

# **Along Came a Spider Study Guide**

**Along Came a Spider by James Patterson**

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# Plot Summary

*Along Came a Spider* is a novel centered on Washington D.C. police detective Alex Cross. Cross and his partner are investigating a group of murders in the poor section of the capitol when they are suddenly pulled away to investigate a high profile kidnapping. Despite his anger at his boss's priorities, Cross finds himself drawn into the kidnapping plot, crossing boundaries that find him accusing his lover of murder. *Along Came a Spider* is a novel of mystery, romance, and social responsibility that is as thought provoking as it is entertaining.

Alex Cross and his partner, Sampson, are investigating the brutal murder of a prostitute and her two children, the second in a series of murders in the poorer section of Washington, D.C. In the midst of this investigation, they are pulled away to investigate the kidnapping of the secretary of the treasury's son and the daughter of a famous actress. Cross resents the shift in priorities that express to him a reluctance to solve the murders of poor, black families. However, as a father, he finds himself drawn into the investigation due to his empathy for the parents of the missing children.

With a team of investigators that includes members of the FBI as well as the Secret Service, Cross travels to Florida to follow a ransom demand shortly after the secretary's son is found dead. Here, in the midst of the investigation, Cross finds himself being romantically drawn to Jezzie Flanagan, the Secret Service supervisor whose agents were in charge of security for the secretary's son. After spending an evening getting to know Ms. Flanagan, Cross finds himself targeted by the kidnapers when he is picked to be the delivery man for the ransom. Cross goes to the designated drop point where he is taken at gun point aboard a plane. Cross and the ransom man fly from Florida to South Carolina, where the ransom money disappears after a brief struggle between Cross, the ransom man, and an unseen accomplice. Cross is immediately blamed in the press for the failure to rescue Maggie Rose, the surviving child.

Cross is taken off the case but continues to investigate on his own time, obsessed by the fact that he was chosen to deliver the ransom. Through his investigation, Cross discovers a connection between the kidnapper and the killer of the black families he was originally assigned to investigate. This information puts Cross back on the case. Shortly afterward, Cross receives more information that leads to the kidnapper's identification. A team travels to the kidnapper's home to make an arrest, but the man flees as they approach. A few days later, the kidnapper attempts to take the customers of a McDonald's hostage, but is taken down by Cross and the investigative team.

Since Cross is also a clinical psychologist, he arranges to meet with the kidnapper, Gary Murphy. Murphy appears to be a mild mannered man who could not possibly have been the cold blooded criminal who perpetrated the crimes that he is accused of. The idea of multiple personalities begins to surface among the professionals dealing with Murphy, but Cross is not convinced. Throughout the trial, Murphy maintains his innocence, claiming insanity. Murphy's lawyer calls Cross as a defense witness to hypnotize



Murphy in an attempt to prove the theory of multiple personalities. The attempt fails to convince the jury and Murphy is found guilty.

During the trial, knowledge of Cross's affair with Jezzie becomes public, ending her career. Jezzie disappears for a short time, leaving Cross to continue his investigation unofficially. Cross still hopes to find the missing girl. Again Cross comes across some new information that spurs him into approaching the FBI. Cross learns that the Secret Service agents charged with the secretary's safety have been under investigation since the kidnappings. It is suspected they falsified their logs and might have had something to do with the kidnappings themselves. It is also revealed that Jezzie may have been involved. Cross takes it upon himself to find out the truth and sets Jezzie up on what she thinks is a romantic getaway. Jezzie admits that she and the other two agents stole the girl after she was kidnapped and took the ransom.

Cross has Jezzie arrested and shortly afterward retrieves the girl from where Jezzie and her partners had hidden her. However, Murphy has escaped from prison and makes an attempt on Cross's life as well as the lives of his family. Cross and his partner track Murphy down and stop him, sending him back to prison. Jezzie and her partners are convicted of kidnapping as well as felony murder and are executed.



# Prologue, Let's Play Make-Believe (1932)

## Prologue, Let's Play Make-Believe (1932) Summary

*Along Came a Spider* is a novel centered on Washington D.C. police detective Alex Cross. Cross and his partner are investigating a group of murders in the poor section of the capitol when they are suddenly pulled away to investigate a high profile kidnapping. Despite his anger at his boss's priorities, Cross finds himself drawn into the kidnapping plot, crossing boundaries that find him accusing his lover of murder. *Along Came a Spider* is a novel of mystery, romance, and social responsibility that is as thought provoking as it is entertaining.

New Jersey, near Princeton; March 1932. A young boy of twelve sneaks up to the Charles Lindbergh farmhouse and watches as the Lindbergh's settle down to their dinner before using a ladder to climb up to the nursery window and steal twenty month old Charles Lindbergh, Jr. The boy runs with the baby less than two miles from the farmhouse and buries him alive.

## Prologue, Let's Play Make-Believe (1932) Analysis

The Lindbergh kidnapping is a famous crime from the early part of the century that resulted in what was dubbed at the time the trial of the century. The trial centered on the accused kidnapper, Bruno Richard Hauptmann. This chapter, however, claims that a boy of only twelve committed the crime and set Hauptmann up. Although many people over the years have claimed that Hauptmann was not the real kidnapper, no proof has ever been offered to contradict the evidence against him. The introduction of this case at the beginning of the novel suggests several things to the reader. First, it suggests that the plot of the novel will involve a kidnapping. Second, it suggests that someone who was not the true criminal will be accused. Finally, it suggests a criminal mind at work who will attempt to outwit everyone involved. These suggestions will propel the novel's plot from the beginning through the final pages.



# **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 1-5**

## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 1-5 Summary**

Alex Cross, a detective as well as a psychologist, is on the front porch of his home in Washington D.C. playing the piano. Cross receives a phone call from his partner telling him of the murder of a black family in Langley Terrace, a poor section of the capitol. Cross, who is a widow, leaves his two children with his grandmother to rush to the scene. Cross and his partner, Sampson, Cross's friend since they were small children, arrive at the home of the latest murder victims. Inside a bedroom, they find the bodies of a woman, her daughter, and a small boy. The women have been mutilated and the boy tossed aside, as if incidental in the killings. Cross is drawn to this boy, seeing his own six year old son in his place. Cross is also concerned that this appears to be the second in a series of similar murders.

Maggie Rose Dunne is the daughter of the famous actress, Katherine Rose. Although a well adjusted child, Maggie Rose feels she is always in the spotlight because of her mother's fame. Due to this, she attempts to be as normal as possible. Maggie Rose attends a private school in Washington D.C. where she and her best friend, Michael Goldberg, laugh and play like any normal nine year olds. However, they are far from normal. Not only is Maggie Rose's mother famous, but Michael's father is the secretary of the treasury, and their rides to and from school are given by agents of the Secret Service.

Maggie Rose and Michael Goldberg are in their history class with Ms. Kim when another, well liked teacher, Mr. Soneji, comes into the room and informs them that a threat has been called in to the Secret Service and the children are to be escorted home. The children go with Mr. Soneji willingly because they trust him. However, the moment he has them safely in his van, Mr. Soneji chloroforms the children. Soon after, Cross gets a call from his boss to leave the murder scene and get over to the private school to join the hunt for the kidnapped children.

## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 1-5 Analysis**

Alex Cross is introduced as a no-nonsense cop who is in the midst of investigating a group of similar murders in the poorer section of Washington D.C. Cross has clearly not had an easy life. However, he is clearly a loyal friend as he is working with a man who has been his friend since childhood. Cross's reaction to the death of the family in Langley Terrace also shows him to have a kind heart and a desire to do what is right. All



of these things begin to reveal to the reader Cross's character, which will be a driving force in his actions throughout the novel.

While Cross is investigating the murders of the family in Langley Terrace, a young girl, who is normal in every way except for the fact that her mother is a famous star, or perhaps in spite of it, is arriving at school on what should be a normal day. Maggie Rose is spunky and bright, clearly well adjusted despite the uniqueness of her family dynamics. Her best friend, Michael Goldberg, is also a bright young man who has managed to live a normal life despite the importance of his father's job.

The kidnapping of Maggie Rose and Michael Goldberg is clearly an important moment in the novel, as is the introduction of the kidnapper, Gary Soneji. The kidnapping suggests a direction for the plot as well as tension that will bring the major characters onto a similar plane of plot development. The kidnapping also touches on the theme of trust as the children clearly trust their teacher and this is why they go with him. When Cross receives the call to leave Langley Terrace and go to the school, the reader is immediately alerted that Cross will be involved in this investigation, though the reader must also be aware of Cross's dissatisfaction in this development due to his reaction to his boss's demands. The next few chapters will expand on this dissatisfaction and lead the reader to wonder what Cross's part in the investigation will be.





# **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 6-10**

## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 6-10 Summary**

Cross and Sampson arrive at the private school where it appears that law enforcement agents from all over the capitol have arrived to participate in the investigation. Cross is immediately angered by the overwhelming police presence as compared to the small turnout at Langley Terrace and annoyed that he was pulled off that case to look for two missing white children. Cross complains to his boss and is told the mayor asked for him specifically. Before Cross can decide what to do next, Jezzie Flanagan arrives at the school on the back of her motorcycle. Jezzie is the Secret Service supervisor in charge of the two agents who were assigned to Michael Goldberg. Jezzie makes a splash as she enters the school because she is young and beautiful. Jezzie speaks to the secretary before joining a group around the mayor that includes Cross.

Cross and Sampson slip away from the crowd of police enforcement officers and meet with a group of children in the playroom. Cross and Sampson take a few minutes to reassure the children. They then ask Ms. Kim a few clarifying questions about the moments before the kidnapping. The mayor finds Cross here and insists on speaking to him. Cross and the mayor drive across town as the mayor explains that he insisted on having Cross on the investigation because this could be a huge case that will make or break a lot of careers. The mayor knows Cross is one of the best and can expedite a positive result. Cross leaves the meeting with the impression that the mayor is more concerned with his own career than Cross's, though the idea of the implied promotion is not an unpleasant one.

Gary Soneji arrives in his van at an abandoned farm in the country. Soneji drives the van into a garage where he has already prepared a box underground to hold the children while he awaits the ransom. Soneji then gives each of the children a carefully prepared anesthetic to keep them unconscious for another twelve hours or so. Later, Soneji watches the news reports about the kidnappings as he removes the disguise he had worn at the school while pretending to be Mr. Soneji, the genius math teacher. On the news, Soneji notices one of the FBI agents has painted himself as a hero of sorts. Soneji checks on the children before leaving the farm.

## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 6-10 Analysis**

Cross is not happy about being pulled from the Langley Terrace case, taking his anger out on his boss, revealing to the reader the relationship these two have. The



relationship is filled with tension that will have consequences later in the development of the plot. The author then introduces a new character, Jezzie Flanagan, noting her importance by narrating the introducing chapter from her point of view. Jezzie is described as a beautiful woman who appears younger and more fragile than she really is. Jezzie is a supervisor in the Secret Service, which suggests she is a brilliant agent who has proven her abilities repeatedly to rise so high in an organization that is traditionally male oriented. Jezzie's accomplishments show a character of great strength and intelligence.

Cross is forced into a conversation with the mayor in which he is told that this case can be a career maker and he should take care to make sure it does not end badly. Cross infers from this conversation that he is being put on the kidnapping in order to solve it quickly due to its high visibility. Cross would rather remain on the Langley Terrace case, but the idea of career advancement is one that even a good man like Cross cannot pass up.

Finally, the reader is taken along as the kidnapper puts the children in a box in the ground and drugs them again to keep them from waking any time soon. These actions make the kidnapper appear very intelligent. It also appears that the kidnapper does not intend to harm the children because if he were, he would not have been so careful with the drug dosage. Then the kidnapper removes a disguise, revealing to the reader what he really looks like. The reader must remember the police are still searching for a man with a completely different appearance. Finally, the kidnapper watches the news and then quickly leaves the farm, suggesting he might have seen something that upset him, perhaps the hero FBI agent.



# Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 11-15

## Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 11-15 Summary

FBI Special Agent Roger Graham is returning home when a man identifying himself as a reporter comes up to the car and begins speaking to Graham. Graham is polite, stopping to speak, which proves to be fatal when the reporter turns out to be Soneji. Soneji cuts Graham's throat and leaves him to bleed to death in his own driveway. The next day, Cross and Sampson go to Soneji's apartment. Cross finds research on various famous kidnappings and pictures of famous people on the wall, including criminals, with a headline that reads, 'I want to be someone'. Cross feels this is important insight into the mental state of the kidnapper.

Maggie Rose wakes in the buried box to find herself in complete darkness and dying of thirst. Maggie Rose moves around in the box, looking for anything that might be near by, thinking the whole time that she is dead and this is her coffin. Maggie Rose feels a body but does not know who it is, though she suspects it is Michael Goldberg. However, he will not wake up.

The investigative team meets in the living room of the Dunne home. Jezzie runs the meeting by first announcing that they have received a communication from Soneji assuring them the children are still alive. Then Jezzie announces the death of Roger Graham, catching everyone off guard, especially Cross who had been friendly with Graham. Jezzie also reveals that on the body was a warning from Soneji telling them everyone working the case is in grave danger.

The press grabs on to the story of the kidnapping over the next few days, being especially hard on the two Secret Service guys who were supposed to be guarding the Goldberg boy. Given the idea of a disguise by makeup residue at Soneji's apartment, Cross and Sampson spend a few days searching out makeup stores in the hopes of finding someone who sold Soneji his disguise. They have no luck.

Cross gets permission to speak to the Dunnes, learning that Michael and Maggie Rose have been good friends since the Dunnes moved to Washington D.C. from Los Angeles several years before. Cross also learns that Michael has a heart problem that causes him to become tired often. Cross asks many questions about the Dunnes' life with their daughter and quickly finds himself empathizing with them because of his own two children, a boy who is six and a girl who is four. Suddenly this case becomes important to Cross.



## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 11-15 Analysis**

Cross finds himself moving deeper into the mind of the kidnapper as he checks out the kidnapper's apartment and finds research there that suggests the kidnapper wants to be famous for his crimes. The idea of the kidnapper's lust for fame comes up again when he kills an FBI agent, leaving on the body a note warning the investigators not to steal his limelight. The kidnapper's motivation is recognition, a desire to be famous for his crimes and his intelligence, and it is this desire that will guide his future actions.

Maggie Rose is still alive and she is with Michael, even though Michael apparently is not awake or aware. Michael's lack of response when Maggie Rose speaks to him alerts the reader to the possibility of trouble, given the information Maggie Rose's mother gave to Cross regarding the little boy's heart problem. However, Maggie Rose is awake and well now, a sign that can only be taken as positive.

Cross finds himself drawn to the little girl despite his initial reservations about the case, due to his empathy with Maggie Rose's parents and his experiences as a parent. Cross's motivations in the case have changed. Cross no longer resists working this case and finds himself feeling the parents' pain. In addition, the mention of the press in this chapter is important because it opens up the possibility that the press will become an important entity in the development of the plot. Another important mention in this chapter is the suggestion that Soneji wore a disguise. The reader is already aware of this disguise and now it is clear that Cross has an idea of one as well, taking away the kidnapper's advantage of hiding behind a disguise.



## **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 16-20**

### **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 16-20 Summary**

Maggie Rose is still underground in what she thinks is her grave. Suddenly a bright light appears and a voice calls out to her. Maggie Rose calls out to the stranger, but receives verbal abuse and threats of death in exchange. On Christmas Eve, Cross goes to the home of the Goldbergs to talk about Michael and to check out the boy's bedroom. While there, Cross gets a phone call telling him that a body has been found in a river in Maryland. Cross arrives and discovers the body is the badly beaten body of Michael Goldberg. The investigators are on scene until early the next morning. Jezzie goes home, but she cannot stop the torturous memory of Michael Goldberg's death from becoming an obsession. Jezzie gets on her motorcycle and speeds through the night.

On Christmas morning, a massive house to house search begins in Maryland and Virginia near the location where Michael's body was found. Cross and Sampson attend a meeting of the investigative team where the FBI announces they have received another message from Soneji. It is a ransom demand where Soneji requests that the ransom be paid in Miami Beach, Florida. As a result, the investigative team, including Cross, travel to Miami Beach. A short time later, the team learns from an early autopsy report that Michael Goldberg's death was accidental and that the injuries to his body took place postmortem. Cross becomes more concerned about the chances of Maggie Rose's survival due to what the autopsy report suggests of Soneji's mental state.

At the hotel, Cross decides to go for a swim before bed. When he arrives at the pool, he finds Jezzie already there. Jezzie and Cross talk after their workout and decide to have dinner together. Jezzie and Cross become so engrossed in their conversation that they close the restaurant down. Cross then accompanies Jezzie to her room where some mild flirtation takes place, leaving Cross full of thoughts of Jezzie as a woman rather than a good cop.

### **Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 16-20 Analysis**

Maggie Rose is still alive, but death threats made against her and the death of Michael Goldberg make it appear to the reader that her chances of survival are small. Michael died accidentally, perhaps due to the mentioned heart problem that caused him to grow fatigued. However, his body was badly abused, suggesting the capacity for violence on the part of Soneji, further predicting a possible bad conclusion for Maggie Rose.



Cross is working as an integral part of the investigation team, accompanying them to Miami Beach to oversee the drop of the ransom for the kidnapper. The ransom demand gives the reader a direction for the next few chapters. At the same time, Cross grows closer to Jezzie. A dinner date and some mild flirtation between Cross and Jezzie not only suggests a romantic relationship beginning to bud, but it also introduces the theme of trust. Cross lets his guard down as he gets to know Jezzie and that allows the reader to see that Cross is beginning to trust Jezzie in a personal capacity.



# Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 21-25

## Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 21-25 Summary

Soneji drives through a toll booth, wishing he could announce to the toll collector who he is. Soneji finds it funny that the police are searching for him everywhere, but he can walk right under their noses and they do not see him. Soneji feels he is better than the real Lindbergh kidnapper. Soneji passes through the toll booth and goes to a farm house in Crisfield, Maryland.

In Florida, another note from the kidnapper arrives requesting that Cross take the ransom to Disney World where he is to follow specific directions to meet with the person who will retrieve the ransom. Cross, who is deeply surprised to be singled out, rushes with the team to the airport in order to make it to Orlando before the deadline in the message. At Disney World, Cross climbs onto a tram that takes him to Magic Kingdom. When Cross enters the park, he is approached by a man, clearly not Soneji, who turns him around and pushes him back toward the tram. Cross demands to see the girl before he will hand over the ransom, but the man says they need to get out of the park without being approached by cops first.

Unfortunately, the cops see Cross and this man get off the tram and they approach them, guns drawn. After the man assures everyone that the girl is okay, Cross gets the cops to back off. Cross and the man get into a waiting car and drive to a private airport. Cross is escorted onto a private jet and handcuffed to a seat. Cross attempts to get more information from the man, but the man is not willing to speak to him about the girl or the kidnapping. The man pilots the plane to a small island where they wait in the heat until sundown. Then they take to the air again, landing at another small airport. Cross believes this is where the exchange will take place. However, the man takes the ransom and leaves the plane without saying anything about the girl. Cross tears at the chair where he is sitting until he is free and rushes out of the plane just in time to jump the man. However, someone else is there and Cross is hit on the back of the head.

Back in Maryland, the local police get information on an abandoned barn that has a box buried inside. The police find one of Maggie Rose's shoes, proving this the location where Maggie Rose and Michael Goldberg were held, but Maggie Rose is nowhere to be found.



## Part One, Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg (1992), Chapters 21-25 Analysis

Soneji is not in Florida during the ransom drop, telling the reader that Soneji would rather have a partner do the drop in order to protect his identity. However, Soneji's attitude at the toll booth suggests he would not mind his identity becoming public. It could also be that Soneji is not the mastermind of the kidnapping. Should this be the case, the reader must wonder who the master mind is if not Soneji. These possibilities are something the reader will have to keep in mind throughout the rest of the novel as other inconsistencies begin to reveal themselves in the development of the plot. This situation also touches on the theme of appearances as the person behind the note hopes the police will believe in the suggestion that the demand is from Soneji and not from some unknown partner or third party.

Cross is hand picked by the writer of the ransom note to deliver the ransom, causing not only Cross but other members of the investigative team to wonder why Cross and how Soneji knew about him. This will continue to bother Cross throughout the novel. The ransom drop does not go as Cross and the team thought it would. Instead of making a simple trade in a crowded amusement park, Cross is taken aboard a plane where he is flown from place to place before the pilot takes the ransom and makes his escape. Cross attempts to stop the ransom man from getting away, but fails when another criminal appears out of no where and hits him over the head, ending all hope of getting Maggie Rose back safely. However, the place where Soneji kept the kids is found, though Maggie Rose is not found, increasing the possibility of her death.





## **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 26-29**

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 26-29 Summary**

Gary Murphy is alone in his dark basement fantasizing about the Lindbergh kidnapping. His wife, Missy, is upstairs waiting for Gary to come tell her he has been fired from yet another job. What is worse is that this job is one Missy's brother gave to Gary. Missy Murphy cannot understand how such a smart man can be such a loser when it comes to keeping a job, or why she is always falling for men like him. In Washington, D.C., Cross has become the scapegoat in the press for failing to rescue Maggie Rose from the kidnapers. As a result, Cross and Sampson have been taken off the kidnapping and returned to the Langley Terrace murders. The press have begun camping on Cross's lawn, harassing his family. Cross goes to volunteer at a local soup kitchen where he has volunteered for years, and finds the press has followed him there, causing him to lose his temper.

Gary Murphy is shoveling snow off the sidewalk in front of his home when his brother-in-law drives up, spoiling his small daughter with surprise gifts and his wife with her monthly allowance. Marty then takes Gary and Missy aside and tells them that Gary owes Marty's company thousands of dollars for advances on his commission, but Gary has not sold any products. Gary attempts to reassure his wife with words of affection while in his mind he is imagining killing his family, Marty included.

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 26-29 Analysis**

This section again touches on the theme of appearances as the reader is allowed to view the life Gary Murphy has in Wilmington. Gary's life with his family is a contrast to his mental state and the life he has led in Washington. However, Gary Murphy is fantasizing about Lindbergh, alerting the reader that although his outside world appears normal, his mental world is still filled with fantasies of crime. Missy, Gary's wife, is convinced he has been fired and is concerned about the impact of this on their family. Missy Murphy's fear seems to be well founded when her brother shows up and announces that Gary owes his company a great deal of money for borrowing against commissions he has not earned. This situation is important for two reasons. Gary clearly has not been working at the job his brother-in-law gave him, but may have been seen in Washington in this capacity, foreshadowing a possible method by which Murphy can be identified. It is also important because the discussion reveals Gary's thoughts of murder, again emphasizing the contrast of his mental state as opposed to his words and actions.

Cross, at the same time, has been taken from the kidnapping case because he has become the scapegoat for the mishandling of the ransom drop. The situation introduces the press into Cross's life and predicts a further love-hate relationship with the press that will define sections within the plot development.



## **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 30-37**

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 30-37 Summary**

Cross's disappointment in not being able to help Maggie Rose causes him to think frequently on his wife, Maria, who was murdered in a drive-by shooting three years before. One morning a few weeks after the botched ransom exchange, Jezzie comes to tell Cross she feels that he has gotten a bum rap in the press. Jezzie is sweet to the kids and Cross finds himself more drawn to her than before. After leaving the Cross home, Jezzie drives out to the Maryland farm and thinks about both Soneji and the children, finally allowing herself to cry. At the same time, Maggie Rose is still in the dark, unable to remember the last time she had something to eat.

Gary Murphy slips out of his house in the middle of the night and returns to Washington, D.C. Once there, Gary knocks on the door of Vivien Kim's townhouse and convinces her to let him in by saying he is with the power company. Once inside, Gary reveals to Ms. Kim his true identity and tells her he is going to use her to send another message to the world. After the discovery of the body, Cross arrives at the Kim home. Once inside the room where the murder took place, Cross finds Ms. Kim killed exactly the same way as the women in Langley Terrace. The only difference is the appearance of one of Maggie Rose's tennis shoes. Now Cross knows the kidnapper and the murderer is the same. Later, while canvassing the neighborhood, Cross and Sampson find a neighbor of Ms. Kim's who saw Soneji watching the Kim residence. The woman had seen him once before as well, working as a door to door salesman for the Atlantic Heating Company out of Wilmington, Delaware.

Gary returns to Delaware in time to attend his daughter's seventh birthday. Gary tends the bar while his and Missy's friends watch the children play their games. Unknown to Gary, the investigative team has gathered outside his home, having found his address through Atlantic Heating. By the time the police execute their warrant, however, Gary Murphy is gone.

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 30-37 Analysis**

Cross and Jezzie are given a more in depth characterization of their personalities in these chapters, providing the reader with a deeper appreciation of their humanity. This appreciation allows the reader to develop a certain amount of sympathy for these characters in order to help the reader care what might happen to them as the plot



continues to develop. The theme of trust is touched on here also, as a deep trust is clearly developing between these two characters.

Gary returns to Washington D.C. where he attacks the teacher with whom he worked and who was the teacher who handed the children over to Gary on the morning of the kidnapping. The reader must know Ms. Kim cannot identify him outside of his Soneji disguise, suggesting another reason for Soneji's decision to kill her. This reason becomes clear when Cross arrives and finds one of Maggie Rose's sneakers at the scene. The appearance of the shoe is significant because it not only connects Soneji with the murders, but it also puts Cross and his partner back on the kidnapping case. Through the investigation of Ms. Kim's murder, Cross and Sampson come across information that identifies Soneji as Gary Murphy and leads the investigative team to his home. However, Soneji disappears before they can get him, pointing the reader in a new direction that the plot will take over the next few chapters.



## **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 38-43**

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 38-43 Summary**

Gary had seen the cops while paying the pizza man and snuck out a door in his basement, escaping through a route he had planned months in advance. Sampson and Cross remain at the Murphy house for many hours afterward to talk to Missy. They learn that Gary grew up with an abusive stepmother who would often lock him in a dark basement. They also learn that Gary grew up just a few miles from the site of the Lindbergh kidnapping, possibly explaining his obsession with it. They also learn that Gary's entire family died in a house fire. During a search of Gary's basement, they find a pair of socks that Maggie Rose was wearing the morning of the kidnapping.

Late that night, Cross returns to the hotel where the investigative team is staying. Cross joins Jezzie and a couple of others in the bar for a few drinks, walking Jezzie to her room when the bar closes. At her door, they begin to kiss and end up spending the night together. At the same time, Soneji stops at a motel in Virginia before setting out again in the morning. Soneji stops at a convenience store where the clerk is rude to him, infuriating him. Later, Soneji stops at a McDonald's. A customer becomes annoyed when Soneji purposely knocks into him. Soneji responds by pulling out a gun and killing another customer. As a result, Soneji takes the entire restaurant hostage. Two state troopers arrive and attempt to surround the building, one in the front and the other slipping around to the back. The cop in the back attempts to sneak up on Soneji, but Soneji sees him and kills him.

A short time later, Cross and the other investigators arrive at the McDonald's. Cross approaches the door and attempts to speak to Soneji. Soneji moves to the doorway where he baits Cross but refuses to give up. Suddenly a sharp shooter takes a shot at Soneji, wounding him in the shoulder. Cross jumps into the crossfire and knocks Soneji to the ground, saving his life.

### **Part Two, The Son of Lindbergh, Chapters 38-43 Analysis**

Sampson and Cross finally learn some truths about Soneji that helps them to understand his state of mind and why he might do what he has done. This helps Cross who is not only a police detective, but a psychologist. Now Cross knows not only a few facts he can chase down to help him learn more about Soneji, but he knows the roots of his mental difficulties and can make certain assumptions based on this knowledge.



Another important event happens through these chapters; Cross and Jezzie begin an affair. This is important because it shows their more human side and it makes a connection between the two that might cause some tension in the plot, considering their professional relationship. Also important is the fact that Cross is instrumental in catching Soneji. Cross arrives at the McDonald's where Soneji has taken hostages and saves him from being killed. Cross's motivations clearly involve the hope that Soneji's survival will prove to give the cops information on where Maggie Rose can be found.



## **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 44-48**

### **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 44-48 Summary**

Maggie Rose is no longer being held in the dark, but is riding in a van to destinations unknown. Maggie Rose has not seen Soneji in a few days and has no idea what is going on, except that the people with her now have told her she must refer to herself only as Bobbi. In Pennsylvania, the investigative team remains at the McDonald's for a long time interviewing everyone involved. That night, Jezzie and Cross spend another night together, enjoying a romantic dinner and simply being together.

Gary Sonji/Murphy is taken to Lorton Federal Prison in Virginia. Cross goes to speak to him, after calling in favors with several prison officials. When Cross arrives, he discovers Gary Murphy, a mild-mannered man who has no idea why he has been arrested. Murphy insists that he remembers nothing before the arrest except stopping at the McDonald's to use the restroom. Several of the psychiatrists who have already visited Murphy feel that he suffers from multiple personality disorder, but Cross is uncertain if he agrees. Cross visits Murphy again a few days later and attempts to get him to talk about past blackouts that would be consistent with multiple personality disorder, testing this theory. Cross also learns Murphy suffers from severe insomnia. On another visit, Cross and Murphy discuss Murphy's childhood and his abusive stepmother. After that visit, Murphy is taken for a lie detector test where he passes with flying colors, convincing many officials that he might truly be a multiple personality.

### **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 44-48 Analysis**

Maggie Rose is still alive and her name has been changed, suggesting to the reader that she may remain alive, only far away from her family and home. In light of Soneji's recent arrest, this suggests Soneji either no longer has control over the little girl or that he has partners who are still working despite his absence. During this time, Corss and Jezzie are also growing even closer, again making the reader wonder what will happen between them later in the novel.

Cross, in his role as a psychologist, begins visiting Soneji/Murphy with the hopes of somehow discovering the whereabouts of Maggie Rose. These meetings are important because it is clear that Murphy is attempting to show that he suffers from multiple personality, giving him grounds to claim insanity at trial. Murphy could end up getting away with murder and kidnapping, with the possibility of spending the remainder of his life in a psychiatric ward. This is not something anyone wants to see happen, especially

Cross who is unclear if he believes Soneji suffers multiple personality. This dilemma puts Cross in a position to attempt to prove Murphy is not mentally ill, a position that could cause him great tension as the plot continues to develop in this direction.





## **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 49-53**

### **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 49-53 Summary**

Cross wants to hypnotize Murphy and asks permission from the district attorney and several other doctors involved in the case. They are reluctant, even as Cross makes several strong arguments. Cross decides to take things into his own hands by going to a reporter friend of his. Cross wants the reporter to write a story about Cross hypnotizing Murphy, thus forcing a decision. When Cross performs the hypnotism, he talks to Murphy about the McDonald's and finds that Murphy has memories of Soneji lashing out at the people at the McDonald's. As Murphy recites these memories, he attacks Cross, convincing him that the Soneji personality has come out.

The next morning Cross is summoned to his boss's office where he learns that he has been given a promotion. Rather than a positive advancement, this proves to be their way of shutting Cross up and ending his connection with the kidnapping case. Cross takes the next week to spend more time at home with his kids since he no longer has a demanding case on his desk. Toward summer, Cross and Sampson travel to Murphy's hometown in order to interview a few friends of Murphy's. They only find one person who had an idea of the type of psychotic mind Murphy has. This man suggests that Murphy killed his family and that he has spent years plotting murder and mayhem.

In September, Jezzie and Cross go to the Virgin Islands for a week. While there, the hotel where they stay arranges for them to spend a day on an isolated island all their own. They enjoy the week and learn more about each other, such as the fact that Jezzie's parents were both alcoholics. Back in Washington, D.C., however, American prejudices dampen their excitement.

### **Part Three, The Last Southern Gentleman, Chapters 49-53 Analysis**

Cross wants to hypnotize Murphy but has trouble getting permission, so he goes to the press. Cross uses the press to help him after they have used him to ruin his reputation after the botched ransom exchange. By hypnotizing Murphy, Cross learns a little more about him. However, this stunt causes Cross to lose his position on the case as he is promoted and reassigned. Cross is not happy about this promotion or being removed from the case because he has become emotionally involved in the case. However, now he has the time to do some research on his own. Cross and Sampson learn that Murphy was psychotic as a child and the possibility that rather than being a multiple personality, since he showed no signs of this disorder as a youngster, Murphy is just a very smart



man who is manipulating the officials in his case in order to go to a mental hospital rather than death row.

During a trip to the islands, Cross and Jezzie grow closer to one another. Important about this trip is the private island they spend a day on, an important setting when Cross and Jezzie return to the islands later in the novel. Also important here is Cross's note of the prejudice he and Jezzie suffer in Washington, D.C. because they are a bi-racial couple. This too will prove to be an important factor later in the novel when it comes up again.



## Part Three, The Last Southern Gentlemen, Chapters 54-59

### Part Three, The Last Southern Gentlemen, Chapters 54-59 Summary

The moment he returns home, Cross gets a call from Sampson asking him to meet him at the Sanders home, the site of the second murders in Langley Terrace. Sampson wants Cross to speak to the daughter of the neighbors who saw a man outside the Sampson house in the days before the murders. The girl identifies Murphy/Soneji as the man she saw, but also says that she saw another man also outside the Sampson home. This makes Cross begin to wonder if Soneji had a partner in his crimes. Cross tells Jezzie his thoughts on the interview that night, but Jezzie dismisses the whole thing because she does not think the girl is reliable. That night, Cross and Jezzie attempt to go to a basketball game, but are insulted by a man in the parking lot. Cross becomes so enraged that he fights the man and his two friends before leaving.

Based on this new information, Cross goes to see Murphy/Soneji and finds himself speaking with the Soneji personality. Soneji is angry and abusive. Murphy returns and Cross realizes that this could be what is called cycling with a multiple personality. Cross thinks if it is an act, it is brilliant and is worried Murphy/Soneji might get off. At the same time, Maggie Rose is working picking fruit and vegetables on the side of a mountain. During the day, she often daydreams about her mother, wishing she could see her again.

Murphy/Soneji's trial begins in October. Cross and Samson attend, both cynical enough to believe Murphy/Soneji will get off on his insanity plea. All the players have been carefully hand selected by the secretary of the treasury, including the judge and the prosecutor, both successful in their perspective careers. It is sure to be the trial of the century, just like the Lindbergh kidnapping trial was in its time. Cross attends the opening day. As the trial proceeds, both lawyers begin to parade a group of medical experts before the jury. The prosecution presents their case with the evidence of the crimes and a preemptive strike against the insanity plea. The defense presents its case based on the belief that Murphy is innocent because of his multiple personality. Soneji committed the bad acts and therefore Murphy should not be punished. The defense calls many character witnesses. At the end of the day, the defense calls a surprise witness, Cross himself.



## Part Three, The Last Southern Gentlemen, Chapters 54-59 Analysis

The neighbor's sighting of another man outside the Sanders home reinforces the suggestion that has been made all along that Soneji has a partner. This suggestion is important because not only does it draw Cross back into the case, but it also explains why Maggie Rose is still alive and well without Soneji being near her, and why Soneji was not present at the ransom drop. At the same time, the reader learns Maggie Rose is still alive since the reader is allowed a glimpse of her picking vegetables and fantasizing about seeing her mother.

Cross visits Murphy/Soneji again and thinks that he witnesses Murphy/Soneji cycling between personalities. Cross still suspects it is an act, but he is worried that Murphy/Soneji is so good at the act that he will get off for the kidnappings and murder of Michael Goldberg because of insanity. The case begins, preparing the reader for the possibility of this happening. The defense calls Cross as their secret witness, setting up the next few chapters with Cross in a position to defend a criminal he helped catch.



## Part Four, Remember Maggie Rose, Chapters 60-64

### Part Four, Remember Maggie Rose, Chapters 60-64 Summary

Over the weekend, Cross spends time with his children and then goes out with Jezzie. Cross and Jezzie drive to Jezzie's summer house in North Carolina to relax for the weekend. That Monday Cross is the first on the stand. The lawyer for Murphy/Soneji presents Cross's credentials as a psychologist before asking him his opinion about Murphy/Soneji's mental state. Cross refuses to say that Murphy/Soneji is a multiple personality, but also refuses to say he is not. Then the defense attorney surprises everyone by suggesting Cross hypnotize his client in the courtroom. The judge agrees and Cross does as requested. Murphy talks about Soneji while under hypnosis, revealing Soneji's terrible temper and how he attacked Michael Goldberg in anger after finding him dead. Murphy also reveals that when he went to retrieve Maggie Rose after the ransom was agreed to, she was gone.

After the court adjourns for the day, Cross is leaving the courthouse when he runs into the Dunnes. Mr. Dunne accuses Cross of attempting to get his daughter's kidnapper off. Cross leaves the area to avoid arguing with the man. Katherine Rose follows Cross and apologizes for her husband, revealing that their marriage is falling apart due to Maggie Rose's disappearance.

Cross and Sampson decide not to go to the trial anymore that week and instead go over some of their investigative interviews and visit the farm where it is believed Maggie Rose and Michael Goldberg were held. Cross is still obsessed with the idea of finding Maggie Rose, hopefully alive. Jezzie and Cross have a date late that night. They meet at a motel and have a romantic evening before Cross decides to go so he can be home before his kids wake. Waiting in the hotel parking lot is a reporter from the *National Star*, a tabloid. Jezzie appears outside the hotel room door and the reporter's photographer gets a picture of the two of them.

### Part Four, Remember Maggie Rose, Chapters 60-64 Analysis

Cross is put on the stand as a defense witness where he refuses to commit to a diagnosis on Murphy. Cross is then made to put Murphy/Soneji under hypnosis. The entire situation places Cross in the position of appearing to defend the man he tried to find and convict, adding a twist of irony in the novel as well as touching on the theme of appearances. Not only this, but Cross then must defend himself to the father of the little



girl he has become obsessed with finding; a situation that leaves Cross frustrated and angry.

During hypnosis, Cross discovers that the Murphy personality remembers Soneji becoming angry and damaging Michael Goldberg's body. This is important because it is contrary to the traditional definition of multiple personality in which one personality is rarely aware of the others, let alone aware of his actions. Cross also learns Maggie Rose disappeared before Soneji could harm her, suggesting that someone other than Soneji has possession of Maggie Rose.

Cross and Sampson throw themselves back into the investigation, looking for anything they may have missed in their prior attempts. Cross's continuation in investigating this crime tells the reader that Cross is not yet ready to give up on Maggie Rose despite his poor reputation and the fact that Soneji is on trial for the crimes. During this time, Cross is caught in a tryst with Jezzie, making their relationship public. Now the reader must wonder what this will mean for Cross and Jezzie and their careers.



## Part Four, Remembering Maggie Rose, Chapters 65-67

### Part Four, Remembering Maggie Rose, Chapters 65-67 Summary

Cross faces his grandmother's disappointment the morning the *National Star* story comes out. Nana Mama warns Cross about Jezzie, though she admits that if he loves her, she will too. Cross attempts to get in touch with Jezzie during the day but cannot, learning later that she has resigned from her position and moved down to the summer house where the phones have been disconnected. A few days later, the jury finds Murphy/Soneji guilty on all charges. Chaos breaks out as the audience celebrates and Murphy's loved ones rush to his side for their final goodbyes. Cross is surprised by Murphy's reaction to his wife's grief, wondering if there could be a small possibility that Murphy/Soneji is really a multiple personality after all. At the same time, Jezzie arrives at her summer house after a bike ride and discovers someone has been in the house. Jezzie walks out to the dock and the stranger comes up behind her, unseen by the reader but clearly someone she knows and is happy to see.

### Part Four, Remembering Maggie Rose, Chapters 65-67 Analysis

Cross's grandmother warns him off Jezzie, worried about the woman partly because she is white and such a relationship will be difficult. Nana Mama also gets the impression that Jezzie is a woman with problems. Nana Mama's concerns should warn the reader that Jezzie will be the source of great problems for Cross later in the development of the novel. This selection of chapters also reveals a new side to Jezzie. Jezzie is forced to resign due to her relationship with Cross, though the reader should wonder if the situation was really so dire as to force such a drastic reaction. When Jezzie arrives at her summer home to find a person there who is not Cross, but clearly a male friend of great affection, the reader must begin to wonder what this means about their relationship and about the possibility that Jezzie has been lying to Cross all along.

The verdict comes in against Murphy/Soneji and he is found guilty on all counts despite his plea of not guilty by reason of insanity. Murphy and his family react as any other family would in the face of such a terrible situation, touching again on the theme of appearances. Cross continues to wonder if it is possible that Murphy/Soneji is truly mentally insane despite his belief to the contrary.



## **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 68-72**

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 68-72 Summary**

Maggie Rose has been warned not to run away or she will be put in darkness for a year. Maggie Rose is scared, but she continues to fantasize about running away just the same. Cross has become obsessed with finding Maggie Rose even as he is attempting to resume a normal life. Jezzie returns to the city where she and Cross resume their relationship. Cross continues the investigation into Maggie Rose's kidnapping by revisiting the witness who lives next door to the Sanders. The mother speaks to Cross reluctantly, having hoped their part was over. She reveals to Cross that the man her daughter saw with Soneji was not actually with Soneji, but watching him from another car. Cross realizes this changes the idea of an accomplice and decides to go speak to Murphy/Soneji again to find out the truth once and for all.

At the prison, Murphy/Soneji claims to have no memory of the Sanders, which is all Cross is allowed to speak to him about. Cross then goes to see one of the Secret Service agents who was part of the detail who was assigned to Michael Goldberg. The man, Mike Devine, talks about being forced out of the service after the kidnapping, but refuses to speak much about the days prior to the kidnapping, saying all the information needed is in the logs. Cross then calls Devine's partner and finds him hostile and uncooperative. Cross feels these two men are hiding something.

Jezzie and Cross spend a day at Jezzie's summer house, attempting to relax for a few hours. As they walk through the forest, Cross tells Jezzie about Devine and his partner, but Jezzie discounts Cross's theories, defending her men. While they walk, Cross senses someone watching them. Jezzie and Cross attempt to flush the man out, but he runs to a car before they can catch him. Later that night, while sleeping, someone burns a cross in Jezzie's front yard.

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 68-72 Analysis**

Cross is obsessed with Maggie Rose. Cross believes she is dead, but wants to bring her home for Katherine Rose anyway so he begins to investigate again even though the case is closed. Cross delves into the interviews he has conducted repeatedly already, learning new information about Soneji's possible accomplice. Soneji was being followed, not assisted, which changes the situation quite a bit. This revelation begins to answer a few questions that have been posed but not answered, such as the fact that Maggie Rose is still alive without aid from Soneji.





Cross attempts to talk with the Secret Service agents again and finds them uncooperative. Innocent people do not usually act quite so uncooperative, even if they feel they lost their jobs unfairly, making Cross suspicious of their motives. Cross talks to Jezzie about his suspicions and Jezzie defends her service men. On the surface, this does not seem unusual since it would be a supervisor's instinct to support her men. However, in light of Jezzie's odd behavior in the past few chapters as well as her quick dismissal of all of Cross's new theories, the reader must be having suspicions about Jezzie herself.



## **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 73-77**

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 73-77 Summary**

Once home, Cross gets a call from the prison asking he come immediately to speak to Murphy/Soneji. When Cross arrives, the man he finds is clearly Soneji. Soneji wants to make a deal with Cross. Soneji is tired of pretending to be Murphy and he wants recognition for all his crimes, so he agrees to tell Cross everything. Soneji tells Cross that he did not kill Michael Goldberg; however, he did attack his dead body out of frustration. Soneji says he did not hurt Maggie Rose, though he would have liked to. Maggie Rose disappeared before Soneji could do anything with her. Soneji says he did not get any of the ransom money. Soneji reveals that he believes he was under surveillance before and during the time of the kidnapping because he saw Devine watching him. Soneji believes it is the Secret Service men who took Maggie Rose and collected the ransom.

Cross takes the information Soneji gave him to the FBI. Cross learns the FBI had been suspicious of Devine and his partner all along, but was unable to find proof. The FBI tells Cross there had been inconsistencies in their logs. The FBI also reveals they suspect Jezzie is involved because they learned Jezzie and Devine have been lovers for years. Cross talks to Sampson about what he has learned and the two realize they must do something about it, though Cross is unsure what that will be. As they attempt to formulate a plan, a supervisor from Fallston Prison where Soneji is being held goes out to the farm where Maggie Rose was held and finds some money hidden in the wall that Soneji claims is part of the ransom money although Soneji has denied receiving any ransom money.

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 73-77 Analysis**

Soneji has decided he no longer wants to pretend to be a multiple personality, which proves that Cross was right all along when he thought Soneji was lying. Soneji also wants credit for his crimes, which goes along with earlier chapters in which Cross suspected as much. With this in mind, Soneji confesses to parts of the kidnapping. Among Soneji's revelations is information that reveals perhaps the Secret Service were involved in the kidnapping of Maggie Rose and that they might know where she is now. This information is very important to Cross who is obsessed with finding Maggie Rose.

The FBI confirm to Cross that the Secret Service agents were possibly involved, though they do not know how exactly because all they have been successful in finding is a few



inconsistencies in their logs. However, the FBI reveal that Jezzie and Devine have been lovers for years, which means that Jezzie has been lying to Cross from the beginning of their relationship. Cross is heartbroken at the same time he is placed in a position of proving Jezzie's guilt, which he and Sampson plan to do. While this is happening, an official from the prison finds some money at the abandoned farm where the kids were held, being told it is ransom money even though Soneji has told Cross that he did not get any of the ransom. The episode is important because it suggests Soneji's ability to control people's actions with lies and the idea that Soneji is up to something.



## **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 78-82**

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 78-82 Summary**

Soneji begins to throw up violently in his cell. The guards call their supervisor, who happens to be the same man who found money at the abandoned farm where the kids were held. The supervisor escorts Soneji from his cell, telling the guards he is going to take him to the infirmary. However, instead of going to the infirmary, the two men go to the basement where there is an exit through security. Soneji pretends, in what is clearly a premeditated plan, to hold the supervisor hostage to get through the door. The two men get into the supervisor's car and exchange it with another car a few blocks away from the prison. It is clear the supervisor is expecting to get a large part of the ransom money for helping Soneji, but Soneji kills him once they arrive at the farm. Soneji also reveals that the money is not from the ransom but some personal money he placed there before the kidnapping in case of emergency.

Jezzie goes to a hotel to visit Devine. Devine attempts to convince her to get rid of Cross and runaway with him to Florida. Jezzie puts him off. That night, Cross goes to Jezzie's apartment and, despite his hurt and anger, pretends to still feel the same about her. Cross invites her to go with him to the islands again. Jezzie agrees, so soon after they fly to the islands and stay at the same resort as before. Their first night there, Jezzie asks Cross about the investigation and seems relieved when Cross tells her he has stopped investigating Devine and his partner. Afterward, Jezzie tells Cross that they will have to end their relationship when they return to reality because of the prejudice they have faced, suggesting it is too difficult for her to deal with despite her love for him. Cross agrees, hardly surprised by this turn of events.

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 78-82 Analysis**

Soneji escapes from prison with the help of the prison official from the previous set of chapters, fulfilling the forewarning in that section. Soneji kills his accomplice, once more suggesting to the reader that Soneji is a man who works solo. Soneji also reveals to the reader that the money the prison official found in the barn is not from the ransom but emergency money Soneji hid there months before. The fact that Soneji thought that far ahead to hide the money once more shows Soneji's meticulous planning. This revelation also leaves the reader to wonder who has the ransom money if Soneji does not.



Jezzie is under pressure from Devine to get rid of Cross and run away with him, proving to the reader once and for all that everything the FBI told Cross was true. Jezzie and Cross go off together, despite Cross's discomfort at pretending nothing has changed. Jezzie asks Cross about the investigation before telling him she wants to end their relationship. Jezzie's actions seem to reveal to the reader that Cross's importance to her has ceased to exist.



## **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 83-86**

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 83-86 Summary**

Soneji goes to the hotel where Devine is living and manages to trick his way into his hotel room despite the FBI posted outside. Soneji ties Devine up in the bathtub and demands to know where the ransom money is. After threats of death, Devine reveals the whereabouts of the money. In the meantime, Cross wakes in the islands, unhappy about the situation that is unfolding around him. Cross and Jezzie travel to their isolated island for some solitary time together. Once there, Cross tells Jezzie that he knows about her connection to the kidnapping. Jezzie slowly begins to tell Cross how Devine and his partner suspected Soneji was up to something with the Goldberg boy so they began following him. When they realized after the kidnapping that Soneji was the culprit and they had seen where he intended to take the children, Jezzie told them to sit on the information. At first, Jezzie thought she and her men could be the heroes in the situation.

Later, Jezzie got the idea to take the ransom. Too deeply involved now, Jezzie had Devine and his partner take Maggie Rose after Michael's death out of fear for her life. Jezzie then admits she started a relationship with Cross because he was the best cop on the case and she needed to keep track of what he did and did not know. However, even when Cross pushes, Jezzie refuses to tell him where Maggie Rose is. It is then that Cross tells Jezzie that Sampson and members of the FBI have been listening to their conversation. Cross arrests Jezzie. Once in prison, Jezzie confesses that Maggie Rose is still alive, staying with a family in Uyuni, Bolivia. Cross and Sampson take Katherine Rose and her husband to Bolivia right away to bring Maggie Rose home.

### **Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapters 83-86 Analysis**

Soneji goes after Devine to get back his ransom money. Soneji believes he pulled off the ultimate kidnapping, just like the Lindbergh kidnapper, and that he deserves the rewards. The reader might believe that this means Soneji might move on, find a new place to live now that he is free again. However, Soneji is going after the people who interfered with his crime, suggesting he is not finished in Washington, D.C. just yet.

Cross and Jezzie go to the islands for one last romantic getaway. Cross takes Jezzie to a deserted island where Jezzie believes they are alone and openly reveals her part in the kidnapping of Maggie Rose. While the reader is already aware of Jezzie's part in the plot, the details are now revealed. Maggie Rose was taken by the secret service agents



to protect her after Michael's death but also to allow the agents to retrieve the ransom money. After Jezzie's arrest, Maggie is found in Bolivia where the secret service agents hid her, afraid that she might be able to identify the agents who stole her. This concludes a great deal of the plot from the beginning of the novel, bringing Maggie Rose back to her parents and ending the relationship between Cross and Jezzie, as well as Cross's part in the investigation.



## Part Six, The Cross House, Chapters 87-89

### Part Six, The Cross House, Chapters 87-89 Summary

Soneji goes to the Cross home with the intention of killing Cross's children while Cross sleeps, leaving him devastated and full of grief. However, Nana Mama hears Soneji moving through the house and wakes Cross. Cross climbs out of bed and searches the house. Cross finds Soneji in the children's room where they begin to fight. Cross is stabbed several times through the course of the fight. Nana Mama comes into the room and distracts Soneji, allowing Cross to stab him with a pair of scissors. Soneji runs from the house. Cross grabs his gun and follows. However, Cross cannot find Soneji in the house or on the streets.

Sampson arrives at the Cross home and attempts to force Cross to get medical attention, but Cross is focused on finding Soneji. Finally, word comes that Soneji has been spotted outside the White House. When Cross and Sampson arrive, they find Soneji has taken two small children as hostage. Cross attempts to talk to Soneji. Slowly Cross walks toward Soneji and when Soneji points his gun in Cross's direction, Sampson shoots him.

### Part Six, The Cross House, Chapters 87-89 Analysis

Soneji is not done with his business in Washington D.C. as it turns out. Soneji goes after Cross, hoping to kill his children and leaving Cross alive but devastated. However, Soneji's plan does not go as well as all his others and Cross manages to stop him, protecting his children. Cross is badly injured, but he stays on the case until Soneji is found, once again proving that Cross is a strong and determined character. Soneji wants recognition, so in knowing that Cross will not stop until he finds him, Soneji goes to the one place where the press is sure to come to him, the White House. Soneji gets what he wants, a lot of press to watch his final showdown with Cross. Cross wins, however, when Sampson shoots Soneji, not killing him but stopping him from hurting anyone else.





# Epilogue, Frontier Justice (1994)

## Epilogue, Frontier Justice (1994) Summary

Cross attends the death of Jezzie Flanagan who was sentenced to death for the kidnapping and murder of Michael Goldberg and the kidnapping of Maggie Rose Dunne. Only a few weeks before, Devine's partner had been put to death. Devine himself was found murdered in his hotel room shortly after Jezzie's arrest. Soneji is housed in the same prison, serving a life sentence in the psychiatric ward for his role in the kidnappings.

## Epilogue, Frontier Justice (1994) Analysis

The novel ends neatly with the death of Jezzie Flanagan for her part in the kidnappings, as well as the imprisonment of Soneji and the deaths of the two Secret Service agents also involved. Cross can now get on with his life and put this entire ordeal behind him. Cross does attend the death of Jezzie in order to help begin his new life by saying goodbye to the old. This again goes to Cross's personality and leaves the reader with the feeling of a fully rounded and complete novel as well as the strong acquaintance with a character that will appear as the hero in many other novels by the same author.



# Characters

## Alex Cross

Alex Cross is a black man who grew up in one of the poorer sections of Washington, D.C. after the deaths of his parents and continues to live there with his two children and his grandmother. Cross is a widow whose wife was murdered in a drive-by shooting three years before the novel opened. Cross is also a psychologist who found it difficult to maintain a private practice due to his racial background and decided to join the police force instead. All of these details are important aspects to Cross's personality because each one has shaped him in one way or another, creating a talented detective with special knowledge of a criminal's thought process, and a man who has compassion for a group of people who are often overlooked by the Washington D.C. police force.

Alex Cross begins this novel by investigating the murder of a black family and immediately finds himself pulled away to investigate the kidnapping of two white children. This infuriates Cross when he realizes the change in assignments was made in order to please political officials with great power. Cross does not think the kidnapping is more important than the murder of a woman and her two children until he meets the parents of the missing children and begins to put himself in their place. Cross is a compassionate man who has children of his own and quickly begins to obsess over the missing children as he would if it were his own children missing.

Alex Cross is a complicated man who finds himself falling in love with a co-worker after they begin an affair while out of town on the kidnapping investigation. Cross trusts this woman without knowing many details of her life and continues to trust her even when his own investigation takes him in a direction that begins to make his new lover look like less than a competent cop. Soon Cross is in a position where he is forced to set up and arrest his lover, but he does his job as though she is any other person. Cross later attends his lover's execution, not only for her sake, but to put the entire episode behind him so maybe he can go on with his life.

## Jezzie Flanagan

Jezzie Flanagan is a highly successful female supervisor in the male oriented Secret Service. Jezzie chose the Secret Service because she knew it would be a challenge for her and she knew she would have many opportunities to stand out. Jezzie is the type of woman who wants to stand out. Jezzie was the child of alcoholics who must have felt isolated and invisible as a child. Now Jezzie is the center of attention, the complete opposite of her childhood. Jezzie likes this new attention and does everything she can to keep it going, especially when an opportunity arises to become involved in a kidnapping and take the ransom money while still appearing to be the hero in the investigation.



Jezzie's entire role in the novel is one of deceit. Jezzie works the case as though she has little information, just like the rest of the investigators, when in truth Jezzie has inside knowledge of who the kidnapper is and where he is keeping the children. Later when everyone else in the country is wondering if Maggie Rose Dunne is still alive, Jezzie not only knows the answer to this but knows exactly where Maggie Rose is. Jezzie becomes involved with Cross, not out of a mutual desire but because she knows he is a good cop and she needs to be close to him in order to keep track of what he does and does not know. Jezzie is manipulative and cunning, smarter almost than the real kidnapper.

## **Gary Murphy/Soneji**

Gary Murphy is a man who grew up in an abusive home. As a child, Murphy was forced to stay in a dark basement for hours at a time while his father, stepmother, and stepbrothers behaved like a happy family up above him. Murphy spent these hours thinking about famous crimes; especially the Lindbergh kidnapping that took place mere miles from his childhood home, and ways to get back at his abusive family. As a young adult, Murphy does as he planned and kills his entire family in a house fire. This is the beginning of Murphy's crimes. Murphy then becomes an adult and marries his college sweetheart, Missy, and has a child with her. However, Murphy cannot hold a job and is often gone for long periods of time, a situation that his wife does not understand and tolerates only because of her love for her husband.

Gary Soneji is a math teacher at an exclusive private school in Washington, D.C. Soneji is a popular teacher among the students, often allowing the students to play video games in his classroom. Soneji's trust among the teachers and students runs so deep that Soneji is able to walk two students out of the school on a lie and to kidnap them. Soneji then hides the children in an abandoned barn, intent on becoming just as famous as the Lindbergh kidnapper. However, the plot goes awry when one of the children dies and Soneji finds himself outsmarted by three rogue Secret Service agents.

When Murphy is connected to and arrested for the kidnappings as well as several murders in Washington, D.C. he has no idea why. Murphy swears that he had nothing to do with the crimes for which he is arrested, but admits to many blackouts over the past few years. Psychiatrists begin to realize that Murphy and Soneji are the same person and that Murphy suffers from a mental disorder known as Multiple Personality Disorder. Murphy is put on trial for Soneji's crimes and is found guilty despite the testimony of many mental health professionals, causing him to finally reveal there had never been a mental disorder and that he knew what he was doing all along.

## **Maggie Rose Dunne**

Maggie Rose Dunne is a young girl of about nine or ten who is the daughter of a famous actress, Katherine Rose. Despite her mother's unusual job, Maggie Rose is a well adjusted child who has an outspoken personality that makes her a standout where ever



she goes. Maggie Rose is best friends with Michael Goldberg, the son of the Secretary of the Treasury, and because of this relationship is under the protection of Secret Service. During a normal day at school, Maggie Rose is informed that the Secret Service has received a threat against her friend and that the two of them are required to leave the school with a trusted teacher. Maggie Rose goes without hesitation only to wake many hours later in a dark hole that she believes is her grave.

Maggie Rose is rescued from this grave only to be placed on a farm in a strange country and forced to work picking fruits and vegetables. Maggie Rose spends her time thinking about her mother and fantasizing about running away and reuniting with her family. Maggie Rose becomes the object of obsession for many of the people running the investigation into her disappearance. Eventually Maggie Rose is found when the people who stole her from the kidnapper are arrested.

## **Michael Goldberg**

Michael Goldberg is the son of the Secretary of the Treasury and a good friend of Maggie Rose Dunne's. The Goldberg's believed they would never have children, so when Michael came around they saw him as a miracle baby. Michael was a blue baby and has had health problems ever since, including a heart problem that leaves him tired during times of normal exertion. Michael is under the care of the Secret Service because of threats made against his father. A teacher tells Michael and Maggie Rose they must leave the school because of another threat and as a result, Michael and Maggie Rose are kidnapped. When the kidnapper uses an anesthetic to put Michael to sleep, the anesthetic reacts badly with his heart condition and kills him. Michael's body is then badly abused and left to be found in a nearby river.

## **Nana Mama, Janine, and Damon**

Nana Mama is Alex Cross's grandmother. Cross gave Nana Mama her nickname when he first came to live with her as a child after the death of his mother and father. Nana Mama raised Cross from the time he was about nine and has been with him since. When Cross got married and had two children, and then suffered the murder of his wife, Nana Mama was there to help Cross pick up the pieces and to help him raise his two children. Nana Mama worries about Cross and warns him repeatedly throughout this novel about his relationship with Jezzie, suspecting somehow that Jezzie will mean bad things for her beloved grandson.

Janine and Damon are Cross's children. It is important not only to the characterization of Cross but to his obsession with the kidnapping case that Cross have children. These children keep Cross grounded, but they also provide a way for Cross to empathize with the parents of the kidnapped children, opening a door in a case that Cross might not have otherwise been motivated to be involved in. These children are also a target for Soneji late in the novel that causes a final showdown between Cross and Soneji.



## Sampson

Sampson is the name of Cross's partner. Cross and his partner have known each other since they were small children growing up in one of Washington's poorer district. Sampson often acts as Cross's conscious, allowing Cross to talk out his frustrations with him as well as offering support without unnecessary advice. When Cross learns that Jezzie was involved in the kidnappings, Sampson does not judge Cross for his relationship with Jezzie but offers to help him take her down. Sampson is also the one who shoots Soneji when it appears that he is about to shoot Cross during the final showdown at the end of the novel.

## Devine

Devine is one of the Secret Service agents working under Jezzie Flanagan. Devine and Jezzie have been lovers for a number of years. When Devine and his partner witness Soneji canvassing the home of the Secretary of the Treasury, they begin to follow him to make sure he has no ideas about injuring the secretary or his family. During this investigation, Devine and his partner follow Soneji to the farm where he will later hold the children. However, Devine and his partner do not understand the gravity of this situation until after Soneji takes the children. When this happens, Jezzie advises the men to alter their logs and hide what they know about Soneji so that they can step in and take the ransom when Soneji demands it. However, things go wrong when Michael is killed and Jezzie orders Devine and his partner to remove Maggie Rose. Devine is later killed when Soneji tracks him down to retrieve the ransom money.

## Katherine Rose

Katherine Rose is a famous actress. Katherine Rose is also Maggie Rose's mother. Katherine Rose is a kind woman who accepts Cross into her life with a welcome heart, hoping he will find her daughter. When the case begins to spread over a large amount of time and Maggie Rose is not found, Katherine Rose's husband becomes very angry and begins to blame Cross in the papers. However, Katherine Rose continues to believe in Cross and her belief is rewarded when Cross finds Maggie Rose shortly after the arrest of Jezzie Flanagan.

## Missy Murphy

Missy Murphy is the wife of Gary Murphy. Missy has no idea about her husband's other personality and believes he is simply an intelligent man who is too smart to hold down a normal job like everyone else. Missy puts up with Gary's inability to keep a job because she loves him and believes he loves her too. However, when Gary messes up a job with her brother, things become tense between them. It is soon after this that the police barge in on Missy's daughter's birthday party in order to arrest Gary, accusing him of kidnapping two children in Washington, D.C., a crime that Missy has trouble believing

that her husband could have committed. Missy remains at her husband's side, attending the trial and finding herself devastated when he is convicted.



# Objects/Places

## Basement

Soneji was punished as a small child by being forced to spend hours at a time in a dark basement.

## Abandoned Farm

Soneji takes Maggie Rose and Michael Goldberg to an abandoned farm where he buries them in a box buried in the barn.

## Lindbergh Kidnapping

The baby son of Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped from his home in the 1930s, resulting in what was called the trial of the century at the time. Soneji emulates this crime when he kidnaps Maggie Rose Dunne and Michael Goldberg.

## Piano

Cross has a piano on his front porch that he plays when he is stressed from the job.

## Multiple Personality Disorder

Multiple Personality Disorder is a mental disorder in which a person who suffered severe abuse as a small child will develop one or more additional personalities as a coping mechanism to deal with the memories of the abuse. Murphy/Soneji attempts to convince prison officials and a legal court that he suffers from this disorder in order to escape a guilty verdict in his kidnapping and murder trial.

## The Islands

Cross and Jizzie take two trips to the Virgin Islands, where they are taken to an isolated island to spend a romantic afternoon. The first time on this island Cross and Jizzie enjoy the romance, but the second time Cross tricks Jizzie into confessing to her part in the kidnappings in order to facilitate her arrest.

## Langley Terrace

Langley Terrace is a neighborhood in the poorer section of Washington D.C. where two black families are murdered.



## **Washington Day School**

The Washington Day School is an exclusive, private school in Washington, D.C. where Maggie Rose Dunne and Michael Goldberg attend. This is also where Soneji works as a math teacher and from where he kidnaps the children.

## **Princeton, New Jersey**

Gary Murphy grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, only a few miles from the location of the Lindbergh farm, perhaps encouraging his obsession with the Lindbergh kidnapping.

## **Washington, D.C.**

Washington, D.C. is where Cross lives and where he works as a detective with the police department.

## **Wilmington, Delaware**

Wilmington, Delaware is where Gary Murphy lives with his wife and small daughter.

## **Florida**

The ransom demand brings the investigative team to Florida to make the exchange. However, the exchange does not take place as expected.





# Themes

## Trust

Trust is a major theme of this novel because it plays a major part in many of the relationships throughout the main plot. The first time trust comes into the novel is when Maggie Rose Dunne and Michael Goldberg leave their school with Mr. Soneji, their math teacher. The children have a deep trust of the teacher even though he is relatively new to the school because he is cool and he relates well with the students. When Mr. Soneji tells the kids that the Secret Service called him and told him the children should be moved, the children do not question the validity of this statement. Another teacher also does not doubt it. The children leave the school and are consequently kidnapped and held for ransom.

Trust again comes to play in the novel through the relationship of the parents of these children and the police. The parents trust the police to bring their children back safely, but Michael Goldberg is murdered and Maggie Rose disappears. This trust is quickly broken and Mr. Dunne turns on Cross in the press, blaming Cross for his failure to rescue Maggie Rose. Katherine Rose, however, manages to continue her belief in the police and her belief is rewarded when Maggie Rose is found alive and well.

The most important use of the theme of trust in this novel is in the relationship between Cross and Jezzie. Cross falls in love with Jezzie during the course of their affair, believing her to be the same sort of lost soul he was. Cross saw in Jezzie the same hurts and difficulties he had been experiencing since the death of his wife and throughout his career in law enforcement. However, Cross failed to see the deep need inside Jezzie to be something more than she was, something more than just another successful female cop. Cross's trust in Jezzie is destroyed when he finally learns that she was one of the masterminds behind the kidnapping of Maggie Rose Dunne.

## Appearances

Appearances are important in this novel on several levels. One important level is the appearance that Mr. Soneji, a math teacher, must maintain to not only achieve the trust of the children under his care but to prevent suspicion of the adults around him. Soneji has taken the job at the school specifically to get close to children of celebrities or politicians in order to kidnap one and make himself famous. Becoming famous is extremely important to Soneji, as Cross finds out when he sees a note on Soneji's wall declaring that he wants to be someone. Soneji wants to be as notorious as the Lindbergh kidnapper, a criminal that people will read about decades from now and that other criminals will attempt to emulate.

Appearances is also important when it comes to Cross and Jezzie's careers. Cross and Jezzie keep their relationship under wraps because they do not want their relationship



to become public and in any compromise the investigation. Jezzie is also concerned about the image of a female cop having an affair with another cop with whom she has been working on a case. When their relationship is revealed in the tabloids, Jezzie is devastated and she decides to quit her job. However, later in the plot the reader must wonder what Jezzie's true motivations were in quitting her job.

Finally, Jezzie is very concerned with appearances. Jezzie is a cop who is investigating a kidnapping in which she has intimate knowledge because she participated in the kidnapping after the fact. Jezzie must pretend she does not know who kidnapped these children or where they are being held until she can manipulate the situation to protect her previous knowledge of the kidnapping. However, the kidnapping goes terribly wrong when Michael Goldberg dies and Jezzie is forced to not only take Maggie Rose and hide her, but to continue to pretend that she has no knowledge of the kidnapper. This causes Jezzie to begin a relationship with Cross in order to learn what he knows about the case and to sit on the ransom money until such a time that she can use it without causing suspicion. This causes Jezzie to hide behind an appearance that is not true to who she really is.

## Aspirations

Aspiration is another theme of this novel. Aspiration is the desires of a person to be something more than what he or she is. Murphy/Soneji aspires to be a world renown kidnapper and criminal genius. In order to fulfill this aspiration Soneji plans and executes the kidnapping of the son of the Secretary of the Treasury and the daughter of a famous actress. Soneji succeeds in the kidnapping, but fails to achieve the desired end when one of the children dies and then the Secret Service steals the other child not only to protect her, but to put themselves in the position to collect the ransom themselves. Murphy/Soneji continues to attempt to achieve his desires by pretending to be a multiple personality and then by making a deal with Cross and telling him the details of the kidnapping, including his realization that the Secret Service interfered.

Jezzie too has aspirations. Jezzie wants to be a successful female cop and succeed where her own father failed. However, Jezzie finds herself growing unhappy with the slow progress of her career and unsatisfied with her achievements thus far and decides that when the opportunity appears to get involved in a kidnapping in order to not only collect the ransom money, but to live quietly with the knowledge that she got away with a perfect crime. In Jezzie's mind, this is even better than being a good cop. However, Jezzie's aspirations end on death row.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel switches from the first person when Alex Cross is the narrator and third person omniscient. In chapters that feature Cross, he is the main narrator in the first person point of view, telling the story not only from his point of view, but through his own voice with his own opinions flowing through every moment of the narration. However, the other chapters are told through the narration of other characters, such as Jezzie or Gary Murphy/Soneji, the narration is in the third person point of view, stepping the narration back a little in order to make it clear to the reader that Cross is the main character and the other characters are simply supporting cast. This technique keeps the focus of the novel on Cross while sharing with the reader information that Cross could not possibly have access to at a point when the reader needs to have it.

This point of view is unique, but not unusual. Using two separate points of view in one novel tells the reader which characters are important while offering information that is vital to the story line but beyond the scope of the first person narrator. There are many plot lines within the novel that Cross is not always an active participant in, or times when the author felt it was important to reveal facts to the reader, such as the fact that Maggie Rose was still alive, at a point before Cross was aware. This unique use of point of view allows the reader to follow the complicated story line without being restricted to the facts Cross is aware of.

## Setting

The novel is set in Washington, D.C. and its immediate surroundings, including an abandoned farm in Maryland. This setting is important to the novel because it presents a background of great respect and importance while also introducing racial prejudice and the plight of the poor that live in the shadow of the White House. Since Cross is a black man who grew up in this atmosphere, it is an important setting in that it often explains his behaviors and attitudes toward his job and the people with whom he works. This setting also provides the type of characters important to the plot, especially the son of the Secretary of the Treasury and several members of the Secret Service, a group of characters who would not have been believable if the story had been set in another location.

Another setting of the novel is the Virgin Islands where Cross and Jezzie go twice on vacation. While this setting takes place on a very small scale in the novel, it is important because the first visit to the islands presents the reader with the racial prejudice Jezzie and Cross must suffer back in Washington by giving the readers the contrast of the acceptance the couple receives in the islands. The second reason this setting is important to the overall plot is that it is the location of Jezzie's downfall. Jezzie believes



that Cross is still ignorant of her part in the kidnappings up to the moment he takes her to an isolated island and announces to her that he knows. Then Jezzie believes they are alone because a previous visit found them isolated enough that they felt safe making love on the beach. This is important because it allows Jezzie to confess to her part in the kidnapping and allow Cross to have her confession recorded in order to arrest her.

## Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English that uses very little slang or otherwise difficult to understand language. Cross is a cop, but he is also a psychologist, therefore he is quite educated and his language reflects this. There are times in which Cross speaks with people whose speech is less educated, but this is not often and does not complicate the dialogue. This novel also does not include the professional dialect often used in novels and television shows that revolve around police procedure, again making it easier for the reader to understand the plot.

The language in this novel works because it keeps the verbiage simple without taking away from the overall plot. A novel of this type could use police procedural language or it could include street slang in order to further enhance the personalities of the main characters. However, the author does not resort to this technique not only because his main character is highly educated, but because the use of slang or police technique would distract from the main plot and its smaller subplots.

## Structure

The novel is divided into eighty-nine chapters, a prologue, and an epilogue. Each set of chapters is also divided into six parts, each part dealing with a separate significant issue within the main plot. The parts are all named after an important character, setting, or title that describes the issue within the main plot being explored in that part. This division of the chapters into parts helps keep the reader focused on the important points within the main plot and helps add a small amount of expectation as the reader reaches each of these sections. The names also enhance this expectation.

The novel includes one main plot that revolves around the kidnapping of Maggie Rose Dunne and Michael Goldberg, the search for the kidnapper, and the subsequent trial. There are also included throughout the novel several subplots. One of these subplots is the affair between Cross and Jezzie that ties nicely into the main plot when it is revealed that Jezzie was involved in the kidnapping plot. Another subplot is the murders in Langley Terrace that again are tied into the main plot when it is revealed that the murderer is the same person as the kidnapper. Almost all of the subplots tie in nicely with the main plot in one form or another, making the entire novel a concisely written, easy to understand plot.



## Quotes

"He, not Bruno Hauptmann, was the Lindbergh baby kidnapper. He had done it all by himself. Cool beans." Prologue, *Let's Play Make-Believe* (1932), pg. 5

"Early on the morning of December 21, 1992, I was the picture of contentment on the sun porch of our house on 5th Street in Washington, D.C. The small, narrow room was cluttered with mildewing winter coats, work boots, and wounded children's toys. I couldn't have cared less. This was home."

Part One, *Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg*, Chapter 1, pg. 9

"Since she had been three or four years old, Maggie Rose Dunne was always watched by people. At nine, she was used to special attention, to strangers gawking at her as if she was Maggie Scissorhands, or Girl Frankenstein."

Part One, *Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg*, Chapter 3, pg. 17

"I was already becoming emotionally involved with the kidnapped children. My sleep was restless and agitated that first night."

Part One, *Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg*, Chapter 12, pg. 58

"Maggie Rose still *believed* she was in her own grave. It was beyond being creepy and horrible. It was a million times worse than any nightmare she'd ever imagined."

Part One, *Maggie Rose and Shrimpie Goldberg*, Chapter 16, pg. 77

"What he wanted to do was to laugh in their goddamn faces. What he wanted to do most was to kill all of them. That was the ticket to punch. *Boom. Boom. Boom.* Multiple-homicide time in Wilmington. Get his master plan rolling again."

Part Two, *The Son of Lindbergh*, Chapter 29, pg. 145

"'Thanks for saving my life,' he said. 'Someday, I'll kill you for it, Detective Cross.'"

Part Two, *The Son of Lindbergh*, Chapter 43, pg. 191

"No one ever sang to Maggie Rose. No one remembered her anymore. Or so she believed in her broken heart."

Part Three, *The Last Southern Gentleman*, Chapter 56, pg. 257

"The man in the car had been *watching* Gary Soneji.

Maybe there hadn't been an 'accomplice' after all, but someone *watching* Gary Soneji/Murphy as he staked out potential murder victims? Who could it have been?"



Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapter 70, pg. 330

"We were going to get Jezzie, somehow."

Part Five, The Second Investigation, Chapter 76, pg. 365

"He could still picture Lucky Lindy. The lovely Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Baby Charles Jr. in his crib, up in the second-story nursery of the farmhouse in Hopewell, New Jersey. Those were the days, my friends. Fantasy days at their best."

Part 5, The Second Investigation, Chapter 83, pg. 391

"As I drove toward D.C., I wondered who was the more skilled manipulator. Gary or Jezzie? I knew both of them were psychopaths. This country is turning out more of them than any other place on the planet. They come in all shapes and sizes, all races and creeds and genders. That's the scariest thing of all."

Epilogue, Frontier Justice (1994), pg. 435



## Topics for Discussion

Why does the kidnapper call himself the Son of Lindbergh? What is the kidnapper's connection to the Lindbergh kidnapping? How many parallels between the two kidnappings can you draw? Does the fact that many do not believe the accused Lindbergh kidnapper was the real kidnapper have anything to do with this case?

Why does the kidnapper chose Maggie Rose Dunne and Michael Goldberg? Which child is his true target? Why? Why does the kidnapper keep the children sedated and underground? Is this his way of repeating his own abuse or does he believe he is being compassionate? Why or why not?

What is the motivations of the Secret Service agents and Jezzie? Why do they decide to become involved in the kidnapping? Are they after the money or something similar to the original kidnapper's motivations? Why do they not return Maggie Rose to her family and pretend to be heroes?

Why does Nana Mama mistrust Jezzie? Is it simply because Jezzie is white or is it because Nana Mama uses her intuition to know something Cross cannot see? What does it prove when Nana Mama is correct?

What does the death of Cross's wife have to do with his characterization? How has her death affected his life? How does the death of his wife affect Cross's decision to become involved with Jezzie? Do you think the murder of his wife left Cross vulnerable? Why or why not?

Why does the father of Maggie Rose Dunne turn on Cross? Is the father's anger justified? How does his anger affect Cross? Does his anger have anything to do with Cross's growing obsession with Maggie Rose? Do you think Cross relates to Maggie Rose's father?

Why does Murphy/Soneji come after Cross? Why does he not attempt to kill Cross himself, but goes after his children? What would be the result of Cross's children's deaths? Why does Soneji believe this would be better than killing Cross? Does Soneji have a sort of respect for Cross?