

COUNTERCULTURE DREAMS TIMELINES

These timelines are designed as a handy reference for readers who wish to reflect on the story and perhaps discuss it in a reading club meeting. I warn you that although the timelines outline the story's basic structure and themes, they also contain SPOILERS.

Locations: Sydney's North Shore, Sydney's South Shore, Balmoral Beach

1962

Chapter 1- The Goddess

January 1962 – Concerned about the influence of the occult and the goddess in the Congregation of the Suffering Saviour, Mother Jerome visits the Sydney house and requests a meeting with the Williamson family, whose daughters, Angela and Stephanie, attend St Michael the Archangel College, the order's prestigious girls' school in Sydney – she discusses the goddess with Angela and her mother – the reader meets the Williamson family.

Chapter 2 – Danny Williamson

April – Counterculture leader Ronnie Newell comes to Danny Williamson's attention after a university prank reaches the nightly television news bulletin – Ronnie Newell is held responsible for the mischief – Danny is impressed by his audacity and roguishness.

June – Danny meets Max Gallagher after a school football match – they become best friends.

Sept – Moderate looking, but studious Cathy Dunn invites Danny to her school formal – he enjoys the evening but makes no special connection with Cathy – Max Gallagher arranges work in the family company's warehouse for Danny during the Christmas holidays.

Dec – Mrs Williamson warns Danny about Max's interest in 15-year-old Angela – it's strictly not allowed. She also puts him on alert to the possible obligations he's creating to Max and his wealthy family.

VII opens Oct THE FIRST SESSION October 11 – December 8, 1962

Chapter 3 – Danny meets Cathy

Dec – Danny finishes Christmas work for Gallagher's Book and Magazine Company – has first drink with Max and father to celebrate their excellent passes in their final school exams – Christmas celebrations at grandparents Williamson – Vatican II discussed

briefly, causing tension – Danny speaks with cousin Jeremy Williamson, who has left the seminary and is at a loose end – Angela tries to help.

1963

Jan 1963 – Danny joins Catholic Youth Club (CYC) and meets Cathy again – sees older brother Robert’s interest in Barbara Barrington and teases him – arranges to join Cathy at the dancing lessons – the relationship develops – his parents lecture Danny about his responsibilities regarding Cathy – Cathy is disappointed Danny will not attend the university she favours, Arthur Phillip University – Cathy expresses utter disgust for Ronnie Newell and his activities – first Saturday dance with Cathy – Danny unexpectedly finds himself falling for Cathy.

Chapter 4 – Starting university

Jan 1963 – Cathy arranges a picnic at Balmoral Beach for Danny and friends Helen, Geraldine, Mark, and Tim, an old-style picnic under the supervision of their parents – Max arrives back from business trip overseas – he joins Danny and the girls at the CYC dance – Mr Gallagher offers sales work to Danny – Danny organises himself to work and study full-time – buys a secondhand car with Max’s help – Danny and Cathy have first kiss – Max shows interest in Angela – Angela responds and her mother warns Danny again.

Mar – Danny and Max begin at Mitchell University – Max acquires a girlfriend, Kerrie – Danny meets Ronnie Newell for the first time as a first-year student at Mitchell University, East Sydney – becomes friends with him – meets sexy Freya, Matt Pierce’s girlfriend – Matt is Jaz’s art director – Danny helps distribute the first edition of Jaz – Max and Angela continue to eye each other despite warnings from Angela’s mother.

Chapter 5 - Jaz

April – first edition of Jaz is released – public uproar – to Cathy’s and the family’s dismay, Danny and Max are seen on TV selling Jaz – Danny’s first contribution to Jaz is about female pay – Danny and brother Robert discuss the inequity of female and male pay – Cathy warns Danny again about mixing with Ronnie Newell and his crowd – Angela teases Danny about Cathy – Danny finds it difficult to understand what Angela is on about with Max.

Chapter 6 – Angela

August – Angela announces her birthday wish – she wants Max to pick her up from school and later attend her birthday dinner – the request is met with hesitation by her parents and deep disapproval from Robert and Barbara.

Sept – Angela’s humorous birthday charade – she flirts with Max – seems to draw a commitment from him – Danny and Cathy discuss Angela’s antics with Max, wondering whether there is something serious in it or just a game.

Chapter 7- Cathy

Danny is doing well at bookselling, justifying Mr Gallagher’s plans for him – he becomes involved with Jaz and Ronnie.

Nov (late in the year) – Ronnie invites Danny to his parents’ Cremorne house – Danny arrives and finds Ronnie is busy with Kerrie, Max’s girlfriend – gives advice about two scandalous articles planned for Jaz – he warns Ronnie about legal problems – at university, Kerrie asks Danny not to tell Max – offers to have fun with him.

Danny reflects on Cathy’s character and interests – she’s part of a group doing charity work and organises a group to support Catholic girls at university – attracts the attention of a Trotskyist group who bully them – Danny and Max clash with the Trots – Cathy is not happy with Danny’s threats of violence – speaks about the results of the sexual revolution – they discuss what attracted Danny to Cathy, Danny being handsome and Cathy of moderate looks.

November 23 – President Kennedy is assassinated, which causes alarm across the world.

VII Second session 29 September 1963 – 4 December 1963

Chapter 8 – Max and Angela

Dec – Danny ends the year with good results at university and praise from Mr Gallagher for his work – Max turns up for afternoon tea just before Christmas with a Christmas present – the new Beatles album – Angela is overwhelmed and displays her affection for Max – her mother warns her about a relationship with Max – Robert and Barbara find Angela’s behaviour forward and unladylike – Max will be banned if they get too close – at the Christmas dinner, Angela speaks sympathetically with Jeremy who is still having problems – Vatican II discussed, amid tension – Robert and Barbara are in favour of the changes – Angela defends the old Mass – Max leaves a present for Angela and Stephanie and departs overseas on another business trip – Angela and Danny talk about the meaning of Christmas – Danny is rattled when Angela says she hopes he won’t hurt Cathy.

1964

Chapter 9 – Ronnie Newell

Jan – Cathy and Danny go too far in their hugging and kissing – Cathy decides to be more careful and avoid occasions of sin – Max arrives back from business trip and immediately rings Danny, obviously seeking the opportunity to talk to Angela – January edition Jaz causes public uproar – Angela accompanies Danny to university to buy set

texts – comes across Max there – Max shows Angela around Gallagher’s – Angela shows an interest in editorial work – Mr Gallagher encourages her – promises casual work for her during the holidays.

Danny meets aloof Laila Fairburn, Ronnie’s girlfriend, at the Pyrmont production room – Ronnie wants more articles – encourages Danny not to waste himself on a girl who won’t cooperate – one of Ronnie’s girlfriends asks him to contact her – he rejects the offer.

Chapter 10 – Back to work

Feb – Danny and Cathy and friends go on a university harbour cruise – Danny tangles again with the Trots who bother the girls – Cathy again deplores his violence in dealing with them – violent people only respond to violence, says Danny – Danny and Cathy talk about Wilhelm Reich, discuss his influence on the sexual revolution – Cathy is not happy with Danny’s friendship with Ronnie Newell – during orientation week, hambones (stripping off in public) are in favour – Cathy is disgusted by boys stripping down – Max meets Nicky on the boat cruise – Angela wants to know if Max met anyone on the cruise – she shows no jealousy when told about Nicky – the subject of the goddess arises – Cathy intends to contact Mother Jerome about it – questions are again raised about the relationship between Angela and Max.

Chapter 11- The Summons

Mar – Ronnie and his co-editors receive summons for the disgusting January edition of Jaz, as Danny warned – Danny takes Laila and Freya home at Ronnie’s request – Max warns Danny about the two and their spider webs – Cathy again discusses the influence of Wilhem Reich and Ronnie Newell on Danny – warns about their significance in their relationship – Danny increasingly feels he is compromising himself with Ronnie – Max pays for tickets for Angela and Stephanie to see the Beatles in June – Danny wonders if it’s a ruse to see Angela.

May – Cathy asks Danny to accompany her and some friends to a student demonstration outside the American consulate – violence ensues, and the police intervene – Cathy says Marxists were the core group – Angela wants to know if Max was there with his new girlfriend – he was, but she is not upset – Angela says irrelevantly that she hopes Danny won’t break Cathy’s heart.

Chapter 12 - Laila

Ronnie asks Danny’s advice about the court case for the charge of producing an obscene publication – Danny advises that they mount a defence based on producing a work of literary merit – Laila asks Danny to give her a lift home – she lives at Killara, a suburb not far Chatsworth – Laila drops her aloof, distant manner and they discuss Danny’s ambitions – Danny is staggered by the enormous luxurious house Laila lives in – he learns Laila has Austin Healy but doesn’t have a driver’s licence – she offers to let Danny

have drive – they drive as far as Chatsworth where Laila meets Angela and her mother – Laila, who works as a model, suggests modelling for Angela – Danny is teased about his connection with stunning Laila, the model.

Chapter 13 – The Beatles

June – Cathy attends Ronnie’s trial with Danny – she’s disgusted that Danny is part of Ronnie’s support team – he observes Laila with Ronnie, and Cathy notices – she puts restrictions on him – Danny, Angela, and Stephanie attend Beatles concert – Stephanie says John Lennon winked at Angela – against Danny’s expectations, Max does not appear – Angela puts on one of her performance to ensure Max has permission to come to Chatsworth so she can thank Max – to her mother’s annoyance, she also springs an invitation to Max to take her to the school formal – Danny and Cathy discuss what Angela’s aims are with her manipulative behaviour – Cathy says she has Mother Jerome’s permission to discuss the goddess and its possible presence in the school – she asks Danny to read up on the goddess and its political significance – Angela discovers Laila’s work as a model and says she has absolutely not interest in such a brainless job.

Chapter 14 – The formal

Angela comments on the new Mass – Robert and Barbara disagree with her.

Aug – To the horror of the court room, Ronnie and his partners are found guilty of producing an obscene publication – while Ronnie and his co-editors discuss an appeal, Danny drives Laila home at her request – he agrees to take and drive the Austin Healy occasionally to prevent the car from going stale – Mr Williamson is against the arrangement – Cathy won’t get in the car – Angela warns Danny he is getting in deep with Laila – Angela makes arrangements for the school formal.

Sept – Max takes Angela to the school formal – Angela, dazzling in her ball gown, is approached by modelling scouts – she and Cathy organise the circumstances in which Max, unaware he’s being manipulated, seals their relationship with a kiss – Angela’s object, in contravention of her mother’s strict commands, now seems clear.

Chapter 15 – The call-up

Oct – Danny settles into study and work – third term – avoids Cathy and Ronnie Newell – Mr Gallagher says he wants Danny to accompany him and Max on their business trip to London in January – he finds Laila waiting for him outside lecture hall – she asks to be taken home – again talks of Angela’s suitability for modelling – arranges to meet Danny in London – she says goodbye with a kiss and a hug – Mr Gallagher confirms trip to London with Max – Father and mother approve of trip – Angela alludes to possible dangers with Laila.

10 November 1964, Prime Minister Robert Menzies announces national service – Angela upset over Max’s possible call-up – Max commended for his sensible reaction to the news – Cathy mentions Vietnam – Gulf of Tonkin incident – Max talks of engagement party and calls Danny brother-in-law.

Danny attends Ronnie’s appeal – Ronnie asks his reaction to the call-up – makes comments about Angela that disgust him – Laila asks Danny to take her home after the court session – Danny agrees – Laila is now completely at ease – hugs and kisses him again – makes further plans to see Danny in London.

Third session VII 14 September 1964 – 21 November 1964

Chapter 16 – Christmas surprises

Dec – Angela completes final school exams – she begins work at Gallagher’s – Cathy has work with Mark Foys department store – Mr Gallagher organises a session with an editor, Miss Nola Sharpe, for Angela and Danny – Danny returns Laila’s car – again arranges a meeting in London – Angela sneakily arranges Max’s presence at Christmas dinner – Cathy asks Danny to take her for a drive to Balmoral – discuss how eventful 1964 has been regarding political events – she notes Danny’s lack of attention to them and the radical activity at university.

She discusses the issues of race and culture – white Australia policy is really about culture – warns about Aboriginal issue – warns Danny again about his relationship with Ronnie and his counterculture group – contrary to his Catholic upbringing – asks Danny to tell her if his feelings for her change.

Dec – Max gives Angela an Irish Claddagh ring at Christmas – Robert and Barbara announce their engagement – the wedding will be during the second-term holidays, 1965.

Danny and Angela talk on the verandah after Christmas evening – Angela says she wasn’t sure about Max or her feelings the previous Christmas – and Angela alludes to her hope, two years before, that he would not hurt Cathy.

1965

Chapter 17 - London

Jan 1965 – more information about the national call-up upsets Angela – Danny’s and Max’s trip to London, during which they work at a hectic pace – Danny has a steamy evening with Laila – he and Max visit cousin James Williamson, who expresses his desire to come to Australia to see his Australian family – to everyone’s surprise, Angela scores a maximum pass in the Leaving Certificate exams.

Chapter 18 – Angela at university

Jan – Angela takes her celebrity calmly – returns to work at Gallaher’s, now under Max’s supervision – the constant news about the call-up continues to upset her.

Feb – Ruling is made on Ronnie’s appeal – it is successful – Danny sees Laila there – later feels guilty when meeting Cathy.

Mar – Angela begins university – during orientation week she meets Jannie de Kam, now known as supermodel Jannie Stapleton, and Gerda at the Age of Aquarius stall – speaks about Mother Jerome’s request – Max and Angela break rules about contact – Cathy and Danny alone – Danny is burdened with guilt as he kisses her – Danny changes his university subjects – gives prominence to philosophy after lecturer encourages him to concentrate on political philosophy – he’s introduced to the writings of Edmund Burke.

Mar (end) – Laila meets him after his lecture – she discusses Angela and modelling again – at Killara, they spend time in Laila’s room – Laila arranges to contact him in due course – Danny reflects on his betrayal – makes decisions to break up with Cathy, but when he sees her, he can’t muster the courage.

Chapter 19 – Cathy acts

April/May – Cathy reflects on her relationship with Danny – how it came about – she realises that he is having an affair with Laila – decides to precipitate a breakup – the break-up is traumatic and Danny’s guilt and his hurting Cathy is intolerable – but he can’t do anything about it – he wants Laila.

April – Mr Williamson deplores the latest edition of Jaz, which ridicules and misrepresents Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War – discusses Vietnam with Angela and Danny – Angela shows she knows more about Vietnam than Danny thought.

Mar – the first ballot for national service takes place.

June – Danny’s national service is deferred, but Max is called up – Angela is frantic – deferment received.

Chapter 20 – Robert marries

Aug – preparations for Robert’s wedding – Angela and Danny taken to task for their unfair and insensitive mockery of Robert and Barbara – Angel promises cooperation.

Sept – Robert’s wedding proceeds without a hitch – Angela is on her best behaviour and Barbara praises her – Danny and Laila go on a picnic to Palm Beach – Danny tells Laila he has broken up with Cathy.

Laila introduces Angela to modelling at a fashion parade at Mark Foys department store, where Cathy works – Laila tricks her into taking part – Angela is happy with the experience and accepts Laila’s invitation to consider doing it again, professionally.

Dec – Cathy has excellent results in her exams and plans to proceed to the honours year – Danny and Angela do well, too – Danny with High Distinction in philosophy – Angela with a credit in philosophy – With university behind him, Danny is appointed sales manager with a handsome salary.

Arguments about Vatican II disturb the Christmas dinner – Williamson cousin Sister Thaddeus (now Dorothy) and Sister Matthias (now Maureen) defended the liberal view – cousins are bored.

1966

Max is summoned to appear at Marrickville Depot in January (1966) – Danny takes Cathy and Angela while Max arrives with his parents – protestors outside barracks – Angela in tears.

Chapter 21 – Angela’s modelling

Jan – Max enters military service – ten-week training at Kapooka – Angela and Danny return to work at Gallagher’s – Danny, appointed sales manager with a generous salary and car allowance, buys a new car with his boss’s help.

Jan – Menzies resigns as leader of the Liberal Party on 20 January 1966 – concludes term on 26 January – resigns from Parliament on 17 February

Jan & Feb – Angela has formal work as a model – Laila acts as her agent – Jannie and Gerda turn up at one session – conflict between Danny and Gerda – the goddess and the divine feminine are an issue – Angela shows she is interested.

14 Feb – Decimal currency day– Cathy discusses the cultural significance of the change.

Mar – Angela resumes university – takes part in several fashion parades with Laila.

Max arrives on leave and tells Danny that his regiment has been assigned to Vietnam – he asks Danny to look after Angela.

Chapter 22 - Vietnam

April – Angela’s parents relent, and Max and Angela become unofficially engaged – Max leaves for Vietnam – there is wild public cheering and support for the departing troops.

June – Danny confronts Trotskyists Greenacre and Cale over bullying Angela – Cathy is upset by Danny’s excessive violence in dealing with them, and they argue over the issue – Danny teaches Cathy and Angela to drive.

Jul – Laila wants rough love – Danny complies and regrets it.

Chapter 23 – The real Laila

Aug – Mrs Williamson receives a letter from James’s mother, Mrs Julia Williamson, saying James intends to carry out his plan of visiting the Australian family – Danny receives a similar letter from James.

Sept (end) – James arrives – (Nov) he is offered work at Gallagher’s warehouse and a teaching position at St Michael’s for 1967 – Danny helps him settle in – gets on well with him – but the Laila problem gnaws at him.

Oct – LBJ visits Australia – Greenacre, appalling the Australian public, organises a demonstration against the US president in the middle of busy Sydney.

Nov – Ronnie arranges a meeting with Danny – he tells Danny he is going to London – he advises Danny to be careful of Laila – says Jannie Stapleton is in an affair with Gerda – Danny consults Cathy about Ronnie’s warning – dismayed, she tells Danny to take him seriously.

Dec – Laila completes fashion parade with Angela and goes on a trip to London.

1967

Jan – Laila returns from London – wants to arrange a fashion parade with Angela – wants Danny to help persuade Angela to agree – Danny shows some doubts about Angela’s willingness.

Jan – Danny and Mr Gallagher visit London – Angela announces she has begun her first novel – news comes that Max has been wounded – Angela is frantic all over again.

Feb – James begins his teaching job at St Michael’s – Max arrives at Military Hospital Ingleburn, outside Sydney city – Geoff Shawcross, SAS, is present when Angela and Danny visit – he was in the action with Max – Max has surgery – Laila lashes Danny for not cooperating in urging Angela to continue modelling – she charges Danny with rape

the following Monday – the police arrive but the charges are mysteriously withdrawn the following day.

Mar (early) Laila flees to London.

Chapter 24 – Max recovers

Mar – Max has surgery – Angela begins her third year at university – Cathy visits Max with Angela – says James helped her with the choice of MA thesis – Danny and Cathy again clash over the use of violence – Cathy tells of the radicals at university who pester her.

April – Max transferred to Repatriation Hospital in Concord, a suburb of Sydney – he is recovering and feels fit enough to pay attention to work – asked Danny for the company's financials.

12 May – regiment 5RAR arrives back in Australia – Max is allowed to attend the procession.

May – Referendum on Aboriginals and the constitution – Max gives more attention to business matters – James gives more time to Angela and Cathy, who want to help him adjust – Angel and Cathy advise on James's relationship with Anneke, his Dutch girlfriend – Danny turns his attention to his study of political philosophy and talks to Max about Edmund Burke.

May – Angela is immersed in writing her first novel. Everything else is out, including brainless modelling.

Jul – reports of students collecting money for North Vietnam outrage the public – radical activist Alfie Landers arrives in Sydney from Melbourne

Chapter 25 – Ideological clash

Aug – Danny confronts Alfie Landers – whips him with a copy of Burke's *Reflections* and comprehensively beats him up – Cathy intervenes, protesting about the violence – on his way from the university, Danny comes across Freya Petersen, who is no longer with Matt Pierce – arranges a date – Cathy asks Danny to take her and Angela to a talk about Vatican II – Australian academic, Dr Philip Stevenson, is to give the talk.

Sept (early) – Danny and Angela attend the talk with their parents and Stephanie – the organisers are Frs Bailey and Macy and laymen Edwin Moore and Cliff Grant – Sister Laura Mulligan, heading a group of like-minded supporters of Vatican II, challenges Dr Philip Stevenson – accuses him of seducing a member of the order of the Suffering Saviour – questions his morality and integrity – Danny and his father tangle with a group

of demonstrators, one of whom is Cale – James who attends with a pupil and her parents is injured in the melee caused by the radicals.

Chapter 26 – A chapter ends

Sept (early) – Danny has a date with Freya – she becomes his girlfriend – she's involved in the goddess religion – shortly after the date, Freya visits Max with Danny – reveals her journalistic interest in women's issues – shortly after Freya's visit, Angela and Cathy have a long discussion about the goddess religion – Mother Jerome's death is mentioned.

[Note: Sept – Danny goes to London for business – meets Jannie and later Anneke – he is in Amsterdam 20-25 Sept – see The Counterculture Goddess]

Dec – Cathy has been associating with James, helping him to settle into his teaching job and seems to be coupled with her – Max and Angela become officially engaged at a party in Williamson's backyard – Geoff regards Danny suspiciously, but he leaves before Danny can question him – Anneke is set to arrive for a 3-week holiday in January.