

Timeline of Events

Mississippi, 1856

Realizing the suffering he has caused, Cass frees his slaves.

State university, 1920

Jack researches his great-uncle Cass Mastern for his dissertation.

Upton, 1926

Willie Stark transforms from a naive politician to a corrupt, dynamic one.

Unnamed state, 1933

Willie defeats an impeachment attempt.

Unnamed state, 1937

Jack discovers a scandal about Judge Irwin and Governor Stanton.

Kentucky, 1854

Duncan Trice shoots himself because of Cass Mastern's affair with his wife.

Burden's Landing, 1918

Jack Burden and Anne Stanton fall in love.

State university, 1921

Cass Mastern's writings unsettle Jack; he quits school and enters his first Great Sleep.

Unnamed state, 1930

Willie wins election as governor and hires Jack.

Burden's Landing, 1936

Willie tells Jack to unearth a scandal on Judge Irwin.

State capital, 1937

A few days later

Anne tells her brother, Adam, about the scandal, which convinces him to run the hospital for Willie.

California, 1937

Jack develops his theory to block the pain of Anne's affair with Willie.

The next morning

Having learned the judge killed himself, Jack's mother admits that the judge is Jack's father.

Soon after

Adam learns of Anne's affair with Willie; he assassinates Willie and is killed.

Burden's Landing 1939

Jack reveals that he has married Anne and is writing about Cass Mastern.

Jack tells Anne Stanton about her father's scandal.

State capital 1937

Jack learns that Anne is having an affair with Willie.

Burden's Landing, 1937

Jack uses the Littlepaugh scandal to convince Judge Irwin to support Willie.

State capital 1937

Tom is paralyzed by football injury; Willie reneges on a hospital contract and angers Tiny Duffy.

Burden's Landing, 1938

Jack's mother admits her mistakes and love for the judge, which gives Jack peace of mind.