The Lost City of Z Summaries

Chapter Four: Buried Treasure (pg.37-54)

In this chapter see a little bit of Percy Fawcett’s past and we go back to 1888 when he was a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. Percy apparently received a note saying that there was some treasure in a cave, which he believed may have been a legend, but he went in search of it anyways, because he had very little money. He describes how beautiful the scene is around him, he says it’s so beautiful that even the reputable cynic Mark Twain said it was amazing. He spent hours with his men digging but he never ended up finding the treasure. He returned to Fort Frederick where he was stationed at the time. He then goes into description about several books around the time that accurately described his life. It then goes into some detail about various mysteries and legends of various lost cities and things like that which all seemed mystical and bizarre, these might very well have been the inspiration for him forthcoming adventuring career, Percy at this point in time was not an ambitious person, he was more a self centered teenager that most teens are today and I believe he just wanted the treasure for himself.

Chapter Five: Blank Spots on the Map (pg.54-66)

The book now goes back to the author’s point of view, the chapter starts with him getting out of a cab at the Royal Geographic Society. Most of the next two pages are devoted to the fact that not much of the world at that time had been accurately mapped because there weren’t advanced instruments available to the public in which to do things like that, it says that there are a lot of incidents where this has been an issue such as when boat captains sail into shoals and rocks thinking their miles out to sea. It also goes into some description about some more various legends such as the fountain of youth. Grann then details himself going inside the Geographic Society to look up some research on Fawcett and he begins reading some of the articles from other expeditions including another from 1844 lead by James Poole, who had died from that expedition. He reads some of the extremely old parchments from Fawcett to the Geographic Society that are so brittle and delicate that he must use gloves to hold them, they say that Fawcett had received a diploma saying that he had practically gone to school and graduated to become an explorer.

Chapter Six: The Disciple (pg.66-74)

The book again goes into Fawcett’s past this time to 1900. Fawcett goes to the place that the author and been visiting in the last chapter, The Royal Geographic Society which was in a simple house at the time and had not moved. Fawcett met his friend Reeves and Reeves was beginning to train him to be an expert cartographer, and to teach him how to use several map making instruments such as telescopes, sextants and aneroids. There was an upcoming expedition and there was a formal agreement that everyone had to sign, Fawcett was then taught some basic medical treatments and procedures in case of emergency on the expedition. After a year of long hard studying and work Fawcett took the final exam of the Geographic Society, or RGS for short, and passed with flying colors. That was it for him, he was an explorer, and there was no need to go back to the mind numbing soldier work that had been his life until this point. Fawcett before this explains how he had been cramming really hard with his friend Nina who was just as determined to become an explorer and was willing to sacrifice everything for it.