

American Heiress Study Guide

American Heiress by Jeffrey Toobin

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Summary

This study guide was created from the following version of this book: Toobin, Jeffery. *American Heiress; The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst*; Doubleday, New York, 2016. Kindle AZW file.

Patricia Hearst was the daughter of a wealthy, powerful family. In February of 1975, she was attending the University of California and living with her fiancé, Steve Weed. Patricia was almost 20 years old, bored with her life, and realizing her relationship with Steve was a mistake. One night, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army – a ragtag group of less than a dozen people – forced their way into her apartment. Steve managed to get free and ran away. The SLA members took a few shots at other people in the apartments, forced Patricia into the trunk of a waiting car, and drove away.

She was terrified during the early hours of her ordeal, especially when she learned that the SLA had claimed responsibility for a recent assassination. The SLA was a radical group of disorganized young people. They kidnapped Patricia as a means of garnering attention but did not really know what to do with her. With no ransom demands, Patricia's family could only wait. The FBI began work on rescuing her but had no real leads.

The SLA members talked about their politics including their hatred of people like Patricia's parents. It was garbled rhetoric but some points began to sink in to Patricia. She participated in the conversations and began a relationship with one of the SLA members. She taped messages to her parents several times and soon began spouting the same rhetoric heard from other SLA members. In Patricia's version of events, she was constantly fearful for her life and afraid to disobey the members of the SLA. She participated in a bank robbery, took the name "Tania" to signify her allegiance with the SLA, and declared that she would never return to her former life.

Patricia was involved in a shootout on the streets of Los Angeles that led police back to the other members of the SLA. The fact that she fired a gun on a busy street to save members of the SLA swung public opinion against her. She became a true fugitive instead of a kidnap victim. Police had a lengthy firefight with the other six SLA members and they all died.

Patricia and the remaining two SLA members hid out for awhile and eventually joined with another group that called themselves revolutionaries. They struggled constantly for money and robbed two banks. In the second, the radicals shot and killed one woman and kicked a pregnant woman who then lost her baby. By then, the group had settled into something that resembled a normal life. Police finally tracked them down and arrested several members of this new group without incident.

In jail, Patricia's family gave her full support and provided a series of lawyers. She began to transform back into the young socialite and heiress. She was sentenced to a short jail term but received a presidential commutation and later, a presidential pardon.



Public opinion swayed on the issue of her state of mind during the months with the revolutionaries. Some felt she was a brainwashed victim while others thought she was a spoiled child who took a chance to leave her old life behind. Over the years, most felt she had been punished enough, regardless of her motivations. She lived as a revolutionary on the run for a year and a half but eventually resumed the life of wealth and privilege.



Prologue; Part One: Nervous Breakdown Nation; From Inside the Trunk

Summary

The Prologue opens at the home of Patricia Campbell Hearst and her fiancé, Steve Weed. On February 4, 1974, they lived near the University of California where they were both students. It was after 9 p.m. when the doorbell rang. Steve opened the door and three armed people pushed their way inside. They were Angela Atwood, Donald Defreeze, and Bill Harris. Angela was an aspiring actress. Donald was a prison escapee. Bill was a Vietnam veteran.

They struck Steve, knocking him to the floor. A student who lived in a nearby apartment saw the open door, stopped to look, and was tied up. Steve got away and ran from the apartment. Bill forced Patricia down the stairs. When some students heard the commotion and opened their door, Donald shot at them but did not hit anyone. Patricia was wearing a bathrobe and slippers, and lost her slippers on the way to a waiting car. Bill put her in the trunk.

Patricia knew she had been kidnapped because she was a Hearst. Her grandfather had built an empire, including newspapers and elaborate mansions. Her father was Randall Hearst, but was usually called Randy. Her mother, Catherine, was often upset with Patricia, who was pushed out of several high schools. At 17, Patricia had begun an affair with Steve while he was her 23-year-old teacher. Patricia finished high school and a year of community college. Steve returned to college to work on an advanced degree and Patricia went with him. They moved in together. Steve was inattentive and made all the decisions about their lives. Patricia, 19, was overwhelmed with the monotony and later said she was “mildly suicidal” (Location 179).

There were additional people involved in the kidnapping. Camilla Hall was waiting in one of three getaway cars. Bill's wife, Emily Harris, and Nancy Ling Perry were in another. Nancy fired at the apartments when she heard Donald shooting. Willy Wolfe, a young man with no real experience as a criminal, and Patricia Soltysik were in the third car. Patricia Soltysik was often called Mizmoon. She will be referred to as Mizmoon in this study guide to distinguish her from Patricia Hearst.

“Part One” opens with “Nervous Breakdown Nation.” The author talks about the political and social differences between the 1960s and 1970s. The San Francisco Bay region mimicked the attitudes and actions of the nation, including the Summer of Love in the 1960s while violence picked up in the 1970s, including several serial killers.

Donald had begun the Symbionese Liberation Army. He was the only black member. The members spouted incomprehensible rhetoric and half-formed ideas, but they talked a lot. The SLA existed only a short time but they sought out publicity. Patricia Hearst,



accustomed to a life of privilege and money, became the SLA's hostage. Many questioned whether she was forced to join the SLA as a means of survival, or if she chose to.

Chapter 2 of "Part One" is titled "From Inside the Trunk." Patricia's great-grandmother had been the catalyst and financial backing for many of the buildings on the University campus. Her only son, William Randolph Hearst, took over management of one of the family's largest newspapers and thrived there. William, always known as The Chief, fathered five boys. He arranged his estate to ensure that none of his sons could squander the family money.

Randy and Catherine married in 1938. Their first daughter was mentally disabled, which was considered shameful in that time period. Several years later, the couple had another daughter, Virginia, and several more years passed before the arrival of Patricia, Anne, and Victoria.

Steve and Patricia became "engaged" when Patricia, waiting until Steve left the room, said they planned to marry. Catherine insisted on a notice in the family's newspaper.

The story again picks up with the kidnapping. Patricia was furious that Steve had told the kidnapers to take anything they wanted, and had then run away letting the kidnapping occur.

Analysis

The author introduces several members of the SLA through their actions during the kidnapping and others in the coming chapters. There were 10 members total: Donald DeFreeze, Bill Harris, Angela Atwood, Camilla Hall, Emily Harris, Willy Wolf, Nancy Ling Perry, Russ Little, Joe Remira, and Patricia Soltysik, known as Mizmoon. For clarity's sake, she is referred to as Mizmoon throughout this guide to distinguish her from Patricia Hearst. The introductions are scattered and difficult to follow.

Most people know Patricia Hearst as Patty. She preferred to be called Patricia and only allowed her father to use the nickname. In the interest of continuity and clarity, she is referred to as Patricia throughout this guide except in direct quotes.

Within weeks of the kidnapping, people began questioning details and motives. Some always believed that Patricia was an innocent victim who was brainwashed and/or just trying to survive. Others believed she had become a willing member of the SLA or even that she had helped stage the kidnapping. She lost her slippers on the way to the car, and some people pointed at that as evidence that she really was fighting against her kidnapers. The author often indicates his belief that Patricia fought to the best of her ability. For example, he tells about her abduction in terms of her fear. She was in the trunk of the first car and forced to remain under a blanket in the station wagon. If the kidnap was staged, she would not have been afraid and could have ridden in the seat of the second car. This is one of many instances that the author takes journalistic liberty to describe events as he believes they happened.



Patricia and Steve were having problems by the time she is kidnapped. Her mother urged Patricia to stop seeing Steve, but she moved in with him instead, which signals a level of teenage rebellion. Though they had formally announced their wedding, they apparently had not talked about it prior to the announcement and might not have gone through with the wedding at all. It seemed possible in the beginning that Patricia might be released if her family met the SLA's demands, and that she might have been able to return to her life. Patricia was furious that Steve ran away, leaving her to face the kidnappers alone, and it seems likely that their relationship would have ended because of that, even if she had been quickly released.

Donald shot at some of Patricia's neighbors who stepped to the door of their apartment to see what was happening. It seems incredible that he did not hit anyone. Even more incredibly, Nancy shot from outside the apartment building when she heard Donald's gun but she also did not hit anyone. The reactions of Donald and Nancy mark them as violent people and that first impression will be proven correct.

The modern-day reader may not realize the influence the Hearsts had up to the 1970s. The family was iconic and extremely powerful. Patricia's great-grandmother's portrait hung in a building on the University of California campus as a reminder of her contributions to the university. Patricia was urged to leave several private schools, but was never expelled only because of her family name. By the time of the kidnapping, the Hearsts remained powerful, but mainly because of reputation, as will be described in coming chapters.

Vocabulary

trepidation, disheveled, filigree, trussed, rambunctious, peripatetic, argot, epoch, ersatz, apogee



Part One: The SLA; The Point of No Return

Summary

Chapter 3 of “Part One” is titled “The SLA.” The first night of the kidnapping, Patricia began to learn about her captors. Donald's codename was Cin, short for Cinque M'tume. He was 30 and the self-proclaimed general field marshal in the SLA. In 1969, he beat a tourist and stole a check. He represented himself in court and was sentenced a term of five years to life in the prison, Vacaville, near the university campus. Students and activists volunteered there, including Willy, Mizmoon, and Nancy. They were joined by two other men, Russ Little and Joe Remiro. All became members of the SLA.

George Jackson had written a book about the injustices of the California penal system. He was shot by guards during a prison riot. The SLA adopted Jackson's book, *Blood in My Eye*, as their “bible.” Jackson was a strong, black man and the white volunteers, including Willy, began to treat Donald as if he were Jackson's successor. In 1972, Donald was transferred to Soledad Prison and placed on a work detail. He walked away and there was little effort to find him. The group had expressed political aspirations while meeting in Vacaville, but had no direction once Donald was no longer in prison. Several members of the group wound up living, at one time or another, at a house dubbed Peking House.

Three months before Patricia's kidnapping, Donald focused on Marcus Foster, Oakland's superintendent of schools. Under Donald's direction, the SLA created a document declaring that Foster and his deputy, Robert Blackburn, had misused federal funds by paying for school security. On November 3, 1973, Nancy, Donald, and Mizmoon shot Foster and Blackburn, killing Foster. They issued a document after the murder, claiming responsibility for the assassination and pointing to the use of cyanide bullets. Police confirmed the presence of cyanide. Patricia knew about the assassination. When she realized the SLA had kidnapped her, she was doubly frightened.

Chapter 4 of “Part One” is titled “The Point of No Return.” Patricia had been transferred from the trunk to a station wagon. She was covered with a blanket. Bill held her hand, which Patricia found to be frightening even while it was comforting.

The story then reverts to months before the kidnapping. The SLA had expected to be lauded for killing Marcus Foster but were surprised at the public outcry. That was why Donald decided to perform kidnapping next instead of another assassination. He based his model on the Tupamaros of Uruguay. The group had used the action as a warning. The SLA wanted to take some action but could not agree. Bill wanted to steal a truckload of turkeys and distribute them to the poor in an effort to garner public support. Donald hated the idea. Bill then saw Patricia's engagement announcement in the



newspaper, which included the information that she was attending college at the University of California.

Just before the kidnapping, Russ and Joe were in Patricia's neighborhood when police stopped them. There were shots fired and the officers found SLA pamphlets in their van. Both were arrested in connection with Foster's murder. Knowing police would soon know where the other SLA members were living, Nancy and Mizmoon bought gas and tried to burn the house. They did not open windows and the fire extinguished itself quickly. The police, however, did nothing to keep people out of the damaged house and many tramped through, destroying and contaminating evidence. They found a list of people the SLA was considering as kidnap victims. Patricia's name was on the list but no one ever warned her or any of the others.

Donald felt the SLA had to act after Russ and Joe were arrested. Donald decided to kidnap Patricia. Bill asked what they were going to accomplish with the kidnapping. Donald had half-formed ideas of trading Patricia for Joe and Russ, or of trading her for safe passage to Cuba. Bill still had questions but stopped asking. They spent a lot of time and energy preparing to kidnap Patricia.

Analysis

Especially during the early scenes of the book, readers may have trouble keeping track of the huge amount of names. The author makes it even more difficult by changing how he refers to the people, even within a single scene or paragraph. For example, in the first chapter of this section of the book he gives information about how the SLA began and backgrounds on some of the people. He opens a paragraph by talking about the roles of Russ Little and Joe Remiro as the men most likely to take real action. In that paragraph, he alternately refers to Russ Little as "Russ" or "Little." That tendency continues throughout the book. He sometimes refers to people by their first names, but changes to use their last names or even their nicknames or code names.

The SLA members used some famous revolutionaries as models for their work. They may even have begun with the idea of taking positive steps to achieve some undetermined goals. Donald, as their leader, cannot seem to make reasonable plans. His dictates were long, rambling, and often made little sense. He used terms and phrases he picked up from other revolutionaries, but their written communications are difficult to follow.

It is interesting that Russ and Joe were arrested in connection with Foster's murder, because they were in the get-away car rather than actively participating. The author does not explain their trials nor does he give information about their statements to police, but it seems possible that they held their silence about the other members of the group. That shows a level of the members' devotion toward each other.

Vocabulary

voracious, loquacious, liturgy, clandestine, polemics, odyssey, pessimist, meticulous, viable, capacity



Part Two; Prisoner of War; Not Just a Bunch of Nuts; Three Hundred Bald Men

Summary

The first chapter of “Part Two” is titled “Prisoner of War.” The kidnapers left cyanide bullets at Patricia's apartment so police would know the SLA was responsible, and they took Patricia's purse. They later used her drivers license and other cards to prove they had her. The kidnapers arrived at their safe house in Daly City and put Patricia in a closet. Donald talked to Patricia, still blindfolded. She pretended she had never heard of the SLA. Donald said she was arrested, not kidnapped, because her father was “a corporate enemy of the people” (Location 1004). He said Patricia would be treated as well – or as poorly – as Joe and Russ were being treated.

Back at Patricia and Steve's apartment, neighbors had called police. Steve had yelled for help at a darkened house in the neighborhood, then returned to the apartment. Newspaper reporters knew about the story almost immediately, but in the common practice of the day, did not immediately print anything. Randy Hearst, Patricia's father and part of the family owners of the Examiner, told his editors not to print anything that might put Patricia in further danger.

The immediate theory was that the SLA would demand an exchange of prisoners – Patricia for Russ and Joe, but they did not issue a statement for the first three days. The communique they released rambled about their plans if anyone tried to free Patricia, including their threat to execute her if police tried to rescue her. There were no demands for any kind of ransom or prisoner exchange. The SLA did have a demand for newspapers to publish the entire communique. Randy agreed to do so and it was generally accepted that other newspapers would follow his lead. Charles Bates was the FBI agent who became responsible for the case. He went to the Hearst home.

Members of the SLA began talking to Patricia. Angela spent hours talking, often about her crush on Joe. Donald set up a method for overseeing Patricia, and Willy began educating her about their politics, including giving her a copy of the book, *Blood in my Eye*. The group as a whole was still wondering what they would do with Patricia. Patricia began to be less fearful for her life.

The second chapter of “Part Two” is titled “Not Just a Bunch of Nuts.” Bill suggested that they demand that Patricia's family give away food as an indication that they are willing to meet the SLA's demands. Donald issued the demand via a taped recording. He said the SLA's War Council had issued Patricia's arrest warrant because of her parents' crimes against the “oppressed people of the world” (Location 1213). He went on to give detailed instructions to the Hearst family, saying they would have to give away food in order to prove they were on board with meeting the SLA's demands.



By that time, Patricia was hardly ever bound. She issued a recorded statement along with Donald's demands regarding the food. First, she said the SLA was not “just a bunch of nuts” (Location1254). She was unharmed but believed the SLA would kill her if her family did not meet their demands. She also said that Joe and Russ were being tried for murder only because they were members of the SLA, not because they were involved with the murder, and that the SLA would do to Patricia whatever the government did to Joe and Russ. She ended by urging her parents to work quickly on food giveaway. Randy answered Donald's food program demand through interviews with the media at the front of his house, saying he was working on it, which was true, though he did not have the means to completely fulfill the demand. He soon set a plan in motion, pouring \$2 million into it and drawing a lot of unwelcomed interest from people who wanted to profit from the program.

Everyone believed Patricia's family had a lot of disposable cash. That was not true. They had even tried to sell their mansion before the kidnapping. They were private by nature but they were suddenly surrounded by people. The FBI set up an office in the mansion. Dozens of reporters camped out directly in front of the house. Family members returned home and Steve Weed moved in. Several psychics arrived to share their information along with countless tips, but none panned out.

Patricia soon released another taped statement. She said the SLA was not trying to be unreasonable with its food demand, and that anything Hearst did to show his dedication would be acceptable. She also said that her mother should stop appearing on television wearing her black dresses, as if Patricia had died.

The third chapter of “Part Two” is titled “Three Hundred Bald Men.” Randy had people in place to oversee the food program, now named People in Need, or PIN. Then Donald issued a new statement, saying Randy's \$2 million program was unacceptable, a direct contradiction to what Patricia said a few days earlier.

Several of the kidnappers had rough backgrounds, including fights with their parents. By contrast, Camilla was one of four children born to a Minnesota couple. Her father was a minister. Her three siblings died of childhood diseases. Throughout her early adulthood, she did everything her parents might have expected. Then she moved far from home and lived a gay lifestyle. She was the poet of the group and came up with the nickname for Mizmoon.

Nancy used more drugs than the other SLA members and was interested in astrology and spiritualism. Donald drank plum wine incessantly. Nancy, Mizmoon, and Donald were the three who created the SLA.

The first attempt to give away the food ended in disaster when a mob gathered. Organizers contacted a man named John Maher, founder of the Delancy Street Foundation. He offered jobs and stability to ex-convicts but had strict rules, including that the men in the program had to shave their heads. John agreed to provide security for the next food give-away with his 300 men (all bald) and the next effort was less of an ordeal. But with Donald's new demand for another \$4 million in food, Randy announced



that he did not have the money and could not meet the demand. The Hearst Corporation, which Randy did not control, promised \$4 million in additional funds, but only if Patricia was released immediately.

Steve granted an interview and was less than honorable in his role. He said Patricia was not especially pretty or intelligent. He said Randy was taking advice from everyone, including family servants, and that Catherine was a back stabber. By that time, Russ's father, a Florida mechanic, had offered to take Patricia's place as a hostage. The interviewer asked Steve if he would do the same. He hesitated and said it was possible. The SLA was allowing Patricia to watch television and she saw all the news.

Analysis

Donald always tried to make the SLA seem bigger and more important than it was. He titled his communications to sound as if he was working with one cell, and that there were many other cells of the SLA. He also tried to make people believe that he was associated with other revolutionary groups around the world, though most refused to condone the actions of the SLA at all. During Patricia's first hours of captivity, he said that there had been similar "arrests" by other cells, though it was a lie. His personality suggests that he had two motives. The first was to make the public believe that the SLA was an extensive organization to be feared. The second was his insatiable need to make himself seem more important than he was.

The modern-day reader still may not fully comprehend the power of the Hearst family at the time of Patricia's kidnapping. The last name alone would be enough to make people take notice, which is why her engagement announcement caught the SLA's attention. The author makes another point when explaining that the FBI went to the Hearst, while "ordinary people" would have gone to the FBI offices (Location 1087).

Donald agreed with Bill that they needed some good publicity and he became enamored with the idea of being the catalyst for the food giveaway. The demands were far-flung and a huge segment of the population would be eligible, including anyone with "welfare cards, social security pension cards, food stamp cards, disabled veteran cards, medical cards, parole or probation papers, and jail or bail release slips" (Location 1223). Many people who receive social security pensions are not in need of financial help, let alone are willing to join thousands of other people in line to get that food. The Hearsts estimated that much food would cost them about \$400 million, which translates to billions of dollars in modern economy. The logistics of handing out that food and verifying recipients would be impossible. The SLA might have had a good idea for trying to get some positive publicity, but their plan was as erratic as many of their other ideas.

The modern-day reader should remember the time setting of the kidnapping. There were no cell phones. Reporters who were not very near their home offices had telephone lines run to the front edge of the Hearst property and mounted phones on trees.



The Hearsts were at the heart of the newspaper industry when Patricia was kidnapped, which gave the story a slant that might not otherwise have existed. At the beginning, Randy told his editor to be careful with anything he printed, fearing that media attention could get Patricia killed. It prompts the question of what the official stand would have been if some other young socialite had been kidnapped instead of Patricia. The other newspapers also let Randy set the pace and tone for the coverage, probably out of deference to the fact that it was his daughter's life at risk. Meanwhile, a counterculture newspaper in the area lauded the SLA and their efforts. It seems likely that the SLA put more stock in those articles than in the more reputable reports from other newspapers.

The author notes that people felt Patricia's voice was stronger on the second tape released by the SLA, indicating that she was not nearly as frightened by that time. While the first tape might have been at least partly scripted, Patricia said in the second that her mother should stop wearing the black dresses on television, as if Patricia was already dead. That sounds exactly like a critical young girl who had a poor relationship with her mother, which people pointed out as an indication that Patricia had not been instructed on what to say.

Steve's interview put him in a poor light. It seems incomprehensible that he was critical of Patricia during that interview. He had an opportunity to say good things about the woman he was supposed to marry, but instead he said she had average looks and intelligence. Added to that, some people were critical of the fact that he ran away when Patricia was kidnapped. Readers will not find Steve a likeable person by this point.

Vocabulary

disparage, sinister, providential, grandiosity, macabre, zany, sequestered, exacerbated, plutocrat, sobriquet,



Part Two: “I'm a Strong Woman;” The Birth of Tania; Stay and Fight

Summary

Patricia was often weak and the SLA had no formal plans to indoctrinate her, but the members talked a lot and Patricia listened. The members, including Nancy, constantly told Patricia that they would not kill her, but that she might be killed in the firefight if police made a move to free her. Donald gave her a gas mask in case police used tear gas. He also gave her a shotgun in case she needed to defend herself. They did not provide her with ammunition, but promised they would if it came down to a shootout. Donald exhibited animosity toward Patricia but then gave her a gun. It was all frightening.

Willy's version of the situation in the Oakland schools – and Foster's role in the controversy – was the reason the SLA decided to assassinate Foster. He had not fully understood the situation and was shocked by the public outcry against the assassination. He briefly went east to his father's house, but Donald wanted him to return shortly before Patricia's kidnapping.

After the kidnapping, members of the SLA repeatedly told Patricia that her father had plenty of money to meet their demands. Patricia saw that the SLA was not demanding anything for itself and began to believe their rhetoric. Soon, she began to ask questions and the SLA members who spent time with her – Angela, Nancy, and Willy – began to like her. When there was no word from Patricia for more than a week, Randy issued a media appeal for the kidnappers to allow her to write letters so her parents would know her condition. Donald said Randy was making demands on the SLA now, and that they would try to track the letters to find Patricia. The SLA members kept doing drills in their small house, but by then, Patricia was doing drills with them.

Then Donald had Angela and Patricia tape a message together. Angela identified herself as a general in the SLA and demanded that Russ and Joe be allowed to communicate with the SLA via television broadcasts. Patricia said her parents seemed indifferent on the possibility of her release. That message mimicked what the members of the SLA were repeatedly saying to Patricia. She said she was not afraid of the SLA, but that her parents, the police, and the media were taking actions that could get her killed, and that the FBI wanted her dead. Donald concluded the tape by calling on others to fight for their freedom.

Chapter 9 of “Part Two” is titled “The Birth of Tania.” Few people knew or cared about the SLA's politics because they were more interested in the fact that the SLA had captured the daughter of a wealthy family. People for all walks of life criticized the Hearsts for trying to meet the SLA's demands. As Patricia's statements sounded more like she was spouting SLA rhetoric, the public lost their sympathy for her.



Meanwhile, everyone in the SLA safehouse was sleeping with everyone else. They decided that it was necessary to have open sex with anyone who asked in order to avoid problems. Willy and Patricia began a sexual relationship though Patricia insisted that Willy raped her, but other accounts said Patricia made the first move. Patricia said that Donald also raped her but other members said the two never had sex. Patricia said she submitted to Willy and that she knew she also had to submit to Donald.

Willy decided that Patricia should be called Tania in honor of an East German woman who died in a Bolivian revolution. After more than a month of living mainly in a closet, Patricia told Angela she never wanted to return home. Donald knew there would be a lot of public attention if Patricia joined the SLA. Donald insisted that the group move, citing the certainty of an FBI attack. In the new place, he told Patricia she could join the SLA or go home. Patricia said it was a test and that he never intended to let her leave. She insisted she was going to join. She had been blindfolded or kept in a closet for the eight weeks of captivity up to the point that the SLA agreed that she could join them.

Willy gave Patricia a charm, known as an Olmec Monkey from an archaeological site in Mexico. He kept a matching charm.

Chapter 10 of “Part Two” is titled “Stay and Fight.” The SLA had become desperate for money. Camilla was the only one of the group who could function in public without fear of being recognized but she could not support the entire group. Donald released a picture of Patricia, holding a gun and posing in front of the group's flag. Randy continued to look for anything that might help free Patricia. Catherine withdrew, spending more time at church.

Donald issued a statement that Patricia would soon be released but he only wanted to make the Hearsts hopeful before releasing the next communication from Patricia. In that tape, Patricia insists that she was speaking of her own free will, spouting the rhetoric typical of the SLA. She specifically addressed her mother's recent appointment to the board of the University of California, saying the SLA could have killed Patricia over her mother's acceptance. She said her father was part of a system that would soon displace an entire workforce in favor of automation. She ended by saying that she had been given a choice, and had joined the SLA. Catherine and Randy did not publicly respond but Catherine told a friend she felt certain that the SLA had killed Patricia after the recording.

On April 15, members of the SLA – including Patricia – robbed the Hibernia Bank. Patricia was carrying a gun and was positioned so that a security camera would have a clear view of her. Nancy, typical to her lack of control, shot two men who tried to enter the bank during the robbery, but neither was fatal. The group got away with \$10,660.

Analysis

At the opening of this section, the author writes that Patricia was “scared and weak and at times could barely stand up” (Location 1682). This is a highly subjective statement



and one of the times that the author seems to depend on Patricia's own biography for information. There are other cases in which the author has to take the word of someone as fact, and it is left to the reader to decide whether to evaluate the words or accept them as truth.

The author presents information about members of the SLA in pieces rather than presenting full sketches as that character takes actions of significance to the kidnapping and the aftermath. Bill Harris is married to Emily, and they are the only married couple in the SLA. Bill had served in Vietnam, just as Joe did. However, Joe talked about the deaths that were perpetrated by his unit while Bill never fired his gun in Vietnam. He maintained a level of that mentality while he was with the SLA as well. While Donald and some others – including Emily – seemed ready for a shootout with police, Bill was looking for a plan by which he could get out of the situation alive. Despite that, he apparently felt committed to the cause, even when he could not fully articulate what the SLA wanted to accomplish. He knew that Willy was more of a naïve youngster than a battle-ready revolutionary, but he was the one who followed Donald's order to have Willy return after Foster's assassination. The reader has to remember that the author took information from various sources – including Bill's statements – as resources for this book. Bill could have been skewing the truth as a means of putting himself in the best possible light.

Public opinion turned against Patricia as time passed and she began to look less like a victim. Probably everyone who was watching the news coverage at the time made judgments about her innocence. There were some who touted Patricia's situation and felt that she had no choice about her decisions if she wanted to survive. Others felt she had become a willing member of the SLA because she was a wealthy, spoiled girl. The author points out both sides of the question and later addresses the rumor that Patricia helped plan her own kidnapping.

The Hearsts had been instrumental in the literal building of the University of California, which is why Catherine Hearst had a seat on that board. The time for her reappointment came up while Patricia was in captivity. There seemed to be no question that Catherine would be offered the seat but it was left to her to decide whether to accept it. The Hearsts were likely considering everything they did and said during this time. Catherine did accept it and Patricia pointed to that as her mother's indifference about Patricia's fate. The board seat was a political appointment but had authority only over specific issues related to the university. It seems insignificant to the vague political ideals of the SLA, but the SLA – through Patricia's statement – made it clear that they did not approve. This was one of many instances in which the SLA latched onto something as a means of making a statement, even if it was not important to them up to that point.

After Patricia issued her statement, Catherine confided to a friend that she felt the SLA had killed Patricia by that point. She might have been feeling guilty that she accepted the appointment to the university board but the comment includes a metaphoric image of Patricia leaving her former life behind in favor of a place with the SLA. If Patricia truly had joined the SLA and was fully committed to their cause, it would have been as if she



was dead to her family. The SLA would never allow Patricia to have friendly contact with her parents and Patricia would have condemned every part of her parents' lifestyles.

The bit of information about the charm Willy gave Patricia seems trivial, but it becomes important later. Patricia held onto the one Willy gave her, and Willy had his with him when he died. The prosecutors pointed to that as evidence that Patricia had an emotional attachment to Willy, contrary to her statements that she was forced into a sexual relationship with him.

Vocabulary

diatribes, clandestine, disquisitions, perfidy, aberrational, alacrity, anathema, egalitarian, abstemiousness, subterfuge, supplication



Part Three: Common Criminals; Showdown at Mel's; Live on Television; Apocalypse on Fifty-Fourth Street

Summary

Chapter 11 is the first chapter of “Part Three” and is titled “Common Criminals.” The SLA got a lot of publicity from the bank robbery and they felt rich. Donald gave Patricia the prize from the robbery – the security guard's pistol. Some people began to refer to Patricia as a “folk hero” (Location 2367); Others call her an “enemy of the state” (Location 1275). The FBI chased leads from all sorts of angles, but did not know where the SLA and Patricia were.

Officials knew for Certain that Patricia took part in the Hibera Bank robbery but were faced with the decision of whether to charge her. Charles Bates, the FBI agent in charge of the case, had spent time with the Hearsts and knew they wanted what was best for Patricia. Bates felt the same. Jim Browning felt he should charge her and let a jury decide. Then Patricia released a statement saying she had participated of her own accord. The video surveillance confirmed the details, including that none of the SLA members had a gun pointed at her. After that statement, Browning and Bates agreed that Patricia would initially be charged as “a material witness,” giving officials time to consider further (Location 2504).

Donald and others went door-to-door at one point, seeking new recruits, and captured some interest. At one point, the Nation of Islam provided them with food. The SLA members moved again, then Donald decided they would move to Los Angeles.

Chapter 12 of “Part Two” is titled “Showdown at Mel's.” Donald divided the group into teams for the move and made a point to separate Patricia and Willy. Patricia traveled with Bill and Emily Harris. They wound up in a rundown shack in a seedy part of town. Everyone was aware of their horrible living conditions. The members felt they could be outside a little more because their faces probably were not as well-known in Los Angeles. When Bill and Emily planned to go out for supplies, Patricia – as part of their team – insisted she be allowed to go. Bill and Emily agreed that Patricia was part of their team and that they might need her for backup. They bought groceries, cigarettes, and some other items.

Bill spotted Mel's Sporting Goods store. He and Emily went in together. They chose several clothing items. A shotgun bandolier caught Bill's attention and he felt it would look good in publicity photos. He did not want to buy anything related to weapons, so he put it in his pocket. A clerk confronted him as he walked out of the store after paying for the other items. The two men wound up on the ground. Someone called out that Bill had a weapon. Patricia looked out the van window and saw the scuffle. She grabbed a



submachine gun and fired toward the store. When she emptied that clip, she grabbed a carbine and shot some more. Bill and the clerk were still on the ground but everyone else had fled. Bill told the clerk he was going to get killed. The clerk answered, then ran as well. Bill made sure Patricia saw him, then he and Emily ran to the van. The clerk fired at them as they left. They knew the van would be recognized so they highjacked and stole a series of cars.

The police were beginning to put pieces together from the scene of the shooting. Bill was supposed to mail a parking ticket payment while they were out, but it was still in the van. Bill identified himself as SLA to carjacking victims. The police soon knew the general location of the SLA's safe house. The three were certain that the other SLA members would hear about the shooting and leave the safe house. The three went to their planned meeting place but the others never showed up. Bill, Emily, and Patricia heard on the news that the safe house was empty when police arrived. They got a motel room and turned on the television.

Chapter 13 of "Part Two" is titled "Live on Television." The other SLA members – Donald, Angela, Nancy, Mizmoon, Willy, and Camilla – left the safe house and drove around until they found a house with a light on. Visitors came and went at all hours and no one was surprised to see Donald's group. They had a large number of weapons and ammunition. Over the course of the next day, Donald introduced himself as SLA to lots of people, and others came just to get a look at him. Donald asked for help hiding their vehicles and put them in an alley. Donald did not know that stolen vehicles were often stashed in that alley. Police found the vans, which led to the neighborhood. A woman heard about the situation and went to her daughter's home, retrieving her grandchildren. She then told police that Donald and the others were in her daughter's house, putting the police onto the correct house.

Television stations soon began covering the scene where police had surrounded a small, yellow stucco house. Two stations got in a standoff over positioning and the ability to transmit immediately. Their compromise resulted in most of the area television stations transmitting the coverage live from one station's equipment. Police began to call for a surrender. There was one officer on the scene with a K-9. The dog was primed with Patricia's scent and his job was to find her, whether she was alive or dead.

Chapter 14 of "Part Two" is titled "Apocalypse on Fifty-Fourth Street." Randy and Catherine knew about the shootout on May 15. On the afternoon of May 16, the cook rushed into the room, telling them about the television coverage. They turned it on but Catherine could not stay to watch. Bill, Emily, and Patricia watched from their hotel.

The Los Angeles Police were not known for patience or caution. Those watching television saw gunfire from the house. The SLA members continued to shoot out and the police fired on the house. Police were soon scrambling for more ammunition. They fired tear gas into the house and one of the women who lived there woke from a drunken stupor only when her bed caught on fire. The house was soon engulfed but the members of the SLA remained. Nancy was at the back of the house in the crawlspace when police saw her. She fired and was hit by seven bullets in return. Camilla was the



next to emerge. She had guns in both hands and police shot her in the head. Her friends dragged her body back under. The house collapsed and shooting stopped, making it safe for firefighters.

In the motel, Bill felt he was to blame for the deaths. He stole the bandolier that prompted the shootout that led police to the SLA members. Patricia felt that the police would certainly shoot her, just as they had shot the others. Five bodies were recovered but Patricia was not among them. The next day, investigators found a sixth body, but it was Camilla. Everyone continued to wonder where Patricia was.

Analysis

It may be difficult for modern-day readers to understand why the SLA was celebrating a bank robbery that netted just more than \$10,000. The economy was different in the 1970s when the kidnapping took place. That was a large significant amount of money. By comparison, the author wrote that the \$400,000 demand for food would cost about \$2 billion in modern times. But even after robbing the bank, the group was soon out of money. Remember that there were usually nine people living in one house. They needed food and other supplies, including their weapons and ammunition. When they arrived in Los Angeles, they moved into a really rundown house in a poor part of town. The house was probably the worst they had lived in since they became the SLA. They were bound to be evaluating their situation and wondering why they were still struggling so much.

Patricia sent out a communication insisting that she had not been brainwashed and is not under the control of the SLA. She continued to insist that she was acting of her own accord. That almost sounds like a person who is protesting too much, indicating that she actually is saying what the SLA tells her to say. The bank robbery could also be explained away. It could be that her gun was not loaded. She was supposed to fire into the ceiling but she did not. It could be that someone out of camera range had a gun pointed at her, though that was not the case either. It could also be that she was merely acting out of fear and had not yet had the chance to escape. All those things were possibilities that could excuse Patricia's action up to the time that Patricia shot at people on the sidewalk outside Mel's. Some readers who supported Patricia up to this point may find she no longer has their sympathy.

It seems incredible that Donald and his friends happened to find what basically amounted to a drug house where people dropped in at all hours to drink, do drugs, and sleep off the effects. But that is exactly what the house turned out to be. Donald was likely in his element in that house because people dropped in just to see him.

Donald, Nancy, and Mizmoon had killed Foster just months earlier, meaning the three had probably realized that that point that they were destined to die. The other three were not really invested in the SLA until recently, and then were not really the typical revolutionary type. Willy had been working on archaeological digs the previous year. Angela was an aspiring actress. Camilla had a letter in her pocket to her parents, saying



how much their love meant to her. The attitudes and mentality of these people are not certain, but the author again uses journalistic license to tell the story.

The author makes claims about the Los Angeles Police Department, saying they were short on patience. The wording hints that there might not have been an immediate shootout if the standoff had taken place in some other jurisdiction.

Patricia's reaction after the deaths of the six SLA members seems to indicate that she knew she could never turn back now. She had come to believe that the police and FBI were the real threat on her life, but now she felt that they would shoot her, just as they had shot and killed the others. The author presents that attitude, apparently from Patricia's book, without qualifying it at all. This makes it seem that he believes she was brainwashed and completely under the control of the SLA, even though he never says that outright.

Vocabulary

euphoria, exhilaration, crucial, subordinate, inundated, purported, conflagration, mollify, dubbed, stymied



Part Four: “The Gentlest, Most Beautiful Man;” Jack Scott Makes an Offer; Road Trip

Summary

Chapter 15 is the first chapter of “Part Four,” and is titled “The Gentlest, Most Beautiful Man.” The trio briefly talked about retaliation. Patricia felt, more than ever, that the members of the SLA had been truthful to her when they said the police were the only real threat to her life. She truly believed the police would shoot her if they had the opportunity.

Patricia, Bill, and Emily barely made it to San Francisco in an old car that broke down. They imposed on a former friend for help. He gave them \$50 and they rented an apartment. The SLA had gotten little support prior to the firefight in Los Angeles, but the Weather Underground took responsibility for a bombing. The three had no way to contact members of the Weather Underground, so were still without friends.

Then a group gathered at a park to honor the fallen SLA members. Kathy Soliah was among the speakers. Bill and Emily knew Kathy, who had been Angela's closest friend. Kathy finished her speech by declaring her support and claiming to be a member of the SLA. Kathy was actually a member of a small group of revolutionaries that never had a formal name but was responsible for some bombings. It would be a natural next step for the remaining SLA members to unite with Kathy's group.

Emily contacted Kathy who began to work on a plan. Bill, Emily, and Patricia released what became known as the “eulogy tape,” outlining their thoughts on the deaths of the six SLA members. Patricia offered thoughts on each, including Willy's gentleness. She said she loved Willy and that the police had stolen that from her. She later denied the message she gave on that tape.

Chapter 16 of “Part Four” is titled “Jack Scott Makes an Offer.” Jack Scott was a writer who was bored with his current assignment. He knew Kathy and traveled to California to meet with her. He felt she would know how to contact the remaining members of the SLA. He pledged to tell the SLA's story from their point of view. Kathy agreed to set up a meeting and Jack expected to meet someone who knew the SLA members. Instead, he met Bill, Emily, and Patricia. He offered to let them stay at a farm he had rented in Pennsylvania on the condition that they give up their weapons. The negotiations went on for hours but they finally agreed.

Jack then worked to figure out how to transport the group. He enlisted the help of a friend, Phil Shinnick. Phil was a former Olympic long jumper who became a radical partly “because he felt track and field officials had unfairly denied him a world record”



(Location 3529). Phil and Emily would drive across the country together. Jack and Patricia would drive across with Jack's parents, John and Lydia who was called Lou. Lou agreed to help because she hoped she could convince Patricia to go home. Jack told Bill his mother's plan. Bill said he would not object if Patricia went home, but asked for warning so he and Emily could get away. After they reached Pennsylvania, Jack would fly back to California and help Bill reach Pennsylvania.

Chapter 17 of "Part Four" is titled "Road Trip." True to her word, Lou began trying to convince Patricia that she should return home. One night, Patricia told Lou that she, Nancy, and Donald had concocted the kidnapping plan together, though the other members of the SLA did not know about it. She said she knew Steve would run away and would not be harmed. Lou found the story suspicious but stopped her questions for awhile, which might have been Patricia's objective. Patricia said she did it because she could not bear to marry Steve but she also could not admit her parents were right in their disapproval of Steve. The author disputes Patricia's claim, saying that documents proved that Bill was the one who found the newspaper announcement of Patricia's engagement and looked up her address. The author also states that Donald and Nancy were not capable of keeping such a big secret.

Jack left Patricia and Emily with his wife, Mikki, in their New York apartment. He went back to California to get Bill with plans for them all to meet in Pennsylvania. Jack hired a woman who would be the "babysitter" for the trio in Pennsylvania (Location 3676). She met Patricia and Emily while they were still in New York. She gave a false name but they knew she was Wendy Yoshimura. Police had connected her to a garage filled with bombs and had arrested her boyfriend. Jack helped Wendy escape, which was why she was willing to help.

Jack was the kind of person who sought out the limelight. One night, he took a friend and protege, Jay Weiner, to the farm where they had a bizarre evening of conversation and an impromptu celebration of Jay's birthday.

Tensions soon begin to flare. Jack realized that none of the SLA members were thankful for his help and that they would never agree to tell him their story for a book, meaning he was funding their lives with no hope of a financial return. Bill insisted everyone go through rigorous training. Wendy hated it and Bill while Bill and Emily fought constantly. Wendy and Patricia, however, began a genuine friendship.

Jack announced that the SLA would have to move. The next farmhouse, just over the New York border, was tiny and derelict. Jack hired a man to interview the group, hoping to get some work done on the book that way. They agreed, but with terms. However, Bill threw out a lot of incorrect information. Then they refused to let the man have the tapes but transcribed and edited them so there was nothing of value.

At one point, Bill asked whether they would have to kill Jack because he knew so much about them, but he never followed up. Jack was tired of the situation and had spent a lot of money. His wife told them they would have to leave. They briefly returned to



Pennsylvania before calling on the people they had met in California for help. They made their way west again.

Analysis

The underground radicals were not often directly associating with each other during this time, but they usually knew each other on some level. They also knew people who were sympathetic. An interesting aspect of that is that Bill, Emily, and Patricia learn about Kathy's support of the SLA through a newspaper article and they make contact. They are careful with Emily disguising herself and the two women talking directly only after they were in private, but Kathy and others in her circle of friends met with the three several times over the coming days. It also seems strange that Kathy spoke out publicly for the SLA considering that she was part of another revolutionary cell and had every reason to keep a low profile.

Typical of the disjointed writing style seen throughout this book, the author does not mention anything about the FBI interviewing Kathy after her performance in the park. In a later chapter, he explains that the FBI did interview Kathy after the rally, but dismissed her possible connection until later.

Bill made a humorous literary reference when Jack announced that Lou was going to try to talk Patricia into going home. Bill said that he had a "Ransom Red Chief" attitude about Patricia. The story, by O. Henry, is about a kidnap victim who is so much trouble that his kidnapers give the victim's father money to get the victim off their hands. That indicates that Bill was sick of Patricia on some level. The humor is repeated when Jack later had the same attitude. It is not clear exactly what prompted the two men to feel that way. Patricia had successfully become a member of the SLA, repeating her allegiance to the group in dangerous situations. There must have been some habits, actions, or attitudes that grated on the men.

Jack and his wife, Mikki, harbored fugitives and were in danger of being arrested for it. At the point that Patricia was on the east coast, her face was on the FBI wanted poster with Bill and Emily's. They were listed among the FBI's most wanted criminals. That makes it almost unbelievable that Jack would take the young Jay Weiner to the farm to meet the three. They did spend the evening talking, just as if he was meeting three stars. Jay, typical of almost everyone who had come into contact with the SLA members, never called the police. Later, however, he said he always knew the day would come when the police came to him for information.

Vocabulary

transformation, excruciating, thwarted, cadence, catatonic, garrulous, paradigm, degenerated, verities, prestigious



Part Four: The Streets of Sacramento; Death of a “Bourgeois Pig;” Feminist Bomb-Making; Freeze!

Summary

Chapter 18 in “Part Four” is titled “The Streets of Sacramento.” Jack agreed to drive Patricia as far as Las Vegas where his parents lived. They knew that their older son, Walter Scott, was coming home for a visit and put Patricia in a motel instead of letting her stay with them. Jim Kilgore, Kathy's boyfriend, met Patricia and they caught a bus to Sacramento where they planned to stay for awhile. The new members who united with Bill, Emily, Wendy, and Patricia were Michael Bortin, Kathy Soliah, Jim Kilgore, and Kathy's siblings, Josephine and Steve Soliah. (For the purpose of clarity in this study guide, Steve will be referred to as Steve Soliah to distinguish him from Steve Weed.)

Kathy's group had experience with bombing. Patricia and Steve Soliah struck up an immediate friendship. Bill and Michael immediately clashed. The group settled into a semblance of normalcy, dividing into several apartments. Patricia sometimes ventured out and helped Steve Soliah with a painting contract. Bill, Emily, and Patricia were wanted and their faces were well-known meaning they could not move about freely. The others had part-time and makeshift jobs, supporting the entire group. Tempers soon flared over finances and authority over the group. They engineered some minor thefts but knew they needed a major infusion of cash. They briefly toyed with the idea of a book, this time keeping the money themselves, but the idea went nowhere. They tried to work out a way to break Russ and Joe out of prison, but could not come up with a plan.

The group then settled on a plan to rob the Guild Savings and Loan Association, a small bank under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff rather than the city police. The plan was meticulous. Michael and Jim Kilgore were the only two who went in the bank and they escaped with some \$3,700. With only two robbers and no real violence, the media paid little attention. They felt robbery was the best way to fund their new objectives – bombings. They chose the Crocker National Bank in Carmichael next.

Chapter 19 of “Part Four” is titled “Death of a 'Bourgeois Pig.'” Russ and Joe had given up on being rescued from prison. They attacked guards but were subdued before they could retrieve weapons or escape. Their victims survived. With news about the attempted prison break, media attention picked up on the subject of Patricia.

The group, which was no longer referred to itself as the SLA, argued but finally came up with a plan to rob the bank. After heated debates that included whether the men of the group believed the women could handle roles in the robbery, Emily was allowed to lead the group going inside the bank. She delayed entering the bank at opening time and a customer, Myrna Opsahl, arrived with two friends. Michael actually held the door open



for Myrna to enter. Shortly into the robbery, Emily's gun discharged and Myrna was fatally shot. In addition, Kathy kicked a pregnant woman who went into labor and lost her baby.

Safely away, the group learned that Myrna had died and that her husband was a surgeon. Jim Kilgore, who was directly behind Myrna, said she saved him from Emily's shot. He said that Myrna was a "bourgeois pig," indicating that she was an enemy of the revolutionaries. California had recently implemented the death penalty and everyone seemed to know that their situation had changed. They got \$15,000 in the robbery, a fraction of what they'd hoped for.

Chapter 20 of "Part Four" is titled "Feminist Bomb Making." The women participated in their new work of making bombs. Patricia and Steve lived together. Several were working under assumed names. Bill came up with the idea that killing police officers would cause police to "crack down," which in turn would prompt a "mass uprising against the whole corrupt American system" (Location 4275). The group worked out details for bombing specific police stations and cars, but never managed to kill anyone. Some bombs did not detonate. One set of bombs detonated in the wrong order, keeping police from harm instead of catching them outside the police station. The members became increasingly angry with each other and frustrated with their lack of success before finding a level of peace. Patricia settled into a routine of domesticity with Steve, studying feminism and writing.

Chapter 21 of "Part Four" is titled "Freeze." Walter Scott was Jack Scott's older brother. He was a mercenary for hire. For some unknown reason, Jack told Walter about helping hide Bill, Emily, Patricia, and Wendy the previous summer. Walter told police in Scranton, Pennsylvania. An investigation ensued and they found evidence that the group had been in the farmhouse. They also learned that Phil Shinnick and Jay Weiner had been at the farmhouse. The FBI demanded that Jack and Mikki reveal Patricia's location. With a lawyer providing advice, they declared they would never talk. The FBI, recognizing that the Scotts did not know Patricia's current location, backed off. Randy contacted the Scotts and offered to pay them to get Patricia out of the country. They did not know where she was and were wary that Randy might be working with the FBI.

The FBI turned their attention to Jay. He confirmed he was there and the identities of the group. He also gave the police a new piece of information. Wendy's boyfriend was Willie Brandt, who was in prison for bombings. Prison logs revealed that Kathy and Josephine Soliah had visited Willie in prison. The FBI tied that with Kathy's speech in the park, supporting the SLA. They set out to find the Soliah siblings through their father. He made contact with them but they refused to cooperate with the FBI. Their father gave the FBI information he gained during his talk with his children, including that Steve Soliah was working as a painter.

Monte Hall was the FBI agent who was working the daily details of the case. On a hunch, he had agents follow a nurse who was slightly connected. They discovered she had a new car that she paid for with a check from a painting company. They followed that lead to find where the Soliah siblings were working on a large painting job. They



followed them back to their homes and soon verified that Bill and Emily Harris were living in one of the houses. They caught the Harrises on a run one day and arrested them without incident. The agents then went to the second house. Patricia and Wendy gave up without a fight.

Analysis

Jack was a talkative man who was always looking for an adventure or a way to be the center of attention. That was his ultimate downfall and his salvation. He took on the role of helping Patricia, Bill, and Emily because he hoped to be able to write a book about their story. However, he told several people about the group, which led to the FBI threatening him with arrest unless he cooperated. The author's analysis of the inner motivations and true characters of the people involved makes the book more interesting, even though the reader has to accept that those details are founded in journalistic license rather than in fact.

The group was uncharacteristically quiet after the robbery at the Crocker National Bank. Emily had apparently not meant to fire her weapon but she shot Myrna in the side. When they got to the van, one of the others who was inside made a comment about Emily's incompetence. She said it was possible Myrna would not die, but others had seen the wound and knew that was not true. The entire situation seems to be Emily's effort to make herself more important in the group, mainly because of the women's rights movement that was a hot topic of discussion at that time.

Another important part of Myrna's death is seen in Michael's comment that Myrna was a "bourgeois pig." The derogatory term was probably an effort to justify the murder. Emily served a very minimal term in prison for Myrna's death and no one was every truly held accountable.

The idea of killing police officers is truly reprehensible but the group at least had a goal they hoped to accomplish by killing police. They believed that they would kill some police, that the police would react with a show of force, and that people would object to that reaction. Their plan had problems but it was an improvement over the number of actions the group took with no real plan at all.

Vocabulary

anomaly, turgid, gambit, eccentric, venture, bludgeoned, hectoring, perpetual, foment, stymied, euphemistically



Part Five: “There Will Be a Revolution in Amerikkka and We'll Be Helping to Make It;” “Your Ever-Loving Momma and Poppa Care About the Truth; More Excited Than Scared

Summary

Chapter 22 is the first chapter of “Part Five” and is titled “There Will Be a Revolution in Amerikkka and We'll Be Helping to Make It.” Reporters already knew about the arrest and were waiting when Patricia arrived at the Federal Building. She gave a revolutionary salute and smiled at the cameras. Inside, she gave her occupation as “urban guerrilla” (Location 4626). Randy Hearst had already been looking for a lawyer in the event that Patricia was captured. He had chosen the Hallinan firm, known for their leftist attitudes.

Steve Soliah had gone home to warn Patricia that the Harrises had been arrested. Police arrested him when he arrived. Patricia's lawyer, Terence Hallinan, agreed to pass letters to and from Steve through his lawyer. The author of this book included excerpts from Patricia's letters, some vowing her love and continued revolutionary spirit. Terence immediately began working on bail for Patricia. He asserted that she was basically drugged for most of her time with the SLA and saw everything through a haze. It was a terrible tactic because it locked her into that statement, which was utterly false, and the judge still denied bail.

Judge Oliver Carter ordered a psychiatric evaluation for Patricia, the first of many. Randy and Catherine were becoming disillusioned with Terence Hallinan's performance and began looking for a new lawyer.

Chapter 23 of “Part Five” is titled “Your Ever-Loving Momma and Poppa Care about the Truth.” The Hearsts chose F. Lee Bailey as Patricia's new attorney. Randy's first instruction to the new lawyer was that he had to keep her from being tried in the Crocker National Bank robbery, which could result in murder charges. Bailey took charge of the case and of Patricia, ending her correspondence with Steve Soliah. The prosecutor was Jim Browning and he expected Bailey to ask for a deal. Bailey did not want Patricia to stand trial before the Harrises faced their own trial for kidnapping her. Browning believed Patricia was guilty. Public opinion and the social setting supported his stand.

Al Johnson, F. Lee Bailey's partner, handled the daily work on the case. He became close to Patricia. With Al, Bailey, and her family now giving her advice and information, Patricia turned back to her role as a respectable heiress.



Chapter 24 of “Part Five” is titled “More Excited than Scared.” February 4, 1976, was the second anniversary of Patricia's kidnapping. The jury had been selected and her trial began. Browning expected the facts to speak for themselves, including the picture of her participating in the Hiberia Bank robbery.

F. Lee Bailey planned to defend Patricia mainly by insisting that she was forced to join the SLA. Brainwashing was not a formal defense, but he hoped that jurors could identify Patricia with military pilots who were captured and then began to spout communist propaganda. He did not object to a retired Air Force colonel on the juror for that reason.

The trial continued. The prosecution called on Tom Matthews. Patricia, Bill, and Emily stole a car from Tom and forced him to join them so that he would not call the police. Tom talked about Patricia's statements to him – that she had shot up the street at Mel's to save her friends – and that she was smiling. He also said he did not feel he was in danger and actually fell asleep during his time with the three. His statement contradicted Patricia's statements that she was constantly in fear for her life.

In a procedural hearing when the jury was not present, the judge ruled that the prosecution could ask Patricia about the shootout at Mel's Sporting Goods. Bailey argued against it, saying it had nothing to do with the Hiberia Bank Robbery, which was the charge Patricia faced in this trial. The judge overruled him. Bailey then instructed Patricia to take the Fifth Amendment. If she testified in the jurors' presence, Bailey knew jurors would assume she had something to hide by refusing to answer. He ultimately decided to gamble that the judge would rule in their favor when it came to Patricia's direct testimony. The judge did not and Patricia refused to answer question after question.

Analysis

Patricia easily moved from the role of revolutionary back to the role of respectable heiress. There are two possible explanations. The first is that she is a manipulative woman who recognized that she could either go to jail for a long time or give up her role as a revolutionary. That picture of Patricia is the one many people felt was the truth. The other explanation is that she is easily manipulated and adapted instinctively to her surroundings. While she may not have been in fear for her life every moment of her time with the SLA, she was led to believe that their politics and actions were honorable and correct. That picture is more difficult for some people to handle, but other examples of that have been seen over the course of history. F. Lee Bailey's example was of America soldiers and pilots captured by the communists who then touted communist rhetoric and claimed to support communism. Other examples will be presented in the final section of the book.

Patricia spoke badly about her mother during her communications after the kidnapping, but they settled into a more normal relationship after Patricia's arrest. Catherine visited her often and it was her words that were the catalyst for the title of the chapter titled, “Your Ever-Loving Momma and Poppa Care About the Truth.” Those were Catherine's



words to Patricia. They seem out of place considering that the Hearsts set out to remake Patricia into the image that would garner public support and keep her out of jail, a tactic they continued right up through the presidential actions that freed her from jail and granted her a full pardon.

Tom Matthews was a damaging witness for the defense, painting a picture of Patricia as a solid revolutionary who had defended her fellow revolutionaries. However, not all of the prosecutions questions worked out. For example, Jim Browning asked Patricia if the members of the SLA gave her a toothbrush during her early days of captivity. He did not know the answer to that question, but probably thought it was just a basic need that would have been provided. Instead, Patricia said that she had access to a toothbrush, but it was the same one that everyone else in the house used. That gave a different impression from the one Jim hoped to present. The back and forth seems typical of most trials but would become even more so when the lawyers began calling psychiatrists for opinions.

The lawyers the Hearsts chose were big names in their fields, which was why the Hearsts chose them. However, none of them were really what they needed. The first family of lawyers were tough men who were known for their defense of left-wing radicals and revolutionaries. They would undoubtedly support Patricia's right to continue acting as a revolutionary. Her lawyer went so far as to pass letters between Patricia and Steve Soliah, keeping the letters in their possession so the government never had a chance to use them against either defendant. Their communication bolstered Patricia's courage and determination, even in the face of a lengthy jail term.

F. Lee Bailey had a different tactic, eliminating Patricia's contact with the SLA altogether and forming her into the respectable young heiress she was born to become. But he was focused more on making money than on winning Patricia's case. He made a book deal while he was still working on the case. He passed up a chance to work with Patricia on her testimony in favor of attending conferences where he was paid for speaking. He was never fully invested in Patricia's case, despite the fact that winning would have made a huge impact on his career. As he would discover, losing made a big impact as well and his book deal was canceled after Patricia was found guilty.

Vocabulary

swarming, arraigned, occupation, patriarch, rapport, assignation, routine, collared, harboring, optimism



Part Five: The Search for Old McMonkey; The Verdict; “Favoring the Rich over the Poor;” Aftermath

Summary

Chapter 25 of “Part Five” is titled “The Search for Old McMonkey.” Bailey worked out a deal for Patricia to give detailed information about the Crocker Bank robbery in return for immunity in that case. It was a daring move because Patricia was spending her days in court, defending herself in the Hiberia Bank robbery, and her evenings with the FBI, giving information about the Crocker Bank robbery. Bailey's motivation was to get Patricia's deal in place before Steve Soliah worked out a similar deal.

Bailey then called psychiatrists into court to testify that Patricia was not responsible for her actions between her kidnapping and her arrest. The prosecution brought rebuttal psychiatrists. The two sets testified as expected, each contradicting the others. Their arguments ranged from Patricia's fear to Patricia's rebellious nature. One of the prosecution's experts talked about the other SLA members, all roughly Patricia's age and most of them came from respectable backgrounds. He pointed out that most people would look at any of them and wonder how they got to their radicalized point. Prosecutor Jim Browning had not expected to gain anything with the psychiatrists except to keep the jurors from taking the defense psychiatrists at face value. He succeeded.

Immediately after their arrest, Bill and Emily talked about their affection for Patricia. The only negative comment was Bill saying that she had a tendency to go overboard with her revolutionary agenda. However, when Patricia began testifying that she was raped and forcibly held, the Harrises refuted those claims. The Harrises were paid \$10,000 for an interview, which funded their legal defense.

One statement in that interview was that Willy had given Patricia a Mexican artifact, an Olmec Monkey. Willy kept the matching monkey and was wearing it when he died. Patricia carried hers in her purse. Bill used that fact to say that Patricia would never have kept the gift if she had hated Willy, as she had testified. The prosecutors went looking for Patricia's purse, still in evidence, and found the monkey charm. They retrieved the matching monkey from the crime lab where it had been taken into evidence after Willy's death. It was a blow to the defense and could have come as a surprise. However, Jim Browning told his teenaged daughter about the discovery. She told a friend who told her mother. The mother was hoping Patricia would be acquitted. She contacted F. Lee Bailey. He had time to prepare so the monkey was not a surprise, but there was little he could say to refute the implications. Bailey led Patricia to say she had kept the monkey because it might be a valuable artifact. The prosecution quickly provided a professor who said the monkey had little value.



Chapter 26 of “Part Five” is titled “The Verdict.” Catherine took the stand as the defense's final witness. In an effort to support Patricia's claim as to why she kept the Olmec Monkey, Catherine said that she and Patricia often did things together and shared a love of art.

In summations, the prosecutor pointed out facts, including Patricia's role in the shootout at Mel's. Bailey rambled, focusing on various points. He asked the jurors to consider what they would do to survive and reminded them that Patricia was not on trial for what happened at Mel's. He finished with a nonsensical statement, “They will be talking about the case for longer than I think I am going to have to talk about it, whether it occurs to me, or probably the only people in the courtroom I haven't had to talk about it so far with.”

Everyone expected the jury to deliberate for days. Their first vote was 10 of the 12 in favor of guilty. One juror quickly agreed to a guilty verdict. The second asked for a few hours to think it over, and joined the guilty verdict the next day. Janey Jimenez was the U.S. Marshal assigned to oversee Patricia while in custody. She and Patricia became close during their time together. Patricia did not react to the verdict in the courtroom but she and Janey cried after they left the courtroom.

Oliver Carter, the judge in the case, had indicated he would not hand down a harsh sentence, but he died after the trial and before the sentencing hearing. Patricia also had a health crisis and spent several days in the hospital after a collapsed lung. Judge William H. Orrick Jr. was assigned to dispense sentencing. He decided on a middle-of-the road sentence of seven years, which he believed would be handed down to any similar bank robber. He then agreed that Patricia could be out on bail while she filed appeals. Al Johnson, Bailey's partner, brokered the complex deal which included cash and bodyguards.

Chapter 27 of “Part Five” is titled “Favoring the Rich over the Poor.” Al called on local police to help set up the bodyguard detail, believing off-duty police officers who needed the extra money would be ideal. He hired Bernie Shaw, a married man with children and a stable life, to hire and oversee the others. Other trials were also going on. Steve Soliah was tried for his role in the Crocker Bank robbery. Witnesses put him inside but Patricia testified he was outside, serving as a lookout. One of the customers resembled Steve Soliah, which helped jurors believe the witness was mistaken. Steve Soliah was acquitted. Prosecutors took that as a sign and dropped other charges related to the murder at Crocker Bank.

The family basically cut ties with F. Lee Bailey but Al continued to work for them. He made a deal with prosecutors regarding the shooting at Mel's and the kidnappings and carjackings that followed. She entered a “no contest” plea and received probation. He also brokered a settlement with the family of Myrna Opsahl's family to avoid a civil trial.

The personal relationship between Patricia and Al had bloomed while she was in jail but deteriorated once she was free. He felt betrayed when she revealed that she and Bernie Shaw had become romantically involved and that he was divorcing his wife. Al



recommended attorney George Martinez, who soon began representing Patricia on her own legal issues. Her appeal was denied and Patricia was ordered to report to prison. News reporters were on the scene and she literally had to fight her way through the crowd to get inside. She used that as a joke that she had broken into prison.

Patricia's parents and George began working to free Patricia in one of the few avenues remaining – a presidential intervention. Patricia had begun giving interviews, all aimed at increasing her public support. Her congressman was Leo Ryan Jr. He had become an ally in her effort for release and they often corresponded by mail. He sent her a note saying he was headed to Guyana and would see her upon his return.

Leo planned the trip because an evangelist named Jim Jones had been urging his followers to move to Guyana and they had done so in droves. There, they were forced to work for Jones with no financial return and limited opportunities to talk to anyone outside the cult. Leo was attacked at the Jones camp and murdered as he tried to leave. Then Jones convinced hundreds of his followers to drink poison. The public knew that 909 people died there, including more than 300 children, and they began to question how one man could have convinced all those people to die. John Wayne, one of Patricia's supporters, summed up his thought by saying the public accepted that Jones had wielded the power over almost a thousand people, but could not believe that the SLA could have power over a scared teenager.

The request to commute the remainder of Patricia's sentence was sent to President Jimmy Carter who approved it without fanfare.

The final chapter of the book is titled "Aftermath." Russ and Joe were tried for Marcus Foster's murder. Eventually, Russ was acquitted but Joe spent years in jail. Wendy served about a year in jail. Jack Scott became a physiotherapist for athletes and died of cancer in 2000. Steve Soliah died of a stroke in 2013. Jim Kilgore lived in South America for awhile but returned to serve time. He wrote a book about prisons. Michael Bortin married Josephine Soliah and became a hardwood floor salesman in Oregon.

Kathy Soliah took the name Sara Jane Oleson. She married Fred Peterson and they had children. A television show about her youth as a radical resulted in her arrest in 1999. She eventually took a plea bargain for eight years in prison. Bill and Emily served a few years for bank robbery and a few more for their role in the murder at the Croker Bank. They eventually divorced, moving into separate lives. F. Lee Bailey participated in other high-profile crimes, struggled with legal issues of his own, and wound up without a license to practice law. Catherine and Randy divorced. Catherine lived a quiet life and died in 1998. Randy remarried and died in 2000. Patricia married Bernie Shaw who died in 2013. She wrote a book and President Bill Clinton signed her pardon on his final day in office.



Analysis

The chapter entitled “The Search for Old McMonkey” is a reference to the Olmec Monkey. The Olmec Monkey was referenced during statements taken before Patricia was tried for the Hiberia Bank robbery but the words were transcribed to read “old McMonkey.” No one knew what it meant, including the prosecutors. When Bill talked about the Olmec Monkey, he said that Patricia and Willy had matching charms, and that Patricia kept hers. He made that statement as he was refuting Patricia's claim that Willy had raped her. Bill said that she would not have kept the charm if she hated Willy. The prosecutors used that same argument against Patricia as they sought to convince the jury that Patricia was a willing participant instead of a terrified victim.

The final chapter, “Aftermath,” is followed by notes from the author, including his list of sources. The author then includes several photographs of Patricia and others related to the case. The famous photograph of Patricia holding a gun in front of the SLA's flag is one of those, as is the photograph of Patricia holding a gun during the Hiberia Bank robbery. The visuals give readers the ability to picture the various people as they looked during the events of the 1970s.

Randy Hearst spent a lot of time trying to help Patricia. He organized the food giveaway despite the fact that some criticized his decision to give in to unreasonable demands of a group of outlaw revolutionaries. He later offered to pay Jack Scott to get Patricia out of the country. He also spent time with prisoners and anyone else he thought might be able to help Patricia in any way. He did a lot of this while public opinion was strongly against Patricia. While it seems like a reasonable thing for a father to do for his beloved daughter, the reader should remember that Randy was accustomed to a life of wealth and privilege. He was kind to those who did all the work for him, but he was not the person who did much real work on his own. He also had led a relatively sheltered life because of his wealth. For example, he would never have had a reason to visit a revolutionary in a jail cell if he had not been trying to help Patricia. All these things he did – far outside his normal range of experiences – changed Randy. He heard opinions and politics that he had never taken time to hear before.

The title of the final chapter refers to the Hearsts' wealth and power, and how they used it. Patricia was kept out of jail for a great deal of time, including all the time her case was on appeal. The family paid for an extensive group of men to serve as body guards in keeping with the judge's order during her release. The family also used their influence to get her sentence commuted, which meant Patricia was released early. She later set out to get a presidential pardon, and succeeded. All those things were at least partly because of the power her family name wielded.

Vocabulary

charismatic, keen, significance, singularly, scathing, ardently, desirous, petitioner, clemency, madcap, disdain



Important People

Patricia Hearst

Patricia Hearst was almost 20 years old when members of the Symbionese Liberation Army broke into her apartment and took her prisoner. While a few people believe she had engineered her kidnapping, that does not seem likely. However, when she began carrying guns and living a life on the run with the SLA, many believed that she had taken an opportunity to leave her boring life behind, and that she willingly participated in the SLA's actions from that point.

Patricia's personality was a mixed bag. On the one hand, she was malleable and it was easy for her to adapt to her situation. On the other, she was rebellious against her mother's strict demands and wanted to lash out against the demands of her family life. That rebellious streak prompted her to move in with Steve Weed. He was her teacher when they began their affair and her parents did not approve. But it did not take long for Patricia to decide that she had made a mistake. She was bored to the point of considering suicide when the kidnapping occurred. That probably made her more open to hearing the SLA's political ramblings than she might otherwise have been.

Patricia engaged in a shootout on a busy Los Angeles street to save her fellow SLA members, Bill and Emily Harris. That scene and a few others were the final turning point away from supporting Patricia as a victim. Later, she said she acted instinctively because of the months of training with the SLA.

After her arrest, Patricia briefly continued her outspoken political rhetoric, but she soon turned back to the life she had been expected to live. She spoke out about her brutalization at the hands of the SLA members and recanted everything she had said in support of them. She served a brief prison term before returning to her life of wealth and power. She married, had children and grandchildren, and became interested in dogs.

Randy Hearst

Randall Hearst, known to almost everyone as Randy, was Patricia's father. He was one of the heirs to the Heart estate, which was well-known in the 1970s because of its wealth and power. Randy was very close to Patricia when she was young, and had taken her hunting. That could explain at least part of the reason she was so quickly comfortable handling the guns during her time with the SLA.

Randy was the epitome of the wealthy, middle-aged man of the time. He was a private person and the family, as a whole, hated the attention prompted by Patricia's kidnapping and rebellion. Randy was heavily invested in the family's newspaper business, but he was not really responsible for the day-to-day operation of the business.



Randy had never been exposed to the ideas and politics of the counterculture, despite that the people involved were outspoken and the media covered their actions. After Patricia was kidnapped, Randy took a lot of steps to get her back. In addition to funding the huge food-giveaway program, he talked to people that he would never have met otherwise. When an inmate in an area prison promised he could help free Patricia, Randy spent time with the man. It was not a step the FBI sanctioned, but Randy was anxious to do anything he could.

Randy changed in the months after the kidnapping. When he learned that the Scotts had been in contact with Patricia, he met with them. He offered them money to get Patricia out of the country. Jack Scott was not interested, but Randy's offer showed the level of his desperation and the lengths he went to in an attempt to help Patricia. Randy was a respectable man who would probably never have considered helping someone run from the FBI before Patricia's kidnapping, but his priorities and attitudes changed as he spent more time with people who were living in the counterculture of the era.

Donald DeFreeze

Also known as Cinque, on Cin, Donald was an erratic black man who was the official leader of the SLA. He wanted the organization, and his role in it, to be more important than it was. He spouted rhetoric that often made little sense, just because he believed it made him seem more important. Donald was the leader of the group but often had half-formed ideas. For example, he wanted to kidnap Patricia but did not really know what to do after they had her under their control. Donald died in the house fire in Los Angeles. He had a bullet wound to his head and police were never certain whether he inflicted it himself or if it was from a police gun.

Bill Harris

Bill Harris was Emily Harris's husband, was also known as General Teko. Donald DeFreeze chose his code name and bestowed the title "general" when it became apparent that Bill was feeling dissatisfied with the SLA. Bill was a blustering man who grated on many people. He seldom worked even when others risked being recognized. He always wanted to be in charge and felt he was better informed and more capable of handling every action. He ultimately served a term in prison and eventually divorced Emily.

Emily Harris

Emily was Bill Harris's wife. Her code name was Yolanda but there seems to be no reason for that. Emily was a radical feminist in addition to her radical political views. She pushed to be the one in charge of the Crocker Bank robbery, saying the men did not want her to be in charge because she was a woman. The others gave in to her demand. She was the one who shot and killed Myrna. Emily served a few years in prison and eventually divorced Bill.



Willy Wolfe

Willy was Patricia's lover and partner during the weeks after her kidnapping, though she insisted that their relationship was one of rapist and victim. His code name was Cujo, which is an Indian word that means unconquerable. Willy was younger and more naïve than most of the others. Willy gave Patricia a charm, known as an Olmec Monkey, and kept a matching charm for himself. Patricia kept hers, even after Willy died in the shootout with police in Los Angeles. Prosecutors pointed out the charm as proof that Patricia cared for Willy and that he was not the rapist she claimed he was.

Angela Atwood

Angela, also known as General Gelina, was an aspiring actress. Angela became close to Patricia during the days after the kidnapping. She died in the house fire in Los Angeles.

Nancy Ling Perry

Nancy preferred to be called Ling and her code name was Fahizah, which translates to “one who is victorious.” Nancy was something of a reactionary. She fired her gun at the apartments during Patricia's kidnapping, apparently for no reason other than she heard Donald firing. She was one of the three who shot and killed Marcus Foster. She died in the house fire in Los Angeles.

Camilla Hall

Camilla, the poet of the group, was also known as Gabi. She was the only surviving daughter of a Minnesota couple and had moved away before living an openly gay lifestyle. She was one of the last SLA members to become wanted, meaning she kept working when others were forced into hiding. She died in the house fire in Los Angeles.

Mizmoon/Patricia Michelle Soltysik

Patricia Soltysik was also known as Mizmoon, but her nickname was Zoya, which is a Russian name that means “life.” For the sake of clarity, she is referred to throughout this guide as Mizmoon to distinguish her from Patricia Hearst. She was one of the three who killed Marcus Foster. She died in the house fire in Los Angeles.

Russ Little

Russ was also called Osceola, or Osi, for the historical figure who became a leader among the Florida Seminoles. He was from Florida, earned a scholarship, and worked on an engineering degree until he took a philosophy class. Russ was in the getaway car



when the members of the SLA murdered Marcus Foster. Russ and Joe Remiro were captured with SLA literature, leading to their arrest for the murder. Russ was eventually freed.

Joe Remiro

Joe was also called Bo, though unlike some of the others there seemed to be no particular reason for the nickname. He was a Vietnam Veteran who had served multiple tours and saw a lot of action. He returned to the United States with emotional issues, the equivalent of PTSD. He was an expert with guns. He spent years in prison for his role in Marcus Foster's murder.

Steve Weed

Steve was Patricia's live-in boyfriend and fiance at the time of her kidnapping. He ran away from the house while the kidnappers were taking Patricia, and she publicly criticized him for that. He tried to take steps to find and defend Patricia, but his actions were unorthodox, such as searching for a foreign country that would harbor the members of the SLA. His motives might have been honorable but his actions prompted a break with Patricia's parents, Catherine and Randolph Hearst.

Kathy Soliah

Kathy was the member of a different radical group at the time the members of the SLA died in the shootout with police. She appeared at a rally, speaking out in support of the dead members of the SLA, which is why Bill, Emily, and Patricia first contacted her. Kathy and her friends, including her brother Steve, helped put the group in contact with Jack Scott and later joined with the three remaining SLA members. She was on the inside team at the Crocker Bank robbery. Kathy kicked a pregnant woman, causing her to lose her baby. Kathy moved into a different life and changed her name. She lived as Sara Jane Oleson for years, married and had children. When she was captured, she focused on the hardships she had endured but did eventually serve a short prison term.

Steve Soliah

Steve was Kathy Soliah's brother and was Patricia's live-in boyfriend at the time of their arrest. He communicated with Patricia by letters passed between their attorneys until Patricia had a new attorney who put a stop to it. Steve was outside during the Crocker Bank robbery and was acquitted for his role in the robbery. He returned to his profession as a painter and ended his contact with both Patricia and the counterculture.



Wendy Yoshimura

Wendy was wanted for her role in bombing and hid in the farmhouses in Pennsylvania and New York while Emily, Bill, and Patricia were there. She formed a friendship with Patricia and went with them when they returned to California.

Jack and Mikki Scott

Jack was a writer and Mikki was his wife. Jack contacted Patricia, Bill, and Emily through Kathy, hoping that they would agree to tell him the inner details of life in the SLA for a book Jack hoped to write. Jack and Mikki helped Patricia, Bill, and Emily hide in the months after the other members of the SLA died. The FBI threatened Jack and Mikki but they expressed their refusal to ever divulge information about Patricia. They were never arrested for their role in hiding the wanted criminals.

Lydia (Lou) and John Scott

Lydia and John were Jack Scott's parents. Lou tried to convince Patricia to return home but gave up on the effort when Patricia concocted a story in which she claimed that she had actually helped plan her own kidnapping.

Walter Scott

Walter was Jack's brother. While Jack was involved in the counterculture of the day and knew how to reach Kathy Soliah, Walter went directly to the police when he learned that Jack had helped Patricia hide. Walter's information was how the FBI came to learn of Jack's involvement.

Catherine Hearst

Catherine was Patricia's mother. She was an extremely respectable and private person who hated the public scrutiny after Patricia's kidnapping. Catherine hated Patricia's rebellious nature, including the fact that Patricia lived with Steve. When Patricia hinted that she and Steve would marry, Catherine insisted that they announce their engagement in the newspaper. Patricia said hurtful things about her mother during her time in captivity, but Catherine rushed to Patricia's side as soon as she was arrested.

Myrna Opsahl

Myrna was the first customer to arrive at the Crocker Bank on the morning that Emily, Kathy, and the others arrived to rob the bank. She entered just ahead of the robbers. Emily's gun went off, though Emily swore that she had not intended to shoot. Myrna died in the robbery but no one was ever fully held accountable for her death. In the



hours and days after Myrna's death, the group realized that their situation had changed because California had the death penalty and they could all, theoretically, be tried with death as a possible sentence.

Bernie Shaw

Bernie Shaw was a married police officer hired to oversee the detail of bodyguards assigned to guard Patricia while she was out of jail on bond. Bernie and Patricia entered into a romantic relationship. He divorced his wife and married Patricia. They were still married when he died of cancer in 2013.

Al Johnson

Al was F. Lee Bailey's partner and he took a huge role in Patricia's case. Al was close to Patricia during her time in prison but their relationship predictably changed after she was released. He handled a lot of details for the family, including negotiating a complicated deal to keep Patricia out of jail while her appeal was pending. He was responsible for hiring Bernie Shaw and felt betrayed when Bernie divorced his wife to marry Patricia.

F. Lee Bailey

F. Lee Bailey was a well-known attorney who was known for taking tough cases. He cut Patricia's contact with Steve Soliah and began a campaign to mold her back into the respectable young heiress that would garner public support. He lost Patricia's case, partly because he lacked focus. He went to a speaking engagement instead of working with Patricia to hone her testimony.



Objects/Places

The Symbionese Liberation Army

Often referred to as the SLA, this is the group that kidnapped Patricia Hearst. They called themselves a political movement but had disjointed philosophies and agendas, and accomplished very little during their brief term of existence.

Tania

This is the name Patricia took after she joined the SLA. The change of the name is her symbolic acceptance of the SLA politics and culture.

Mel's Sporting Goods

Bill shoplifted a small item from Mel's, which resulted in a clerk confronting him as he was leaving the store. The clerk and Bill got into a scuffle and Patricia shot at the store from her hiding place in the van. Those shots were used later to help prosecutors make the case that Patricia was a willing accomplice instead of a brainwashed victim. That shootout was also the catalyst that resulted in the shootout between the other six members and the police, which ended with the deaths of the SLA members.

Hiberia Bank

The Hiberia Bank is the bank that Patricia and members of the SLA rob as their first action with Patricia as a confirmed member. There were surveillance cameras in place and she was not disguised, which gave prosecutors ammunition when they tried her for the crime.

Crocker Bank

The Crocker Bank was the second robbery of the revised group, including the Soliah siblings. This is where Emily shot and killed Myrna Opsahl and where Kathy kicked a pregnant woman, causing her to lose her baby. Myrna's death changed the stakes because California had a death penalty. Some of the members were tried for their role in the Crocker Bank robbery, but no one faced murder charges or the death penalty.

The Yellow House in Los Angeles

Donald, Angela, Mizmoon, Willy, Camilla, and Nancy knew they needed to hide after hearing that Bill, Emily, and Patricia were involved in a shootout. They wound up at a



yellow house in Los Angeles, which was where people drank, ingested drugs, and hid out. They made several mistakes – including making their presence known to everyone who dropped in – which led people to find them. The six members of the SLA got in a lengthy shootout with police that ended when several were shot and others died when the house burned to the ground.

The Farmhouses in New York and Pennsylvania

These were where Jack and Mikki Scott helped Bill, Emily, Wendy, and Patricia hide in the months after the shootout in Los Angeles. Police were able to find evidence that the four fugitives had been there, which prompted them to put pressure on Jack and Mikki to reveal the fugitives' current location. He did not know where they were, but both Jack and Mikki refused to give any information and the FBI dropped the lead.

The Olmec Monkeys

Willy had an Olmec Monkey, an artifact from Mexico that he wore like a charm, and Patricia had a matching charm. Patricia insisted that Willy raped her and that she hated him, but prosecutors pointed out that she would not have kept the monkey if she had hated the man who gave it to her.

People in Need

People in Need was the name given to the massive food giveaway funded by the Hearsts in an effort to meet SLA demands. The total demand was ridiculous, insisting that the program provide food for many people who were not actually in need. The project was fraught with problems.

Blood in my Eye

This was the title of a book written by George Jackson, a prisoner who died in a prison riot. Members of the SLA gave a copy of the book to Patricia during her early days of captivity. The SLA treated the book as their guide.

Vacaville

Vacaville was the prison where Willy and some of the others first met Donald. The volunteers there, including Willy, were supposed to be helping the prisoners but the group that included Donald began working to create a rough outline of the SLA.

Themes

Patricia's Role in the SLA

Patricia's state of mind throughout her time with the SLA was a question posed by the public, her family, and police in the months after her kidnapping. In the beginning, everyone assumed that she was in danger from her kidnappers and that they might kill her at any time. As time passed, her communications changed, making it seem that she was a willing participant. When she was captured, she insisted she spent the entire time in fear. Only Patricia every really knew the truth, but others made judgments based on the evidence against her. There were several major pieces of evidence that makes it seem that Patricia was a willing participant.

Perhaps the most important piece of evidence was Patricia's participation in the shootout at Mel's Sporting Goods. She was left alone in the van for a period of time while Bill and Emily were inside the store. A clerk tried to arrest Bill at the door of the store for shoplifting. Patricia did not know the details of what was happening, but she began firing guns at the store. She was only trying to rescue Bill and Emily. That action made her look guiltier than probably any other single action on her part. She said that she acted out of instinct, doing what the SLA had been teaching her to do over the previous months.

The first action that made people question her role in the SLA was her communication. Her first tape was calm but fearful, but her tone and her message changed as the weeks passed. It took relatively little time for her tone to change. She soon began indicating disdain for her parents and approval of the SLA's politics.

Patricia's role at the Hiberia Bank robbery was another piece of evidence supporting the idea that she had chosen to join the SLA. There were security cameras and Patricia was in clear view. The picture of Patricia holding a gun during the robbery was a strong indication that she had become a willing participant. In her next communication, she insisted that she had chosen to help with the robbery, that her gun was loaded, and that no one was holding a gun on her. It was only after her arrest that Patricia again insisted that she felt the members of the SLA would kill her if she did not participate as they required.

The Olmec Monkey was another piece of evidence supporting the idea that Patricia was acting of her own accord. After her arrest, she insisted that Willy had raped her and that their ongoing relationship was that of rapist and victim. She also insisted that she feared and hated him. However, Willy had given her the Mexican artifact – the Olmec Monkey – as a keepsake, and Willy wore the other himself. He was wearing the matching Olmec Monkey when he died and Patricia had hers in her purse when she was arrested. The prosecution pointed out that she would not have kept the charm if she had truly hated the man who gave it to her.



At one time, there was a rumor that Patricia had actually helped engineer her own kidnapping. The evidence does not really support that claim and it is more likely that she made up that story to stop Lou Scott from asking her to give up her life on the run and return home.

Media Coverage and It's Involvement in the Case

Just as the rest of the country was undergoing huge changes, the media was developing new technology, new practices, and new levels of sensational coverage. One of the most dramatic examples of this theme was seen as the Los Angeles Police had a shootout with members of the SLA. There was a news van on the scene that had a relatively new technology available. They were able to broadcast live from the field. Prior to that technology, the live broadcasts required complex equipment that was only available in the studio. This new portable version was so new that only one station among the Los Angeles stations had the technology on site. That station began broadcasting live but soon had an argument with another reporting crew over the best space for equipment. The stations solved their argument by agreeing to share the space and the live broadcast. Other stations quickly picked up the signal and stations all over the country were broadcasting the situation in live time.

The new technology combined with the sensational situation would have drawn a huge audience. The possible involvement of Patricia Hearst – who had become famous by that point – drew an even larger crowd. Randy Hearst was able to watch the shootout and fire in live time from his home, probably one of the first parents ever to keep that kind of vigil.

The Hearst family was intimately involved in newspapers. The Hearst family was wealthy and powerful, and they owned major newspapers. That made Patricia's kidnapping big news for all the media outlets. During the early days of the kidnapping, when Patricia's life seemed to be in danger, newspapers allowed Randy to dictate how specific details were handled. When the SLA demanded that newspapers print their entire communique related to the kidnapping, the larger markets seemed willing to let Randy decide whether to follow those instructions. The Hearst newspaper may have handled the story differently because it was a Hearst who had been kidnapped. Randy told his editorial department to be careful what they printed because what they said could put Patricia's life in more danger. It seems unlikely that the newspaper would have been that concerned with their reports if it had been some other victim.

The continuing coverage, while not so different from other big stories of the time, was comprehensive and wide spread. Reporters camped out at the Hearst residence for weeks after the kidnapping. They were constantly available in case there was news or the Hearst family wanted to give an interview. In that time, before cellular telephone technology was available, reporters had wires run to trees in front of the Hearst mansion so they could quickly contact their home publications.



While Patricia and several other members of her group were killed or captured, some escaped or at least remained free for years. Kathy Soliah was one of those. She took on a new identity, lived a respectable life, married, and had children. She was captured years later after a television show aired her picture and detailed the FBI's continuing search for her.

Overall, Patricia's case was portrayed to the public through cutting edge technology at the time. This transition to more and faster information to the public undoubtedly affected how the public perceived the events and Patricia's innocence or guilt.

The Counterculture and its Supporters

The rise in counterculture during the time of Patricia Hearst's kidnapping played a major role in why the kidnapping occurred, how it was handled by the police, and how the public perceived it.

There was a huge underground network of groups and individuals, especially in the California region, during the 1970s. While many of them had incomprehensible or unrealistic goals, some were focused on specific things they wanted to change. Some went about making those changes in positive ways but others used bombings, kidnappings, and other acts of terrorism to make their points. The term "counterculture" was coined as a means of defining the overall ideas and goals though the entire community was only loosely connected and sometimes worked for opposing goals.

The SLA was founded when a group of young people were trying to make a difference in the prison at Vacaville. The young people, including Willy, were genuinely putting their time and energy into making life better for the prisoners there. Their goals were sidetracked when they began talking to Donald, who soon convinced them to his way of political thinking. The interesting point for the reader is that Donald was relatively uneducated and unrefined, especially compared to the students who were volunteering, but he swayed them into his political thinking. The students may have leaned toward Donald's political mindset even before they met him, but they were soon wholeheartedly on board. They continued to spend time in the prison but they actually began working on the rough plans for forming the SLA while Donald was still a prisoner.

Another important aspect of the counterculture of the time and region is seen in the network of people involved. A rally was held to show support and honor for the slain members of the SLA. About 100 people showed up, which was a small turnout compared to most rallies, but it exhibited that there were people who supported the SLA despite the group's extreme measures. That network was large enough that there were publications devoted to the counterculture. While most of the extreme groups turned their back on the SLA for killing Marcus Foster, many were supportive of some of the group's other actions.

Another aspect of the theme is seen in the length of time the SLA members and Patricia were able to hide. Newspapers and television stations covered the story for years. The



FBI released wanted posters with pictures of several of the SLA members and Patricia. Patricia's picture and those of other members were repeatedly on television and in newspapers, with a new wave of coverage each time there was any hint of a new development in the case.

A final example of the theme is seen in the way the FBI had to go about finding Patricia. Despite the fact that many people saw the members of the SLA and some even saw Patricia, no one called the authorities with that information. The FBI did get a few bits of help from sources – including Walter Scott – but it eventually just took a lot of work and some good fortune to find them. The counterculture was extensive and many people knew each other, but they were a closed group. The FBI had not mastered the ability to infiltrate organizations like this and were never able to get inside information except through testimony and statements from those who were arrested.

The Effects of the Times

The social setting of the time is important for understanding how the SLA evolved and why the public reacted as it did. Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in the mid-1970s, when country was in a state of turmoil against a backdrop of changing attitudes and social norms. Political changes were also occurring and the American people were questioning in ways that had never happened before. All these things played a role in the kidnapping, in the reactions to the kidnapping, and the perceptions of the kidnapping.

The 1950s were a time of peace and wholesomeness. The 1960s evolved into a time of open love and demonstrations with the Civil Rights movement taking huge steps. Peace and acceptance were still the prevailing attitudes. Patricia was a child during the 1960s. Many things changed dramatically in the 1970s. The country was appalled as investigations revealed the details of the Watergate scandal. There were several serial killers and those made people fearful on an everyday basis. Some people lost faith in the government and in their fellow man.

Some people felt they could – and should – make a difference for other people, and an era of activism was born. That is why Willy, Mizmoon, and other activists like them volunteered at the prison. They were theoretically there to improve the lives of the prisoners but some, like Willy, wound up being taught about the leftist political views of prisoners like Donald.

The lack of faith in government, including police, prompted groups like the SLA into existence. Bombings were a common method of protest, with some of the groups only seeking to damage property to get attention rather than actually trying to kill anyone. These groups touted complicated political rhetoric and had complex reasoning to support their actions. They all touted their belief that they could change things for the better.

Randy Hearst is another example of this theme. Randy was the typical middle-aged, wealthy male of the time. He was heavily invested in the newspaper business but had



little actual control of any part of his financial life. He was accustomed to that situation and there is no indication in this book that he wanted his life to be any different. His satisfaction with his life is a direct contrast to Patricia's attitude prior to her kidnapping, but that can probably be attributed to social differences. Randy grew up in an era where few people rebelled against their parents or what was socially acceptable. Patricia was a child during the 1960s and was coming into adulthood of the 1970s. Both were eras of social rebellion for young people of her age. Randy was determined to save Patricia. He met people he would never have met if she had not been indoctrinated into the SLA. These meetings were a brief time in his life, but they had an impact. While his life would have been changed by Patricia's kidnapping regardless of the outcome, it was changed more because of the people he met during the months after her kidnapping.

The Role of the FBI and Police

Long before Patricia was kidnapped, police officials knew that she was a potential target for the SLA, but they did not warn her. The FBI stepped into the investigation immediately, but had little experience with the counterculture and it took more than a year for them to catch up with Patricia. From the shootout that left six SLA members dead to the lucky break that led them to Patricia and several of her comrades, the FBI and a large cast of police departments spend thousands of man hours trying to stop the radical group and capture Patricia, regardless of whether she was still a kidnapping victim or a full-fledged member of the era's counterculture.

One of the most important aspects of police involvement is the way the SLA used police in the early weeks of Patricia's captivity. They told her repeatedly that they had no intention of hurting her. They warned, however, that they would not stand by while police or FBI tried to rescue Patricia. If the police attacked the SLA, the members would fight back. Soon, they had apparently convinced Patricia that she was in more danger from police than from the SLA. She made that comment in a communication to police, urging officials to keep their distance. She relayed the fact that the SLA members had promised to provide her with a gun so that she could defend herself if the police attacked. The message was clear: Patricia would defend herself against police, the body she had come to see as a bigger threat than the SLA.

The extreme counterculture was fairly new at the time of Patricia's kidnapping, and police – including the FBI – had no real idea of how to combat it. The FBI agents of the period looked the part. They were clean-cut men who wore suits. No one knew how to infiltrate the groups to get inside information and few from the counterculture communities were willing to talk to police.

At the time, there were also turf wars among police groups. The FBI was forced to take a backseat when the Los Angeles Police had a shootout with members of the SLA. The FBI did provide ammunition when police officers ran low, but the only FBI agent allowed on the scene handled a dog that had been primed to seek out Patricia's scent, regardless of whether she was dead or alive.

The FBI devoted many men and hours to the case during the early months, but the size of the force dwindled as the months went on. Agents located Steve Soliah through the purchase of a car for a woman that was tangentially associated with the group. Steve led them back to Bill and Emily Harris, and to Patricia. However, the FBI agents were so focused on the Harris arrest that they almost forgot that Steve was also connected to another house. They were actually surprised to find that Patricia was there.

Styles

Structure

The book is divided into five parts identified by number. Chapters are titled and those titles give a clue about the events of the chapter. For example, the second chapter is titled "From Inside the Trunk" and it covers the events while Patricia was being transferred from her apartment. She was inside the trunk for the first part of that ride. Part One has four chapters and covers the early days of Patricia's captivity. Part Two includes six chapters, numbered five through 10. The author presents more information about the Symbionese Liberation Army, including the members and their rhetoric. Part Three has Chapters 11 through 14 with information about the deaths of five of the SLA members and Patricia's role in a shoot-out. Part Four has Chapters 15 through 21 and includes the efforts to find Patricia, concluding with her capture. Part Five has Chapters 22 through 27, and focuses on the events following Patricia's arrest.

The book includes a Prologue that details the kidnapping. There are notes about the author's sources for the book and a partial bibliography. The book also includes some 30 photographs, ranging from the wanted poster issued by the FBI to a picture of Patricia at age 60 participating in a dog show with her shih tzu, Rocket.

There is a main storyline that runs through the book, and that storyline is in chronological order. However, the author stops to offer details, background, and historical information so often that the main storyline is sometimes lost for pages at a time.

The author uses foreshadowing throughout the book, apparently as a means of piquing interest, but the answer to the foreshadowing is sometimes so far away that the impact is lost. For example, Chapter 8 ends with the statement that sex was becoming a problem for the group. The statement seems out of place considering that the previous paragraphs are about the fact that the members of the SLA literally had no plan of what to do next. In Chapter 9, the author talks at length about the political climate and a struggle over whether to give in to the demands of the SLA. This goes on for several pages before the author returns to the subject of sex. This sort of disjointed approach occurs throughout the book.

Perspective

The book is written in third person from an omniscient point of view. The author includes a bibliography along with information about his sources. He notes that he did not talk to Patricia Hearst at all, and that she refused his requests for an interview. Instead, he bought a collection of documents from Bill Harris and gathered the rest. His sources include Patricia's memoir, *Every Secret Thing*. He also depended on court documents,



police reports, letters, and communications from the SLA. He also interviewed people who knew Patricia.

Despite the fact that he has only witness testimonies and interviews for information, the author assigns dialogue to characters throughout the book. The reader has to keep in mind that the dialogue may be reasonably accurate, but the author makes up the exact wording. The reader also has to keep in mind that the author puts forth his theories of what happened. He interviewed people who were with Patricia as a means of gathering information, but some of them might have had reason to lie. For example, Bill Harris is likely one source for some of the information about Patricia's early days of captivity, and Patricia's autobiography is probably another. Patricia says she was raped. Other sources – perhaps Bill Harris – says she entered into a consensual relationship. Both would have reason to slant the facts toward their best interests. As would be the case if the reader was directly examining documents related to the case, each person will have to evaluate information for truthfulness. The author addresses this, saying he has done his research and presents the book “in good faith” (Location 6159).

Tone

The book is a biography, and the author seems intent on presenting the truth. Since the people and events are historically correct, there is not really a tone. The people presented in the book do have struggles and issues, but the author does not dwell on the feelings and emotions of the group.

The book is a biography and the author attempts to explain the background of the SLA and its members, the political and social climate of the time, and the history of the Hearst family. It was a huge undertaking and the author stated that there were thousands of pieces of information to consider. He seems to try to include too many trivial details. The effort is strained and makes long sections of the book feel disjointed and strained. The author drops names of many minor associations along the way. For example, Sara Jane Moore is a name many some recognize because she attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford while he was in office. Randy Hearst set up a food bank in an attempt to meet the demands of the SLA, hoping that they would release Patricia in return. Sara was the bookkeeper during the food program's brief life. She showed up at the Hearst home later, hoping for a position elsewhere in the company. She played no other role in the situation, had no ties to the SLA, and was never mentioned again.

In another example, Angela knew Jane Pauley, who later became a well-known journalist, and arranged a date for Jane. That is the sum total of Pauley's involvement, but the author included that information in the book. There are several other examples of people who were superficially involved and the author seems to seek out any recognizable name for inclusion. While he is apparently trying to give a full picture of the kidnapping and the events that followed, some readers will sense that the author is merely filling space by dropping names.



Quotes

Much of the discontent in the 1960s emerged from a sense of possibility – that blacks and whites could live in harmony, that the Vietnam War could end, that there could be a better future for all. Those hopes, for the most part, were dashed by the 1970s.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 1, “Nervous Breakdown Nation” paragraph 2)

Importance: The quote gives a nutshell background look at the social setting of the time. Readers have to understand the general attitudes of people in order to fully understand the SLA, their motivations, and the public response to the kidnapping. The writer goes on in this section of history to write that bombings were a common means by which counterculture organizations expressed themselves.

Vacaville was the original link that connected the eight kidnapers. They were all part of what was known, loosely, as the prison movement, and it was through this work that the SLA emerged most clearly as a case of metastasized good intentions.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 3, “The SLA” paragraph 6)

Importance: In this section, the author talks more about the activists of the time, including those who worked toward prison reform. Many, including Willy, were going to the prisons in an effort to improve prisoners' situations on a personal level. But instead of helping Donald prepare for life outside the prison or teaching him some skill, the group that included Donald was soon working out the details for forming the SLA.

Ordinary crime victims went to the FBI; The FBI went to the Hearsts.

-- Narrator (Chapter 5, “Prisoner of War” paragraph 44)

Importance: This is another notation on how wealthy and respected the Hearst family was during this time. The modern-day reader still may not fully comprehend the extend of their wealth and power, but the last name alone was enough to put Patricia on the SLA's radar as a kidnap victim.

The nation had always prided itself on the nature of its civic discourse; a lone gunman might assassinate our leaders, but this was not a place, like Europe or South America, where political outlaws kidnapped their adversaries or robbed banks. So the Hearst kidnapping and its aftermath suited the hallucinogenic moment, where America looked less like itself and more like a foreign country.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 7, “Three Hundred Bald Men” paragraph 27)

Importance: The author is again pointing out that the kidnapping was unexpected. The American wealthy were not accustomed to needing elaborate protection. The timing of the kidnapping was important, set against an era of social change.

But from the beginning, Randy's conciliatory press conferences drew a hostile reaction from the ascendant conservative movement and its tough-on-crime leadership.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 9, “The Birth of Tania” paragraph 4)



Importance: The opening of this chapter focuses on the reactions to the kidnapping, including the backlash from most of the Left groups of the area. They hated the SLA for their actions, which to date had included a murder and a kidnapping. Ironically, Randy was criticized for trying to do what the kidnappers asked in an effort to get his daughter back.

The bank robbery cleaved Patricia Hearst's public image along the lines of the larger division in the country. In small circles of the Left, she became a folk hero – a renegade who had traded the life of an aristocrat for that of a renegade.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 11, “Common Criminals” paragraph 9)

Importance: Donald wanted to create the idea of this rich girl who had every advantage in life but chose to embrace the ideals of the SLA. Patricia seemed to do that, but she also seemed to shed that change after a short time under her family's influence. The writer goes on in this passage to point out the other side of public opinion – the side that felt she was a spoiled child who just wanted to rebel.

But Patricia wasn't finished. When she emptied the ammunition clip in Bill's machine gun, she drew another weapon – this time, her own semiautomatic carbine. Still firing wildly across a busy street, she squeezed off three more shots, trying to free her comrades.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 12, “Showdown at Mel's” paragraph 27)

Importance: This was the shootout in front of Mel's that resulted in the police finding the other members of the SLA. Anyone who still believed that Patricia was an unwilling accomplice was forced to look at the evidence of this event – that she picked up two weapons and fired on a busy street in an effort to free Bill from the store clerk who was trying to arrest him. She claimed she was merely reacting to the SLA's intensive training, but most people found that to be a flimsy excuse.

The biggest police gun battle ever to take place on American soil had begun, and it was on live television.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 14, “Apocalypse on Fifty-Fourth Street” paragraph 21)

Importance: The media coverage is one of the book's themes, and this was one of the first major events to be broadcast live. Today's reader, accustomed to CNN and other news casts, may not realize the full impact of the technology, which was fairly new at this time.

Patricia had a request of the agent. She had wet her pants. Could she change before they left? The agent agreed.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 21, “Freeze” paragraph 66)

Importance: This was the moment after Patricia and Wendy were arrested. The FBI had already arrested Bill and Emily when it apparently occurred to an agent that they



should check out the other house they had had under surveillance. The fact that Patricia wet her pants indicates that she knew how much trouble she was facing.

In their first late-night conference, Randy confided to Bailey that his biggest worry for his daughter involved the robbery of the Crocker National Bank, where Myrna Opsahl was killed.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 23, “Your Ever-Loving Momma and Poppa Care about the Truth” paragraph 6)

Importance: Randy was aware that Patricia was facing serious legal issues but his support never wavered. Her mother and other family members also stood by her side and attorney F. Lee Bailey's first priority was to be certain that Patricia did not face the death penalty for Patricia's role in that robbery. No one was ever truly held accountable for Myrna's death.

This division reflected the earlier debate about Randy Hearst's decision to fund the food giveaway, which was seen by the Left as a humanitarian gesture and by the Right as a concession to terrorists. By the end of the trial, these cultural crosscurrents yielded a paradoxical result – that the Hearst name, which for decades stood for economic royalty and political conservatism, came to represent flabby liberal weakness in the face of adversity.”

-- Narrator (Chapter 25, “The Search for Old McMonkey” paragraph 36)

Importance: The public opinion of Patricia Hearst and her family mimicked the public opinions and ideals in general. People in the Counterculture felt that people in Hearst's position should be doing more to help their fellow man while people who did not need that help felt the Hearsts were weak for trying to meet the SLA demands.

The story of Patricia Hearst, as extraordinary as it once was, had a familiar, even predictable ending. She did not turn into a revolutionary. She turned into her mother.”

-- Narrator (Aftermath paragraph 32)

Importance: Patricia had rebelled openly against her mother when she was a young woman and many people believe she embraced the SLA mainly as a means of further rebelling against the lifestyle her parents lived. In the end, she became exactly the kind of woman her mother was – a respectable wife and mother.



Topics for Discussion

What was the SLA? What were their ideals and politics?

The reader should talk about the Symbionese Liberation Army's original goals, which were aimed at bringing change to America, and about how the leaders could never come up with ways to make positive changes. The answer should also include discussion about the disorganization that led to failed efforts.

What evidence suggested that Patricia was a willing member of the SLA rather than a terrified victim?

There are several points that can be used to answer this, including the photo of Patricia while the group was robbing the Hiberia Bank. The Olmec Monkey became an important part of the prosecution's argument that she was a willing member. She also had multiple opportunities to walk away, including her time with the Scotts.

Who were Russ Little and Joe Remiro? What role did they play in Patricia's kidnapping?

They were the two members of the SLA who were arrested before Patricia was kidnapped. The reader should discuss the theory that the SLA would demand that Russ and Joe be released in exchange for Patricia's freedom, and the fact that the SLA never actually made that demand.

What happened at Mel's Sporting Goods and how was that used against Patricia at her trial?

A clerk tried to arrest Bill for shoplifting as he was walking out of Mel's and Patricia started shooting at the store in an effort to help Bill and Emily get away. The fact that she fired a gun to help Bill made it clear that Patricia was more than a frightened victim. The reader should delve into Patricia's claim that she reacted instinctively because of the weeks of training with the SLA, but that the jury did not accept that as a reasonable defense.



How did the six members of the SLA die at the house in Los Angeles?

The reader should describe how Donald, Angela, Mizmoon, Camilla, Willy, and Nancy left the safehouse after the shootout at Mel's, and how they came to be at the yellow house. The group then engaged in a lengthy shootout with police, which was broadcast on live television and ended with the house in flames and all six dead.

How did Patricia get to know Kathy Soliah and what role did she play in Patricia's life?

Kathy spoke out in support of the SLA after the six members were killed in a shootout with Los Angeles Police, which prompted Emily and Bill to contact her for help. Kathy arranged for Bill, Patricia, and Emily to meet Jack Scott. Kathy was part of a loosely formed group that did several bombings, and Patricia eventually joined with them. The reader can also talk about Kathy's role in the Crocker Bank robbery.

What happened to Patricia's attitude in the weeks after her arrest?

The reader should talk about Patricia's continued insistence for the first weeks that she was a willing member of the SLA and would never give the police any information. Her family gathered around her and her lawyer cut off communication with members of the SLA, which prompted Patricia to change her attitude dramatically. Within a relatively short time, she was the respectable young woman expected of the Hearst family name.

Describe Randy and Catherine. What were their attitudes after Patricia's kidnapping?

Randy and Catherine were conservative, respectable, private people. The reader can discuss the family's background of money and the fact that Randy and his siblings were figurehead leaders of the family's fortunes without any real control. The two were desperate to get Patricia back though they were criticized for trying to meet the SLA's demands regarding the food giveaway. This answer can also include a discussion of Patricia's statements about her parents during her early days of captivity and how her family stood by her anyway.



Who was Steve Weed? Steve Soliah? Willy Wolfe? What was the role each played in Patricia's life?

Steve Weed was Patricia's fiance before the kidnapping. Willy Wolfe was the young member of the SLA who had a relationship with Patricia. She claimed they were in love following Willy's death but changed that story after her arrest, insisting he was her rapist and she was his victim. Steve Soliah was her live-in boyfriend at the time they were arrested. Patricia and Steve kept up a heated communication by letters after their arrest, until her attorney put a stop to that. The reader should talk about Patricia's mindset at each of these times of her life, and how each man impacted her life.

What role did the media play in the events covered in this book?

The reader should talk about the fact that Bill read Patricia's engagement announcement in the newspaper, which prompted the SLA to choose her as their victim. The media coverage of the kidnapping might have been different because Patricia's family owned a major newspaper. The media coverage was intense and the shootout that ended in the deaths of six SLA members was broadcast live. The reader can also discuss the SLA's demands for media attention.