the slough is a black, bubbling bog ringed by yellow reeds. Bright green watergrass hides it from the unwary. On

*\*Asterisk denotes entries on real places.*

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