

Chapter Summaries: Blood on the River by Elisa Carbone

Chapter	Page	Summary
1	1	London, England. October 1606. Samuel “steals” his dead mother’s locket and is arrested.
2	6	Reverend Hunt arranges for Samuel and Richard to travel to the New World.
3	14	Before setting sail on the Susan Constant, Captain John Smith and Sir Edward Maria Wingfield argue.
4	19	February 1607. The Susan Constant, Discovery and Godspeed set sail. Captain Smith is arrested and put in chains for “intent to overthrow the government of this mission, murder the council members, and make yourself ruler.”
5	26	The ships anchor at one of the Canary Islands. Captain Smith is temporarily freed to communicate with the natives.
6	35	Crews disembark on another island. The gentlemen insist on having a special path made through the forest and encounter the poison sap of the manchineel tree. Captain Smith teaches Samuel to clean swords.
7	47	Reverend Hunt convinces the gentlemen that Captain Smith is needed as a translator.
8	52	Samuel, James, and Richard fight on the ship. Captain Smith emphasizes the importance of cooperation in order to survive. They arrive in Virginia. Natives approach and shoot arrows at the colonists.
9	63	The instructions from the Virginia Company are opened and read. The council members include the gentlemen and Captain Smith, but the gentlemen refuse to allow Smith to serve. A place for James Town is chosen and the men build shelters and gather food. Natives begin visiting.
10	75	A few men begin searching for gold and silver and a passageway to the Orient. Natives attack the settlement at night. James tries to escape to the ships but is killed.
11	81	The council members discuss the prophecy they heard from the Powhatan Indians. They decide to build a palisade to protect the settlement from further attacks. Captain Smith begins teaching Samuel to use a sword.
12	89	Captain Smith begins teaching Samuel the Algonquian language. Captain Newport sets sail for England in June 1607. Food runs low; men become ill and die. President Wingfield and some of the gentlemen are keeping the food for themselves.
13	98	Master Wingfield is arrested; Captain Ratcliffe is made president. Captain Smith begins training boys and men to fire muskets. Powhatan natives bring baskets of food to James Town to trade for copper, beads, and English weapons.
14	105	October 1607. Captain Smith is put in charge of trading with the Indians. Smith takes 9 men to search for a passage to the Pacific Ocean. The gentlemen stop working when he leaves. Word comes that Captain Smith has been captured by Indians. The gentlemen take the remaining food to the ships and plan to abandon James Town and return to England.
15	114	Captain Smith returns just in time and orders the gentlemen off the ships. Captain Smith “gives” the Indians two cannons that are too heavy for them to move and finally exchanges them for beads and copper. President Ratcliffe and other gentlemen surround Smith and arrest him for failing to protect two of the men who were killed on their expedition. They sentence Captain Smith to death by hanging.

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16	123	Captain Newport returns to James Town in time to prevent Smith's hanging.
17	128	Captain Smith is freed. Captain Newport unloads supplies and 60 new colonists. Pocahontas visits James Town. January 1608. The fort accidentally burns down.
18	136	The Powhatan help the colonists by bringing furs and food. Rebuilding begins. Thomas Savage is sent to live with the Werowocomoco while Namontack comes to live with the English. Samuel learns that Pocahontas didn't really save Captain Smith; it was just a ceremony. Captain Newport leaves again for England in the spring with more rocks hoped to contain gold. Masters Wingfield and Archer are sent back to London in disgrace; Namontack goes along so he can tell Chief Powhatan about England. President Ratcliffe requires the colonists build him a large house in the woods; this action costs him his job. Captain Smith is elected the new president.
19	144	Captain Smith tells the colonists, "He that will not work shall not eat." September 1608. Captain Newport returns with Namontack and 70 new colonists including Master Thomas Forest's wife and her servant girl, Ann Burras. The Virginia Company wants the colonists to begin making things (like glass) to send back to England since no gold was found in the rocks, and to crown Chief Powhatan as a prince subject to King James.
20	156	Six colonists travel to Chief Powhatan to invite him to come to James Town to receive gifts from King James. They have a feast with the Indians.
21	165	Powhatan refuses to come to James Town and gives Captain Smith 8 days to deliver the gifts to him. Captain Newport insists on going to the Indian village to make Powhatan a subject of King James I. Ann Burras marries John Laydon. Reverend Hunt gets sick and dies.
22	173	December 1608. Captain Newport returns to England taking Captain Ratcliffe and a lot of the James Town food supply with him. Chief Powhatan refuses to trade for food. Samuel is left with the Warraskoyack Indians while Captain Smith keeps trying to trade with Powhatan. Samuel stays with the Indians through the winter learning from them and getting plenty of food. Pocahontas warns Captain Smith about a trap; he is able to escape and return to James Town safely.
23	186	Mid-summer 1609. More new colonists arrive in James Town including Master Archer and Captain Ratcliffe. Some of the newcomers rob an Indian temple, kill some Indians, and set their houses on fire. Captain Smith leaves to try to negotiate peace on behalf of the colony.
24	193	Captain Smith is severely injured on his way to negotiate with the Indians. He returns to the fort. Ann Laydon gives birth to a baby daughter, Virginia.
25	200	Richard accompanies the injured Captain Smith on the ship back to England. The colonists are ordered to build an additional fort at Point Comfort to protect James Town from a Spanish invasion. Samuel decides to kidnap baby Virginia to force Ann to join the group at the new fort where he thinks they will be safer.
26	209	Samuel succeeds in getting the baby to Point Comfort. In the meantime, James Town is attacked, Captain Ratcliffe is tortured to death by the Indians, and most of the men who remain there are killed.
27	215	February 1610. Samuel and the other James Town survivors settle in at Point Comfort.