

# **Angels Flight: A Novel Study Guide**

## **Angels Flight: A Novel by Michael Connelly**

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# Plot Summary

Angels Flight is a novel by writer Michael Connelly. Harry Bosch is called in to investigate the death of Howard Elias, a prominent Los Angeles attorney who has made a career of suing the Los Angeles Police Department in the aftermath of the Rodney King case. Harry faces numerous obstacles in his investigation, including leaks to the press from his own department. Harry is a good cop who refuses to allow anything to interfere with his determination to find Elias' killer. Angels Flight is a snapshot of modern race relations in Los Angeles that is both sobering and cautiously optimistic.

Harry Bosch gets a call requesting he and his team to take on a new murder case despite the fact that they are not on call this weekend. When Harry and his team arrive they find that one of the murder victims is Howard Elias, a lawyer who has made a career out of suing the Los Angeles Police Department. Because Elias is about to begin a trial against several members of the Robbery Homicide Division, it is necessary for the case to be assigned to another precinct, which is why Harry and his team are called in. Deputy Chief Irvin Irving tells Harry that he is to lead the investigation with a team that will include his own partners and several detectives from the Internal Affairs Division.

While not happy with the team he has been assigned, Harry immediately gets to work. Harry notices several discrepancies between the crime scene and the report the responding officers made. The biggest discrepancy is the order in which the three shots Elias suffered were fired. Harry also doubts that the murder was the result of a robbery gone wrong as responding officers hypothesized due to Elias' missing wallet. After reviewing the crime scene, Harry takes one of the IAD officers and goes to notify the family. While the notification does not go well due to the family's assumption that a cop killed Elias in retaliation for his many lawsuits, Harry does learn that Elias has an apartment near Angels Flight, which is where he was most likely headed that night.

Harry goes to the apartment to take a look before he has a search warrant. Harry finds a phone book that has Carla Entrenkin's number in it. Carla Entrenkin is the civilian inspector general whose job is to oversee the police department. Harry also finds a message from Entrenkin on Elias' answering machine. Harry cannot take these items because of the lack of a warrant, but intends to send his team back with a search warrant to get them later that night. Harry then returns to Angels Flight to talk to the train worker who found the bodies. Harry learns that Elias often rode Angels Flight late at night and that it was something many people might have known about him.

Harry and his team move on to Elias' office. From one of his detectives, Harry learns that items he was going to go back for have disappeared from Elias' apartment. Harry believes Chastain, one of the IAD detectives, took the items and confronts him, but Chastain denies the theft. In Elias' office, Harry and his partner, Kizmin Rider, find a picture from a web page that Elias appeared to have received as part of an anonymous letter. Harry and Rider investigate the web page but cannot find a connection between it and anything else in Elias' office. Before Harry can investigate further, Carla Entrenkin arrives and tells Harry she has been assigned to go through the files and protect

anything that might contain information on an open case against the Los Angeles Police Department. Harry and his team are forced to leave.

Harry must continue his investigation, again searching Elias' apartment. Later, Harry attends a press conference where he learns the FBI has been asked to join the investigation. Harry is offended that he was not told about this decision, but is happy when he discovers that the FBI agent assigned to the case is an old friend. Harry gives his friend control over the case in exchange for his right to explore the Stacey Kincaid murder without impediment. The Stacey Kincaid murder case is central to the case Elias was working on at the time of his death. Harry believes Elias discovered who really killed Stacey and intended to reveal the person's identity in court. Harry believes if he finds out who that person is, he might find his killer.

Frankie Sheehan, Harry's ex-partner, was the lead detective on the Stacey Kincaid case. Sheehan had no leads until fingerprints came back on some school books in Stacey's room. One of the prints belonged to a man named Michael Harris. Sheehan took Harris in and began a long interrogation, hoping to get a confession and find the girl. However, Harris denied any knowledge of Stacey's whereabouts. Under stress, Sheehan lost his temper and put a plastic bag over Harris' head. Later, Sheehan's partners abused Harris in dark, horrendous ways. After Stacey's body was found near Harris' apartment, Harris was tried for the murder but was acquitted in court. On the Monday after his murder, Elias was scheduled to go to court against Sheehan, his partners, and the Los Angeles Police Department in a civil trial because of the abuses Harris suffered in custody.

Harry learns that Harris' fingerprints got on Stacey's books in an innocent coincidence and that Harris was most likely innocent of the crime. Rider discovers that the web page they found in Elias' office is a secret portal to a pedophilia website that contains pictures of Stacey being abused by an unknown man. Harry and his team soon realize that Stacey was being abused by her stepfather. Harry meets with Stacey's mother and discovers that she was the one sending Elias secret notes tipping him off to the possibility that her husband killed Stacey. Harry also learns that Stacey's mother forced a confession out of her husband moments before she killed him.

While Harry is investigating Stacey Kincaid's murder, the FBI bring in a suspect. Frankie Sheehan once made threats against Elias and based on these, the FBI bring him in for questioning. Harry convinces the FBI to let Sheehan go until forensic tests can be run on his gun. Harry takes Sheehan to his home. Unfortunately, Harry leaves Sheehan alone for a few hours only to return home to find him dead. At first it appears to be a suicide, but Harry later comes to believe that Sheehan was murdered, especially when forensics on his gun appears to prove Sheehan killed Elias. Harry does not believe it.

Harry speaks to Sheehan's commander, as well as a few other witnesses and gathers enough evidence to make Harry believe Elias had a mole in the police department and was planning to reveal this mole in open court. Harry believes this mole killed Elias to keep him from ruining his career. Harry also discovers that this mole switched the bullets taken from Elias with bullets from a shooting case Sheehan was involved in

many years before. Harry makes an arrest, taking John Chastain into custody for the murder of Elias. However, before they can make it to the police department, Harry accidentally drives into the middle of a riot. Chastain is pulled from Harry's car and murdered by the rioters he incited with Elias' murder.

# Chapters 1-3

## Chapters 1-3 Summary

Harry Bosch is anxiously waiting for his wife to come home when he receives a phone call from Deputy Chief Irvin Irving. Harry and his team are needed at a murder scene downtown. Harry quickly calls his two partners and meets them at the police station where they pick up slickbacks before going on to the crime scene. The crime scene is swarming with cops, mostly Robbery Homicide detectives who would normally pick up the case due to a shortage of detectives in the precinct that handles the Bunker Hill area. Harry also sees several IAD, Internal Affairs Division, detectives as well. The overwhelming number of detectives standing around doing nothing makes Harry wonder what is going on. None of this seems normal. Harry seeks out Irving and asks what is going on. Irving tells Harry that he is handing the investigation over to Harry and his team due to the sensitivity of the case. It turns out that one of the victims is Howard Elias, a notorious lawyer who has made a career out of suing the Los Angeles Police Department. Not only that, but Elias was due to go to court the following Monday against a number of detectives in the Robbery Homicide Unit.

The case Elias was currently working on has been dubbed the Black Warrior case by the press. Michael Harris was arrested for suspicion of kidnapping and killing a young girl named Stacey Kincaid, who happened to be the stepdaughter of a well known car salesman in Los Angeles. Harris was tried and acquitted on the murder charges. Now Harris claims that detectives in the Robbery Homicide Unit tortured him during interrogation, including pushing a Black Warrior pencil into his ear and puncturing his ear drum. Harry does not believe the allegations, especially since one of the men accused is his ex-partner, Frankie Sheehan. Not only is Sheehan not the kind of cop who would do such a thing, in Harry's opinion, but the detectives were cleared by an IAD investigation. Harry realizes that most of the suspects in this investigation will be cops. This fact will make the investigation difficult enough, leaving Harry worried about the support he will get from the department. Irving assures Harry he will get all the support he needs and that he should let the chips fall where they will.

## Chapters 1-3 Analysis

The reader is introduced to Harry Bosch immediately as the novel opens. Harry is a detective with the police department, but he is first introduced as a husband concerned for the safety of his wife. Harry's wife is missing and he is spending a sleepless night anxious over her whereabouts. This concern shows the depth of Harry's affection for his wife and a vulnerability to his character. This concern allows the reader to see Harry as a human being with fears and concerns like anyone else. This is important because in the next breath Harry becomes the efficient, straight-laced cop. Harry is called to a crime scene and he quickly slips into the frame of mind of a detective, an unbiased

observer at the death of two human beings. Harry is professional in his job, which comes through clearly to the reader as they follow along to the crime scene.

Howard Elias is also introduced in these first chapters. Howard Elias is a lawyer who has made a career out of suing the Los Angeles Police Department. This fact alone gives the impression of Elias as an opportunist who used the race tensions in the aftermath of Rodney King to make himself rich and famous. However, the reader must remember that this opinion is being offered through the eyes of a police officer. Elias is a controversial figure just the same, and his murder leaves the police department in the bad position of having to investigate the death of a man that many of their own have wanted to see dead for years. It is a delicate situation that Harry finds himself in the middle of, forcing him to investigate a crime that could very well lead him back to one of his own.

Finally, the Black Warrior case is introduced here. Elias was a lawyer who often represented people who had been arrested by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department and claimed abuse or corruption of some sort. The Black Warrior case claims that Michael Harris, a man charged in the death of Stacey Kincaid, was tortured while in custody by several members of the Robbery Homicide Unit. Harry does not believe this is true because one of the detectives charged is his ex-partner, Frankie Sheehan, a good cop that Harry does not believe could commit such atrocities. However, the case was to go to trial in three days and is clearly a possible motive in the crime, therefore bound to be a large part of Harry's investigation.

# Chapters 4-5

## Chapters 4-5 Summary

Harry and his team are debriefed by Captain Garwood, the supervisor of the Robbery Homicide Division. Garwood tells them that the operator of the trains found Elias and the other victim, Catalina Perez, dead after bringing up the train in order to shut it down. The operator calls the police and the call is routed to the Robbery Homicide Division because they are covering for the Central detectives who are out on a training assignment. Robbery Homicide talked to the operator and did a search for shell casings before searching the bodies. Elias did not have identification on him, but a letter was found in his pocket that gave an identity. Immediately the detectives backed off and called Irving because of the sensitivity of the situation. Garwood theorizes that the shooter came up behind Elias as he was boarding the train and shot him in the butt, then shot him through the hand and into the head. Finally the shooter shot Elias in the back of the head.

Harry asks about the woman and learns she is a housekeeper who most likely had a job nearby. However, it appears the woman was going up to Bunker Hill, which does not make sense since she does not live in the area and it was almost eleven, so she more than likely was not on her way to work. The woman appears unconnected to Elias, lending strength to the theory that the murders were the result of a robbery gone bad. The Robbery Homicide Division was also able to establish that the weapon was a nine-millimeter, the same caliber of weapon the police department issues. After speaking with Garwood, Harry goes over and speaks to his ex-partner, Frankie Sheehan. Sheehan is vocal about his feelings for Elias, which are overwhelmingly negative, but has no thoughts on the murder. From there, Harry goes to inspect the crime scene. Immediately Harry recognizes that the order of the shots is different from what Garwood suggested. From the position of the anal shot, Harry can tell it was the final shot, not the first. Harry also notices a scratch on Elias' arm that never bled, suggesting it took place a significant amount of time after the heart stopped beating. This suggests to Harry that the watch was not stolen during the murder but at some point after the fact.

Harry discusses the scene with his partners. Both agree Elias was the target and it was a murder committed by someone who knew Elias, not a random robbery gone bad. Harry's partners also agree about the order of the shots, suggesting that Garwood lied to protect someone. Finally, Harry describes the scratch on the wrist and suggests that a cop might have taken the watch and wallet in order to make it appear like a robbery, again trying to protect someone. As Harry and his partners are wrapping up, the coroner's assistant comes over and gives Harry some keys that were found in Elias' pocket. A moment later, Irving comes over and informs Harry that four members of IAD are to help him on the case, including Detective John Chastain, an IAD detective who has twice before investigated Harry for misconduct. Harry is unhappy with the situation, aware Irving is giving him the IAD men because he knows they cannot work together



and it will cause the investigation to stall. However, Irving has underestimated Harry's determination.

## Chapters 4-5 Analysis

Harry and his team are debriefed by the captain of the Robbery Homicide Division, letting them know what the RHD detectives did before they realized who the victim was and called in the Deputy Chief. The murders took place in the moments before the trains were due to shut down and were not witnessed by anyone because the only person around was the train operator and he could not hear anything over the noise of the train's machinery. As Harry and his team learn about the discovery and the bodies and the work of the first detectives on the scene, the reader is introduced to the crime scene. Both victims were shot, Catalina Perez only once, but Elias was shot a total of three times. This suggests to both the reader and Harry that the murder was personal. However, the absence of Elias' wallet and watch suggested to the first cops on the scene that the murders were the result of a robbery gone wrong. Harry disagrees when he finds evidence that the watch was removed long after Elias was dead.

Other aspects of the murders are different from how the first detectives on the scene want Harry to believe. Harry sees the wounds and realizes that Elias was not shot in the order in which the Robbery Homicide detectives thought he was. Harry thinks that the Robbery Homicide Detectives have lied about their observations in order to protect a fellow cop. Harry is not sure if they are doing this out of a suspicion of who killed Elias or because they know specifically who killed Elias, but he is bothered by the implication in general and determined to run the investigation correctly, not protecting anyone. Harry feels that a murder has been committed and the guilty party should pay, even if it is a cop. This touches on Harry's morality, showing that Harry is not a corrupt cop.

Finally, Harry learns that his team will be joined by four IAD detectives in the investigation. Harry is not happy knowing the reason the Deputy Chief chose to do things this way might be because it will hamper the investigation. The reader suspects the same. However, Harry is determined that this will not be the case, once again showing his depth of honor and his morality as a human being and a cop.

# Chapters 6-8

## Chapters 6-8 Summary

Harry gives assignments to his team, sending two men to notify Catalina Perez's family, two to talk to the train operator, one to draw up search warrants for Elias' office, and himself and Chastain to notify Elias' family. Harry then signs out the keys given to him earlier and takes a letter that was found in Elias' pocket, which was used to identify the body. Harry does not read the letter, but puts it in his briefcase to look at later. Harry and Chastain find the address listed in the DMV for Elias, but Harry is not sure they are at the right place when they arrive. A car not owned by Elias is in the driveway, parked in such a way that it appears no one is waiting for Elias to make it home. Harry re-checks the address before he and Chastain ring the bell. The door is opened by a middle-aged woman who is reluctant to allow police officers into her home. When Harry insists, the woman figures out what they want and begins to scream in grief. A young man comes to the door to see what the commotion is. Chastain convinces the young man to get his mother under control and allow him and Harry inside so they can speak in private. The young man agrees even though he is clearly as angry at the police as his mother and reluctant to trust either Harry or Chastain in light of his father's recent murder.

Once Mrs. Elias and her son are calm, Harry asks a few questions about Elias. Harry learns that Elias had an apartment in town where he often stayed while working on a case. It is to this apartment Elias was headed when he boarded Angels Flight. Harry asks if Elias had a connection to Catalina Perez, but neither Mrs. Elias nor her son recognize the name. Harry then assures the family that they will do everything in their power to find Elias' killer, even if it is a cop. As Harry leaves, Mrs. Elias requests that he call her pastor, a man who is a vocal activist in the black community. Harry hesitates and finally ends up calling Irving to handle the matter. Finally, Harry notices several pictures of Elias on the walls, some of him with local activists and celebrities. In one, Harry sees Elias and his son holding guns.

Harry and Chastain make their way back toward Angels Flight. On the way, Harry speaks to his lieutenant to fill her in on the situation. He arranges for a search warrant for Elias' apartment and tells Chastain about another case he was on a few days before that looked like a suicide but turned out to be a murder. Chastain and Harry go directly to the building where Elias had an apartment and talk the doorman into letting them in even though they do not yet have a search warrant. Chastain and Harry look around the apartment finding nothing unusual, except for an extra toothbrush in the bathroom. Harry finds Elias' private phone book and discovers it includes personal phone numbers for Carla Entrenkin, the inspector general for the Los Angeles Police Department. Harry also finds a message on the answering machine from a woman who sounds similar to Entrenkin, wondering where Elias is. Harry adds these things to the extra toothbrush and wonders if Elias was having an extramarital affair. As Harry and Chastain leave, Harry asks Chastain if he knew Elias. Chastain claims he only knew Elias in passing.

As Chastain and Harry leave the building, Harry stops to use the bathroom. Once alone, Harry calls his home answering machine to see if his wife has come home or picked up a message he left for her earlier. No such luck. Harry then calls a local casino he knows his wife likes to spend time in and asks the security guard to look for her. The guard tells Harry he cannot find her. Finally Harry calls the district attorney's office and arranges for one of the assistant D.A.'s meet him at Elias' office to make sure the search goes off without any problems. Harry returns to Angels Flight where Rider is speaking with the operator of the trains. The operator tells Harry that the machinery is so loud he did not hear anything and was unaware of the murders until he pulled the train up to lock it and found the bodies inside. Harry has the man bring the train up and allow he and Rider to ride it back down to do a quick search for anything the other detectives might have missed on the lower platform. Chastain finds some cigarette butts, but Harry suspects they belong to someone who works in the area and not the killer. Harry suspects the killer knew Elias, so he had no reason to hide or to wait for Elias to arrive.

As they finish up at the scene, Harry gets a call from Irving. Irving has notified Entrenkin and mentions that she was unusually upset by the news. Irving warns that Entrenkin might insert herself into the case due to this high level of interest. Finally, Irving reminds Harry about the press conference later that morning and stresses that he would like Harry and his partners to be there. Harry suspects Irving only wants his partners there because they are black and their faces might go a long way in reassuring the black community.

## **Chapters 6-8 Analysis**

Harry and Chastain notify Elias' family of his death. The notification does not go well because the family is convinced the police are responsible for Elias' death, touching on the theme of police corruption. Harry and Chastain convince the family to talk to them and learn that Elias had an apartment in the Bunker Hill area, which is where he was headed so late at night, giving them another area to search for possible clues. No other helpful information comes out of the notification; however, the reader is introduced to the intense fear and dislike that the Elias family had against the police department, injecting not only a great deal of tension into the plot, but also beginning to reveal the theme of racism that is interlaced throughout the developing plot.

In the car Harry tells Chastain about a case he worked in which a woman's death appeared to be suicide but later turned out to be a carefully disguised murder. This story appears to just be a story, to explain a running joke Chastain has been hearing around Harry all night. However, this story has implications that will come to light later in the novel. Also important along this line of thought is the fact that Chastain claims to only know Elias in passing. This seems unlikely, partly because they both work trying to find and punish corrupt cops, and partly because their cases often overlap. Again, this exchange will prove to be important later in the novel as the plot continues to develop.

Harry and Chastain search Elias' apartment, finding what Harry believes to be prove of an affair between Elias and inspector general Carla Entrenkin. Later, Entrenkin

insinuates herself into the case, adding to the stress Harry is already under to solve this case as quickly and efficiently as possible. The obstacles being thrown up in Harry's way are beginning to seem insurmountable, causing the reader to have concerns that Harry will not be able to solve the case as quickly as he would like. Not only does Harry have professional obstacles, but he is also consumed with worry for his missing wife, whom he still cannot locate. Again the reader feels the deepening tension in the plot and wonders if Harry can rise above what appears to be insurmountable odds. To add a little more to his troubles, Harry is also told he must attend a press conference in a few hours with his team. Harry knows his team is expected there only because the others are black, touching on the theme of racism. Harry is aware of how unhappy this will make his partners. It is yet another obstacle Harry must maneuver around in the next few chapters, leaving the reader anxious to see how he does.

# Chapters 9-11

## Chapters 9-11 Summary

When Edgar and his IAD partner return from notifying Catalina Perez's family, they tell Harry that Catalina Perez was a housekeeper who worked so many jobs that she had to keep track of them in a notebook. However, the notebook is missing. Another IAD agent returns with the search warrants Harry requested. Harry takes the one for Elias' office and gives the one for the apartment to Edgar, instructing him to make sure he is the one to retrieve the phone book and answering machine tape. Edgar and the other IAD detectives are to search for Elias' car and canvass the buildings surrounding Angels Flight. Finally, Harry, Rider, and Chastain go to search Elias' office. Harry, Rider, and Chastain meet assistant D.A. Janis Langwiser in the lobby of the Bradbury Building where Elias keeps his office. Langwiser reads the search warrant and is concerned about the wording in regards to the case files kept in the office. Langwiser calls her boss and arranges for a special master to take a look at the files before allowing Harry and his team to take them. The idea is for the special master to hold back anything that could compromise an open case.

While Langwiser is dealing with this, Rider wants to know if she should go pick up Harris, Elias' client who was seen leaving the building with him minutes before the murders. Harry says no, deciding it would be too dangerous to approach Harris before they know more about the situation due to his lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department. Langwiser allows Harry and his team to go up to the office with the understanding that they are not to look at any files until the special master has arrived. On the way to the elevator, Harry gets a call from Edgar informing him that the phone book is no longer where Harry said it was. Harry sends everyone but Chastain up in the elevator and then accused Chastain of taking the book. Chastain is angry, denying the allegation, but Harry does not back down, insisting only Chastain had the opportunity. Chastain threatens to have Harry punished for roughing up a fellow officer, but Harry suggests he try.

Up in Elias' office, Harry searches Elias' desk, finding numerous notebooks in which Elias made copious notes to himself. While reading one of these that appears to have notes on the Black Warrior case, Harry gets a call informing him that the woman's message on the answering machine is also missing. Harry continues to read the notebook and comes across an entry that suggests Elias had a mole inside the police department. Harry is intrigued by this, deciding to keep the notebook should he need it later. Harry then finds a piece of paper that is a printout of a web page. Knowing little about the Internet, Harry calls Rider into the room to help him figure out what the picture is. Rider gains access to Elias' computer with help from a password they found written on the secretary's blotter and opens the web page. It appears to be a page belonging to a dominatrix offering her services. Harry is curious why Elias would have such a page in his possession. Harry is unclear if the web page was accessed by Elias for personal

reasons or professional, but before he can figure it out, Carla Entrenkin arrives and asks everyone to leave. Entrenkin has just been appointed special master to the Elias case.

## **Chapters 9-11 Analysis**

Catalina Perez does not have her notebook when she dies, something she keeps with her at all times, giving the reader an idea that the notebook has something to do with why she died that night. Other than the notebook, however, Perez appears to have been an innocent bystander in the death of Howard Elias. Harry sends Edgar to search the apartment belonging to Elias now that they have a search warrant, telling him about the phone book and answering machine message that could prove important later in the investigation. Harry learns that both are missing. Harry's first thought is that Chastain took them, but Chastain denies it. Harry's quick assumption that Chastain is capable of stealing such important evidence begins to highlight Harry's distrust of the IAD detective as well as his dislike of the man. Perhaps Irving's assumption that Harry could not work with the IAD members is beginning to prove correct.

Harry and his team search Elias' office except for his files, leaving those for a special master who can review the case files for sensitive information that could compromise an active case should Harry and his team gain access to them. Harry finds several notebooks in which Elias made copious notes to himself, believing that one of the entries suggests that Elias had a mole inside the police department. Harry also finds a picture of a woman that is taken from a website, causing him to investigate the website and wonder if Elias was involved with the woman for personal reasons. Before Harry can do any more investigating, Carla Entrenkin arrives. Entrenkin has been appointed special master to go through Elias' files before Harry will be allowed to look at them. Because all of Elias' cases were against the Los Angeles Police Department and he was planning to go to trial on Monday on one of these cases, it would have appeared inappropriate for Harry to gain access to some of these files. All of this is important because they appear to be clues to Elias' life and the way he lived it, suggesting possible motives and suspects in his murder. If Elias had a habit of hiring prostitutes or a dominatrix, he could have been killed by someone in that world. Lastly, the case files that Entrenkin is about to go through could also contain the name of Elias' killer. However, due to the relationship that Harry believes Entrenkin had with Elias, it could be possible that Harry will never see certain information that could be vital to the investigation into Elias' death.

# Chapters 12-15

## Chapters 12-15 Summary

Harry goes downstairs with his team, but sends them ahead to Bunker Hill while he returns to Elias' office. Harry lies to Langwiser, telling her that her car is about to be towed in order to get her out of the office. Harry then confronts Entrenkin, telling her that he knows she was having an affair with Elias and that he believes she went into Elias' apartment and removed the phone book and phone message. Confronted with the evidence of several unexplained keys on Elias' keyring, Entrenkin admits the affair. However, Entrenkin insists that she is more determined than anyone to find out who killed Elias and that she only wants to help. Entrenkin promises to help Harry any way she can as long as he keeps his knowledge of the affair secret. Harry agrees. The first thing Harry wants to know, however, is if Entrenkin was Elias' mole inside the police department. Entrenkin insists that she was not. Harry believes her.

Harry walks up to Bunker Hill, stopping to buy breakfast for his team. On the way, Harry sees a man smoking in the same spot where they found the cigarettes earlier, ruling out the idea that the cigarettes belonged to the killer. Harry calls home while on Angels Flight and discovers a message on his machine warning him to back off the case before he gets hurt. After meeting with his people and sending them to canvass the nearby buildings, Harry goes to Parker Center to meet with Irving before the press conference. Before seeing Irving, Harry has a discussion with the three Robbery Homicide detectives who were first on the scene. Harry tells them he knows they took Elias' wallet and watch. Harry wants to know where the items are and tells them they keep it anonymous by calling the information into the front desk. Harry then warns the men that he knows they called his house and they should not do it again. From there, Harry speaks with Irving, getting him up to date on the case thus far, leaving out everything about Entrenkin and her relationship with Elias, but revealing everything else, including the picture of the dominatrix found in Elias' desk. Irving is annoyed with Harry for not bringing his partners with him, but Harry does not try very hard to bring his team in, believing they are of better use where they are.

During the meeting, Harry receives a call from the front desk telling him where to look for the wallet and watch. After Irving leaves, Harry decides he has just enough time before the press conference to retrieve the items. Harry finds the items in an envelope hidden in a trash can. Back at Parker Center, Harry stands in the background while Irving, the Chief of Police, and the head of public relations give their press conference. During the press conference Harry learns the FBI are joining the investigation. Harry also notices that one of the reporters and his producer seem to know more about the investigation than they should, making him suspect that someone is leaking information to the press, possibly Chastain. Harry makes his way to Elias' office after the press conference only to run into the same reporter and his producer there. Harry ignores their questions. Harry speaks to Entrenkin about the notebooks he found earlier, returning to her the one he took, then takes the files she has already reviewed and



leaves. Harry meets with his team over lunch and learns that Catalina Perez had left her notebook in the home of her last client and was more than likely attempting to retrieve it when she was killed. There is nothing else new on the case. Harry sends Chastain and his fellow IAD detectives home to get some rest while he and his team continue working on the Internet angle and interview Elias' employees.

## **Chapters 12-15 Analysis**

Harry confronts Entrenkin about her affair with Elias. Harry needs to know how much of an impediment Entrenkin is going to be to the case, in light of the fact that he suspects she is responsible for the disappearance of the phone book and answering machine message. Entrenkin could be a problem, but she assures Harry she will not. In fact, Entrenkin insists that she wants to know more than anyone else who killed Elias. Entrenkin also insists that she was not Elias' mole inside the police department, insisting that it would have been impossible for her to give Elias information without someone tracing it back to her. Harry is satisfied with these answers, but the reader is still curious who the mole inside the police department is and what their role might have been in the murder.

Harry has also figured out who took Elias' wallet and watch and confronts them with his suspicions. The detectives who first arrived on the scene of the murders must have taken the wallet and watch in order to protect one of their own in an act of generosity toward some unidentified killer. Harry shows his character once again by allowing these men to confess anonymously and promising not to reveal the truth to anyone. By doing this, Harry is protecting three detective who not only did something that goes against everything they are taught at the police academy, but also protects a man who called his home and made threats against him. Harry proves his strength, his sense of loyalty, and his bravery with this act.

Harry also shows some character when he refuses to bring in his partners when Irving insists they show up at the press conference. Harry knows Irving only wants them there because they are black and their presence might appease the black community. This not only touches on the theme of racism, but also shows that Irving's priority lies with keeping the community happy rather than solving the crime. Harry also learns that the FBI is also joining the investigation, adding to the obstacles Harry must overcome to solve the case. Not only this, but the addition of the FBI also further complicates the investigation and shows that the department has little faith that Harry can solve the case on his own. Finally, Harry meets with his team and learns that Catalina was on the Angels Flight train because she forgot her notebook. It seems Catalina was in the wrong place at the wrong time, further making it appear that Elias was the target and that the killer more than likely targeted him because they knew him.



# Chapters 16-18

## Chapters 16-18 Summary

Interviews with Elias' staff come up empty since Elias had a habit of keeping his strategy to himself until he presented it in court. However, Harry does learn that Elias seemed even more secretive with the Black Warrior case than his previous cases and that he appeared confident that the case would be easily won. After the interviews, Harry goes home for a quick nap and discovers his wife at home. Harry learns that Eleanor was at the casino the night before despite what the security guard told him. The security guard is a friend of Eleanor's and lied to Harry believing he was protecting her. Eleanor is an ex-FBI agent who has a felony conviction and has not had any success finding a new job. Eleanor is deeply unhappy and Harry fears her unhappiness is leading to the end of their marriage.

After his nap, Harry goes to Elias' office to pick up the rest of the files Entrenkin has cleared. Entrenkin has finished going through all the files and has decided to only hold back the files directly related to Elias' strategy in the Black Warrior case. Entrenkin and Harry discuss the case. Harry tells Entrenkin all he knows about the case is that Frankie Sheehan could not have possibly done what Harris suggests. Entrenkin reminds Harry that Sheehan killed a black man, Wilbert Dobbs, several years ago and lost a civil suit in the case. Entrenkin then tells Harry that the strategy is brilliant, that it appears that Elias planned to reveal that not only did Harris not kill Stacey Kincaid, but announce who really did. Harry wonders aloud who Elias thought the killer was, wondering if the suspect could be Elias' killer, but Entrenkin tells him Elias did not reveal a name in his files. Entrenkin then shows Harry a couple letters she found that makes no sense to her. Each is marked with a number and the date in which they were received. Harry remembers the letter found on Elias' body and realizes it is from the same person. Harry is unsure what the letters mean, especially since the first is missing.

As Harry is preparing to leave Elias' office, he has Entrenkin turn on the television where they learn that a fire has been set at a shopping center, making him and Entrenkin fear that the city is about to dissolve into the same type of riots that took place after the cops were acquitted in the Rodney King case. Harry and Entrenkin listen to the news as they drive across town where they plan to meet Harry's partners at the Hollywood station. On the way, Harry calls his wife and attempts to get her to go home since the casino where she is playing is located near the location of the fire; however, Eleanor refuses. After picking up his partners, Harry, Entrenkin, Rider, and Edgar go to the apartment where they believe Elias has put Harris for safe keeping. Harris is not happy to speak to the police, but tells them that he went home after his meeting with Elias on Friday and knows nothing about the murder. Harris also offers his gun to allow them to do forensic testing on it. Harris gives Harry the name of Elias' investigator, suggesting the man might have answers to some of Harry's questions.

## Chapters 16-18 Analysis

Harry finally connects with his wife but is not happy with the result. Harry knows his wife is unhappy and is concerned that her unhappiness will probably be the end of their marriage. Harry's marital problems have little bearing on the Elias case, but it is a distraction that adds to Harry's stress. Again the reader sees Harry as a human with problems like everyone else and feels the tension he is under, feeling more connected to him and more concerned with what might happen to him. This connection is important in a character-driven novel such as this.

Harry goes to Elias' office and discovers that Entrenkin is done with the files, keeping back only the file that outlines Elias' strategy in the Black Warrior case. This leads Harry and Entrenkin into a discussion of the case, including discussing Frankie Sheehan. Harry defends his old partner, insisting that Sheehan is not capable of stepping over the line with a suspect. However, Entrenkin points out that Sheehan shot and killed Wilbert Dobbs several years ago. This is important not only because Sheehan killed a man, but because this case will come back later in the novel to haunt both Sheehan and Harry. Entrenkin also reveals that Elias suspected that not only did Harris not kill Stacey Kincaid, but that he knew who really did and he planned to announce the real killer's name in court. This intrigues Harry because it suggests someone other than a cop killed Elias.

Harry and his team go to visit Michael Harris. The reader will recall that Harris is the man who was accused of killing Stacey Kincaid and the man Elias is representing in the Black Warrior case in which he accuses members of the Robbery Homicide Division of torturing him. Harris is very reluctant to talk to the police, appearing defiant, but possibly afraid. Harris' reaction to the police brings to mind the family of Howard Elias and touches again on the theme of police corruption and the theme of racism. Harris does, however, give Harry the name of Elias' private investigator, offering another avenue of investigation for the case, and offers his own gun for forensic testing in order to allow Harry to clear him as a suspect.

# Chapters 19-23

## Chapters 19-23 Summary

Back at the station, Harry calls the dominatrix whose webpage he found in Elias' office and sets up a meeting. Harry, Rider, and Edgar go to the woman's apartment and barge in on her, finding one of her clients tied up in the master bedroom closet. Rider interviews the woman and learns that she has already been interviewed by Elias' investigator, but she has nothing to add to the case. Harry decides to call it a night after leaving the dominatrix's apartment. However, after leaving Rider and Edgar, Harry goes to Sheehan's house. Harry and Sheehan go for a drink at a local bar where Harry asks about the Black Warrior case.

Sheehan runs Harry through the case, talking about how there were few leads in the first few days after Stacey Kincaid disappeared until Harris' fingerprints were found on some of Stacey's schoolbooks. Without a reasonable explanation for where the prints could have come from, Sheehan and his partners brought in Harris. Sheehan kept at Harris for hours, hoping to find Stacey alive and safe with a confession from Harris; however, Harris continued to insist he was innocent. Sheehan admits to Harry that he became desperate and lost control, putting a bag over Harris' head. After that, Sheehan's partner's seemed to think they had a free hand and preceded to torture Harris, doing everything Harris claims they did. However, Sheehan swears that the prints were real and that Harris was guilty. Sheehan also admits to struggling with depression after the case because of what he did, and insisting that Elias deserved what he got.

When Harry arrives at Parker Center the next morning, the FBI is already set up in the conference room. The FBI agent in charge is a man Harry has worked with before. Harry takes him aside and tells him he will allow him to run the investigation if he will allow Harry and his partners to re-investigate the Kincaid murder. The FBI agent quickly agrees. Harry also tells the FBI agent that he believes there is a leak on the case. The night before Harry got a call from Entrenkin accusing him of telling the press about the dominatrix webpage found in Elias' office. Harry believes the leak is Chastain, since only Harry, his team, and Irving knew about the webpage. Harry suggests the agent use Chastain and his people on simple things, such as running evidence and observing the autopsies. When they return to the conference room, Irving gives the investigative team a pep talk and warns that whoever is leaking information to the press had better stop.

Back at the Hollywood station, Harry gets Edgar and Rider started on the Kincaid case, using Elias' case files as a starting point. While going through the subpoena requests, Harry finds one for a carwash and remembers that one of the mysterious letters said something about license plates. Suddenly the letters take on more meaning and Harry finds himself struggling to put them into context. Harry realizes that the dominatrix webpage must be the first letter and that the letters are clues to the real killer in the

Kincaid case. As Harry continues to turn this over in his head, Eleanor calls and tells him she is leaving him. Nothing Harry can say will make her stay.

To pass the time until a meeting with Elias' private investigator, Harry and Edgar go to the carwash where Elias served the subpoena. Harry and Edgar learn that Michael Harris worked at the carwash during the time period the subpoena covered and that the subpoena covered receipts with license plate numbers on them. The manager of the carwash also tells Harry that Elias' investigator came back and requested Harris' time card for a specific day, but he cannot remember what day. After the carwash, Harry and Edgar go to the field where Stacey Kincaid's body was found. While there, Harry speaks to a couple of homeless men who live in the field. These men tell Harry that they heard someone take the body out of the trunk of a car and dump it, but they did not tell the original investigators because they were afraid of being forced to live elsewhere. Harry also discovers that Elias' investigator spoke to them as well. Finally, Harry and Edgar head for the private detective's office, but on the highway someone takes a shot at their car, nearly causing them to crash when the back window crumbled.

## **Chapters 19-23 Analysis**

Harry and his partners' visit to the dominatrix whose webpage they found in Elias' office proves to be a dead end, causing the reader and Harry both to wonder why Elias would have the page if he never visited the woman or she was not involved in the case. Later Harry realizes that the webpage was the first in a series of cryptic notes that Elias received that appear to be clues to the identity of the real killer in the Stacey Kincaid case. Not only this, but Harry also believes that the notes sent Elias to investigate a carwash where Michael Harris worked. Harry and Edgar go to the carwash and this hunch is confirmed. Harry then goes to the vacant lot where Stacey's body was found and discovers a couple of homeless men there who heard a car drop the body off in the middle of the night, while Harris was in custody. This suggests to Harry that Harris is innocent. All along the way, Harry finds that Elias' investigator visited all the same people that he is interviewing, suggesting that Elias followed the same path to discover the real killer in the Kincaid case.

Harry also has a discussion with Sheehan in which he learns that Sheehan is guilty of the torture of which Harris has accused him. While Harry is shocked, he understands Sheehan's frustration and desperation in the Kincaid case. However, Sheehan insists that he did not plant the fingerprints on Stacey's schoolbooks as Harris has claimed. Harry believes Sheehan. Finally, Sheehan admits to some depression after the Harris case because of what he did. This depression is evident in Sheehan's emotional confession, leading the reader to be concerned for his state of mind. This will play an important role later in the novel as the case progresses and Sheehan's part in it changes.

Finally, Harry's wife has left him. This event causes Harry a great deal of grief and leaves him temporarily distracted. However, Harry jumps right back in the case, desperate to keep himself distracted from the painful disintegration of his marriage. The

reader wonders, however, how the end of his marriage will affect Harry's ability to investigate the Elias case with a clear mind. Harry seems to be on top of things, but when someone takes a shot at his car, the reader sees how dangerous the case is becoming, how much stress Harry is under, and wonders how much more he can take before he breaks. Harry is only human, after all.

# Chapters 24-26

## Chapters 24-26 Summary

Harry and Edgar meet with Elias' investigator, Jenkins Pelfry. Pelfry tells Harry that the news has announced that the police have a suspect in the Elias killing. Harry calls and speaks to FBI agent Lindell and learns that they have brought in Sheehan based on a threat Sheehan made against Elias during a deposition in the Dobbs case. Harry believes Sheehan is innocent and Lindell is wasting his time, but Lindell feels that they have to investigate every lead, no matter how small. Harry returns his attention to Pelfry and explains that they have been following his investigation into the Kincaid murder and want to know what his interest in the carwash is. Pelfry shows Harry and Edgar the receipts he got from the carwash, explaining that Elias gave him a group of license plate numbers to match to the receipts. Pelfry was able to match only one. Pelfry does not know who the plate belongs to, but both he and Harry suspect it is the Kincaids. In other words, Harry thinks that Elias believed the Kincaids visited the carwash while Stacey's schoolbooks were in the car and that would explain how Harris' fingerprints got on the books. Pelfry also has a timecard that proves Harris was at the carwash at the same time as the Kincaids. However, Pelfry cannot shed any light on the dominatrix webpage.

Now that Harry has cleared Michael Harris of Stacey Kincaid's death, he begins to focus on who Elias might have thought was the real killer. Harry speaks to Rider who has a hunch about the webpage and is going to check it out. While Rider does this, Harry and Edgar go to the new home of Sam Kincaid and his wife Kate. The Kincaids moved after their daughter died, but have kept ownership of their old house. When Harry and Edgar sit down with the Kincaids, they are joined by Kincaid's security chief, D.C. Richter. Harry tells the Kincaids that he is investigating the death of their daughter in connection to the killing of Howard Elias. Harry also tells them he does not believe Harris is their daughter's killer. Harry then asks if they had ever taken their car to the carwash and Kate tells them that she once took her personal car to the carwash after taking Stacey to a movie. Kate also says that the schoolbooks were in the car and that she took them to Stacey's room a few days later. Harry asks who else knew Kate had gone to the carwash and she insisted no one knew. This admission causes Harry to wonder if Kate is the source of the notes sent to Elias. Finally, Harry asks if Kate will meet him at the old house the following morning so he can see Stacey's room, the scene of her disappearance. Kate quickly agrees. Before Harry can ask another question, Rider calls and insists that Harry end the interview and meet her at the station.

Rider, with help from several detectives in the computer crimes division, has found the connection between the notes and the webpage found in Elias' office. The webpage has a hidden portal on it that allows a user to access a secret website. The website, called Charlotte's Web, hosts erotic pictures and videos of young girls. Stacey Kincaid is featured on this website. Harry and his partners discuss the pictures and realize that Stacey was being abused for a long period of time, and her abuser had to be someone close to her, suggesting he was Sam Kincaid. Harry and his partners also realize that

Elias must have set off alarms when he accessed Charlotte's Web from his office computer, alerting the webmaster to his presence. Harry wonders if perhaps someone associated with the website was Elias' killer, attempting to protect the illegal enterprise. Harry also wonders why the pictures are still on the website since they appear to be incriminating for the killer. Rider hypothesizes that the killer might have believed the website was so well hidden that no one would ever see them. Rider also suggests that it might be too difficult to remove the pictures. Harry tells Rider and Edgar to get search warrants for Kincaid's home, his cars, and his office, as well as for the old house. Harry also wants the car belonging to Kincaid's security chief included in the warrants just in case his car was used to dump Stacey's body in the vacant lot beside Harris' apartment building.

## **Chapters 24-26 Analysis**

Harry learns that Sheehan has become a suspect. Harry is upset about this, but when he learns that Sheehan is only being interrogated based on statements he made in the Dobbs case years before, he has confidence that Sheehan will be allowed to go free. However, Harry is worried about Sheehan's state of mind after his discussion with him the night before and wants to work faster to find the real killer in order to clear Sheehan. Sheehan's interrogation motivates Harry to find Elias' killer even more so than his simple desire to do his job has motivated him up to this point.

The investigation is jumping now. Harry has stumbled on to Elias' investigation and finds himself following in the footsteps of Elias' private investigator, Pelfry. Harry learns that Harris is innocent of killing Stacey Kincaid because his fingerprints got onto the girl's schoolbooks in an innocent way. Finding Harris innocent is a huge move in the investigation, not only because it makes Sheehan's previous investigation incomplete, but also because it gives credence to the lawsuit Elias was bringing against the Los Angeles Police Department. The last thing Harry wants to do is make the Los Angeles Police Department look any worse in the public eye than it already does. However, Harry is a good cop and he cannot ignore the evidence.

Rider then finds out what the dominatrix's webpage had to tell Elias. The webpage has a secret portal embedded on it that allows access to a website featuring pedophilia. Stacey Kincaid is on this website in pictures and video that suggests she was abused over a long period of time by someone close to her. This causes Harry to immediately focus his investigation on Sam Kincaid, the one male close enough to Stacey to abuse her without anyone knowing about it. This information changes the investigation and makes the whole case much more intense than it was before. It also changes the reader's view of Howard Elias because he uncovered this information. However, Elias was still more concerned with winning his case than with justice, a theme of the novel, because he did not go to the police with the information as soon as he had it. Instead, Elias was planning to drop a bomb shell in court. Elias was not the angel the black community believed him to be, but perhaps he was not the monster the police department believed him to be either. Elias was simply a lawyer who had dreams of

fame and he was willing to do whatever it took to get that fame. Perhaps this is what led to his death.



# Chapters 27-31

## Chapters 27-31 Summary

Harry meets with Irving and Lindell, catching them up on the investigation as protesters can be heard screaming on the streets below them. Harry insists that Sam Kincaid killed Stacey Kincaid and that it is likely that Kincaid killed Elias when he realized Elias was about to reveal this secret in court. Kincaid most likely learned about Elias' investigation when Elias gained access to Charlotte's Web. Harry tells Irving that he intends to serve search warrants on the Kincaids in the morning and will hopefully get the evidence he needs to prove his theories. In the meantime, Harry requests that Sheehan be released. Irving agrees reluctantly, allowing Sheehan to go but insisting that his weapon be tested against the bullets recovered from Elias anyway. A press conference is held a short time later. This time Harry's partners attend despite their reluctance because Harry chose not to get them out of it in favor of pushing to get Sheehan released. During the press conference, it is announced that Sheehan will be set free. However, nothing is said about Harry's theories regarding the Kincaids. One of the reporters seems to know that Harris has been cleared and he asks Harry about it. Once again it seems someone is leaking information to this specific reporter.

Harry picks up Sheehan and takes him home to pick up some stuff before taking him to Harry's own home. Harry does not want Sheehan to be alone tonight. At home, Harry tells Sheehan about the investigation and how he has found proof that Harris was innocent. Sheehan is shocked by the news, deeply saddened by his actions on the case and his failure to see what seems to have been so obvious to Harry. Harry leaves Sheehan for a while, returning to the squad room to check on his partners. It seems the news of Sheehan's release did not go over well in the black communities as the news is filled with reports of fires throughout the city. Harry checks the warrants that Rider and Edgar wrote up and urges them to have them signed and ready by morning. Harry returns home, looking forward to a beer, but discovers that Sheehan drank them all. Harry walks through the house looking for Sheehan, but has no luck. Harry checks the phone and calls the last number Sheehan called, connecting to Sheehan's estranged wife. The wife is also worried about Sheehan and asks Harry to call her when he finds Sheehan. Harry then goes out on his back porch and finds Sheehan, dead with a gunshot to his head. It appears Sheehan committed suicide with a throw away gun he got from his house. However, Lindell insists that there was no gun in Sheehan's house when they served a search warrant only a few hours earlier. Not only this, but Harry's neighbor claims to have heard several gunshots. Harry thinks maybe Sheehan fired the weapon several times to build his courage.

Harry drives to Bakersfield to notify Sheehan's wife personally. Sheehan's wife tells Harry that the Kincaid case changed her husband, leaving him depressed and angry. However, Sheehan's wife never thought her husband would take his own life. Harry drives home and gets only a few hours of sleep before he is to meet Kate Kincaid at her old house. Kate is waiting for Harry when he arrives. Harry looks at Stacey's room

before sitting down to talk to Kate. Harry notices that the bed appears to have been laid upon, as though someone were holding the blankets in a comforting way. Harry also looks at the other rooms and finds a guest bedroom that is clearly one of the rooms featured in the pictures of Stacey on Charlotte's Web. Harry returns to the living room where Kate begins to talk candidly about the case. Kate admits to sending the notes to Elias after realizing Harris was innocent during the trial. Kate tells Harry that she knew Stacey was being abused by her husband, but refused to believe it until she overheard her husband and D.C. Richter talking about Charlotte's Web and Sheehan's investigation after Stacey's death. Last night, Kate confronted both her husband and Richter, getting a confession from the two men. They told Kate they killed Stacey because she was going to tell on them. They then hid her body until they learned Harris was a suspect and moved the body to the vacant lot near Harris' apartment. During the interview, Harry gets an emergency call on his pager. Lindell informs him that they are at Kincaids house and have found both Kincaid and Richter dead. At the same time, Harry hears a gunshot coming from Stacey's bedroom.

## **Chapters 27-31 Analysis**

Harry catches everyone up on his part of the investigation, using his advances on the case as leverage to have Sheehan released. However, by doing this Harry finds himself in a position of having to force his two partners to take part in a press conference. Rider and Edgar are unhappy with Harry about this because they know the only reason their presence is required is because they are black. Rider and Edgar feel this is racism, a theme of the novel, and are offended that Harry does nothing to protect them from the indignity of it. However, Harry has once again shown his character by going out on a limb for his ex-partner, Sheehan. Harry does not believe Sheehan is guilty of killing Elias despite his actions with Harris and he wants to do all he can to protect his friend. However, when Harry tells Sheehan the truth about the Kincaid investigation, it appears he might have sent his already mentally unstable friend over the edge. Sheehan kills himself. Harry is saddened by this, but realizes that Sheehan was depressed and that it might have been the only option Sheehan felt he had. Harry is so distracted by Sheehan's death and his investigation into the Kincaid murder that he does not wonder where the gun Sheehan killed himself with came from. The reader, however, catches the reference to the throw away gun and the multiple shots heard by the neighbor and wonders if perhaps there is not more to the death of Sheehan than it appears.

The following day, Harry visits with Kate Kincaid. Harry is able to identify one of the rooms in the Kincaid home as the room visible on Charlotte's Web, further establishing the idea that Sam Kincaid is Stacey's abuser. Harry then speaks with Kate and learns that she was the person who sent the notes to Elias, believing that Elias could bring down her husband since she was afraid the Kincaid's were too powerful for the police to do the job. Kate asked her husband if he killed Stacey and he admitted that he did, saying that Stacey had threatened to tell on him and he felt he had no choice. At the same time, the FBI and Harry's partners are preparing to serve a search warrant on the Kincaid homes and businesses. Harry gets a call that Sam Kincaid and Richter are dead. At the same time, Harry hears a gunshot come from Stacey's room. It appears

that Harry's instincts are correct, that Kincaid killed Stacey. Now the reader wonders along with Harry if Kincaid had Richter kill Elias to protect Kincaid from being called a murderer in court. It seems as though the police department will be spared the scandal of having to take down one of their own after all. It also seems that Sheehan has been cleared of Elias' death, making his death seem all that much more tragic.

# Chapters 32-40

## Chapters 32-40 Summary

Harry finds Kate dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Stacey's bedroom. Harry stays long enough for the scene to be cleared and then rushes over to the other Kincaid residence. Harry joins Rider and Edgar in Kincaid's home office where they are searching the computer and the rest of the room for evidence to back up Kate's statements. While they are in the office, Irving arrives and tells them to leave. Irving says that the case is closed and that Stacey Kincaid's death has nothing to do with Elias' death. Irving announces that they have gotten a ballistics match between the bullets recovered from Elias' body and Sheehan's gun. Once again it appears that Sheehan is the killer. Irving is now concerned that the city will riot because Elias' killer is dead; therefore, justice will not be done. A press conference is held a short time later at which Sheehan is named Elias' killer. The press wants to know if Sheehan was released simply because he was a cop, underlining the sentiments of the community. Irving denies it, but it is clear his denials will not change the opinions of the community. After the press conference, Irving approaches Harry and makes it clear that he go along with all that was said or look for another job.

Harry goes home and watches riots begin on television as he writes up his final report on the case. Harry gets a call from Entrenkin who tells him that she is taking over Elias' law firm and needs all his files back. During the phone call, Entrenkin implies to Harry that he missed some evidence in the files and that he should take another look. Harry does, looking over the subpoena requests again. Harry discovers that Chastain was subpoenaed. Chastain never told anyone about the subpoena. Not only that, but it appears that Chastain refused to be served. Harry calls the server and learns that Chastain went out of his way not to be served but was legally served the day of Elias' murder. Harry takes a look at the order in which the subpoenas were served and begins to wonder what Chastain was to testify to and why he would refuse service. Harry also learns that the process server called to tell the investigative team about Chastain refusing service and mistakenly spoke to Chastain, who hid the information. Harry also recalls the notes in Elias' notebook about his mole in the police department and begins to wonder if Chastain was the mole. Harry theorizes that maybe Chastain knew Elias was going to out him as a mole in court. It seemed a likely motive for murder to Harry. Harry then calls Garwood and sets up a meeting.

Garwood tells Harry that Chastain investigated Harris' allegations against the Robbery Homicide detectives for abuse. Garwood knows that Chastain found a bloody Black Warrior in one of the detective's desk and therefore had a clear case of abuse against the detectives. However, Chastain dropped the case by orders of someone high up, possibly Deputy Chief Irving. Garwood also points out to Harry that Sheehan was not the kind of cop who would keep a throw away gun. Garwood wants to know where Sheehan got the gun that killed him. Harry begins to think that Sheehan's death was not suicide. Harry leaves Garwood and goes to Parker Center where he pulls the evidence



on the Dobbs case. Harry looks through the evidence and finds that the bullets are missing. Aware that Chastain witnessed Elias' autopsy and was responsible for bringing the bullets to ballistics, he realizes that Chastain switched the bullets and that is how Sheehan's gun matched the bullets. Harry immediately picks up Chastain. As Harry drives through the city back to Parker Center, Chastain denies his involvement in the case, claiming that Harry is making a mistake. Harry, who does not drive downtown often and is unsure how far the riot has spread, mistakenly drives directly into a mob of rioters. The car is attacked. Harry manages to drive to safety. However, when Harry is safe he realizes that Chastain was pulled from the car. Chastain has been killed by the rioters.

## Chapters 32-40 Analysis

Kate Kincaid has killed herself after apparently having killed her husband and his security chief. The Stacey Kincaid murder case is solved, but Harry and his team still need to make the connection between Sam Kincaid and Elias. However, before they can finish their investigation, Irving arrives and announces that Sheehan's gun has been matched to the bullets taken from Elias at autopsy. Sheehan is announced as the killer. Harry is shocked and angry, still convinced that Sheehan is innocent. However, Harry is warned to not go against his bosses. Harry shows his character again, however, by continuing the investigation based on a suggestion by Entrenkin. Entrenkin believes there is something in the Black Warrior case that will help Harry find the real killer.

Harry looks through the file again and quickly finds evidence that Chastain lied to investigators by hiding his involvement in the Black Warrior case, and that he was more than likely the mole Elias was using. Harry speaks to Garwood and also comes to the conclusion that Sheehan most likely did not kill himself. The reader was made aware that the gun Sheehan used in his death was unlikely a gun he had access to and that the neighbor heard multiple gunshots that night. Now Harry thinks about this evidence and realizes that in his grief he missed the obvious. Sheehan was murdered. It is at this point that the reader sees in Harry something of an unreliable narrator because he was so filled with grief and guilt that he could not see what was obvious. Angry now, and more motivated than ever to clear Sheehan, Harry gathers the evidence he needs to arrest Chastain. Harry discovers that Chastain took bullets from Sheehan's previous shooting case and switched them with the bullets taken from Elias. By doing this, Chastain made it appear that Sheehan was the killer. However, Chastain also set up the community to riot by taking away their only chance for justice, a theme of the novel. Harry arrests Chastain but mistakenly drives into the heart of the riots on his way to Parker Center. Chastain is taken from the car and killed. In a twist of irony, Chastain is killed by the same rioters he set off by first killing Elias and later by taking away the community's only chance at justice.

# Characters

## Detective Harry Bosch

Detective Harry Bosch is a homicide with the Los Angeles Police Department. As Harry is waiting for his wife to come home, he receives a phone call instructing him to gather his team and go to the site of a homicide. A man and woman have been murdered on Angels Flight, a vertical train that runs at Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles. The man, it turns out, is the lawyer, Howard Elias. Elias has made a career of suing the Los Angeles Police Department; therefore, the police department realizes that investigating his murder will be a delicate operation that must be handled in a careful, precise manner. Harry is to run the investigation and accept the help of members of the IAD.

Harry realizes right away that a cop may be his prime suspect. Elias was currently at work on a lawsuit against several members of the Robbery Homicide division, including Harry's ex-partner Frankie Sheehan. The case, involving a man who was reportedly abused while under interrogation for the death of a young girl, was highly volatile and would be sure to ruin a few careers if the allegations were true. Harry does not believe the allegations, but soon learns that some of the allegations are true. Harry also learns that Elias had a mole inside the police department and someone was sending him information regarding the death of Stacey Kincaid. Harry follows the leads much the same way Elias must have and discovers that Stacey Kincaid was not killed by the man suspected in her death, but by her step-father in order to hide the fact that he was sexually abusing the child.

As Harry's list of suspects grow in the case, the FBI joins the hunt. Within a few hours, the FBI brings in Frankie Sheehan, since he had once threatened to kill Elias. Sheehan may have gone over the line when investigating Stacey Kincaid's death, but Harry knows he did not kill Elias. However, the police department needs a scapegoat. Harry convinces the department to let Sheehan go pending forensic testing on his weapon and takes Sheehan to his home. Unfortunately Sheehan appears to commit suicide while Harry is out attempting to find the evidence to clear his name. Later, however, Harry realizes that Sheehan's death is not a suicide but a murder planned to hide the real killer's identity. Harry manages to put all the facts together and take down the real killer, but before he can get him into jail, they run into the riot that Elias' death incited and the killer finds himself murdered by the very mob he created.

## Deputy Chief Irvin Irving

Deputy Chief Irvin Irving is a highly-ranked official with the Los Angeles Police Department. Irving is in charge of the investigation into Howard Elias' death, and it is his decision to call Harry Bosch to take over the case. Irving chooses Harry and his team because he knows that the detectives in the Robbery Homicide division, who should take the case, cannot investigate because Elias was about to go to trial against several



of their detectives and their investigating would have appeared to be a conflict of interest to the public. Not only this, but Irving knows that Elias' death has the potential of setting off the same kind of riots that took place after the trial of the cops accused of beating Rodney King, and he wants to do everything he can to prevent that from happening. The fact that Harry's two partners are black is a huge advantage for public relations in Irving's mind, leading him to insist that Harry's partners are present during press conferences regarding the case.

Irving's main concern in the Elias investigation is not to find out who killed Elias, but to calm the public before things get out of hand. Irving is aware that the suspect will most likely turn out to be a cop and is eager to have a suspect he can present to the public in order to show that the police department is doing everything they can to find Elias' killer. Irving leaks information to the press, keeping them up on all aspects of the case. Irving also pushes Harry to allow the FBI to bring charges against Sheehan even though there is little evidence that Sheehan committed the crime other than a threat made many years before in the heat of passion. Irving simply wants to keep his city from burning, but goes about it all wrong.

## **Detective John Chastain**

Detective John Chastain is a detective with the Internal Affairs Department of the Los Angeles Police Department. Chastain's job is to investigate charges of police corruption and abuse, as well as to make sure those police officers who are proven to be corrupt are quickly removed from their jobs and face any charges that might be appropriate. Most people in the police department dislike Chastain and his colleagues. Harry Bosch has come up against Chastain in the past and has a deep dislike for the man. However, when Irving assigns Chastain to work the Elias case with Harry, Harry agrees to put his feelings aside for the sake of solving the case as quickly as possible.

At first it appears that Chastain and Harry are going to be able to work well together. However, this soon changes as Harry learns that evidence has disappeared and he suspects that Chastain has done it. Harry and Chastain continue to work the case, but Harry sends Chastain on small errands, keeping him out of the way as much as possible. When leaks begin appearing in the case, Harry immediately thinks of Chastain. Later, however, Harry learns the leaks were not from Chastain. Just when Harry is beginning to believe Chastain is a good cop, he realizes that Elias had a mole in the police department. As Harry runs down the possibilities, only one name continues to rise to the top, Chastain. Soon Harry realizes that not only was Chastain the mole, but that Chastain killed Elias to keep him from revealing their relationship in court. Not only this, but Chastain also used evidence from an old case to make it appear that Sheehan killed Elias and then Chastain killed Sheehan and made it look like a suicide. Harry arrests Chastain, but before they can make it to police headquarters, they run into rioters. Chastain is pulled from the car and murdered.

## **Howard Elias**

Howard Elias is a lawyer in Los Angeles who has made a career suing the Los Angeles Police Department. Elias appears to be attempting to prove corruption with these cases, but many of the cases are unfounded and are either settled out of court or won because the jury is filled with citizens who are still reeling from the revealed corruption after the Rodney King case. Elias has many enemies in the police department. At the time of his death, Elias is working on a case involving several detectives in the Robbery Homicide Division. Elias is accusing these officers of abusing his client while interrogating him concerning the death of Stacey Kincaid, a murder for which he was later found not guilty in a court of law.

As Harry investigates Elias' death, he finds himself re-investigating the death of Stacey Kincaid. Despite beginning the case with the belief that the detectives involved were innocent, Harry soon learns that the detectives actually committed the crimes for which they are accused. Not only this, but the allegations were buried by the IAD under the orders of someone high up in the department, most like Deputy Chief Irving. Harry also learns that Elias had a mole in the police department and Elias intended to uncover the mole during the trial to win his case. Elias had no concern about ruining the career of his mole and this is most likely why the mole killed Elias.

## **Michael Harris**

Michael Harris is a smalltime criminal who was accused in the murder of Stacey Kincaid. After Stacey disappeared from her bedroom, the police discovered Harris' fingerprints on some of her schoolbooks that were in her bedroom. Without an explanation of how those prints got there, Sheehan and his fellow detectives decided Harris must be guilty of the girl's disappearance. Sheehan and his partners took Harris in and began interrogating him. During this time, the girl's body was found in a field near Harris' apartment. Convinced this made Harris guilty, Sheehan began pushing hard for a confession. When Harris refused to confess, Sheehan lost his mind momentarily and placed a plastic bag over Harris' head. After this, everything went crazy and the other detectives ended up injuring Harris in horrible ways. Later Harris was charged and tried for the crime, but was acquitted. Elias took the case to sue the police department on Harris' behalf, and they are about to go to trial when Elias is killed. Harry believes this case is closely related to the reason for Elias' murder and begins re-investigating to solve Elias' murder.

## **Kate Kincaid**

Kate Kincaid is Stacey Kincaid's mother. Kate is devastated by the death of her daughter and fully believes that Michael Harris is her killer through the investigation and trial. However, something Kate's husband says to her during the trial makes her begin to question Harris' guilt. Kate does some investigation and learns that Harris more than likely did not kill her daughter. As Elias begins to plan his case against the Los Angeles





Police Department in the Harris case, Kate begins sending him anonymous letters to help his investigation. These letters lead Elias to believe Harris did not kill Stacey. In fact, Elias plans to reveal the real killer in court in order to present a more dramatic case on his client's behalf. When Harry stumbles across these letters, he interviews the Kincaid's and tells them that he does not believe Harris guilty of the crime. After he leaves, Kate pulls a gun on her husband and his security chief and makes them confess to the murder of her daughter. The next morning, Kate tells Harry all she knows and then she kills herself in her daughter's bedroom.

## **Stacey Kincaid**

Stacey Kincaid is the step-daughter of a rich and powerful car salesman in Los Angeles. Stacey Kincaid disappeared from her bed one night in the middle of summer. Stacey's stepfather and step-grandfather made many pleas to get her back on television, only to learn that Stacey had been murdered. The case was sensational and the top story on the news for many months during the investigation and trial. However, the man accused of her murder would later be acquitted and then his lawyer would bring suit against the Los Angeles Police Department for abusing his client during the investigation.

When the lawyer, Elias, is killed, Harry Bosch finds himself re-investigating the murder of Stacey Kincaid. Harry quickly learns that the fingerprints that caused Harris to be accused of her murder were placed on her schoolbooks by accident when Stacey's mother had her car washed at a place where Harris worked. Later, Harry learns that Stacey was being abused by her stepfather and his security chief. Harry informs the family that he does not believe Harris killed Stacey. This information causes Stacey's mother to murder her stepfather and the security chief for killing Stacy, before killing herself over the guilt of having not prevented her child's abuse.

## **Sam Kincaid and D.C. Ritcher**

Sam Kincaid is the son of a famous car salesman in Los Angeles and a car salesman himself. Sam Kincaid grew up with money and feels as though he has the right to do anything he wants. Sam Kincaid married a young woman who had a daughter because he was a pedophile and wanted access to the child in order to abuse her. Stacey attempted to tell her mother once about the abuse, but her mother could not believe that her beloved husband could do such a horrible thing. D.C. Ritcher is Sam Kincaid's security chief and partner in his pedophilia. When Stacey threatens to go to the police about the abuse, Kincaid and Ritcher kill her and then allow the police to pin the blame on Michael Harris. Later, Kincaid and Ritcher confess to Stacey's mother, after which she kills them both.

## **Carla Entrenkin**

Carla Entrenkin is the inspector general to the Los Angeles Police Department. Entrenkin is a civilian and her role is as an impartial party who helps review internal

investigations and crack down on the corruption in the department. When Elias is killed, Entrenkin is appointed to go through his files and allow the police access only to the files that do not pertain to active cases. However, Harry believes Entrenkin has a hidden motive for being a part of the case. Harry has stumbled on evidence that Entrenkin is having an affair with Elias. When confronted, Entrenkin admits to the affair but promises that it has nothing to do with her desire to be involved with the case. Harry is skeptical, but Entrenkin turns out to be an asset to the investigation.

## **Frankie Sheehan**

Frankie Sheehan is a detective with the Robbery Homicide Division. When Harry worked with the division, he and Sheehan were partners. Sheehan was also the lead detective on the Stacey Kincaid case. Sheehan admits to Harry that he lost his cool during the Kincaid investigation and assaulted Harris. Sheehan is not proud of what he did, but believed Harris was guilty. When Harry tells Sheehan that Harry believes Harris to be innocent, Sheehan becomes depressed. Not only this, but Sheehan is taken into the police department as a suspect in the Elias murder. Sheehan knows that the police department needs a scapegoat and is afraid he is it. When Sheehan is released pending forensic tests on his weapon, Harry takes him home so he does not have to be alone. However, Harry has to leave to follow up on a part of the Elias investigation. When Harry comes home, he finds that Sheehan has supposedly committed suicide. Later, Harry realizes that Sheehan did not have access to a gun and could not have killed himself. Harry finds out who killed Sheehan and makes sure he pays for his crime.

# **Objects/Places**

## **Notebook**

Catalina Perez has a notebook in which she keeps track of her busy schedule as a housekeeper. Catalina forgot this notebook at the apartment of her final job and was on the way back to retrieve it when she was murdered because she was witness to Elias' murder.

## **School Books**

Michael Harris' fingerprints are found on one of Stacey Kincaid's school books, leading Sheehan to investigate and eventually arrest Harris for murder.

## **Throw Away Gun**

Frankie Sheehan kills himself in Harry's backyard with a throw away gun. Harry later realizes that the gun was not Sheehan's because Sheehan did not keep guns in his house other than his service revolver. Harry also realizes if Sheehan had had a throw away in his house, the FBI would have found it when they executed a search warrant several hours before Sheehan committed suicide.

## **Bullets**

Chastain steals bullets from a shooting case in which Sheehan was cleared several years before in order to fake a match to the bullets taken from Elias' body at the autopsy and to frame Sheehan in order to protect himself.

## **IAD**

Internal Affairs Department, or IAD, is the department of the police department that investigates police corruption. Chastain works for IAD and, as such, becomes a part of the investigation into the death of Howard Elias.

## **Riot**

Elias' death causes a riot in the streets of L.A. When Harry arrests Chastain for Elias' murder, he accidentally drives into the heart of the riot and Chastain is killed when he is pulled from the car by rioters.



## **Charlotte's Web**

Charlotte's Web is a highly secret pornographic web site that features pictures and video of small children being molested by older men. Stacey Kincaid is featured on this web site, leading Harry and his team to conclude that Michael Harris is innocent of her murder.

## **Howard Elias' Apartment**

Howard Elias keeps an apartment near his office. It is to this office that Elias was going when he was murdered on Angels Flight. While searching the apartment, Harry Bosch finds evidence that Elias is having an affair with Carla Entrenkin.

## **Howard Elias' Office**

Harry Bosch is stopped from searching Elias' office due to the sensitivity of his case files. However, Harry does find a pornographic picture that leads his team to discovering the truth behind Stacey Kincaid's murder.

## **Angels Flight**

Angels Flight is a vertical train located in downtown Los Angeles. Howard Elias and Catalina Perez are murdered on board one of the trains.

## **Slickbacks**

Slickbacks are unmarked detective cars that are painted the same black and white as patrol cars, making them obvious to the general public as police cars.

## **Los Angeles**

The novel is set in Los Angeles in the years following the Rodney King scandal and the riots that resulted from the acquittal of the police officers involved.

# Themes

## Police Corruption

The novel begins in the late nineties, a few short years after the riots that resulted from the acquittals of the officers involved in the beating of Rodney King. During the time after the acquittals, the police department faced much upheaval with corrupt officers being weeded out as quickly as the Internal Affairs Department can identify and investigate them. At the same time, Howard Elias has made a career of suing the police department. Howard Elias takes on clients who were arrested and somehow injured by the police department, whether with physical assault or by planting evidence against them. Elias has become the face of all the frustration against the police department that sprang up in the wake of the Rodney King case. Therefore, when Elias is found murdered, a police officer is the first suspect.

The police department is aware of the scrutiny under which the investigation of Elias' murder will be. The police department arranges for a team of detectives which includes two black cops to head the investigation while several members of the Internal Affairs Department are assigned to help the investigation. The police department is more interested in pleasing angry citizens than solving the case. Harry quickly becomes aware of this as he begins his investigation but is determined to learn the truth no matter what obstacles are placed in front of him. When Harry's ex-partner is accused of the murder and then dies in an apparent suicide, Harry is more determined than ever to make sure justice is served.

There have been corrupt police officers in the Los Angeles police department, just as there have been in other police departments across the nation. However, Harry Bosch is a good cop who is determined to find out the truth about Howard Elias' death despite the impending riots in the black neighborhoods that were the flash point of the riots during the Rodney King case. Bosch understands the tension that is brewing in these neighborhoods but believes the anger is misplaced and that the police department is only making things worse by trying to pin the murder on the first cop that appears in their cross hairs. Bosch finds out the truth and allows the rioters to mete out some frontier justice.

## Racism

Howard Elias is black. Many of Howard Elias' clients have been black. Elias has made a fortune for himself using the tension between the black community and the police department. Elias sues the police department every time one of his clients claims to have been beaten, falsely prosecuted, or otherwise injured by the police department. A large number of the times, Elias exaggerates his client's situation and sues officers who were exonerated by Internal Affairs' investigations. However, occasionally Elias finds a

case that has a great deal of merit and is successful in court. These cases come around often enough to have made Elias a hero in the black community.

When Elias is killed, the black community immediately points a finger at the police department. Due to Elias' habit of suing the police department and speaking out about police corruption, it seems logical that a cop might be involved in his death. Not only this, but the police department has a long history of abusing members of the black community. Tensions build as it appears that police are not making enough headway in the investigation. Soon the police announce that a police officer has been questioned in Elias' death, but when that police officer is released and later commits suicide, the black community once again smells a conspiracy and feels as though another black man will not get justice in Los Angeles. Riots break out in the same neighborhoods where people rioted in the aftermath of the Rodney King case.

Harry is more aware than anyone else on the case of the racial sensitivity necessary in the investigation. In fact, Harry comes to recognize that he and his team are assigned to the investigation based on the fact that Harry's two partners are black. The chief in charge of the case wants the black community to see that two of their own are on the case, therefore giving the impression that the police department is sensitive to the issues involved. Harry does not allow any of this to interfere with his investigation, but the tensions are hard to ignore. In fact, Harry comes face to face with the angry members of the black community at the end of the book when he accidentally drives in to the middle of a riot.

## Justice

The black community of Los Angeles wants justice both for its members who have been wronged and for Howard Elias, their hero who has been slain in cold blood. Harry wants to give this to them, not because he is concerned with the possibility of riots, but because he has devoted his entire career to law enforcement and still believes in the system and justice. However, the police department makes it difficult for Harry to do his job. Information is leaked to the press and Harry's ex-partner, Frankie Sheehan, is accused of killing Elias. Harry finally stumbles on the truth, but it is too late for Frankie, who has been killed in Harry's own backyard.

Kate Kincaid wants justice, too. Kate's daughter, Stacey, was stolen from her bedroom and found dead in a vacant lot. A black man is arrested who has a history of petty crimes. Frankie Sheehan is the investigating officer and he becomes personally involved in the case, losing his mind during the hours of interrogation. Sheehan steps over the line and abuses his suspect in an attempt to get a confession. Sheehan never gets that confession and after the man is acquitted. Elias brings civil charges against the police department for the abuse perpetrated on his client. It is because of this case that Elias is believed to have been killed and why suspicion falls on Sheehan. However, Harry later learns that Elias was going to reveal Stacey's real killer in court. Kate Kincaid has suspected for a while that her husband had something to do with Stacey's death. After Harry visits her home and tells her that he no longer believes the other suspect is

her daughter's killer, Kate forces her husband to confess to the murder. Kate then kills her husband and his security chief, giving her own brand of justice.

After Kate Kincaid tells Harry about her husband's confession and then kills herself, Harry is pulled off the case. The powers at the police department have pinned the Elias murder on Sheehan and believe the case to be closed. Harry does not believe it, however. Harry figures out who would have the most to lose and follows a trail of evidence that leads him to Chastain's door. Harry arrests Chastain with the intention of seeing him prosecuted. Unfortunately, a riot has broken out and Harry accidentally drives into it with Chastain handcuffed in the backseat of his car. Chastain is pulled from the car and murdered by the rioters who he created by killing Elias.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person omniscient. The author keeps the reader inside the mind of the main character, Harry Bosch, throughout the novel. The reader is allowed an intimate look at Harry's thoughts and feelings, following the clues of the investigation along with Harry. At times Harry is something of an unreliable narrator because he does not have all the information he needs to draw the correct conclusions. However, this unreliability is limited to Harry's knowledge and is not an intentional means of deceiving the reader. Eventually the reader and Harry come to the same conclusions about the investigation as it draws to a close at the end of the novel.

The point of view of this novel works because it gives the reader a deeper understanding of the main character, Harry Bosch. The novel is character driven, propelled by the actions of the characters and the consequences of those actions. Due to this character driven plot, it is important that the reader care about and feel a connection to the main character. The reader follows along as Harry tries to solve the mystery of Howard Elias' death, something the reader might not care about if not for the concern that Harry feels for the case. Therefore the point of view works because it offers intimacy between the reader and Harry as well as keeping the narration clear and unencumbered by other characters and other opinions on the case.

## Setting

The novel is set in Los Angeles. What is important about this setting is the fact that it is set in the tumultuous years after the Rodney King case. Rodney King was a black man who was beaten severely by members of the Los Angeles police department without apparent provocation. This beating was videotaped and shown on multiple television programs. Several police officers were charged in the beating, but were acquitted during their subsequent trials. When word of the acquittals reached the black community of Los Angeles, riots broke out throughout the city, especially in prominently-black communities. In the years since these events, there has been an attempt to clean up the police department, but most people in the Los Angeles area continue to distrust all members of the Los Angeles police department. It is in this atmosphere that Howard Elias has built his law firm suing the police department on behalf of people like Rodney King, leading the public to believe that Elias was killed by a cop injured in one of these suits.

The setting of the novel is important because the Rodney King case and its aftermath has a huge impact on the behaviors and attitudes of the people of Los Angeles. Harry is a cop and therefore is not trusted by many citizens of the city he is sworn to protect. This atmosphere is difficult enough on its own. However, when a lawyer who has made a career of suing the police department is killed, Harry finds himself in a position of



investigating his fellow officers in the murder investigation. Not only this, but tensions have been boiling in the black community for years, and Elias' death pushes those tensions over the limit. Harry's bosses want to keep the city from rioting as they did before, but by trying to prevent this, they put pressure on Harry to pin the murder on the first cop to appear in his cross hairs. Harry refuses to do this, so the police department finds their own scapegoat. If not for the setting of the novel, there would not be the tension that appears in this novel and the conclusion of the novel would be different.

## Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple, precise English. Harry is an ordinary guy who has been a cop most of his adult life. Harry speaks clearly and with little slang, making himself clear to those he speaks to without reducing himself to street language. There are other characters in the novel who speak a certain amount of street slang and Harry is able to understand these words, but does not use them in his own conversations. The novel also includes certain words that are unique to the law enforcement profession. Each of these words are self explanatory and do nothing to impede the flow of the novel. In fact, due to the nature of the novel, these words help add a sense of authenticity to the novel.

The language of this novel works because it is simple and easy to read, while complicated enough to keep from making the readers feel as though they are being talked down to. The novel does not slip into a string of slang that would be confusing to the reader, even when the novel includes people who normally speak in this manner on a regular basis. There is slang in the novel, but it is used sparingly and only when appropriate. The novel uses language that gives the plot an authentic feel and leaves the reader able to comprehend as well as learn something from the overall plot.

## Structure

The novel is divided into forty chapters. Each chapter varies in length, some as long as ten to fifteen pages while others are barely a paragraph. The timeline of the novel is linear, following a logical path. The novel takes place in a little over seventy-two hours, giving the reader a sense of urgency and of tension as Harry struggles to solve Elias' murder before Los Angeles falls into riots once again. The novel is written in both dialogue and exposition, following Harry as he investigates all aspects of the murder of Howard Elias.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is the investigation into the murder of Howard Elias. The subplots include tensions in Harry's new marriage, the racial tensions between Harry's partners and the bosses in the police department, and the previous investigation into the murder of Stacey Kincaid. The death of Stacey Kincaid is important to the overall plot because the case that Elias is working on at the time of his death, the case that Harry believes led to his death, is over the abuse suffered by the man arrested for Stacey's murder. Elias had discovered that his

client was innocent in the murder and Harry eventually learns the same thing. The subplots are important to the overall plot and interact with the overall plot in a way that makes the story fuller and more satisfying.

## Quotes

"The word sounded alien in his mouth, as if spoken by someone else. There was an urgency in his own voice that Bosch didn't recognize. The simple hello he had whispered into the telephone was full of hope, almost desperation. But the voice that came back to him was not the one he needed to hear." Chapter 1, pg. 7

"'In this department there is only one race,' he said. 'Not black or white. Just the blue race.'" Chapter 2, pg. 25

"Howard Elias's notoriety as a civil rights attorney did not come to him because of the clients he served—they could best be described as ne'er-do-wells if not outright criminals. What had made Elias's face and name so well known to the masses of Los Angeles was his use of the media, his skill at probing the inflamed nerve of racism in the city, and the fact that his law practice was built entirely around one particular expertise: suing the Los Angeles Police Department." Chapter 3, pg 26

"He then looked back at the screen and watched as Rider hit keys and maneuvered through the icons, files and programs, all of it meaning little to Bosch and reminding him that he was an anachronism." Chapter 11, pgs. 173-174

"Bosch didn't like coincidences. He didn't believe in them." Chapter 12, pg. 183

"The squad room was completely empty, which was unusual, even for a Sunday. Under the twelve-and-twelve readiness plan all detectives not assigned to time-critical investigations were to be in uniform and out on the street. The last time such deployment had been instituted was after a major earthquake that had rocked the city in 1994. The Elias murder was a social rather than a geologic cataclysm, but its magnitude was just as great." Chapter 22, pg. 349

"Bosch knew that was usually more than enough to win a conviction. He had worked cases in which convictions were won with less evidence. But that was before O.J. Simpson, before juries looked at police in Los Angeles with suspicious and judging eyes." Chapter 22, pg. 352

"Bosch couldn't put his finger on the look he saw on Kizmin Rider's face when he and Edgar returned to the squad room. She sat alone at the homicide table, her laptop in front of her, the glow of the screen reflecting slightly on her dark face. She looked both horrified and energized. Bosch knew the look but didn't have the words for it. She had seen something horrible but at the same time she knew she was going to be able to do something about it." Chapter 26, pg. 408

"Bosch thought of Sheehan downtown at Parker Center in a room. He was being measured as the department's sacrificial lamb." Chapter 26, pg. 431

"Kate Kincaid looked as though she was serene in death. No mortician would be able to improve on that." Chapter 32, pg. 507

"He felt that he didn't know anything. His wife, his old friend, his city. Everybody and everything was strange to him. And in that feeling of aloneness he thought he began to understand what it was that Kate Kincaid and Frankie Sheehan were thinking about at the end of the line." Chapter 33, pg. 527

"He thought about Chastain and his final scream, a wail so loud and horrible as to be almost inhuman. It was the sound of fallen angels in their flight to hell. Bosch knew he could never allow himself to forget it." Chapter 40, pg. 594

## Topics for Discussion

Why is Harry worried about his wife at the beginning of the novel? How does Harry's wife affect him on the job? What is the impact of Harry's wife leaving him? Does Harry's domestic troubles affect the case? How? Why do you think the writer chose to include Harry's domestic troubles in the plot of the novel?

Who is Howard Elias? Why is the police department concerned about investigating his death? Why is this case different from other murders? How could this murder affect the city of Los Angeles? Why? Why is Harry's team chosen to investigate the murder? Why are members of IAD assigned to help Harry and his team?

Is Howard Elias a hero or a profiteer? Would Elias sue the police department so often if the Rodney King case had not happened? Is Elias truly helping the black community with his lawsuits? Why is Elias having an affair with a white woman? Does this make Elias less of a hero? What would happen had this information been released to the community? Why does Harry agree to keep this information quiet? What does this say about Harry?

Who is Michael Harris? What is his role in the death of Howard Elias? What did the police do to Harris when he was arrested for Stacey Kincaid's death? Was this justified? Would this have happened under different circumstances? Why or why not? Should the cops have been punished for this treatment?

Who is Stacey Kincaid? What does her death have to do with Howard Elias' death? Compare and contrast Stacey Kincaid and Howard Elias. How are their murders similar? How are they different? Explain the differences in the investigations in their deaths. Why are there so many differences? What is the same?

Discuss justice. What is justice? Who defines justice? Should Sam Kincaid have been arrested and tried for his crimes? Why did Kate Kincaid kill him? Was she justified? Should Kate Kincaid have been tried for killing her husband? Would she have been if she had not died? Should Chastain been tried for his crimes? Could Harry have proven Chastain's guilt? Was Chastain's death justified?

Discuss police corruption. Should all cops be held to the same standard? Does one bad cop make all cops bad? What about a cop like Harry? How is Harry punished for the actions of bad cops? What should have happened after Rodney King to protect the people of Los Angeles? Was Howard Elias a step in the right direction?