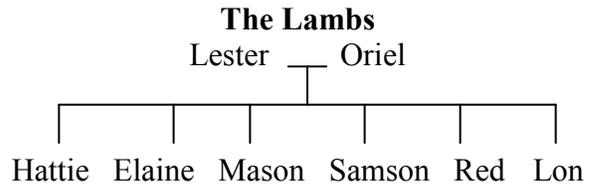
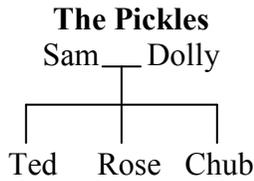


Cloudstreet: A Summary



Ch.	Section title and page no.	Main events
.	Untitled opening	Celebration at the river “even the missing are there”, Fish heads for the jetty: “A flicker, then a burst of consciousness on his shooting way, and he’ll savour that healing all the rest of his journey, having felt it, having known the story for just a moment.” “And you can’t help but worry for them, love them, want for them – those who go on down the close foetid galleries of time and space without you.”
I	The Shifty Shadow is Lurking 7	Rose has a premonition, Sam has a premonition – feels the shifty shadow is lurking. Sam loses his hand. Dolly is having sex with a pilot. Sam feels his stump tingling – another premonition – his cousin Joel dies.
II	Fish Lamb Comes Back 25	Fish Lamb drowns and is brought back to life by his mother. For Fish his return is agony. The Lambs treat it as a miracle.
III	Back in Time 35	History of the house – owned by an old woman who took in Aboriginal girls taken from their families. One of the girls died, then the old woman with her nose on middle C of the piano.
	A House in Cloud Street 37	Sam Pickles inherits the house. The Pickles move to the house. Rose established as central figure. Library established as mysterious evil centre of house.
	Nights 41	Pickles not feeling at home in the house – displaced. The house breathes.
	Sam’s Big Idea 43	Sam divides the house so he can rent out one half.
	Even the Only Miracle That Ever Happened to You 45	The Lambs leave Margaret River – the miracle has turned sour. They have lost religion.
	Number One 47	The Lambs arrive at Cloud Street. Rose’s fascination with Fish established.
	Across the Corridor 51	Antipathy between Dolly and Oriel.
	The Knife Never Lies 53	The knife predicts Fish is gonna win the war for us. The Lambs plan to open a shop.
	Enterprise 57	The shop opens.
	Stickability 58	Oriel established as sergeant-major. The house described as a stroke survivor.

	The Dance 60	Quick longs for the country, feels guilt re Fish, collects pictures of the miserable which dance at night. Quick Lamb established as survivor.
	Props 61	The Aborigine appears , shows fear of the house
	The Lamb Girls 62	
	Medicine 63	The Lambs take Fish to the doctor. Fish can't see Oriel. Diagnosis – been through shock, nothing physically wrong. Fish expresses a longing to return to the water.
	VE 68	Sam's stump tingles. VE day (Victory in Europe).
	Fish Forgets 69	Fish hears the river. "It's like Fish is stuck somewhere ... Like he's half in and half out."
	Kitchen Talk 70	Oriel's background – brought up stepmum's family.
	Cake 73	
	Tuba 73	Fish want the water.
	Science 75	Sam's hand itches. He realizes the Lambs are <i>making</i> luck but that's not his way.
	No Wading 77	Dolly's background.
	Bells 80	VJ day (Victory over Japan).
IV	Break in the Weather 83	Sam is going for his luck.
	Makin' Millions 84	Sam gets job at the mint.
	Winning 86	Sam wins money at the races.
	Fair Dinkum 88	Sam gets a cockatoo.
	Quick Lamb's Sadness Radar 89	Quick sees Wogga McBride hit by a train and is powerfully affected.
	Fish Waiting 92	
	Debts 92	Quick sees the figures in his pictures dance.
	The Kybosh 95	Oriel's analysis of masculinity: There was something wrong with men. They lacked some basic thing ...” Basically sees men as weak and infantile.
	Like a Light Shinin' 97	Bonding between Lester and Sam – Sam takes Lester to races and wins. Dolly gets drunk.
	The River 107	Lambs go to Fremantle, buy boat, Quick and Fish row it back (note river as reflection of universe). Lester worried when they are late, eventually finds them.
	Burning the Man 117	Guy Fawkes night. Fish upset at burning of the guy – sees him as the “water man” (Jesus?). Fish plays piano in library. In the night the piano plays middle C by itself.
	Down into the Light, Samson Lamb 120	Fish dreams of drowning. Note: sky and river as one.
	The Hand Again 120	Rose takes on matriarchal role. Sam starts losing.
	Poison 123	Rose finds Dolly drunk by railway line.
	Summer 125	

	Red's Method 126	Red pees on pervs at Crawley baths. Sam wins a pig in a raffle, gives it to Lester.
	The Pig 128	The pig talks – Lester hears, Fish understands.
	The Horse 131	Lester's delivery horse runs off.
	The Tent Lady 133	Oriel moves into the tent in the backyard.
V	Combustible Material 137	Quick gets photos of Belsen, the Nazi concentration camp where Jews were murdered. Rose gets bulimia.
	Bones 141	Rose's bulimia.
	A Desertion 143	Lester performs vaudeville at Anzac Club. Quick leaves home.
	And the Pig Won't Talk 146	Fish unhappy about Quick's absence.
	That Ted Pickles 147	Ted attracted to females.
	Battalions 147	Oriel takes on GM Clay – the rival shop owner.
	The Good Are Fierce 150	Lester compares Quick to prodigal son and bible stories to life. "It was like those Bible stories and words weren't the kind you forgot. It was like they'd happened to you all along, that they were your own memories." He also thinks of the importance of kids: "The kids are all we've got. They're what we are."
	A Mug's Game 152	Dolly has an affair with Gerry Clay. Sam losing at betting. Antipathy between Rose and Dolly. Clay going broke.
	Across the Rails 155	Ted has his first sexual experience.
	All Money Down 156	Mrs Clay tells Sam about Dolly's affair.
	Now Black Now White 158	Fish plays the piano. Rose goes in library and feels sick. Rose and Sam fight over her bulimia.
	Dusk 161	Description of stench in library. The black man stands outside seeming to try to ward off the evil spirits.
	Night After Night 161	Sam is miserable.
	Not a Brass Razoo 162	Rose told to leave school by her parents.
	Carn Fish 163	Fish unhappy. Narrator ponders on the connectedness of past and present and the continued existence of the past in the present: "the Here still feels the pangs of history. Those who've gone before do not lose their feelings, only their bodies." Fish says the house talks.
	Ghostly Sensations 163	Sam contemplates suicide, Rose stops him.
	The Vanilla Victory 170	Oriel defeats Gerry Clay.
	Mrs Lamb Weeps 173	
	Bad, Worse, Worstest 174	Dolly beaten up by Gerry Clay.
	Closed Shop 176	The Lambs go crabbing. Note second paragraph on the river.
	Wherever the	Narrator addresses Fish about the river: "Remember, wherever the

	River Goes 178	river goes every living creature which swarms will live ...” and predicts Fish’ death when he’ll be “free of the net of time”. The black man flies overhead.
	The Dark, the Dark 179	Stink of the house.
	Girls on the Switch 179	Rose gets job on switchboard at Bairds (a department store).
	Geoffery Birch Came Calling 182	Geoffrey Birch courts Hat.
	Jacks and Jills 182	Rose on the switchboard.
	Two Old Girls 183	Oriel meets Beryl Lee.
	Hell? 184	Oriel’s background.
	Ted Shoots Through 186	Ted shoots through.
	And Then Comes Autumn and Behind It, Winter, 186	Beryl Lee moves in. House sighs.
	The Man Who Came Knocking 187	Rose puts on weight. Father of a girl pregnant to Ted is scared off by Lester.
	The Big Country 190	Lester tells Fish story about Quick saving him in the water. Water as the “big country”.
VI	Down Among Them Killing 195	Quick in the wheatbelt shooting roos. Gets injured. In his hallucination sees Fish rowing a box across the wheat. Death compared to drowning.
	Goanna Oil 201	Quick nursed back to health by Lucy Wentworth.
	Safety Off 203	Quick has an affair with Lucy and continues roo shooting. Sees himself running through the wheat.
	The Florist Shop 205	Quick still seeing himself. Leaves town, picks up Aborigine who magically reappears on the other side of town. Aborigine describes his work as “family business”. Petrol tank stays on quarter full. The Aborigine guides Quick back to Cloudstreet.
	Baulking At Shadows 210	Quick stays with cousins at Margaret River. Continues to cut out pictures of those less fortunate. “He did not think of home but home thought of him.”
	Tho’ Mine Enemies Rail 212	Quick trying to fit in. Recites lines from the Lord’s Prayer when he has an accident.
	Earl’s Dory 214	Quick goes fishing and catches lots of fish hooked to the tail of each other – “the boat vibrated like a cathedral”. Then the fish jump into the boat of their own accord. Rowing back he sees the figure of a man walking on the water – it is a black man. The boat sinks under the weight of fish. The black man laughs.
	This Side 219	Narrator sees Fish crying “Even now it makes me shiver”
	Load of Pigs 219	Quick glows, mentions a black angel. The Earls take him to Perth

VII	Madhouse 223	Preparations for Hat’s wedding. The Earls bring Quick back to Cloudstreet.
	The Do 226	The wedding.
	Country 228	Quick nursed. Oriel and Lester talk about life as war. “It’s all war,” she said. “... Everythin. Raisin a family, keepin yer head above water. Life War is our natural state.”
	Keeping Watch 233	Beryl Lee looks in on Quick.
	In the Poo 233	Sam in trouble because he owes money. Lester hides him out in beach shack.
	Wallpaper 239	Red thinks Beryl is fading like wallpaper – “that’s what happens when you wait for men.”
	Morning 239	Quick recovers. Oriel knows he saw something.
	Fatted Calf 241	Lon criticises Fish and Lester does hi block.
	Voop 243	
	Matinee 244	Lester Lamb and Dolly have sex with each other.
	Disciples 247	Sam’s stump tingles, talks Lester into involvement in two-up game.
	Wakings 251	
	Promises 257	Oriel tells Lester to leave off Mrs Pickles.
	The World Through Beryl 259	
	Business 260	
	Beryl Fades Out 261	Beryl leaves.
	Ticking 265	Quick and Oriel go prawning – discuss Fish and bond together.
	The Whole Damn Cake and Candles 271	The two-up game.
	Feast 272	The families celebrate the winnings.
VIII	Voices 277	Rose meets Toby Raven.
	Toby Raven 285	Rose goes out with Toby and has sex with him. The narrator expresses jealousy: “Oh, Rose, you loved me. How you did. And there you go drifting by with the river, out on an eddy in a black shiny Morris Oxford with a man who quotes DH Lawrence with his tongue in your ear ...” Toby takes her to a party in Dalkieth – Rose leaves after he makes fun of her.
	Silhouetting 299	Quick and Fish go fishing.
	Hypothetical, as the Smartbums Say 307	They find Rose by the river.
	Dwellingplace 313	Quick and Rose make love. Their lovemaking forces the ghosts to recede back into the walls.
	Outside Chance 313	
	Grandeur Almost 318	Quick and Rose get married. Oriel and Dolly dance together.

IX	The House is Trembling 325	Fish sees the black man outside the house. When he disappears “comes the old keening noise again”.
	How Small Our Dreams Are 326	Quick decides to become cop. Rose wants to leave Cloudstreet.
	The Day the Fifties Ended 328	Quick and Rose move into a flat behind a house in Mosman Park. Quick graduates.
	Flatfoot 331	Quick posted to Nedlands.
	The Shifty Shadow 332	Sam’s stump tingles. Dolly breaks her leg.
	Steam 334	Ted dies in Adelaide.
	The Blacks and Whites 335	The ghost of the old woman and the young girl fight.
	Steel 336	Rose miscarries her baby.
	The One 338	Dolly upset at Ted’s death – her favourite.
	Two Florins 338	Rose sick. Rose and Quick start building a house.
	Weathering It Out 341	Sam sees the ghosts.
	Whirling Dark 344	
	Lost Ground 345	Dolly goes missing.
	Arrest 348	Dolly found.
	The Girl With the Brown Fatness of Hair 348	Rose visits Dolly in hospital.
	Mothers 353	Dolly tells Rose that she (Dolly) was her sister’s daughter – reconciliation between the two.
	Tonic 357	Rose pregnant again.
	He Does 360	Lon gets married because the girl is pregnant.
	Doomiest 361	
	Flames 361	
	The New House 261	Quick visits new house. Meets blackfella who tells him, “This isn’t your home. Go home to your home, mate.”
	Christmas 362	
	Summer Madness 363	The murderer strikes
	Bloody Mayhem 364	
	Heat of the Night 364	
	Right in Our Own Bloody Backyard 365	
	Murder, Murder 365	While Quick hunts the murderer in Nedlands, the murderer comes to the house but is chased off by the pig while a black man with arms akimbo watches. In the morning Quick meets the blackfella who tells him to go home. He looks back and sees dozens of black people.
	Home 368	Quick and Rose move back to Cloudstreet. They move into the library.

	The Walls 369	
	The Light in the Tent 370	Oriel gets bad feelings about the house. She “wondered why it still fought them so. Nineteen years, wasn’t it long enough to belong?”
	Only Streets Away 371	
	Fish Wakes 371	
	He Knows What Rape and Murder Mean 371	
	Oriel Hears 371	
	Businesslike 372	Murderer disposes of girl’s body.
	Quiet 372	
	Loaded House 372	
	Morning 372	Quick looks for the blackfella. “He has to talk.”
	The City is Howling 473	
	Dolly and Rose 373	
	Bastard of a Place 373	
	Hole in the Wall 374	Quick makes window into the library
	No Man’s Land 376	Quick happy to be home – he has a “queer glow”. Rose lets Fish “lay his hands on her”.
	Slipping 378	More murders.
	Does the Poo Hurt 379	
	Somethin’ Up 380	The murderer is caught.
	Him 381	He does not fit the stereotype of a monster.
	Wax Harry 381	Rose and Quick’s baby born. “The spirits on the wall are fading, fading finally being forced on their way to oblivion, free of the house, freeing the house ...” The house settles.
X	Long Hot Peaceful Days 389	
	Fortune 392	Sam and Dolly settle.
	News 394	“Cloudstreet sweetened up like a ship under full sail.”
	Fishing 396	Lester goes to church.
	The Past 396	Quick runs into Lucy Wentworth.
	Waiting 397	
	Floater 397	Quick pulls the murderer’s drowned son from the river – realises his common humanity with the murderer.
	Put Yer Dukes Up, Woman 399	Oriel beats up Lon.
	Turning 401	Quick tells Rose of the drowned kid “ ... there’s no monsters, only people like us.”
	Coming 403	Narrator speaks to Fish – says “You’re coming to me Fish, all you could have hoped for is turning for you like the great river ...”
	Get a Haircut 404	

Lester on His Knees 404	Lester looks at Quick and Rose's house
Voting Day 405	The Aborigine tells Sam not to sell the house "Places are strong, important ... Too many places busted ... You better be the strongest man."
Gift Horse 406	
Below Deck 408	Sam decides not to sell Cloudstreet. Celebrations.
Inland 412	Quick and Rose take Fish on a trip to the bush.
Spaces 417	Quick and Rose decide to stay at Cloudstreet. During the night they see a vision of children.
Soon 420	Narrator talks to Fish.
Stayin' 420	Quick and Rose announce they'll stay.
Moon, Sun, Stars	Celebratory picnic. Fish drowns
Untitled ending	Dolly helps Oriel fold the tent. The house is undivided.