



THE FORLORNED

STUDY GUIDE

1. Analyze the significance of cloven hooves on the floor? What other imagery/symbolism could this call to mind?
2. Identify possible non-supernatural causes for the experiences Tom has on the island. Formulate a logical explanation for the “haunting.”
3. Explain the significance of Tom being isolated on the island. How would the story be different if his friends were there? If the island was merely a peninsula? Back up your theory with examples of companionship’s effect on Tom from the text.
4. Defend Tom’s decisions to stay on the island, as on page 65.
5. Judge Skipper’s effect on Tom’s mental state.
6. Compare and contrast Tom’s experience with that of the other lighthouse keepers and caretakers.
7. Interpret the mysterious woman of chapter 15. What significance does she have to the story? What could the author have been using as inspiration?
8. Predict whether or not Tom will survive.
9. Tom stays on the island for much of the story. Explain when and why you would give up, or stay to the end.
10. What do you think will happen with Tom and Janika?
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 - a. List the most significant events of the book.
 - b. Identify the climax of the story.
12. Categorize the incidents on the island. How many do you think are supernatural? How many can be explained by everyday phenomena?
13. Reorganize and summarize the story of the Liberty.
14. Other than Tom, which character was most useful in solving the mystery of The Forlorned? Outline the story without that character. What would change? Would Tom ever be successful?