

The House of the Spirits Notes: Chapter 11-Epilogue

Chile Settlement Patterns:

- Early settlement occurred in Zona Central where agriculture and most inhabitants are.
- Many major cities surround Zona Central such as Valparaiso, and Vina del Mar.
- Valdivia was a manufacturing hotspot, but most of the locations were destroyed in the 1960 earthquake.
- Both the North and South have little population but have many natural materials. As a result, settlement occurred due to the rich materials in the 19th century.
- As many more settlers arrived, cities began to stray from their original production items and switch to export centers.
- Currently, Castro and Ancud are the major population centers in the rural area of Chile.

Chapter 11:

Quote	Page & Paragraph #	Explanation/Analysis
1. (E, C) "But Alba was not interested in politics; she wanted only to talk about love."	354/2	(E) This makes a lot of sense considering Alba is a young woman, so she would obviously be more inclined to care about love than politics. (C) This reminds me of how I am feeling about this book currently. I want to get back to the family and stray away from politics.
2. (E, Q) "But he immediately softened his voice and begged her to leave before the police came in,"	356/4	(E) Softening his voice is unlike Esteban. (Q) Is he doing this out of fear for the police or out of his love for Alba?
3. (V) "Proletarian women do not complain even when they give birth."	359/2	(V) Proletarian means someone from the social class of wage owners, whose only possession is their labor power.
4. (C, P) "Love's impatience was sometimes so	367/1	(C) Alba and Miguel's relationship is very similar to that of Alba's parents. (P)

unbearable that Miguel ran the risk of daytime visits,”		Considering its comparisons, I believe that their relationship will have the same fate as Blanca and Pedros.
5. (C, Q) “She finally believed that she was the most beautiful woman in the universe because she was able to see herself with Miguel’s eyes.”	367/2	(C) I can’t quite remember how the saying goes, but there is one that states that you are most beautiful when you are in love, which reminds me so much of Alba’s situation. (Q) I wonder if Blanca felt the same way when she was with Pedro?
6. (Q) “With absurd intensity he hoped against hope that his niece’s infatuation would prove to be a passing fancy, because deep down he could not accept that she should need another man more than she needed him.”	373/1	I know this thought stems from love and care for Alba, (Q) but is this thought normal for uncles to feel for their niece? I know Pedro isn’t present for her adolescence, but could Esteban play that role instead?

Chapter 12:

Quote	Page & Paragraph #	Explanation/Analysis
1. (C) “Liquor stores sold out their stock, marketplaces sold their last fresh fish, and bakeries worked double shifts to meet the demand for cakes and pastries.”	377/1	(C) This reminds me of the beginning of the pandemic or when we get hurricane forecasts and the whole island goes wild buying canned food and toilet paper.
2. (E, R) “The same people who had	379/3	(E) So much unexpected behavior has come out of this

<p>spent the night in frightened vigil in their houses poured out onto the streets like a crazed avalanche to storm the banks, demanding their money.”</p>		<p>election and the military takeover, (R) though I suppose in times past, society has been influenced behaviorally due to political changes and lack of food and money.</p>
<p>3. (E, Q) “Everyone, except the foreigners, was willing to risk half his personal fortune in the endeavor, but only old Trueba was also willing to give his life.”</p>	<p>381/1</p>	<p>(E) Though we have seen Esteban’s commitment to his work, I never would have imagined he would give his life for it. (Q) Is he willing to die for the sake of his job, or for the sake of his family?</p>
<p>4. (V) “His job was not a sinecure.”</p>	<p>383/1</p>	<p>(V) Sinecure means a person requiring little or no work but giving the holder status or financial benefit.</p>
<p>5. (C, E) “The country was swept with rumors about products supposedly going to disappear, and people bought anything they could, without thinking, as a precaution.”</p>	<p>386/1</p>	<p>(C) Once again, this reminds me of the fight for soap, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper at the beginning of quarantine. (E) I never thought about it this way, but this has obviously been occurring before quarantine, and it could happen for things not related to lockdown.</p>
<p>6. (E, Q) “Alba understood then that her mother, who up till then had seemed like the only sane person in the family, also had a streak of madness.”</p>	<p>389/2</p>	<p>(E) Blanca has always had powers, but they have never been showy like her mother and Alba’s are. (Q) Could the political climate be affecting her ability to hide her magic?</p>

7. (R) "She was in love. She went from depression to a state of permanent euphoria."	393/1	(R) Generally, isn't it better for others to be in love than to be concerned with politics? I know it might end up making Amanda in danger, but would she rather be scared for her life?
8. (C, Q) "He had matured and was no longer an excitable youth, but his politics had not changed in the least."	394/2	(C) Miguel's inability to change his morals despite his changing appearance reminds me a lot of Esteban. There is a saying that women fall in love with men who resemble their fathers, (Q) could this be why Alba loves Miguel so much?
9. (R, C) "Better a dead father than an absent one,"	399/1	(R) While it may seem strange, it is much better to believe that one's father is dead, compared to the idea that he is living without taking care of you and forgetting your existence. (C) I can relate to this because my father only tried once to reconnect with me, but he gave up and left me alone for years and has now disappeared from the internet.
10. (E) "He was glad to have her there and he wished he loved her."	404/1	(E) It's so interesting to watch Jaime's infatuation with Amanda slowly fade as Amanda's love grows for him.

Chapter 13:

Quote	Page & Paragraph #	Explanation/Analysis
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<p>1. (C) "He had been convinced that nothing like this would ever happen in his country and that even the military respected the law."</p>	<p>410/1</p>	<p>(C) Many times during the last presidency, I was shocked when I heard certain things that were going on in the US. I never expected riots at the capital and the amount of violence relating to the military, so I completely understand this thought process.</p>
<p>2. (E) "Do it yourself. Don't count on me, you bastards,"</p>	<p>412/5</p>	<p>(E) Even in his dying moments, Jaime isn't afraid and continues to support his political beliefs.</p>
<p>3. (V) "The hubbub of the party did not concern the soldiers patrolling the streets,"</p>	<p>414/2</p>	<p>(V) A hubbub is a chaotic din caused by a crowd of people.</p>
<p>4. (E, Q) "I no longer had my sons, and Clara, with her habits of silence and distraction, seemed like a far-off ghost."</p>	<p>419/2</p>	<p>(E) I believe that Clara's silence has to do with Esteban's attitude towards her in their marriage. (Q) I wonder if Esteban realizes this and wishes he did better while she was still alive.</p>
<p>5. (R) "They stopped talking about politics and accepted the idea that they held economic power, but the military was going to rule."</p>	<p>428/1</p>	<p>(R) Often times it is easier to ignore problems you can not change, and in this case, the people have completely given up.</p>
<p>6. (E) "But he knew that he could restore the land again, just as he had once before, because the pastures were intact and so</p>	<p>430/1</p>	<p>(E) Esteban's strength and belief in his ways are stronger than the terror in Chile, therefore he believes he can win while everyone else has lost hope.</p>

was his strength.”		
7. (E, Q) “For the first time in his life, Senator Trueba admitted he had made a mistake.”	433/2	(E) Admitting his mistakes is something I never would have imagined Esteban doing. Seeing this action puts in perspective just how awful this situation is. (Q) I wonder how Clara would feel seeing her husband admit his own defeat.
8. (V, C) “Her strange somnambulism seemed suspicious to her,”	435/1	(V) Somnambulism means sleepwalking. (C) Clara used to sleepwalk when she was young, and now Blanca has inhabited this trait as well.
9. (E, P) “Instead, he opened his arms, and the two men said goodbye in a tight knot, free at last of the hatred and rancor that had poisoned their lives for so many years.”	438/2	(E) I never would have imagined Pedro and Esteban getting along, and the fact that he let him leave along with Blanca is a huge accomplishment in his character development. (P) I believe that Esteban will redeem himself further in the last part of the book.
10. (C, E) “Once a month he sent a check to Pedro Tercero Garcia,”	445/1	(C) This is very similar to the check he sent Ferula after he exiled her from the Del Valle house. (E) Esteban actually has quite a similar relationship with both Pedro and Ferula, disliking them both, but not enough to leave them to die.

Chapter 14:

Quote	Page & Paragraph #	Explanation/Analysis
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1. (E) "Her loneliness, the dark, and her fear distorted her sense of time and space."	454/2	(E) Despite her determination, the seclusion takes over and makes Blanca uneasy.
2. (Q) "But he never let a day go by without seeing Alba, alternating unbridled violence with the pretense that he was her good friend."	457/2	(Q) Is he doing this to make Alba feel more comfortable with him? If so, he has some very twisted views on how to get someone to like him.
3. (E, C) "Alba did not dare speak to her, so as not to break the spell of her happiness."	459/1	(E) Alba spares her friend from the reality of this situation. (C) This is a lot like Amanda and how her love for Jaime distracted her from the military takeover.
4. (V) "Damask cushions, glass incense burners, bells, and every conceivable trinket from a bazaar."	462/2	(V) Damask is a reversible figured fabric of silk, wool, linen, cotton, or synthetic fibers with a pattern formed by weaving.
5. (C) "Thanks to the modern ways- free love, the pill, and other inventions- no one needed prostitutes, except sailors and old men."	463/3	(C) I find it interesting how prostitutes weren't needed as much in Chile, yet around the world prostitution is still a prevalent job. (R) Considering how obsessed our society is with sex and losing one's virginity, I would expect prostitution to always be a needed job.

Epilogue:

Quote	Page & Paragraph #	Explanation/Analysis
1. (Q) "My grandfather died last night."	469/1	(Q) Is this a new perspective? Are we following Blanca or

		Alba?
2. (V) "With its double row of centenarian chestnut trees and its seignorial mansions,"	469/2	(V) Seignorial means relating to or befitting a nobleman.
3. (E, C) "She died without betraying her brother, fulfilling his promise she had made him many years before, the day she first took him to school."	472/1	(E) Even in her death, she would not betray her brother, showing her dedication to their familiar relationship. (C) In a way she is just like Blanca, never betraying him no matter the circumstances.
4. (E) "My grandfather when he was young and stood six feet tall, irrefutable proof that Ferula's curse came true and his body shrank in the same proportions of his soul."	478/2	(E) Esteban did in fact shrink, but only during his death.