

The 5th Horseman: A Novel Study Guide

The 5th Horseman: A Novel by James Patterson

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Plot Summary

Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer is the main character in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. This book is the fifth in a series written on the Women's Murder Club. Lindsay is in her mid-thirties, slender with blonde hair. She works in homicide at the San Francisco Police Department. Lindsay is also a founding member of the Women's Murder Club along with ME Claire Washburn, reporter Cindy Thomas and attorney Yuki Castellano. Lindsay is involved in a long distance relationship with Joe Molinari, Deputy Director of Homeland Security. Lindsay lives with a rescued border collie named Martha. Lindsay's best friend is Claire, to whom she refers as "Butterfly."

Having been recently promoted to Lieutenant, Lindsay is often confused and unhappy with her role as supervisor. She prefers to be on the streets. Lindsay often works the streets with her former partner Warren Jacobi and his partner, Rich Conklin. Lindsay is a tireless worker who takes her work to heart and will keep on going to the point of collapse.

The story begins with an interaction between the Night Walker and a young patient named Jessie Falk. It moves on to introduce Lindsay Boxer and other members of the Women's Murder Club, a group of women who have come together during various murder cases, using their knowledge and resources to help Lindsay capture criminals.

The chapters vary between the lives of the women and murder cases which include the Car Girl murders plus the murders that take place at San Francisco Municipal Hospital. One of those victims is Keiko Castellano, Yuki's mother. Yuki enlists the aid of her friends to find out the real reason her mother has died.

Lindsay is called to the scene of several murders involving young women who have been murdered and then posed in expensive cars seemingly chosen at random. Each woman has been dressed in very expensive clothing from Nordstrom's. The case is puzzling until it is learned that the clothes are the link - one of the killers is an employee at Nordstrom's and has stolen the clothes to dress his dead models. Lindsay captures the killer and watches helplessly as his accomplice jumps out of a window.

Tied into the strange murders at Municipal Hospital is a court case against Municipal which involves a malpractice suit filed on behalf of twenty plaintiffs whose family members died at the hospital due to medication errors or perhaps outright murders. The ER doctor, Dennis Garza, working in conjunction with the prosecutor, flubs his testimony so that the hospital loses. The doctor and the prosecutor, who are lovers, will split the \$18 million reward she will receive for the victory. However, the getaway plan is foiled when an outraged father of a dead patient confronts Garza. Garza kills the man and then attempts to get away, only to be stopped by Lindsay.

The Night Walker, the murderer of Keiko and other patients, is caught after transferring to an Atlanta hospital.



Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 1-13

Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 1-13 Summary

Chapter 1:

It is raining and midnight rounds at San Francisco Municipal Hospital are just beginning. In the ICU Jessie Falk is having a dream about her childhood. Jessie wakes, screaming for a pain in her chest.

"Oh God, I can't breathe. What's happening? I can't get my breath. It's horrible. I'm not fine." Chap. 1, p. 4

Jessie remembers that she is in the hospital. She sees a familiar face and notices that he is not coming to help. The person says Jessie is dying and it is beautiful to watch her cross over.

Chapter 2:

The Night Walker bends over the bed. He wonders where Jessie is now. He straightens the covers and arranges Jessie's hair. He places two coins over Jessie's eyes.

Chapter 3:

Lindsay Boxer sits at her desk going through files when Yuki Castellano calls. Yuki's mother wants to take them to lunch. Yuki's mother, Keiko, teases the girls about being too independent. Lindsay says she has a boyfriend, hoping to appease Keiko. During the conversation, Keiko collapses. Lindsay calls for help.

Chapter 4:

The hospital is like a city unto itself. It had once been a public venture that has turned private. It serves more than 100,000 patients per year. Lindsay and Yuki wait while Keiko is being seen by medical staff.

"And I flashed on the last time I'd been inside an emergency room. I remembered the doctors' ghostlike hands on my body, the loud throbbing on my heart, and wondering if I was going to get out alive." Chap. 4, p. 15

Yuki frets and cannot figure out what could have happened to her mother, a 55 year-old life force.

Chapter 5:

Dr. Dennis Garza comes out to speak to Yuki. He tells Yuki that Keiko had a mini-stroke. Keiko's condition is guarded. Yuki cries.



Chapter 6:

Lindsay and Yuki wait for 18 hours. They pace, drink coffee and doze. The intern tells Yuki that Keiko is more alert and is being watched. Lindsay goes home, leaving Yuki at the hospital

Chapter 7:

Lindsay arrives at her house on Portrero Hill. She talks to her dog, Martha, about Keiko. The next morning Lindsay is at her desk going through files when Jacobi comes in and tells Lindsay that a DOA has been found at the Opera Plaza garage.

Chapter 8:

Lindsay goes to the garage to investigate. She meets her partner, Rich Conklin. The victim is a 21 year-old named Angela. Lindsay and Jacobi walk over to the car where the girl sits in the passenger seat.

Chapter 9:

Charlie Clapper from CSU tells Lindsay he does not see a handbag. Clapper says she looks like a rich girl.

Lindsay thinks that crime scenes come in two types: one where the evidence is everywhere. The second type, such as this one, is where everything is organized.

Chapter 10:

Clapper finishes taking photos. Lindsay takes note of the expensive clothes. Conklin arrives with Dr. Lawrence Guttman, owner of the car. Guttman is shocked and says he does not know the girl. Claire Washburn, the ME arrives.

Chapter 11:

Lindsay describes Claire: "Claire is San Francisco's chief medical examiner, a superb pathologist, a master of intuition, a pretty fair cellist, a happily married lady of almost twenty years, a mother of two boys, and, quite simply, my best friend in the universe" (Chap. 11, p. 37).

Claire looks at the girl and notices a laceration on her tongue. Claire estimates the girl died around midnight. Dr. Guttman is told he can go.

Chapter 12:

The day is spent working the Caddy girl case. So far the girl remains unidentified. Claire says the woman was "burked" meaning that someone sat on her chest until she died. Meanwhile someone put a plastic bag over her head. Claire believes that there are two killers.



Chapter 13:

Claire and Lindsay ride back together. Claire says she does not think the Caddy girl was raped but that there was semen on the hem of her dress. Claire also says that the shoes are new and not the girl's size. The clothes are also brand new.

Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 1-13 Analysis

The reader is introduced to Lindsay Boxer and the rest of the Women's Murder Club. Each woman has been at her job for a long period of time and is clearly respected and savvy. Boxer is not typically at crime scenes any more which makes her appearance at Dead Caddy Girl's scene unusual.

The friendship between Lindsay, Claire, Cindy and Yuki is strong. This can be seen by how the women respond to each other, particularly Lindsay's reaction when Keiko is taken to the hospital.

Yuki's reaction to Garza's appearance in court is somewhat strange. Yuki is an intelligent woman. Although she is respectful and subservient to Keiko, logic would have it that Yuki would have her mother removed from the hospital immediately, despite all protests, after she hears the story about the boy with the broken leg.

The trial promises to be brutal and ugly. O'Mara is confident at this point but knows that this is a David and Goliath situation. Kramer plans to win it all for the hospital and has unlimited resources to do so. Still, O'Mara's belief in her cause may help to sway the jury even though they are charged with weighing only facts.



Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 14-33

Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 14-33 Summary

Chapter 14:

Lindsay and Claire arrive at Susie's, their favorite bar/restaurant. Cindy is waiting for them. Lindsay reflects on how she met Cindy four years earlier when Cindy barged onto a crime scene. Cindy begins to tell them about the hot story she had going. It is a story about Municipal Hospital and how patients had died because they had received the wrong medication. Lindsay tells Cindy that is where Keiko is recovering from her stroke. Cindy goes on to say that Dr. Garza is a main suspect. Lindsay is worried. Yuki arrives.

Chapter 15:

Yuki tells the others she already knows about the lawsuit. Yuki assures them that the hospital is fine because she had her appendix out there a few years ago and had no problems. Yuki says Keiko is fine and loves her doctor. In fact, Keiko wants Yuki to marry her doctor. Yuki leaves before dessert to go to the hospital to visit Keiko.

Chapter 16:

Maureen O'Mara arrives at the courthouse prepared for her big day. It is the day she will make her opening statement against San Francisco Municipal Hospital. It is going to be a tough battle. Still, O'Mara feels prepared.

"Over the last fourteen months, she'd slogged through the discovery process, with endless depositions, lined up her seventy-six witnesses - medical experts, past and present employees of the hospital, and her clients, the families of the twenty deceased who were all finally in accord" (Chap. 16, p. 44).

O'Mara knows this case is a labor of love and is determined to win.

Chapter 17:

O'Mara rushes for the elevator where she sees Lawrence Kramer, the opposing council. The two chat briefly. O'Mara works hard not to be intimidated by the more experienced, cut-throat lawyer. O'Mara keeps telling herself that right is might.

Chapter 18:

Yuki ducks out of her office to go to the courthouse to watch the opening statements. O'Mara gives her opening statement about a young mother who died at Municipal after being injured playing with her kids.

Chapter 19:



O'Mara continues her story about the patient who broke her leg. That night, while she should have been resting, the patient was given a dose of a chemotherapy drug that killed her. O'Mara pleads with the jury to find Municipal guilty of malpractice.

Chapter 20:

Yuki looks over at Dr. Garza and sees him smirking. Yuki panics and calls her mother. Keiko answers and says that she is fine. Yuki returns to the court where she sees Cindy. The two chat and Yuki fills Cindy in on Keiko's progress. The two go into the courtroom.

Chapter 21:

Kramer gives his opening statement. He discusses the greed of the plaintiffs and attempts to paint the hospital in a good light. Kramer also launches a personal attack on O'Mara.

Chapter 22:

Cindy is shocked at Kramer's tactics. The judge admonishes Kramer. Kramer asks the jury to weigh only the facts.

Chapter 23:

Lindsay meets with Chief Tracchio who tells Lindsay that he is temporarily transferring some of her people to help with a backlog of cases. Lindsay is furious. She meets with Jacobi and Conklin in her office. They discuss the Caddy Girl case. So far, no one has identified her. Lindsay sits and listens and suddenly feels helpless stuck behind a desk.

Chapter 24:

Claire calls Lindsay to the morgue. She says that Caddy Girl had been drugged to the eyeballs. In her system were alcohol and Rohypnol, a date rape drug. According to Claire the girl had been raped and sodomized by two men while practically unconscious.

Chapter 25:

Lindsay is on her way home when she calls Jacobi. They discuss the fact that the girl was dressed in nearly \$5,000 worth of new clothes after she was killed. It is a bizarre twist. They also ponder over the fact that she is still a Jane Doe.

Chapter 26:

Lindsay decides to go on a run with her dog, Martha. On the way, she thinks about the case. While she is running, her boyfriend Joe calls to say he will be in San Francisco that weekend.

Chapter 27:



Lindsay meets with Tracchio in his office. She says she wants to be back on the street, that riding a desk is not for her. It makes her feel helpless. Tracchio is furious.

"I don't know what you've been smoking, Boxer, but you've got the job" (Chap. 27, p. 75).

Tracchio goes on to say that his job is no bed of roses. He also tells Lindsay that the homicide division closes the least amount of cases of anywhere. Tracchio tells Lindsay to learn how to train and supervise.

Chapter 28:

Cindy sits in the courthouse taking notes on the trial. O'Mara introduces Friedlander, a man whose son died at Municipal after receiving a fatal dose of insulin meant for another patient.

Chapter 29:

Kramer addresses Friedlander. According to Kramer, the man's son had switched beds during the night to be closer to the television. Kramer basically blames the boy for the error. Kramer issues an empty apology to the man for losing his son.

Chapter 30:

Lindsay goes for another run that night hoping that it will calm her down. It doesn't work. After she arrives home she cooks dinner. Yuki arrives and the two sit and talk over Lindsay's pasta. Yuki talks about Keiko's progress.

Chapter 31:

Yuki is on her way home from Lindsay's when she gets a call from the hospital saying that Keiko has had another stroke. Yuki drives to the hospital in a panic.

Chapter 32:

Yuki arrives at the hospital and finds Dr. Pierce. Pierce says that Keiko is unconscious but not in pain. Yuki wonders how he could know that. Yuki persists until Pierce allows her to have 30 seconds with Keiko. Yuki tries to tell herself that Keiko will pull through.

Chapter 33:

Keiko is frightened. She remembers having a needle stuck into her hand. Keiko's thoughts are jumbled. She remembers a festival when she was a child. She vaguely remembers Yuki coming into her room. Then someone else had come in but this person had not come to help. He had come to kill her. Pain explodes in Keiko's head.



Prologue/Part 1: Chapters 14-33 Analysis

Cindy is on top of the hospital case, as one might expect. It is a hot story and Cindy is the San Francisco Chronicle's hot shot crime reporter. She is unaware of Keiko's stroke until Lindsay and Claire tell her. The group is somewhat surprised that Yuki is not more concerned about Keiko being at the hospital. Still, Yuki speaks to her mother regularly and feels confident. However, the reader may surmise that Keiko's condition will change, which it does. Yuki is shocked that Keiko has had another stroke. The reader will begin to wonder if Keiko really had a second stroke or if it was induced by the hospital staff. The second stroke will surely kill Keiko. Keiko knows what has happened to her but is unable to do anything about it. The mysterious figure reappears and puts coins on Keiko's eyes like he did with the last victim.

The Caddy Girl case becomes stranger by the minute. The girl's genitalia had been sprayed with perfume but it was present at no other site. It is assumed to be an expensive perfume but has not been identified. Lindsay thinks that the girl will soon be identified since someone must miss her by now. The most bizarre thing, aside from the burking, is that someone would dress her in very expensive clothes - that were not hers - after she died. The partial fingerprint on the shoe may not offer any answers.

Lindsay becomes more and more restless with the Caddy Girl case. It shows that Boxer misses being on the street, a fact later emphasized when she approaches Chief Tracchio about her new role as a Lieutenant. However, Tracchio is much less than sympathetic and is somewhat angry that Boxer would rather be on the streets than follow in his footsteps as an administrator. Tracchio is not happy in his role as a political figure and it is obvious that he too has regrets about not being an actual cop on the streets like he used to be.

Lindsay's interaction with Martha and Joe shows that she has some type of life outside the department.

The trial appears to be one that will be cut-throat. Each attorney has already been warned by the judge to watch their steps. O'Mara's approach is much more emotional than Kramer's. Kramer is clearly a cold-hearted man who knows how to brush away any sentiment and focus solely on the facts which may or may not be accurate.



Part II: Chapters 34-45

Part II: Chapters 34-45 Summary

Part II: Murder. Murder Everywhere

Chapter 34:

Yuki's mind is muddled. She recalls Dr. Pierce offering condolences over Keiko's death. Yuki remembers Lindsay taking her home and putting her to bed. When Yuki wakes she calls the hospital. Some callous person tells Yuki that her mother is in the hospital basement - the morgue. Yuki is furious. Yuki goes to the hospital and demands to know what happened to Keiko. The nurse says they cannot give out information without a medical power of attorney. Yuki is incredulous. She insists on seeing Dr. Garza.

Chapter 35:

Yuki goes to see Garza. Garza is annoyed at being interrupted. His manner is extremely cold. Yuki demands to know what happened to Keiko. The doctor says she had a stroke and died. End of story. Yuki is livid. The man offers no sincere condolences, only tells Yuki that Keiko must be removed from the hospital within 24 hours. Yuki says she will find out what happened. She also tells Garza that he has the bedside manner of an eel. Yuki leaves the office and goes outside where she sits and sobs like a child.

Chapter 36:

Lindsay meets Jacobi and Conklin at a Tudor-style house where they are speaking to an older couple. The man is demanding police protection. Jacobi takes Lindsay to a Jaguar parked in front of the house. Sitting inside is another dead girl - dubbed Jag Girl. Lindsay immediately smells the perfume. Both she and Jacobi know that there will be no prints or other evidence. Jacobi says it is clear that the cases are not personal, that the killers are giving someone the finger.

Chapter 37:

Claire calls Lindsay and says she has news on Jag Girl. Claire arrives at Lindsay's office with pizza. The women joke about not feeling guilty about eating the pizza. Claire tells Lindsay what she already suspected - the perfume was located only on the girl's labia. The clothes were a bad fit and brand new. The shoes fit this time but were also new and unworn. Lindsay tells Tracchio she will not be at the staff meeting and goes to the morgue with Claire.

Chapter 38:



"I always found the stark reality of the morgue, Claire's place, a shock to the nervous system - the unforgiving white light on the dead, the sheets hiding that their insides were out" (Chap. 38, p. 112).

Claire shows Lindsay and Tracchio some of the damage caused to Jag Girl. She had also been burked. There was a thumb print on the inside of her throat. Claire says that the killer is strong. Claire also states that there are no defensive wounds. She was probably drugged. Lindsay says it is like some weird porn show. Jacobi calls the killers cowards.

Chapter 39:

Yuki calls Claire. Yuki begs off for dinner that night, saying that she can't be around people right now. Yuki tells Claire about her meeting with Garza. Then Yuki asks Claire to do an autopsy on Keiko. Claire is hesitant but agrees.

Chapter 40:

Claire gives Yuki the results of the autopsy. Keiko had been bleeding in the brain for three hours before anyone noticed. The medical staff should have ordered an MRI but did not; they simply gave Keiko an anti-coagulant. The anticoagulant sped up the bleeding. In essence, Keiko was the victim of malpractice.

Yuki gets dressed and goes to Lindsay's office. She tells Lindsay that she wants to file charges against the hospital, that someone murdered her mother.

Chapter 41:

People gather in Colma, the City of the Dead where Keiko's funeral is being held. Yuki is there with Keiko's twin brother, Jack. Yuki delivers a eulogy about shopping with her mother, how Keiko always told Yuki-eh to act like a lady, something Yuki could never quite manage. Claire says it is the saddest day.

Chapter 42:

Lindsay finds her mother's grave and recalls having breakfast with her sister, Cat, and how her mother would make them laugh. Their mother had left their father who liked to rule with an iron fist. Her mother had 6-7 years of "breathing free" before being stricken with breast cancer. Lindsay sits by her mother's grave and wishes she could see her now and know that she and Cat were okay.

Chapter 43:

Lindsay arrives home, lost in thought. She panics when she hears Martha's bark from outside the house. She spots Martha who is sitting inside Joe's car.

Chapter 44:



Joe teases Lindsay about forgetting he was arriving today. Lindsay promises to make it up to him and then tells him about Yuki's mom. Joe and Lindsay go inside where they make love.

Chapter 45:

Joe and Lindsay ride the ferry and feel the wind on their faces. Lindsay thinks about the day they spent together. Joe seems to be a million miles away. He tells Lindsay that he wants more time with her. Joe asks if Lindsay would move to DC. Lindsay balks. Joe says he could do good work in California. They agree to talk more about it later. Soon, Joe is gone.

Part II: Chapters 34-45 Analysis

Garza is unbelievably rude to Yuki. Yuki manages to shine through her grief when she scolds Garza and tells him that it is not over. Yuki calling Claire was a smart thing to do. Claire is worried about her friend and what she might learn from the results. Claire and Yuki are both forthright enough to discuss that the results may not be pleasant. Yuki is determined to fight, perhaps spurred on by Garza's attitude. There is guilt building in Yuki over allowing Keiko to stay in the hospital despite the court case.

The appearance of Jag Girl is puzzling. It is obvious that the same killers are responsible for this girl as they are for Caddy Girl. Lindsay and Jacobi are puzzled. It simply makes no sense to dress these women in expensive yet ill fitting clothes after they have been murdered.

Lindsay also faces frustration in her personal life with Joe. Lindsay does not want to move to DC and Joe knows this. Suggesting that he move to California may mean that Joe and Lindsay may have a chance as a couple.



Part III: Chapters 46-64

Part III: Chapters 46-64 Summary

Part III: In Search of Car Girls

Chapter 46:

Lindsay calls Jacobi and Conklin into her office. They tell her that they got DNA from Jag Girl. While the donor is unknown it does match an unsolved case in LA from two years previous. The LA case is completely different than the Car Girl killings but at least there is a link.

Chapter 47:

Leo Harris, a 66 year old man, is robbed at his Smoke and Joke shop. His dog, Midnight, comes down the stairs to start her evening patrol. The robber shoots the dog and Harris before running out of the store.

Chapter 48:

Officer Larry Petroff is on the scene when Harris wakes up. Petroff tells Harris that he will be fine and that EMS is on the way. After EMS arrives Petroff promises to take Midnight to the vet. Petroff says both will be fine. Petroff comments that it is horrible to shoot a blind man. Harris states that he is only legally blind.

Chapter 49:

Nurse Noddie Wilkins gripes to herself about having to work late. She takes dinner into Mr. Harris who is recovering from his gunshot wound. The only light in the room is from the TV. Mr. Harris does not respond to Noddie's banter. Noddie runs to check Harris and sees the coins slip from his eyes.

Chapter 50:

Yuki goes to the courthouse. She has taken a leave of absence from work. Going to the courthouse may seem crazy but it is the only thing helping Yuki to hold it together. Yuki tries to look at the case from a lawyer's point of view.

Chapter 51:

Dr. Chen is called to the stand. He testifies on the case of Jessie Falk. Chen had known Falk on a personal level and kept on top of her case. He had visited her before going off shift and all was fine. When Chen returned to work the next day, Falk was dead. She had been given epinephrine which is equal to cocaine for a heart patient. Chen called



for a review but no action was taken. Then Chen was terminated for so-called "budgetary reasons."

Chapter 52:

Yuki sees Garza in the courtroom. She follows him out onto the street. Yuki approaches Garza and tells him about Claire's findings. Garza is dismissive. Yuki says Garza needs to stop playing games.

Garza replies: "I'm sure the ME will send me her report. Maybe I'll even read it" (Chap. 52, p. 151).

Then Garza tells Yuki just to join the crowd and sue him.

Chapter 53:

Cindy joins Lindsay and Claire at Susie's. Cindy talks about the trial and Yuki. According to Cindy, Garza has racked up more than his share of dead bodies in the various hospitals where he has worked. Claire talks about dirty medical practitioners and how they are not stopped because hospitals do not want to get sued. Claire says it is a fact that Keiko died because of malpractice.

Chapter 54:

Cindy arrives at court late. Kramer and O'Mara are in a sidebar with Judge Blevins. Cindy leans over to speak to a man next to her. He is a reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Ewing, the reporter, tells Cindy that O'Mara has called one of Kramer's witnesses. It is a brilliant move.

Chapter 55:

Sonja Engstrom, Director of the Pharmacy at Municipal, is on the stand. O'Mara talks about the pharmacy's dispensing system. Engstrom says it is 99.9% bulletproof. O'Mara points out how errors could be made, mostly through human interference. O'Mara makes a slam dunk with her point about how fatalities have tripled in the past three years. There is nothing that Kramer can do about it. O'Mara rests her case.

Chapter 56:

Conklin asks Lindsay to go to the lunchroom with him. In the lunchroom Jacobi sits with a young woman who has been crying. The woman tells Lindsay that Jag Girl was her college roommate.

Chapter 57:

Barbara Jane tells Lindsay that her old roommate, Sandy, was an escort. Barbara Jane says that Sandy started working at a place called Top Hat while she was in college.



Chapter 58:

Jacobi and Lindsay go to Top Hat and meet with Ms. Selzer the owner. Selzer gives them information on Sandy's last date. Selzer pretends to feel guilty but Jacobi doesn't buy it.

Chapter 59:

Lindsay and Jacobi arrive at Sandy's apartment where Conklin is waiting. The cops search the apartment and find nothing unusual. Sandy's clothes are not expensive and there is no sign of a struggle. They begin to wonder if the DNA belongs to the killer.

Chapter 60:

Lindsay and Jacobi go to the Hotel Triton to find Sandy's date. They get good information on "Alex Logan" and are told that Logan had a companion. Lindsay asks to see the room.

Chapter 61:

The hotel room had been cleaned many times. Still, CSU is called in to see if they can find anything.

Chapter 62:

Jacobi and Lindsay go out for Chinese. Conklin informs Lindsay that Alex Logan is a woman. It is gathered that Alex Logan is Caddy Girl.

Chapter 63:

Lindsay goes to the morgue and meets Claire's new 22 year-old assistant, Bunny. Bunny tells Lindsay that she recognizes the perfume as Black Pearl. It is only sold at Nordstrom.

Chapter 64:

Jacobi and Conklin go to Nordstrom. A woman calls Lindsay from Municipal. The woman is a patient. She tells Lindsay about a friend she met in a hospital in Raleigh. The woman died unexpectedly when she shouldn't have. The woman on the phone is terrified. She says she saw her friend's doctor just minutes ago - it was Garza.

Part III: Chapters 46-64 Analysis

The Car Girl case is beginning to break. The cops suspect the killings are linked to Top Hat but must collect evidence. Selzer attempts to be sincere but falls flat when she hears about Sandy. She is much too worried about liability. Jacobi is sickened by her attitude.

Learning about Top Hat leads the team to learn the identity of Caddy Girl as well although it has yet to be confirmed.

Garza's behavior toward Yuki is deplorable. It is clear he is a sociopath and has no emotions or sense of responsibility when it comes to his patients. It is not clear if he is the killer although the reader is being led in that direction.



Chapters 65-79

Chapters 65-79 Summary

Chapter 65:

Lindsay arrives at Municipal to meet with the woman caller. When she arrives she is told by Noddie Wilkins that the woman has checked out. Then Noddie says she should talk to the police.

Chapter 66:

Noddie tells Lindsay about finding coins on Harris' eyes. Noddie says this isn't the first time it has happened. It seems to be a killer's signature. Noddie had reported an earlier incident and was threatened by the CEO so she dropped it.

Chapter 67:

Lindsay meets with Whiteley, the hospital's CEO. He says he does not understand who would make a complaint. Lindsay mentions the coins which could also be buttons. Whiteley says none of their patients were victims of homicides and that the buttons are a cruel prank. Whiteley says he didn't report the incidents because sometimes patients die.

"Whiteley was incredibly smug, and I didn't like him. Not his smooth baby face or his jackass laugh. Or the way he was trying to put me down or fake me out" (Chap. 67, p. 192).

Lindsay tells Whiteley that if he doesn't give her information on the buttons she will arrest him for obstruction of justice. Whiteley tosses an envelope filled with buttons in Lindsay's direction. Lindsay demands that she receive a list of the patients who died.

Chapter 68:

Lindsay sits in traffic and thinks about the patients that have died and Whiteley's cover up. She also sees a familiar name on the list of patients - Keiko's name.

Chapter 69:

Yuki returns to court to watch Whiteley testify. Kramer attempts to explain away the deaths.

Chapter 70:



Dennis Garza is sworn in. Kramer is concerned because Garza had refused to be prepped for testimony. Kramer looks at O'Mara and sees a look of eagerness on her face which worries him even more.

Chapter 71:

O'Mara asks Garza to explain how Jessie Falk died. O'Mara influences the jury by forcing Garza to explain the term psychic horror and how Jessie Falk most likely felt before she died.

Chapter 72:

O'Mara continues to question Garza. Yuki is impressed with the delivery. When Garza is asked if he had anything to do with the deaths of the patients, he pleads the fifth. The people in the courtroom gasp. Cindy and Yuki meet after recess.

Cindy says: "That fool refused to answer on the grounds that he might incriminate himself" (Chap. 72, p. 247).

Yuki replies that the bastard is guilty, guilty, guilty.

Chapter 73:

The Women's murder Club meets at Susie's. Cindy and Yuki both talk 100 mph telling the story of Garza. Claire talks about the number of cases that go unreported every year whether or not the patient dies. She also says many people believe that doctors are Godlike and won't challenge them. Yuki says Garza is evil.

Chapter 74:

Yuki cannot sleep. She decides to follow Garza. She waits outside his house and tails him. A police car is behind Yuki and she pulls over. The police car flies past but Yuki is anxious. She thinks about her life before Keiko died. Now her only obsession is Garza.

Chapter 75:

Lindsay sits down to have lunch with Jacobi. She asks him to work unpaid overtime because of the buttons. There is no victim profile but Lindsay is certain there is a connection.

Chapter 76:

Lindsay goes to Municipal Hospital but she is not sure why. She runs into Garza. Garza recognizes Lindsay and says Yuki is overanxious. Garza flashes Lindsay a deranged grin before leaving to answer a page.

Chapter 77:



A girl named Lauren McKenna goes to meet her "date" for the evening. Lauren is nervous. An Asian man named Ken opens the door. After Lauren begins to relax, a second man, Louie, comes from another room.

Chapter 78:

Lauren begins to panic saying she had not agreed to a threesome. Ken tells her not to worry. Ken tells Lauren a story about Louie getting dumped by his girlfriend. Louie shows Lauren a beautiful dress and necklace that will be hers to keep. As Lauren is considering the items, she feels the drug kick in. Something crushes her chest. A plastic bag is put over her head and Lauren can't breathe.

Chapter 79:

Jake Hadley and his boys are excited about going to the International Car Show. Hadley instructs the boys on where to meet if they should get separated. Stevie runs off and climbs onto a Ferrari display. Stevie discovers the body of the next Car Girl. Hadley informs the ticket taker of the find and says to call the police.

Chapters 65-79 Analysis

The trial takes a sharp turn when O'Mara manages to question one of Kramer's witnesses. A shock ripples through the courtroom when Garza pleads the fifth. Everyone thinks the same thing - that the man may as well have said "I'm guilty."

The Car Girl killings are escalating. They get their victims from a dating service. Lauren had been hesitant about taking on the job but her friend had convinced her that it was such an easy way to pay off debt. Lauren panics when Louie appears but does not manage to get away.



Chapters 80-101

Chapters 80-101 Summary

Part V: One-Stop Shopping

Chapter 80:

Lindsay and Jacobi arrive at the car show. Jacobi says the killers are thumbing their noses at the cops. Lindsay is upset at the presence of so many kids. Lindsay calls Tracchio to shut down the convention center. As usual the victim had no ID. The show manager arrives and is livid that the show is going to be shut down. Lindsay almost feels bad for him. Lindsay wonders how the killers managed to get the girl inside.

Chapter 81:

Claire takes care of Ferrari Girl. The girl had been killed in the same manner as the others. Claire finds a fingerprint behind the girl's knee.

Chapter 82:

Jacobi tells Claire and Lindsay that the killers hijacked a truck that was making a delivery to the convention center. Lindsay figures out that the killers snatched the clothing and the perfume at the same store.

Chapter 83:

Lindsay and Tracchio are on their way downtown. Lindsay knows that Tracchio is nervous and is relying on her to redeem the SFPD's failing reputation.

Chapter 84:

Lindsay, Jacobi and a team of cops go to Nordstrom's. This is Lindsay's favorite store. All of the employees are asked to give their fingerprints for matters of exclusion. The woman noting down employees comments that Louie, the stockroom manager, has left the area.

Chapter 85:

Someone comments that Louie has gone to the bathroom. Lindsay orders the building locked down. Lindsay manages to find Bergin in the crowd.

Chapter 86:

Lindsay yells out to Bergin and the man runs. There is a long chase on the street among a thick crowd of pedestrians and vendors. Conklin manages to tackle Bergin.



Chapter 88:

Lindsay calls it in. She knows that all they have on Bergin is fleeing from police. Conklin tells Lindsay that Bergin struck him. Everyone knows it is a lie but Conklin does not want the man to be able to get out on bail so easily. Lindsay hopes Bergin is the man because it is her only lead.

Chapter 88:

Lindsay and Conklin interview Bergin. Conklin gives Bergin a hard time. Conklin smacks Bergin on the back of the head, causing him to drop the napkin he'd used to wipe his hands. The napkin is tested. Bergin's prints match the one on Lauren McKenna. Conklin tells Bergin he is under arrest for murder.

Chapter 89:

Conklin, Jacobi and Boxer go to Bergin's apartment. Inside they find his roommate, a young Asian woman. As Lindsay begins to talk to the woman, she jumps out of the window and lands on the street below.

Chapter 90:

Bergin is interviewed. Conklin tells him about his girlfriend leaping from the window. It turns out that the girlfriend, Cherry Chu, was also Kenneth Guthrie. Bergin's girlfriend was a man.

Chapter 91:

Lindsay shows Bergin a letter written by his girlfriend. Louie cries and asks to have the letter. Lindsay offers a deal to take the death penalty off the table if Bergin confesses. Bergin agrees.

Chapter 92:

Jacobi is following Garza when he spots Yuki. Jacobi signals Yuki to pull over. After a couple of minutes Yuki recognizes Jacobi. Jacobi asks Yuki why she is following Garza and tells her that it is dangerous. Jacobi promises not to tell Lindsay if Yuki goes straight home.

Chapter 93:

Jacobi receives a call. He follows Garza to a restaurant and then home for the night. Jacobi reports to Lindsay.

Chapter 94:



Lindsay sits in the hospital even though she knows that Garza is at home. Lindsay is ready to leave when Noddie tells her that there has been another dead patient found with buttons on his eyes.

Chapter 95:

Lindsay wakes the doctor on call who thinks there is nothing wrong with the scene. Lindsay calls in support and begins to interview employees.

Chapter 96:

Lindsay questions an ER doctor who says Ruffio died on the table from a bleeding ulcer. She knows nothing about buttons. The doctor is irritated with Lindsay's questions.

Chapter 99:

Lindsay realizes that 60 employees had been near the patient before he died. Any one of them could be responsible. Lindsay wonders how, if it was Garza, could the buttons have been placed on Ruffio's eyes.

Chapter 98:

Lindsay calls Cindy after reading her article in the Chronicle. Lindsay is angry with Cindy for running a story. Cindy says she had to do it. Lindsay says Garza may be guilty of more than malpractice. Cindy's curiosity is aroused.

Chapter 99:

Lindsay has lunch with Tracchio. She tells him about the brass button case. Tracchio agrees to give Lindsay four people for a week to put surveillance in the hospital and on Garza.

Chapter 100:

The cops tail Garza from his house. Garza stops at a curb and approaches the car. He buys the cops coffee and tells them they are in for a long night. Jacobi feels like an idiot but it's still early in the game.

Chapter 101:

Lindsay spots a man who seems to be suspicious. She and Cappy McNeil, a seasoned cop, follow the man to a patient's room. They approach the man and make him empty his pockets and put his hands on the wall. It turns out that the patient in the room is his wife.



Chapters 80-101 Analysis

The Car Girl case breaks wide open. Lindsay is riding high on the arrest of Louie Bergin. Soon Lindsay becomes obsessed with Garza and the brass button case. She finally goes to Tracchio with the case. Tracchio knows Lindsay and supports her, offering limited support. Lindsay is beginning to lose her edge, however and wonders if she is being blinded to evidence because she is so obsessed with Garza. What if Garza has an accomplice or is not involved at all? It is a break when Lindsay is at the hospital when Ruffio is found. However, there is no evidence yet to support that his death is a homicide.

Meanwhile, Garza becomes even smugger and makes fun of the police.



Chapters 102-120

Chapters 102-120 Summary

Part VI: The Verdict

Chapter 102:

Cindy is caught on the BART and is running late for court. She manages to get there on time and goes inside with Yuki. Cindy begins to take notes.

Chapter 103:

O'Mara begins her closing statement. She refers to Garza's bizarre phrase, "Sometimes a bad wind blows." O'Mara mentions Garza's action of taking the fifth and tries to convince the jury that Municipal is guilty of malpractice.

Chapter 104:

Yuki bumps into O'Mara in the ladies room. Yuki talks about Keiko. O'Mara brushes her off but Yuki tells herself it is just because she is focused entirely on the trial.

Chapter 105:

Kramer begins his closing statement. He thinks about how Garza may have lost the case for him. Before he can get very far into his argument, Friedlander stands up and begins to scream at Kramer. As Bevins tries to restore order in the court, Friedlander collapses and people begin to head for the exits.

Chapter 106:

Court resumes and Kramer delivers his closing argument.

Chapter 107:

The jury goes into deliberations. Yuki tells Cindy that at this point it is a coin toss. Cindy rushes off to her office. Yuki sits in her car and sobs.

Chapter 108:

Lindsay and Claire sit at Susie's discussing a new case Claire was working. Cindy comes in. Lindsay apologizes for their earlier argument.

Chapter 109:

Cindy is excited. A nurse at Municipal had called her to talk about the brass buttons. Lindsay recognizes Noddie's voice. The other women barrage Lindsay with questions



after they realize she has information. Lindsay says she cannot talk about it but promises that if Garza is guilty he will not get away.

Chapter 110:

Tracchio calls Lindsay into his office. Garza has threatened to file suit against the SFPD for harassment. Tracchio is going to try to calm him down.

Chapter 111:

The verdict comes in. Each plaintiff is awarded \$250,000 in damages and an additional \$5 million in punitive damages. The hospital has been found guilty on all counts.

Chapter 112:

Melissa and Martin Sweet take their five year old Jamie to Municipal with a broken arm. The boy sobs because he does not want to be left there over night. The parents soothe Jamie and leave.

Chapter 113:

The Night Walker enters Jamie Sweet's room and injects him with a lethal dose of drugs before putting buttons on his eyes.

Chapter 114:

Lindsay receives a call from Noddie, telling her that Jamie Sweet had died. Lindsay calls Tracchio and puts a plan into action. Lindsay only hopes she is right.

Chapter 115:

Lindsay barges into the hospital and into Whiteley's office. Lindsay sees the man looking gray and sallow. Lindsay says she has warrants to search the hospital. Whiteley says it is no longer his problem; Lindsay is in charge now.

Chapter 116:

Lindsay and Jacobi go to the morgue. Jamie's room had already been cleaned out. Lindsay orders the doctor in the morgue not to touch the body that he will be sent to the ME.

Chapter 117:

Lindsay meets with the Sweets while the investigation continues.

Chapter 118:

Lindsay searches Garza's office but comes up with nothing unusual. Jacobi calls up from the morgue to say that he has a suspect under arrest.



Chapter 119:

Lindsay goes downstairs to meet up with Jacobi. He has arrested a CAN named Marie St. Germaine. The woman has a box of caduceus buttons in her locker.

Chapter 120:

In an interview Marie explains that in her homeland of Haiti, people put buttons on the eyes of the dead after they have passed. She only wanted God to know that the people had passed and that they did not do so on their own. Marie tells Lindsay that she should be talking to Engstrom at the pharmacy.

Chapters 102-120 Analysis

The verdict comes into the court in favor of the plaintiffs against Municipal. O'Mara is over the moon. Cindy and Yuki are also happy. However, Yuki realizes that she has been so obsessed with the trial and with Keiko's death that she has nowhere to go and nothing to do. The grief has struck home.

Lindsay is glad to have received a break in the brass button case. Although it is unlikely, Marie's story is plausible. Lindsay intends to follow through on the lead while Jacobi fumes.



Chapters 121-138; Epilogue: Chapter 139

Chapters 121-138; Epilogue: Chapter 139 Summary

Chapter 121:

Lindsay and Jacobi meet with Engstrom. Jacobi recognizes Engstrom as being Garza's girlfriend. Engstrom explains how the system works. Jacobi becomes harsh with Engstrom and says he knows she is Garza's girlfriend. Engstrom begins to cry.

Chapter 122:

Engstrom says she let Garza into the computer system a few times to double check for errors but admits that she did not watch over his shoulder. Then Engstrom says that she and Garza are no longer together. Garza is now sleeping with O'Mara.

Chapter 123:

Lindsay and Jacobi leave the hospital. It begins to make sense why Garza pleaded the fifth in court. They wonder if O'Mara tripped him up or if Garza had another reason for the blunder. They decide to go and see Garza.

Chapter 124:

Jacobi and Lindsay arrive at Garza's house. They see spots of blood on the path and porch. Lindsay says they should go in. Lindsay calls for back up.

Chapter 125:

Lindsay calls out to Garza and then enters the house. The house has been tossed and there is a vast amount of blood in the room. There is no one home. Lindsay finds a crystal vase covered in blood and with strands of Garza's hair.

Chapter 126:

Lindsay waits outside for others to arrive. She thinks about who might have committed the crime. Clapper arrives. Jacobi comes out of the garage. Garza's Mercedes is missing but a black BMW with the plates "redhead" is in its place.

Chapter 127:

Lindsay calls O'Mara's office. Her assistant says O'Mara is on a well deserved vacation. Lindsay says O'Mara may be in danger. She and Jacobi head for O'Mara's house.

Chapter 128:



Lindsay and Jacobi enter O'Mara's house. The house is spotless until they reach the master bedroom. O'Mara's clothes and other items are strewn around the room. Her phone has been smashed. A patrol unit spots Garza's car headed toward the airport.

Chapter 129:

Garza drives toward the airport. He is in shock. At some point O'Mara had changed her mind about leaving the country with him. She had known he was going to leave after they had pulled off their heist. Then something had gone terribly wrong. But O'Mara had changed her mind. Garza heads for long term parking and then tells O'Mara she will have to handle her own bags.

Chapter 130:

Lindsay and Jacobi arrive at the airport. The plane scheduled to take off for Miami with a connecting flight to Rio had been grounded due to an imaginary mechanical problem. A warrant comes in and Lindsay is ready to retrieve Garza and O'Mara.

Chapter 131:

Lindsay, Jacobi and fourteen other cops rush the runway. Lindsay goes on board the plane and spots Garza and O'Mara. While deciding what to do, Garza spots Lindsay. O'Mara tells him to stay calm. Garza grabs a flight attendant and holds a syringe to her neck, demanding safe passage. Garza says he does not care if the woman lives or dies.

Chapter 132:

A pilot exits the cockpit carrying a baton. It distracts Garza enough so Lindsay can use her taser. Lindsay places Garza under arrest for reckless endangerment.

Chapter 133:

Garza and O'Mara are in custody. Lindsay is bone tired but determined to keep going. Garza faces a number of serious charges. O'Mara sits in her cell waiting to be bailed out. She knows the police have nothing on her. Lindsay speaks to Engstrom, begging her to find something concrete in the hospital's computer system. Conklin calls, giddy with news about Garza's car.

Chapter 134:

Conklin says they found Garza's car. Lindsay says not to touch anything until they have a warrant. Forty-five minutes later, Lindsay has the warrant and tells Conklin to open the trunk. Conklin finds a dead man's body inside.

Chapter 135:

It is after 11:00 PM when Lindsay and Jacobi begin to interview Garza. They are all exhausted. Lindsay thinks that she feels like Garza looks.



"And he looked like a gargoyle, a monstrous, murdering gargoyle. And like a gargoyle, he wasn't talking" (Chap. 135, p. 39).

Garza is injured and demands to see a doctor. Lindsay questions Garza about the death of Martin Sweet. Garza vomits. No matter what Lindsay says he refuses to talk. Then Garza demands to see his lawyer. Lindsay calls for an ambulance. She tells Garza to inform his lawyer that he will be at Municipal, handcuffed to a gurney and under police guard. Lindsay and Jacobi leave. Lindsay hears Garza begin to cry.

Chapter 136:

Lindsay drives home and thinks that it might have been nice for Yuki to see Garza suffer. Even though bail would be set in the millions it is likely Garza would be out by Monday. Lindsay looks forward to her time with Joe. Joe left a message on Lindsay's machine saying that his plane had been canceled and now he was on a flight to Hong Kong.

Chapter 137:

Cindy, Lindsay and Claire meet at a popular restaurant. After a while, they manage to get Lindsay to spill about the Garza case. Sweet had gone to confront Garza about his little boy. Garza had gone crazy, stabbed Sweet 42 times and cut his throat. Garza had tried to dump O'Mara. O'Mara had gone to Garza's house and found him stuffing Sweet's body into the trunk. Garza had agreed to take O'Mara to Brazil. Lindsay surmises that O'Mara would have been murdered as well. Garza is still in police custody. O'Mara has been disbarred.

Chapter 138:

Yuki arrives late. She looks fantastic. Yuki tells her friends that she has quit her job as a defense attorney and has gone to work for the DA. Yuki will now dedicate her skills to prosecuting criminals.

Lindsay continues to think about Garza. Yuki thanks her on behalf of Keiko.

Epilogue:

Chapter 139:

A nurse tends to Melinda Cane, woman who is suffering from depression after the death of her husband and absentee children. The nurse, Luz, says she should just relax. Soon, Cane cannot breathe. Luz, the Night Walker, takes the woman's hand to reassure her. Luz watches as Melinda Cane dies. Luz places the buttons on the woman's eyes and steps out into the hall where police are waiting. Luz is most surprised when Melinda Cane taps her on the shoulder, very much alive. Luz, aka Marie St. Germaine, is arrested in Atlanta in the presence of Lindsay Boxer.



Chapters 121-138; Epilogue: Chapter 139 Analysis

The story comes together quickly. The blood at Garza's house is a mystery at first until his car is searched. The reader expects the blood to belong to Garza or O'Mara but it belongs to Martin Sweet, the man whose little boy was murdered. It begins to look as if Garza is not guilty of the murders at Municipal, at least in Lindsay's mind, but the reader must wait to find out until the Epilogue. It almost seems as if that part of the story had been dropped in pursuit of Garza. This is slightly strange since a murderer may be on the loose.

O'Mara and Engstrom had been under Garza's spell. Lindsay had been right in assuming that Garza is a crazy sociopath. Although the women had been mesmerized by Garza, both had been in love with him, each had known better than to behave in such ways. O'Mara gets off easy in the end with disbarment.

Garza actually begins to break at one point. Lindsay never feels sorry for the man and hopes he suffers.

Yuki's decision to switch sides of the law seems to have been the right one. Perhaps it can give her life meaning and make Keiko proud.

The epilogue is somewhat strange. Marie St. Germaine had been raised in Florida and only posed as a Haitian. Now in Atlanta, Lindsay tracks Marie and identifies her as Luz, a nurse in an Atlanta hospital. Luz is arrested after she tries to kill Melinda Cane. It is never explained how Cane survived the attack.



Characters

Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer

Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer is the main character in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. Lindsay is in her mid-thirties, slender with blonde hair. She works in homicide at the San Francisco Police Department. Lindsay is also a founding member of the Women's Murder Club along with ME Claire Washburn, reporter Cindy Thomas and attorney Yuki Castellano. Lindsay is involved in a long distance relationship with Joe Molinari, Deputy Director of Homeland Security. Lindsay lives with a rescued border collie named Martha. Lindsay's best friend is Claire, to whom she refers as "Butterfly."

Having been recently promoted to Lieutenant, Lindsay is often confused and unhappy with her role as supervisor. She prefers to be on the streets. Lindsay often works the streets with her former partner Warren Jacobi and his partner, Rich Conklin. Lindsay is a tireless worker who takes her work to heart and will keep on going to the point of collapse.

Lindsay's father abandoned the family when she and her sister Cat were young. Lindsay's mother died of breast cancer when she was 24. Lindsay's only family consists of Cat and her two daughters. Lindsay considers the women of the murder club, Joe, and Jacobi as family.

The Night Walker

The Night Walker is the one responsible for multiple murders throughout San Francisco's Municipal Hospital. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the Night Walker's victims. The first is Jessie Falk, a 30 year-old mother with a broken leg. The Night Walker seems to pick victims who have non-life threatening illnesses or injuries. This can be seen in many cases including Falk, plus the Sweet and Friedlander cases. Keiko Castellano's injuries are more severe since she had a minor stroke but the Night Walker also kills her.

In each case, the Night Walker places brass buttons on the eyes of each person who has died. In many ways, this is customary in some cultures. This is explained by Marie St. Germaine, a Haitian woman who explains the tradition to Lindsay and Jacobi. The buttons feature a caduceus, a medical symbol. St. Germaine swears that she is only trying to help the victims pass onto the next realm. Of course St. Germaine is lying but is not captured until she moves on to a hospital in Atlanta where she is arrested by the Atlanta police department with Lindsay in attendance.

During each murder the Night Walker feels a great sense of power at being able to end another's life. She also feels powerful because she is relatively invisible to all. The Night Walker thinks that she will never be caught.



Dr. Dennis Garza

Dr. Dennis Garza is the sociopathic doctor who works at Municipal Hospital.

Maureen O'Mara

Maureen O'Mara is the attorney who prosecutes Municipal Hospital.

Claire Washburn

Claire Washburn is the Medical Examiner.

Cindy Thomas

Cindy Thomas is a reporter for the Chronicle.

Yuki Castellano

Yuki Castellano is an attorney with Duffy and Rogers who later becomes an ADA.

Keiko Castellano

Keiko Castellano is Yuki's mother.

Warren Jacobi

Warren Jacobi is Lindsay's former partner.

Rich Conklin

Rich Conklin is Jacobi's current partner.

Car Girls

The murdered escorts are referred to as Car Girls.

Car Girl Killers

Ken Guthrie and Louie Bergin are known as the Car Girl Killers.

Chief Tony Tracchio

Chief Tony Tracchio is Lindsay's boss.



Objects/Places

The Women's Murder Club

The Women's Murder Club is the central theme and object of the stories. The Women's Murder Club is a group of women who have come together during various murder cases, using their knowledge and resources to help Lindsay capture criminals. The group lives and works in San Francisco, which serves as the backdrop for the novels.

The group came together during an initial investigation being conducted by Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer and her best friend and Medical Examiner Claire Washburn. Over the years other women have joined the group. First is Cindy Thomas a hot shot reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. Later the group is joined by Yuki Castellano, an attorney who takes the place of Jill, another attorney who had been murdered.

As the group investigates the Car Girl and Municipal Hospital murders they must also deal with the untimely death of Yuki's mother, Keiko Castellano.

Over the years of working together the women have developed a strong sense of trust and friendship. They rely on each other when it comes to everything personal and professional and in the end pool their resources to solve crimes.

San Francisco

San Francisco is the main setting in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. There are many locales in San Francisco that are mentioned in the story. Lindsay lives on Potrero Hill and often discusses things she sees on her nightly runs with Martha.

The San Francisco Police Department is Lindsay's home away from home. It is located in a building that is usually referred to as The Hall. It also houses the morgue - workplace of Medical Examiner Claire Washburn.

The San Francisco Chronicle is the workplace for Cindy Thomas, a place where Cindy spends many late nights working on stories.

Yuki Castellano works for Duffy and Rogers until the end of the book when she transfers to the District Attorney's office. This had also been the workplace of former Women's Murder Club member Jill Bernhart-Mayer.

San Francisco Municipal Hospital is also a main location in the story since it is the workplace of Dennis Garza, Sonja Engstrom, Marie St. Germaine, Noddie Wilkins and others. It is also the site where Keiko Castellano and many other patients are murdered.



Susie's is another popular location in the book. Susie's is a reggae-style restaurant/bar where the Women's Murder Club was founded and meets on a regular basis. There they drink beer and margaritas and indulge in a variety of foods served by their favorite waitress Loretta. The place also specializes in reggae music which seems to be a favorite of the group.

San Francisco Municipal Hospital

San Francisco Municipal Hospital is one of the main crime scenes where the brass button case takes place.

Expensive Cars

Expensive cars are used in the Car Girl murders, where the killers pose murdered escorts.

Susie's

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Chief Tracchio's Office

Lindsay meets with her boss in Chief Tracchio's Office.

Morgue

Claire Washburn's domain is the morgue.

Courthouse

The trial against Municipal Hospital takes place in the courthouse.

Lindsay's House

Lindsay's House is located on Potrero Hill and is the place where she unwinds.

SFPD

Lindsay works at the SFPD.



Themes

Trust and Friendship

The value of the work of the Women's Murder Club a central theme and object of the stories. Over the years of working together the women have developed a strong sense of trust and friendship. They rely on each other when it comes to everything personal and professional and in the end pool their resources to solve crimes. The Women's Murder Club is a group of women who come together during various murder cases, using their knowledge and resources to help Lindsay capture criminals. The group lives and works in San Francisco, which serves as the backdrop for the novels.

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Evil and Power

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Professional Roles and Family

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Having been recently promoted to Lieutenant, Lindsay is often confused and unhappy with her role as supervisor. She prefers to be on the streets. Lindsay often works the streets with her former partner Warren Jacobi and his partner, Rich Conklin. Lindsay is a tireless worker who takes her work to heart and will keep on going to the point of collapse.

Lindsay's father abandoned the family when she and her sister Cat were young. Lindsay's mother died of breast cancer when she was 24. Lindsay's only family consists of Cat and her two daughters. Lindsay considers the women of the murder club, Joe, and Jacobi as family.

Style

Point of View

The point of view used in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro varies between first person and third person omniscient. The third person point of view works well throughout the book since there are several components and underlying factors that would not be revealed otherwise. The story itself is rather complex and only third person omniscient allows the reader to follow and understand the activities of all of the characters as well as the dangerous and deadly events that take place at Municipal Hospital and elsewhere. It also allows for the reader to follow and understand actions and thoughts of other characters in the book as well as those events of which one single character has no knowledge.

The chapters featuring Lindsay are written in the first person point of view, through the eyes of the main character. The use of first person in the story works well in that the reader is able to understand the modern world of police work through the eyes of one of its practitioners. The reader is taken on a journey along with Lindsay and is enabled to see inside the mind of the Lieutenant as she wends her way through two complicated cases of murder.

The use of first person makes the story seem more realistic to the point that the reader can grasp a police lieutenant must go through during an investigation. Additionally, the use of first person lends an air of authenticity to the story and allows the character of Lindsay Boxer to become real.

Setting

San Francisco is the main setting in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. There are many locales in San Francisco that are mentioned in the story. Lindsay lives on Potrero Hill and often discusses things she sees on her nightly runs with Martha.

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Language and Meaning

The language used in *The 5th Horseman* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro tends to be relatively informal and relies a great deal on dialogue between the characters. Although Lindsay Boxer is a police detective, the jargon used on the job is not difficult or something that requires much explanation. If a term is not explained specifically, it is explained through actions or other text.

It is clear by the use of specific language regarding autopsies and other medical references that the authors did extensive research. There are many examples of this throughout the work, such as when Claire discusses her findings in the morgue; the doctors' explanations to Yuki and various patients at the hospital; or during testimony in court. Still, the references are either explained or used in a way that can be understood by the reader or layperson.

There are also many legal references used in courtroom scenes that make them more authentic.

The language used by the authors is very descriptive and is used in such a way that the person reading the story can fully understand the meaning and context of what is being said.

Structure

The 5th Horseman by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro is a work of fiction. The book is 341 pages in length and is comprised of 139 chapters. The shortest chapter is one page in length; the longest chapter is six pages in length. The average length of a chapter is two pages.

The work is chronological in nature. It begins with an interaction between the Night Walker and a young patient named Jessie Falk. It moves on to introduce Lindsay Boxer and other members of the Women's Murder Club, a group of women who have come together during various murder cases, using their knowledge and resources to help Lindsay capture criminals.



The chapters vary between the lives of the women and murder cases which include the Car Girl murders plus the murders that take place at San Francisco Municipal Hospital. One of those victims is Keiko Castellano, Yuki's mother. Also involved is the court case against Municipal which involves a malpractice suit filed on behalf of 20 plaintiffs whose family members died at the hospital due to medication errors or perhaps outright murders.

The Car Girl cases are solved by Lindsay and her team. The Municipal cases eventually weave together and the killers are brought to justice.



Quotes

"Oh God, I can't breathe. What's happening? I can't get my breath. It's horrible. I'm not fine."

Chap. 1, p. 4

"And I flashed on the last time I'd been inside an emergency room. I remembered the doctors' ghostlike hands on my body, the loud throbbing on my heart, and wondering if I was going to get out alive."

Chap. 4, p. 12

"I didn't know how or why but this girl had been killed, but my eyes and gut told me that she hadn't died in this car."

Chap. 9, p. 26

"I'm afraid that this is going to be an emotional trial because people have died."

Chap. 22, p. 62

"I don't know what you've been smoking, Boxer, but you've got the job."

Chap. 27, p. 75

"I always found the stark reality of the morgue, Claire's place, a shock to the nervous system - the unforgiving white light on the dead, the sheets hiding that their insides were out."

Chap. 38, p. 112

"I had a dim memory of standing at this very spot when Mom was buried, not having a shred of [the] grace or eloquence Yuki had shown today."

Chap. 42, p. 122

"Sometimes a bad wind blows."

Chap. 65, p. 185

"That fool refused to answer on the grounds that he might incriminate himself."

Chap. 72, p. 207

"I was fretting and stalking the corridors outside the ICU at the Municipal when Jacobi called saying that Garza was tucked in for the night."

Chap. 94, p. 275

"I willed the anxiety out of my voice, but I felt it deep in my gut."

Chap. 114, p. 334



"You probably remember Lieutenant Lindsay Boxer from San Francisco. She's the one who nailed you to the wall."
Epilogue, p. 407



Topics for Discussion

Yuki feels a sense of fear when O'Mara delivers her opening statement about malpractice at San Francisco Municipal. How might you have reacted in Yuki's place? Would you have forced your mother to leave?

Why is Boxer surprised at Tracchio's reaction when she says she wants to return to the streets? Do you think Tracchio acted appropriately? Explain.

How does Cindy support the Women's Murder Club? How does she use her professional status to help solve crimes?

How do you think Lindsay figured out that Luz was the Night Walker? How did Melinda Cane survive the attack?

How might a psychiatrist diagnose Dennis Garza?

What do you think will happen to Municipal Hospital?

What kind of case might the Women's Murder Club tackle next?