

The Alienist Study Guide

The Alienist by Caleb Carr

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Plot Summary

The *Alienist* is the first foray into fiction by military and diplomatic historian Caleb Carr. This novel is set in 1896 at the advent of the psychological investigator. Dr. Kreizler is a psychologist who is often shunned by colleagues and polite society due to his unique views regarding the mentally ill. However, it is Kreizler Theodore Roosevelt, the police commissioner, turns to when a serial killer begins targeting New York's poor, immigrant children. With the help of his good friend, reporter John Schuyler Moore, a police secretary, and a pair of police detectives, Kreizler will use a psychological profile to track and catch the killer. The *Alienist* is a psychological thriller with a mix of true history that leaves the reader not only entertained, but fascinated by the rich detail drawn from reality.

John Schuyler Moore is awakened in the middle of the night by Stevie, a servant to his good friend Dr. Lazlo Kreizler. Stevie has been instructed to take Moore to the sight of a recent murder. Moore is shocked by what he sees and confused as to why he, a reporter, was called to the scene. The following day, during a meeting with Kreizler and police commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt, Moore learns that Kreizler believes this murder is the third in a series of murders against immigrant children working as prostitutes. Kreizler wants to use his background in psychology to track the killer and he wants to do it with Moore's help.

Aware that the public and his co-workers would not approve of Kreizler's involvement in the case, Roosevelt agrees to allow Kreizler to work the case only if he agrees to do it away from police headquarters and out of sight of the public. Kreizler asks only for a pair of detectives and a liaison between himself and police headquarters. With this agreed, Moore and Kreizler begin work on the investigation beginning with an interview with a recently arrested child killer.

The pair of detectives Roosevelt has chosen to work with Kreizler is a set of brothers Lucius and Marcus Isaacson who have a background in forensics and medicine. Sara Howard, one of the first female employees of the New York police department, also joins the team as liaison between Kreizler and Roosevelt. The investigation begins with the team studying various psychology books Kreizler has provided. The team uses this knowledge to begin working a picture of the killer based on his actions. Kreizler believes that if they can build a strong profile of the killer, they will be able to predict his next move and eventually discover his identity. At the same time, the investigators begin visiting the houses where the victims had worked in order to learn more about their lives and their final moments. As the team investigates, they become aware that someone is following them and does not want them to complete the investigation. Moore, who has learned that a couple of thugs have been visiting victim's families with a priest and an Episcopal priest, decides to talk to the Bishops of these churches to learn their involvement. However, Moore is stonewalled and learns nothing of use.

Eventually the team builds a strong psychological profile and begins writing letters to mental institutions working on the assumption the killer was once confined to such an

institute. A letter from Washington, DC leads to a visit there. The team comes across a report of a murder in a New York farm town that fits their killer's modus operandi. The murder was blamed on Indians, but this excuse makes little sense to the investigators. Moore and Kreizler visit the surviving brother of these murders who describes a horrific childhood and abuse against his little brother that fits perfectly with Kreizler's profile of the killer. This gives the team a name and way to track the killer.

Moore takes over the case when Kreizler backs off due to the death of his fiancée by local thugs who do not want the murders solved. Moore leads the team in tracking the killer's movements over the last six months and searching his apartment. The latter of these acts leads to a possible location of the next murder. The team sets up a surveillance of the possible location while Moore finds himself blackmailed into attending the opera with Kreizler. However, this turns out to be a ruse to keep the thugs off their backs as Kreizler takes Moore to the true site of the next murder. Kreizler and Moore confront the killer, managing to take him into their custody. However, they are once again interrupted by the thugs, one of whom manages to kill the suspect. Disappointed, Kreizler quickly arranges an autopsy of the body in an attempt to learn if there is something physically wrong with him that caused him to be a killer. Unfortunately, this is not the case and no one will know for sure why he became a killer.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 1-3

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 1-3 Summary

Caleb Carr is a military and diplomatic historian who was previously a writer of historical non-fiction who felt his subjects were too extreme to make a decent living. Fascinated with Theodore Roosevelt, Carr chose a time period for his first fictional work that would include a short period of time during which Roosevelt was commissioner of police in New York City.

In Chapter 1, John Schuyler Moore has lunch with his good friend, Lazlo Kreizler, after the funeral of their good friend Theodore Roosevelt. At lunch, the two men think of their good friend, a man who was so full of life until the recent death of his son, Quentin. At this lunch, Moore thinks of the investigation he, Kreizler, and Roosevelt worked together, leading him to recall that investigation more than twenty years previously that began March 3, 1896.

In Chapter 2, it is the morning of March 3, 1896. John Schuyler Moore wakes in the middle of the night as someone pounds on the door asking for him. The entire household is awake, including Moore's grandmother, causing him some difficulty. Moore opens the door and finds Stevie Taggart, a former street thief who is now a servant for his good friend, Dr. Lazlo Kreizler. It is because of Kreizler that Stevie has come. Kreizler wants Moore to see something that Stevie cannot fully describe to him. Moore quickly dresses and finds himself dragged through the poorer side of town to the location of the new bridge being built over the East River called the Williamsburg Bridge. Once there, Moore finds several police officers gathered at the bottom of a watchtower. Still unaware of what is going on, Moore follows Sergeant Flynn up the steps of the watchtower. Theodore Roosevelt, an old school friend of Moore's, is in the tower when Moore arrives. However, Moore is unprepared for what else he finds in the tower.

In Chapter 3, Moore discovers that he is at the crime scene of a young boy who was murdered and mutilated. Moore is sick for a minute as he looks at the mutilation, but brings himself around with Roosevelt's help. Roosevelt gives Moore a note from Dr. Kreizler that promises to explain why he has been brought there in the morning. Roosevelt then discusses with Moore Kreizler's desire for all three of them to get together, the first time Roosevelt will see Kreizler since his wife's death twelve years earlier. Roosevelt suggests that it will be a reunion of sorts since all three men attended Harvard at the same time and were good friends during that time.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

The first chapter in this novel is set in 1919 on the day of Theodore Roosevelt's funeral. This setting first allows the reader to be aware that the novel will be set in the distant

past, a world that may be foreign to some readers. This also introduces Theodore Roosevelt, a real person, as a character in a novel that is both historical and fictional. In this way, the reader already has a feel for the time and the atmosphere in which the novel will take place.

The bulk of the novel is told in a sort of flashback as the main character, John Schuyler Moore, recalls a time in which he, Dr. Kreizler, and Roosevelt worked together on a murder case. While Moore and Kreizler are fully fictional, Roosevelt is a real person who gives the novel and the murder case a more authentic feel than one might get with purely fictional characters. The reader can almost believe that a case similar to the one described in this novel might actually have taken place during Roosevelt's time as police commissioner in New York City.

The case Kreizler, Roosevelt, and Moore will be investigated is also introduced in these early chapters. Moore is taken to a crime scene in which a young, male prostitute has been found murdered and mutilated. This case, as Moore explains in these chapters, is one that is unfortunately not the type that the New York City police often spend a great deal of time investigating. However, the case is particularly heinous and causes Moore, Roosevelt, and Kreizler to feel a great deal of grief and sorrow for the victim. This sets up a situation in which the reader can clearly feel how alone these potential investigators are as they begin their search for the killer.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 4-6

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 4-6 Summary

In Chapter 4, Moore wakes late in the morning. Kreizler instructs Moore to meet him at Bellevue. When Moore arrives, he and Kreizler are led to a patient's room where they will interview a man who killed his neighbor's daughter for no apparent reason other than the fact that the neighbor asked him not to tell off color jokes in front of her. When Kreizler begins to interview the man, he realizes he has been drugged with a medication called chloral hydrate, a cheap sedative. Kreizler becomes angry because he has urged doctors to stop using this drug. However, Kreizler is able to interview the man well enough to determine he is not insane, nor could he have killed the young prostitute the night before.

In Chapter 5, Moore and Kreizler arrive at police headquarters for their meeting with Roosevelt. Kreizler is distracted downstairs while Moore is led to Roosevelt's office by Sara Howard, one of only two women employed by the New York Police Department. As Sara leads the way, they are stopped on the stairs by Paul Kelly, the leader of a local criminal gang, and Biff Ellison, one of his associates. Biff makes a threat against Moore when Moore suggests that Biff might be responsible for the boy-prostitute's death because it was in Biff's club where the boy worked.

In Chapter 6, Kreizler, Roosevelt, and Moore begin discussing the boy-prostitute's murder. Kreizler reveals that he is aware of a murder three years previously in which a brother and sister were killed, their eyes removed, and left inside a water tank. Kreizler believes these murders were committed by the same killer as the one who killed the boy-prostitute. Roosevelt then reveals that the police department has investigated two other killings similar to the one of the night before. Kreizler suggests to Roosevelt that there is a serial killer on the loose and that he could catch him if given the chance. Roosevelt is worried that Kreizler's involvement in an investigation could cause trouble in a police department that has undergone many changes in recent history due to Roosevelt and the mayor's attempts at ridding it of corruption. For this reason, Roosevelt will only agree to allow Kreizler to investigate if he can keep his investigation secret from the people at the police department. Kreizler agrees. It is also agreed that Kreizler will use Moore, a couple of detectives, and a liaison in his investigation.

As Kreizler and Moore leave the police department and enter Kreizler's carriage, they discover someone has thrown a foul smelling ball of trash inside. Moore begins poking at it with his umbrella, causing the paper to fall open. When Kreizler sees that the paper is from a scientific text, he throws the entire package out of the carriage and instructs his man to move.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Kreizler interviews a patient at Bellevue who killed a child in a clearly unmotivated attack with the idea that he might be the same man who later killed the boy-prostitute. However, despite the interference of medication administered by the doctors at Bellevue, this does not prove to be the case. This interview does highlight for the reader, however, Kreizler's methods and his thought that the man who did commit this murder is insane or has been damaged by some kind of past abuse. This is the idea that will be most prominent throughout this investigation.

Several suspects are quickly suggested in these early chapters. Apart from the killer in Bellevue, these characters include the owner of the bar where the boy-prostitute worked and his boss, Paul Kelly. Paul Kelly is a criminal who heads a large gang, what a modern reader might call a mobster. Paul Kelly appears to be a side character at the moment, a passing idea, but will become an important character as the novel continues to develop.

Finally, Kreizler and Roosevelt compare notes and discover that there are four other bodies that were mutilated in a similar fashion as the boy the night before. This leaves everyone, including the reader, convinced that there is a serial killer on the loose. The reader also becomes aware of just how deep the distrust of Kreizler and his different ideas of insanity and psychology are treated during this time period. Roosevelt wants Kreizler to help find the killer, and from Kreizler's earlier interview with the patient at Bellevue, the reader recognizes his methods as modern. However, everyone tends to be afraid of change and things that are new, and these methods were very new in Kreizler's time period, suggesting his investigation will be full of difficulties.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 7-10

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 7-10 Summary

In Chapter 7, Moore visits Kreizler at his institute, a school for children who are troubled. After watching Kreizler deal with a patient and her uncomprehending mother, Moore accompanies Kreizler into the basement of his institute where he has a complete autopsy suite. The bodies of the Zweig children, the brother and sister found in murdered in a water tower three years previously, are set on two tables. Moore and Kreizler are joined by Lucius and Marcus Isaacson, two detectives Roosevelt has sent to help Kreizler in his investigation. Kreizler tells the two men, who both have a background in forensics and medicine, to examine the bodies and report all they find. Kreizler purposely does not reveal his goal because he does not want these men biased by prior knowledge of the case in order to test their abilities.

In Chapter 8, Moore returns home to find Sara Howard on his doorstep. Sara was present when two cops returned from speaking to the dead boy's parents, the Santorellis, with blood on their clothes. Sara, who was once an assistant to a nurse, is afraid the parents were injured. Sara and Moore go to the home of the Santorellis, an apartment in the alley of another building that is difficult to reach and guarded by a group of tough looking men. In the apartment, they discover that Mr. Santorelli has been badly beaten. They also learn that the cops were accompanied by two priests and another set of men. Then Sara learns that the boy, Giorgio, was beaten when he became sexually promiscuous at school, causing him to run away and begin his career as a prostitute. When Sara and Moore leave, they find two men waiting for them on the stairs. The thugs from the front of the building, aware that Sara and Moore were attempting to help the Santorellis, beat the men off allowing Sara and Moore to escape.

In Chapter 9, Moore arrives at Kreizler's home where they are to meet their liaison to Roosevelt and attend the opera. Kreizler is surprised to learn that Sara is to be their liaison. At the opera, Roosevelt and the mayor come to Kreizler's box during intermission. The mayor warns Kreizler to keep his nose out of police business.

In chapter 10, Kreizler and his party go to dinner at Delmonico's. The detectives, Lucius and Marcus, join them there. Lucius describes the injuries they found on the children's bodies, including the fact that the eyes were clearly removed by the killer, not by animals as had originally been assumed. In fact, Lucius produces a knife that he believes is the type the killer used. Marcus then tells the group that he has found a fingerprint on the thumb nail of the little girl.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 7-10 Analysis

The team Kreizler has decided to bring together to help in this investigation begins to come together in these chapters. Kreizler has already chosen Moore to work with him

because of his reporter's knowledge of the people and area in which the victims lived and died. Now Kreizler picks a couple of detectives who are brothers and have a background in the relatively new forensic sciences. Kreizler tests these men by giving them the bodies of what is believed to be the first victims of the killer, the Zweig siblings. Not only do the Isaacsons come up with what Kreizler expected them to find, but they also take it a step further and find a fingerprint that, while not admissible in court, will help them be sure they have found the right man when they bring in a suspect.

Sara Howard is determined to be the first female police officer in New York City. To this end, Sara has taken a job as a secretary with the police department. Sara also goes out on her own to visit the family of the slain boy, the Santorellis, when she sees that the investigating detectives have clearly had some sort of conflict with the family. For this reason, the team is able not only to have Sara join them, but to learn that Giorgio Santorelli was a troubled child who had little to no relationship with his family. This will prove important as the investigation continues to develop.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 11-13

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 11-13 Summary

In Chapter 11, Moore goes to Paresis Hall, the place where Giorgio Santorelli worked at the time of his death. At the bar, Moore speaks with Biff Ellison, the owner. Ellison has no new information for Moore, but agrees to allow him to look inside the room Giorgio used with his clients. In the room, Moore finds another young boy crying. This boy tells Moore he knew Giorgio and was good friends with him. However, the boy continually insists that Giorgio cannot be dead because he never left the room that night. Suddenly Ellison bursts in with several young men just as Moore is beginning to feel drowsy, pushing him down on the bed and attempting to remove his clothes.

In Chapter 12, Moore wakes in a strange place with heavy, old fashioned furniture. Moore learns that this is the new headquarters for the investigation and that he has been asleep for more than three days due to the effects of chloral hydrate. Moore was drugged by Ellison, but rescued from his nefarious plans by Stevie. Moore also learns that Kreizler has gotten the bodies of the other two victims exhumed and is planning to have Lucius and Marcus conduct an autopsy.

In Chapter 13, time passes quickly as the team begins studying psychology texts in order to help them form a picture of the killer from his actions. The team struggles with this unfamiliar information together, constantly aware that another victim could appear at any time. Then one does.

Part 1, Perception: Chapters 11-13 Analysis

Moore tries to do some investigating on his own and it nearly leads to his own death, or perhaps the death of his reputation. Moore is drugged and placed in a compromising position with several prostitutes. However, Stevie, Kreizler's servant, saves him. This teaches Moore to be careful about investigating on his own. It also suggests to the reader that this will not be a lesson that will stick with the determined protagonist.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 14-17

Part 2, Association: Chapters 14-17 Summary

In Chapter 14, the entire team arrives at the crime scene in Castle Garden where the newest victim has been found. Roosevelt has managed to clear the scene for the moment, but the team must work quickly to get all the information they need before the detectives arrive. Sara stoically helps Lucius examine the mutilated body while Marcus examines the area. Marcus finds fibers on the side of the building where the body has been found and suggests that the killer used mountain climbing gear to gain access to each of the crime scenes as well as the area where the victims were taken, explaining why no one saw Giorgio Santorelli leave Paresis Hall.

In Chapter 15, a mob begins to form at the front of the park. Aware that Kreizler cannot be seen at the site of the crime, the team is quickly smuggled out the back of the park, leaving Roosevelt and the two detectives to deal with the mob. As they leave, Moore sees a carriage that looks very much like Paul Kelly's carriage. Back at their headquarters, the team discovers Mary, Kreizler's mute housekeeper, waiting for them. Kreizler becomes deeply agitated to find Mary there and quickly sends her away. Later, the team gathers together and discusses the new clues, slowly putting together a picture of a man who was most likely in the military at some point and to whom water has a special meaning.

In Chapter 16, Moore becomes distracted by Kreizler's attitude toward Mary and the possibility that Kreizler and Sara are in love with one another. The following afternoon, Moore takes Mary into town to see a performance and a couple of new moving pictures. When they return home, Kreizler seems pleased that Moore took Mary out.

In Chapter 17, the team begins thinking about the possibility that the killer is familiar with the roofs of the city, explaining his use of mountain climbing gear to grab Giorgio Santorelli from his room. Marcus and Moore go to the Golden Rule, the business where the latest victim worked, to ask questions about the victim. On the roof, Marcus finds fibers that suggest the killer used the same method, climbing down from the roof, the steal that victim as well.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 14-17 Analysis

In these chapters another victim is found. This victim is also a boy-prostitute who has been badly mutilated after death. Kreizler and his team are able to examine the body on scene, but run into a mob of unhappy, poor residents who have been informed and enraged by the news of another murder by some unseen person. The reader, and Moore, suspect it might have been Paul Kelly who created the mob, but a motive is not clear at this point. However, the team did managed to find some strong evidence,

among which is the rope fibers that appear to confirm that the killer gains access to the victims and crime scenes with mountain climbing gear.

As a side plot, Moore becomes aware of a love triangle between Kreizler, Sara, and Kreizler's mute housekeeper, Mary. Moore finds himself jealous of the idea that Kreizler and Sara might be involved even though Sara has made it clear she has no intention of living a conventional life as a wife and mother. This distracts Moore, suggesting to the reader not only that Moore is in love with Sara himself, but that love involvements might cause trouble as the plot continues to develop.

Part 2, Association: Chapter 18-21

Part 2, Association: Chapter 18-21 Summary

In Chapter 18, Moore and Marcus meet a young boy on the roof of the Golden Rule who was friends with the latest victim. This boy, Joseph, tells them that the victim met a man, a customer, who promised to take him away and give him a better life. Unfortunately, Joseph never met this man, so he cannot tell them anything about him. Moore likes Joseph, so he gives him his address and the address of their headquarters in case he ever needs anything.

In Chapter 19, a few weeks pass with the team furiously investigating what little they know. Sara and Kreizler begin spending a great deal of time together investigating patients at Bellevue and other such child killers, but having little luck. Kreizler fails to get enough sleep during this time, causing Sara to express deep concern for him.

In Chapter 20, Moore and Kreizler meet Sara and Marcus at a local restaurant. Sara tells them about a letter received by Mrs. Santorelli. The letter is clearly from the killer and it suggests that the killer ate parts of Giorgio's mutilated body. Marcus, who once studied with a world renowned handwriting expert, gives a report of what he believes the writing, both the physical writing and the choice of words, divining from the writing that the man is well educated, but wanted to appear the opposite, and that he is about thirty years old. The team decides to return to headquarters to discuss the matter more completely. On the way, Kreizler tells Moore that he believes the killer has been watching their investigation.

In Chapter 21, a discussion begins regarding the information the team now has on the killer. As the discussion focuses on the killer's childhood, Sara announces that she believes the killer had a woman in his life who was the cause of or was a part of the abuse the killer suffered. Against character, Kreizler flatly refuses to accept Sara's theory. Kreizler insists that the mother in an abusive situation is always passive. The team also decides that the killer has not traveled outside the United States based on his style of the penmanship. The team also comes to believe the killer is impotent based on his anger toward his victims and their profession. Finally, the team begins to discuss the possibility that there is some kind of religious meaning to the timing of the killer's attacks.

Part 2, Association: Chapter 18-21 Analysis

As the newly formed team begins their investigation in earnest, they begin to learn the basics of Kreizler's style of psychology. The reader will find that Kreizler's style and beliefs correlate strongly with those held firmly by psychologists in the modern world. This shows the reader that Carr has come through with his promise to set his book in the advent of modern psychology.

The letter that the killer has sent the mother of Giorgio Santorelli is a gold mine of information. The letter, not unlike the letters the London Jack the Ripper sent during his killing spree, shows the team that the killer is young, around thirty, and that he is well educated. The team also finds a great deal more from this letter that the reader might not have seen, but that is strongly supported by the psychology behind their methods of divining this information.

Kreizler's refusal to accept the idea that a woman might have abused her child or ward is very odd considering his attitude in all other situations. Kreizler is often opened minded, willing to listen to any theory that his team is willing to put forth. Kreizler's reaction is painful for Sara, suggesting that Kreizler is simply refusing to believe the theory because it is Sara who has suggested it. However, if the reader peruses the section carefully, they will notice that Kreizler has freely accepted all of Sara's other theories. Therefore, the problem here must be Kreizler's own personal experiences with women or abuse, leaving the reader wondering about Kreizler's own childhood or the impact of his work on his emotions.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 22-25

Part 2, Association: Chapters 22-25 Summary

In Chapter 22, Moore decides to meet with the two bishops of the local Catholic and Episcopal churches who might have sent priests to the homes of the victim's families. The Episcopal bishop, Henry Codman Potter, is rude and extremely unhelpful, making it clear he is not interested in the investigation of the child murders. Archbishop Corrigan of the Catholic Church appears much more open as he shows Moore the work being done on a new cathedral and the Orphan Society. However, Moore quickly realizes that Corrigan is showing these things to Moore to express that the money comes from the people and that talk of the child murders will only dry up such donations.

Kreizler surprises Moore one day by taking him on a long train trip. It turns out Kreizler has made arrangements to see Jesse Pomeroy, a criminal who was incarcerated at the age of twelve for murdering and mutilating a neighbor girl. Kreizler believes the serial killer they are after is a lot like Pomeroy and he wants to ask Pomeroy about his motivations.

In Chapter 23, Moore and Kreizler arrive at the prison and are taken quickly to visit with Pomeroy. Pomeroy is violent and has been placed in a collar cap, an iron contraption that covers his head. Kreizler asks Pomeroy about his childhood and his crimes. Pomeroy admits that his victims made fun of the horrific disfigurement in his face caused by a harelip and an infection contracted in infancy. Pomeroy also suggests that his mother was abusive because of this same facial disfigurement.

In Chapter 24, Pomeroy holds Kreizler and Moore captive with a long shard of thick glass. The guard comes in to rescue Kreizler and Moore, but his anger causes him to beat Pomeroy senseless. Kreizler attacks the guard to stop him from hurting Pomeroy, but becomes so enraged that Moore must drag him out of the room. On the train ride home, Kreizler announces that he believes their killer also has some kind of facial disfigurement that plays a role in his murderous acts. Back in the city, Kreizler and Moore have dinner with Sara to fill her in on what they have learned. Kreizler also takes this time to apologize to Sara and ask her to describe her theory regarding the killer's mother more fully. When dinner is over, Sara pulls Moore aside and shows him a police report she found in which Kreizler's father was arrested for domestic violence. The charges were later dropped and there were no other reports in police records. However, the timing of the report, when Kreizler was only six, corresponds with a broken arm Kreizler suffered in childhood that resulted in a shortened limb in adulthood. Moore and Sara realize Kreizler was an abused child, but they vow to never tell anyone they know.

In Chapter 25, Lucius Isaacson suggests to the team that they place teams on each of the buildings they believe the killer might target for his next killing. It is decided that the team will be broken into teams of two, including two of Kreizler's servants and Roosevelt. The first night they choose Ascension Day with the suggestion that the killer

avored dates that have religious significance. However, nothing happens that night. A few days later, however, the team receives a letter from an asylum in Washington, DC in answer to letters they sent that suggests a prior patient with a facial tick fits their killer's description. A few days later, the team again takes up surveillance on the roofs of the disreputable building where the killer has taken his victims. Moore is with Stevie when he glances across the street to where Lucius and Cyrus, a servant of Kreizler's, are doing their surveillance. Moore laughs because they can see light shining off of Lucius' bald head.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 22-25 Analysis

While Moore and the others busy themselves interviewing local prostitutes and bar owners, as well as religious leaders who might have tried to pay off the victim's families to prevent a police investigation into the murders, Kreizler continues to interview mental patients and prisoners with similar modus operandi as the killer. These interviews lead Kreizler to a young killer named Jesse Pomeroy who killed a little girl and mutilated her body, possibly because she would not kiss him or she made fun of his disfigured face. This leads Kreizler to wonder if perhaps their killer also has a problem with his face.

It turns out that Kreizler was also abused by his father. The reader realizes that this is the reason Kreizler discounted Sara's theory about the killer's mother. Kreizler's own mother stood by and watched passively as her husband abused their child. Kreizler has come to believe that all mothers react to abuse that way, allowing his own experience to cloud his judgment. Kreizler recognizes his mistake and apologizes to Sara. At this point, the reader is allowed to hear Sara's full theory and begins to wonder if maybe she might not be correct. At least, it seems, the killer might have been unwanted, leading to his choice of victims, often unwanted or abandoned children who have been forced to sell their own bodies to survive.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 26-29

Part 2, Association: Chapters 26-29 Summary

In Chapter 26, Moore and Stevie respond to a cry from Lucius. Cyrus was attacked while Lucius was getting coffee. It appears not only did the killer take his next victim, but he did it while Moore and Stevie were watching, giving the team the additional clue that the killer is bald. Roosevelt arrives and he decides to have the police search the area for the killer. Roosevelt is careful not to tell his men how he knows that the killer has struck again in order to protect Kreizler's investigation. The victim is quickly found and already dead on Bedloe's Island. With this sad news, and the news that Cyrus will recover, the team goes home.

In Chapter 27, Moore accompanies Kreizler to the morgue where they and the Isaacson's examine the body of the latest victim. The killer appears to have been interrupted, therefore leaving the victim's right eye intact. Marcus becomes excited by this news, rushing home to get a special camera to take photos of the remaining eye with the hopes of revealing the last thing the victim saw. When the team is finished and prepares to leave, they discover another mob has surrounded the building. Moore and Kreizler are harassed on their way out and saved by Paul Kelly and his men.

In Chapter 28, Paul Kelly tells Kreizler and Moore that he instigated the mobs in order to force the city to take notice of the child-murders. Paul Kelly admits to being a fan of Kreizler and tells him that he supports his investigation. Paul Kelly drops Kreizler and Moore at the Museum of natural History where they go to speak with an expert on Indians based on a comment Roosevelt made about Red Injuns. They are directed to a young man named Dr. Wissler. When Kreizler describes the mutilation found on the victims, Dr. Wissler tells them that an Indian would not mutilate a child and would most definitely not remove a child's eyes. The removal of the eyes is a punishment for an enemy, but an Indian Warrior would be seen as weak if he did such a thing to a child. This leads Kreizler to believe the killer knows about Indian mutilations, but not the reasoning behind it. Therefore, the killer might have lived in the West as a child.

In chapter 29, Kreizler believes that the connection to the West could prove that the patient in the asylum in Washington, DC could be their killer because that hospital often houses soldiers thought to be unfit for duty due to mental illness. It is decided that Moore and Kreizler will go to Washington to explore this thought while the Isaacsons will go to South Dakota to visit the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation and Agency to learn if any similar crimes were committed there in the recent past. Moore and Kreizler then go to visit Cyrus in the hospital. As they leave, they are kidnapped by two former police detectives, the same who beat Giorgio Santorelli's father. When they arrive at their destination, they find themselves in the home of John Pierpont Morgan.

Part 2, Association: Chapters 26-29 Analysis

Another boy-prostitute has been killed, but this time he is taken while Cyrus is alone on the roof of his employer. Cyrus is injured, hit on the head, suggesting a killer with quite a great deal of strength in his arms. The child is later found dead, but the killer was interrupted and the child still has one of his eyes. This gives Marcus a chance to try a technique believed to be accurate at the time, a picture that might show the last image the victim saw. This does not work, but it shows the reader the type of science and experimentation that was common at the time.

Kreizler jumps on something Roosevelt says, dirty Red Injun, and decides to explore the Indian connection to the murder after recalling that the killer used the same phrase in his letter to Mrs. Santorelli. This leads Kreizler to believe that the killer knows about mutilations the Indians often used with their enemies, including white settlers. Kreizler comes to believe the killer was either a child living in the West, or a soldier in the West. This leads to the next step in the investigation, a trip to Washington for Kreizler and to South Dakota for the Isaacsons.

Kreizler and Moore are kidnapped by a former detective with the New York Police Department and taken to the home of John Pierpont Morgan, most readers will recognize as one of the most wealthy citizens of New York at the time. His connection to the crime and the corrupt cops can only prove interesting as the reader recalls that these same cops who have kidnapped Kreizler and Moore are the same who have been bribing the victims' families.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 30-33

Part 3, Will: Chapters 30-33 Summary

In Chapter 30, Kreizler and Moore find themselves standing before Bishop Potter, former police commissioner Thomas Byrnes, and Postal Censor Anthony Comstock. These men proceed to tell Kreizler and Moore that their investigation into the child murders is causing discord among the immigrants, leading to possible financial problems for the leaders of the city. These men want Kreizler to stop what he is doing. Morgan, however, throws these men out of his office and asks some pointed questions about the investigation. Morgan then gives Kreizler permission to go ahead and continue his investigation.

In Chapter 31, Moore and Kreizler travel to Washington DC via train. Moore begins researching unsolved crimes in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The first few days seem to lead to nothing. Kreizler too is having difficulty learning anything from the uncooperative hospital staff of St. Elizabeth's. On the third day, Moore's friend in Indian Affairs gives him a report on a murder in New Paltz, New York that seems to fit the serial killer's modus operandi. Although the case is in New York, Moore cannot discount it because of the mutilations and the police conclusions that Indians followed the family to New York, killed the parents and kidnapped the child. When Moore shows this report to Kreizler, they discover that New Paltz is the birth place of the patient with the facial tick at St. Elizabeth's.

In Chapter 32, Kreizler asks Sara to check into the New Paltz murders. Sara comes back with information on the family, a preacher, his wife and son. The family lived in the West for a time while the father attempted to build a congregation. When that failed, the father returned to New York and used photos of massacred white settlers to raise money for another attempted excursion west. This failed and made Mr. Dury a very unpopular man, a fact that caused even more difficulty when a second son was born. This story seems to fit with all they know of the killer's childhood thus far. Kreizler telegraphs the Isaacsons for guidance and is encouraged to follow the lead.

In Chapter 33, Kreizler and Moore board a train for New York with the intention of visiting the older Dury son, Adam. On the way, they stop in New York City to see Sara and to send her off to New Paltz to investigate the murders of Mr. and Mrs. Dury more in depth. On the way back to the train, Kreizler uses three look alikes to fool the men who have apparently been following Sara.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 30-33 Analysis

Kreizler and Moore learn that it is Morgan and few other influential and powerful people in the city who have been trying to scare them off the investigation. However, Morgan decides to allow them to continue, hoping the capture of the killer will make things better

for the people of New York City. However, they become aware that they are still under surveillance from these people and are forced to use subterfuge to protect themselves and the investigation.

The investigation appears to have taken off, thanks in part to the connection to Indians implied in the letter from the killer. Kreizler and Moore go to Washington DC to investigate possible prior murders in other areas. Moore stumbles onto the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Dury, a small town preacher and his wife. The police blamed Indians on their murder due in part to the mutilation of the bodies. This appears to connect to a soldier who was once a patient at St. Elizabeth's asylum in Washington, a John Beecham, who claims to have been born in the same town where the murders took place. Kreizler and Moore are on their way to interview the young Dury's older brother with the hopes of definitively linking this man to Beecham, whom they believe to be one in the same.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 34-37

Part 3, Will: Chapters 34-37 Summary

In Chapter 34, Moore and Kreizler speak with Adam Dury. Adam tells them how his mother was an unwilling sexual partner to his father, causing them to have a smaller family than his father had hoped for. Adam recalls the night his brother, Japheth, was conceived. Adam also recalls how his brother was never physically abused by his mother, but emotionally abused from the moment of his birth. Adam tells them how Japheth developed a bad tick on his face at an early age that only disappeared when he was tracking and hunting animals. Adam also says that he taught Japheth to climb the rock faces near their family farm, something Adam's father had taught him. Finally, Adam confesses that he was aware that Japheth was once raped by a male friend named George Beecham.

In Chapter 35, Moore and Kreizler are shot at from an unseen sniper in the woods. Kreizler is wounded in the shoulder, but he and Moore manage to escape into the woods from which they walk to the nearest train station. As they wait for the train, Moore learns that Kreizler's romantic interests are in Mary, not Sara. In fact, Kreizler confesses to have recently asked Mary to become his wife. Moore and Kreizler board the train as it is leaving the station, afraid their would-be assassin might be at the station looking for them. In fact, Moore sees the same two men who attacked he and Sara outside the Santorelli apartment. Moore uses a walking stick to beat the two men and throw them off the train.

In Chapter 36, Moore arrives home only to be summoned to Kreizler's home by Sara. Moore arrives to discover that the former detectives who kidnapped Kreizler and Moore days before broke into the house and were torturing Stevie for information. Mary tried to stop them by stabbing one of the men, Connor. As the man reacted to his wound, he accidentally threw Mary down the stairs, breaking her neck. Kreizler has gone to the morgue to see his beloved's body. Moore goes to check on him and they end up fighting when Kreizler announces his intention to leave the investigation in order to protect the remaining people in his life.

In Chapter 37, Moore goes to the investigation's headquarters where he is given a telegram from the Isaacsons who have gone to speak with the soldier who declared John Beecham unfit for duty. They learn that John Beecham was known to climb mountains and had a facial tick. Moore sends a return telegram instructing the Isaacsons to come home. Sara arrives and encourages Moore to continue with the investigation despite Kreizler's decision to withdraw. Sara and Moore discuss the facts they have so far and begin to theorize that John Beecham and Japheth Dury are one in the same. Sara and Moore visit Roosevelt at home to get his permission to continue without Kreizler, which is quickly granted.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 34-37 Analysis

Moore and Kreizler learn a great deal about the Dury family in their visit to Adam Dury. Among these facts is evidence that Japheth Dury was not wanted and he was abused by his mother, facts that fulfill Sara's theories that the killer was not wanted and abused by a female caregiver. They also learn that Japheth Dury was raped by a man who shares the same last name as the patient in St. Elizabeth's asylum. All these things seem to suggest that Japheth Dury is the killer.

The investigative team continues to be harassed by the thugs employed by Morgan and his friends. As Moore and Kreizler return to the train station from Adam Dury's farm, they are shot at by a man they later identify as a couple of Morgan's thugs. Later, they learn two other men visited Kreizler's home and killed Mary, his intended fiancée. This causes Kreizler a great deal of grief, causing him to drop out of the investigation. However, Sara and Moore feel they are too close to finding the killer to stop now. Roosevelt gives permission for them to continue their investigation, giving them less than three weeks to find the killer.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 38-42

Part 3, Will: Chapters 38-42 Summary

In Chapter 38, the Isaacsons return to the city and tell Moore and Sara what they have learned about John Beecham. Beecham joined the army in 1881 at eighteen, though his commanding officer felt he was younger. Beecham was sent to Chicago where he became involved in an organization benefitting children. Beecham was asked not to return to the organization because he upset the children, causing him to be given a long leave. When Beecham returned to Chicago, he was involved in the Haymaker Riots during which he was seen by a commanding officer stabbing a man repeatedly. Beecham was sent to St. Elizabeth's Asylum after being deemed unfit to serve. The team then begin to use this new information to compare John Beecham and Japheth Dury to the picture they have already created of the killer, coming to the conclusion that they are all one in the same. The team decides to begin researching professions that would bring John Beecham in contact with both immigrant families with children and rooftops. After several days of following endless leads, Moore recalls seeing the census office in the middle of his search grid.

In Chapter 39, Moore and Sara go to the census office to ask if John Beecham ever worked there. They learn that John Beecham hired on to be a census enumerator, to go around and speak with members of the community to establish their household size and occupation. After the 1890 census, John Beecham was hired on as a clerk and worked there until the previous December when he was fired for visiting a family that was not scheduled for an interview under the guise of his job. Moore and Sara also get an address for John Beecham from the census office. Moore and Sara then go to the address where Beecham lived and find it belongs to an elderly woman with many cats. The woman believes Beecham was a sweet man, but Moore finds the remains of one of her cats under the mattress in the room where Beecham slept.

In Chapter 40, Moore, Sara, and the Isaacsons take this new information and build on it, deciding Beecham would have had to get another job dealing with immigrant families. Sara finds a bill collector who hired Beecham to visit debtors and encourage them to pay their bills. This man leads the team to a bar in Five Points.

In Chapter 41, Moore and the team visit the bar and learn from the bartender that Beecham had an apartment just up the street. The team finds a jar of human eyeballs, a map stuck to the wall, and a box with a human heart inside. All these clues appear to suggest Beecham is ready to be caught and he has left clues to help them find him before he kills his next victim. Moore, high on hope, goes back to headquarters where he finds Joseph, the boy-prostitute he befriended, dead inside a bag with his name on the outside.

In Chapter 42, Kreizler meets Moore at the morgue. Kreizler takes Moore to Delmonico's for breakfast and helps him through his grief. Kreizler then tells Moore that

he has been updated on the case and that he is willing to rejoin it only if Moore will attend the opera with him that Sunday. However, Sunday is the same day they expect the killer to strike again. Moore argues, but quickly loses. Moore returns to headquarters where the team discusses the map and tries to find where the killer will strike next. The team knows the killer will strike where there is water and Joseph said in a phone call to Moore shortly before his death that the killer had approached a street walker and promised to take him to a castle from which he can look down on New York City. This leads the team to believe that the killer will take his next victim to High Bridge Tower.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 38-42 Analysis

The team has learned a great deal about Beecham's military service, information that continues to support the ideas that Beecham is Japheth Dury and he is their serial killer. This information also leads to a search for Beecham in the many professions within the city that would cause him to be familiar with the roofs of the city buildings as well as the immigrant families. The census offices seems logical when Moore finally thinks of it, leading the team not only to proof that Beecham lived and worked in the city, but that he fits nearly every aspect of their psychological profile.

Joseph, the young boy Moore has befriended, is delivered to Moore dead. Moore is heartbroken just as Kreizler was over the death of Mary. Moore, however, refuses to give up the investigation and instead is more determined than ever to save the children of New York. With Roosevelt's help, the team picks a logical location for the killer's next move and plan to stake the place out in order to catch the killer red handed. At the same time, Kreizler agrees to come back to the team, showing the reader that everything is quickly coming together for these characters.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 43-47

Part 3, Will: Chapters 43-47 Summary

In Chapter 43, Moore attends the opera with Kreizler, still confused as to why Kreizler has insisted they attend this benefit on the night they all know the killer will strike again. Kreizler insists that he and Moore sit in the back of his box and Moore soon learns the reason for this when Cyrus and Stevie arrive in formal clothing. Kreizler and Moore sneak out of the opera and instead of going to the High Bride Tower as the others have done, they rush toward the opposite side of town. Kreizler tells Moore that he suspects the killer has chosen tonight for his final performance which is why he left his mementos abandoned in his apartment. In fact, Kreizler believes the heart found in the box did not belong to one of the boy-prostitutes, but to Dury's mother. Kreizler also believes the killer will strike earlier, that he is already at the Croton Reservoir with his victim.

In Chapter 44, Moore follows Kreizler up onto the promenade that surrounds the reservoir and they soon come upon a young boy who is tied up and abandoned near a control house. As Moore approaches the child, the killer appears, kicking Moore in the jaw. When Moore regains consciousness, he is tied up beside Kreizler on the fence. As they watch, the killer takes off his clothes and attempts to have sex with his victim, but he cannot achieve an erection. The killer becomes enraged and begins choking the boy. Suddenly Morgan's thugs arrive. They untie Kreizler and Moore while they keep the killer under surveillance. Connor, the man who killed Mary, tells Kreizler that they have been instructed to kill Beecham. However, before they can, Kreizler calls out to some unseen man. Paul Kelly's thug arrives and knocks each of Morgan's men unconscious.

In Chapter 45, Kreizler begins to interrogate Beecham, promising him an easier go of it if he cooperates. Beecham answers all of Kreizler's questions. However, Moore grows angry and he holds a gun to Beecham's head, demanding to know if he is really insane. Suddenly Beecham is thrown back and Moore believes he has shot him, but the shot came from Connor. Connor is then shot as Sara comes up on the scene. Beecham and Connor are both dead. Kreizler instructs the Isaacsons to help him remove Beecham's body, leaving Moore and Sara to deal with the police. Roosevelt arrives, angry, but he accepts Moore and Sara's version of the story.

In Chapter 46, Moore runs into Paul Kelly on his way home. Moore questions him about his actions in the case. Kelly refuses to admit to anything, but Moore deduces from his cryptic statements that he helped Kreizler because he knew Kreizler is the future of criminal investigation. Moore then goes to the Kreizler Institute where he finds Marcus waiting for his brother to finish assisting Kreizler with Beecham's autopsy. The two scientists found nothing to explain Beecham's homicidal behavior. Kreizler and Moore then go to Delmonico's for a meal and to discuss the case while Cyrus disposes of Beecham's body.

In Chapter 47, Moore is now back in 1919 where he tells the reader that the Isaacsons and Sara continue to live in New York and that they in fact often see one another. Cyrus married and continues to work for Kreizler while Stevie opened a successful tobacco shop.

Part 3, Will: Chapters 43-47 Analysis

Kreizler has been one step ahead of everyone all along, it seems. Kreizler not only knows where the killer will strike next, he knows when as well. Kreizler has set up a whole scenario so that he might watch part of the killer's ritual in order to gain information as to why someone would behave as John Beecham/Japheth Dury has done. This goes slightly awry when Morgan's thugs show up, but Kreizler is still able to question Beecham before he dies. Kreizler's interrogation of the killer is cut short by Connor, Morgan's thug, but he is also able to do an autopsy that proves that nothing physical caused Beecham to be a serial killer.

In the end, the team knows very little about the psychology of a serial killer. However, they do know that a psychological profile can be used to catch a killer and this is information that will lead to modern police procedures.

Characters

John Schuyler Moore

John Schuyler Moore is a reporter for the New York Times. Moore once was a political reporter in Washington, but a scandal in which he backed the wrong party caused him to lose his job. Moore now lives with his grandmother in New York City, a nervous woman who often finds herself unable to sleep in fear that a criminal she has read about in the paper will come to kill her.

Moore grew up in a wealthy section of New York City and has many friends who were also privileged and continue to enjoy the benefits of this class. Among his friends is Theodore Roosevelt, the police commissioner of New York City and a friend since childhood. The s psychologist Lazlo Kreizler is also included. These three friends went to Harvard at approximately the same time and grew close during this time, remaining good friends at the time the novel is set.

Moore is dragged out of bed in the beginning of the novel to visit a gruesome crime scene. The following day Moore learns that Kreizler wants to investigate the crime and that he wants Moore to help him. Moore becomes a part of a team that will use psychology to create a picture of the killer in order to aid them in finding him. This team will face multiple obstacles in a time period when the death of a boy-prostitute is not important enough to warrant the police's attention.

Dr. Lazlo Kreizler

Dr. Lazlo Kreizler is the son of a wealthy, highly social German immigrant and his wife. Kreizler suffers a broken arm as a child and this causes his arm to be stunted, leaving it small even into adulthood. However, this deformity does not cause Kreizler a great deal of difficulties in his life. In fact, Kreizler has a spirit that leads him into a boxing match with Theodore Roosevelt upon their first meeting. During the course of the novel, the reader will learn that Kreizler was an abused child and that it was his father that caused the break that would leave his arm deformed.

Kreizler attends Harvard at a time when a controversial psychologist was teaching there. Kreizler became a student of this controversial teacher and as such has become something of a controversial psychologist himself. Kreizler does not necessarily believe in the current definition of insanity and he strives to help people he feels have been wrongly accused of crimes or diagnosed as insane. In fact, three of the servants working in his own home have at one time been accused of a crime that involved some degree of perceived mental illness.

Kreizler learns about the murder of Giorgio Santorelli and comes to believe he is the latest in a string of serial killings. This inspires Kreizler to use some new thoughts in psychology to help create a picture of the killer in order to catch him. Kreizler's style of



psychology is not widely accepted, however, causing his involvement in the case to be kept secret in order to protect the police department and Theodore Roosevelt's job. This does not stop some local business men from learning of Kreizler's investigation, however, and striving to stop it.

Sara Howard

Sara Howard is a young woman who was very close to her father and raised to believe she can do anything she wants to do. Sara wants to be the first female cop with the New York City police department. To this end, Sara has taken a job as one of the first female secretaries with the department. However, Sara does not keep to her simple duties. In fact, Sara often finds herself becoming involved in aspects of the police department where she does not necessarily belong, such as checking on the Santorelli family after she believes one of the detectives on Giorgio's case has beaten his father.

Sara is a strong, intelligent woman who becomes a part of Kreizler's investigative team and makes her opinion quickly known. Sara comes up with a critical piece of the picture in regards to this serial killer, suggesting that his mother was the main source of emotional or physical abuse when the killer was a child. At first this idea is rejected, but later it is proven to be surprisingly accurate.

Lucius and Marcus Isaacson

Lucius and Marcus Isaacson are detectives with the New York City Police Department. If not for Roosevelt, these two might not have been hired because they are Jewish and Jewish cops were not often hired under the previous administration. The Isaacsons also have a strong background in forensic medicine, including knowledge of fingerprints, handwriting analysis, and medical investigation. If it were not for the Isaacsons, the investigators might not have learned that the killer left fingerprints on his first victims and at several of the latter crime scenes. Also, the Isaacsons are able to look at a letter the killer sent to Mrs. Santorelli and learn that the killer is only in his thirties based on the style of penmanship he learned in childhood. The Isaacsons are the true detectives of this novel, providing clues that Kreizler is able to translate into a psychological profile.

Stevie Taggart

Stevie Taggart is an employee of Kreizler. Stevie was once a street urchin who was arrested for theft. In juvenile hall, Stevie was abused by a guard in a sexual manner. Stevie stabbed the guard, wounding him. Kreizler testified at Stevie's trial, convincing the judge to allow the boy to move into Kreizler's custody rather than return to jail. Stevie becomes a lively part of the investigation into the boy-prostitute killings, often escorting the team members to various locations and bumming cigarettes any time he can.



Cyrus Montrose

Cyrus Montrose is a large black man who works for Dr. Kreizler. Cyrus was once accused in the murder of a police officer. Cyrus worked in a brothel and found the cop taking his graft in trade. Kreizler argued that Cyrus's actions were a delayed reaction to seeing his parents killed by a mob in a riot when he was a small child. Kreizler took Cyrus into his home to save him from a sentence in a public asylum. Cyrus is a loyal employee who does everything Kreizler asks of him, even if it is illegal. Cyrus is injured while helping the investigative team watch the business where they believe the killer will strike again, but he recovers in time to take a minor part in the final confrontation.

Japheth Dury/John Beecham

Japheth Dury is the unwanted child of Victor Dury and his wife. Victor Dury's wife disliked sex and would fight him whenever he wished to partake. On the night Japheth was conceived, Victor brutally raped his wife. Japheth became a living reminder of that terrible night, becoming the object of his mother's anger and frustration. Japheth's mother often belittled him, blaming him for every unpleasant moment of motherhood even when it was not Japheth's fault. Later, Japheth was raped by a male friend of his brothers. In a short time later, Japheth's parents were brutally murdered and mutilated and Japheth had disappeared.

John Beecham is a soldier with an odd facial tick who becomes a suspect in Kreizler's investigation when it is discovered that he was born in the same town as Japheth Dury. John Beecham is a soldier who was sent to the asylum in Washington DC when he was caught brutally stabbing a protester during the Haymarket Riots in Chicago. John Beecham then came to New York City where he began working with the Census bureau, a job that took him into direct contact with Giorgio Santorelli and his family. In the end, Kreizler and his team are able to establish that John Beecham and Japheth Dury are one in the same and they are the serial killer who has been killing boy-prostitutes.

Paul Kelly

Paul Kelly is the leader of a gang in New York during the boy-prostitute murders. Paul Kelly begins instigating mobs around the crime scenes each time a body is found in order to upset the police and to encourage Kreizler to continue his investigation. In fact, Kelly sends one of his men to Kreizler's aid in the final confrontation because he knows Kreizler is the future of police investigation and he wants to be able to say he was involved from the ground floor up. Kelly likes change, especially change that embarrasses the power in New York City.

Joseph

Joseph is a young boy-prostitute who was a friend of the sixth victim of the serial killer Kreizler and his team are attempting to catch. Joseph and Moore become friends. Moore often warns Joseph what to watch for, hoping to keep him safe. Instead, shortly after Joseph gives Moore information on the killer's final victim, he is killed and dumped at the offices of the investigation.

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt is the police commissioner at the time in which the novel is set. Roosevelt has attempted to clean the police department of corruption, causing him to fire most of the detectives who work for the department and hire new, younger men. This causes a great deal of unhappiness among the powers of New York as well as placing Roosevelt under scrutiny. As a result, Roosevelt would like to have Kreizler help with the investigation into the boy-prostitute murders, but knows it would cause his downfall if anyone found out. Roosevelt allows the outside investigation, but works to keep it secret.



Objects/Places

Letter from Killer

Sara comes into possession of a letter the killer wrote and sent to Mrs. Santorelli. The team uses this letter to learn a great deal about the killer, including his obsession with Indian mutilation.

Dageurreotype

Victor Dury took pictures of massacred and mutilated white settlers in order to gain support for a new mission into the west. One of these daguerreotypes appears on the lid of a box that holds the heart of Japheth Dury's mother.

Murder Report

Moore is given a report on the murder of a married couple in New Paltz, New York that includes the same type of mutilation that has appeared in the boy-prostitute murders. This report leads to the discovery of Japheth Dury and the genesis of John Beecham.

Cigarettes

Stevie is constantly asking for cigarettes from the investigative team despite the fact that Kreizler does not like him to smoke. Stevie will grow up to own a tobacco shop.

Chloral Hydrate

Chloral hydrate is a cheap sedative that doctors overuse in asylums during the time period in which this novel is set. This sedative is also used to drug Moore when he goes to Paresis Hall alone.

Map

Moore, the Isaacsons, and Sara find a map hanging in Beecham's apartment that is later believed to be a map of the water works under the city. The team uses this map to pinpoint Beecham's next killing site.

Shellacked Heart

Moore, the Isaacsons, and Sara find a shellacked human heart in a box that is later thought to have belonged to Beecham's mother.



Jar of Eyeballs

Moore, the Isaacsons, and Sara find a jar of eyeballs at Beecham's apartment shortly before the final confrontation that include those of the current victims and many more.

Paresis Hall

Paresis Hall is a bar owned by Biff Ellison and is where Giorgio Santorelli worked before his death. Kreizler's team establish proof that Giorgio was taken from his room here by the killer using mountain climbing equipment.

Kreizler Institute

The Kreizler Insitute is a school for troubled children that Kreizler runs.

Bellevue Hospital

Bellevue Hospital is a mental asylum that Kreizler visits often during the development of the plot to interview possible suspects.

Croton Reservoir

The Croton Reservoir is a large reservoir that once stood in the center of New York City. This reservoir had a promenade around it upon which people would often walk in order to enjoy the weather and look down on the city. Not long after the boy-prostitute murders are solved, the Croton Reservoir is destroyed to make room for the New York Public Library.

808 Broadway

808 Broadway is the address of the headquarters for Kreizler's investigation into the boy-prostitute murders.

Themes

Changing Times

Dr. Kreizler has a new way of looking at insanity. Rather than believing that all insane people are that way for unknowable reasons, Dr. Kreizler believes that insanity has its roots in a person's childhood. Dr. Kreizler believes that not all people who are deemed insane are truly insane. As an example of this, Dr. Kreizler testified at Cyrus' trial that Cyrus killed a police officer because his act of rape against a prostitute caused Cyrus to recall the stress of watching a mob kill his parents and he acted in a belated attempt to protect the people he loved. The judge continued to believe Cyrus was insane but Dr. Kreizler took Cyrus into his home and never experienced another homicidal episode at his hands.

Many people in the psychological world at the time this novel is set do not support Dr. Kreizler's beliefs. These people believe that Kreizler is misguided and that his approach to psychology will eventually be disproven, causing Kreizler's fall from grace. However, as the reader makes their way through this novel, they soon come to realize that many of Kreizler's beliefs are the basis for modern psychology. Kreizler looks to a person's childhood to see what made them the adult they have become and how that childhood causes a person to act in a specific way. This is very much like modern psychology in that many psychologists look to a criminal's childhood to guess as to how a criminal will act and respond to specific events or actions. For this reason, changing times is a theme of the novel.

Psychological Aspects of Murder

Even though Dr. Kreizler is not supported in his work or his community, his beliefs in psychology prove to be a big help in tracking down a killer. Kreizler believes that if his team can look at the serial killer's acts, at his words, and at his chosen crime scenes, they can figure out what kind of person he truly is. By doing this, the team builds a picture of the criminal, not only of his present person, but of the person he was in the past as well.

Dr. Kreizler brings to the search for a serial killer a psychological aspect that has up to this point not been known. Investigators rarely used what we now know as forensics and especially not a profile of the killer's psychology. Investigators would view the facts as they saw them and use them to the best of their ability to find a killer. In the case of murdered and mutilated boy-prostitutes, the investigators saw no reason to investigate, deciding that perhaps it was better for society if these young men simply disappeared. Therefore, the case would not have been solved if not for Dr. Kreizler's unique investigation.

Dr. Kreizler searches for the killer, not using the few clues left at the crime scenes, but using the entire crime scene as well as other clues. Dr. Kreizler builds a picture of the killer based on his choice of water based crime scenes, his choice of victims, and his words in a taunting letter to a victim's mother. Dr. Kreizler uses psychology to hunt a killer and is successful in his endeavors, leading to what is now common practice in law enforcement agencies worldwide. This makes the psychology of murder a theme of the novel.

Corruption

Theodore Roosevelt has been police commissioner for less than a year when the boy-prostitute killings begin. Roosevelt has spent that time trying to weed out the most corrupt cops in the department, firing nearly the entire detective squad as well as ruffling the feathers of some of the most important citizens of the town. Roosevelt recognizes that corrupt cops cannot protect a city adequately and he wants to make New York a place where people can feel safe and can trust those who are given the role of protector.

During the investigation of the boy-prostitute murders, Dr. Kreizler and his team find themselves harassed by some of these ex-detectives who have found new employment with some of the most wealthy and powerful citizens of New York during their time, including J.P. Morgan. This leads to the death of Kreizler's fiancée, showing the reader how far these people were willing to go and how far they often went when dealing with members of the public. For this reason, corruption is a theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first-person point of view. The narrator, John Schuyler Moore, is a reporter who is friends with both Dr. Lazlo Kreizler and Theodore Roosevelt, a fact that pulls Moore into the middle of Kreizler's investigation into a serial killer. The novel begins with Moore reminiscing on his good friend Theodore Roosevelt who has recently passed away. This nostalgia causes Moore to recall an investigation the three friends embarked on together, the story of the boy-prostitutes and the man who was murdering them.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot. Due to the fact that the novel is set in the last decade of the nineteenth century, the reader almost expects the narrator to be slightly removed from the action being described in the novel. This is partially true of Moore. Moore does not appear to have a functioning role in the investigation at first. Moore is almost an afterthought, along simply to assist rather than to do any active investigating. However, Moore's function becomes clear at the end of the novel when he takes charge of the investigation and comes up with the answer as to the killer's profession before anyone else. Therefore Moore spends a great deal of time reporting on the events taking place in the novel rather than taking part in them. This fits with the setting of the novel and gives the novel a more realistic feel.

Setting

The novel begins in New York in 1919, the day Theodore Roosevelt is put to rest. This day is significant to Roosevelt's good friends, John Schuyler Moore and Dr. Lazlo Kreizler. This sad day reminds Moore of a time when the three friends worked together to stop a killer, taking the story back in time to the spring of 1896. This is a time period when psychology was still a fairly new science filled with misunderstandings and great confusion. It was also a time when the death of a young, male prostitute was not a major concern to the police department. However, both these elements of this time period are about to change.

The author of the novel tells his reader in an afterward that he purposely choose this time period to write about for two reasons: his fascination with Theodore Roosevelt who was police commissioner at the time and the fact that this time period was the advent of the use of psychological techniques to track criminals. In this novel, Kreizler uses his training, training that is new and untested, to create a picture of a serial killer in order to aid in the killer's capture. This is a method that was never used before, never even considered before, its amazing success is destined to change the way law enforcement investigates crimes. This setting is highly important to the plot, making the plot more believable and the historic feel of the novel that much more important.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is English that tends to lean toward a more formal tone. The language includes a grammar that is more formal than modern grammar, giving the novel a sense of the old fashioned, enhancing the feel of the setting with words that might be unfamiliar to a modern reader. However, the language does not include a bunch of antiquated words that a reader might require a dictionary to help them understand. The language is stiff and somewhat formal but not incomprehensible.

The language used in this novel is more formal than a reader might expect from a modern bestseller. However, this language is purposely more formal than modern language because the novel is set in a time period when slang and informal speech would be considered foreign. The language of this novel, therefore, could pose a problem for someone who is not familiar with this stiffer language, but not so difficult that it cannot be overcome.

Structure

The novel is divided into three parts and forty-seven chapters. Each chapter varies in length from twenty to thirty pages to just one or two pages. The first chapter is set in the present tense in 1919. However, the second and all the remaining chapters, except for the last, are all set in the past, in 1896. This structure allows the main character, John Schuyler Moore, to reflect on the events of 1896 with the hindsight of twenty-three years and tell the reader a story laced with comments based on the narrator's prior knowledge of each event.

The novel contains one main plot and several sub-plots. The main plot follows Dr. Kreizler and his team as they use a psychological profile to track a serial killer. One of the subplots includes the harassment of a group of fired police detectives as they attempt to stop Kreizler's investigation. Another subplot involves the romantic interest of Dr. Kreizler in his young housekeeper, Mary. All the plots come together in the end and the story is neatly wrapped up in the final chapter with comments on each of the characters and where their lives took them.

Quotes

"Theodore is in the ground" (Part 1, Perception: Chapter 1, pg. 3.)

"As Roosevelt had said, murders that appeared insoluble and that occurred among the poor or outcast were barely recorded, much less investigated, by the police; and when the victims were members of a segment of society that was not generally acknowledged to exist, then the chances of public awareness shrank from slim to none" (Part 1, Perception: Chapter 3, pg. 21.)

"So—on that dismal March morning Kreizler and I became detectives, as all three of us knew we must" (Part 1, Perception: Chapter 6, pg. 61.)

"The essential purpose of Paresis Hall was to arrange affairs between customers and the various types of prostitutes who worked there" (Part 1, Perception: Chapter 11, pg. 111.)

"The feeling that we faced a greater challenge than simply catching our killer—a feeling that had taken seed after Giorgio Santorelli's murder—now began to grow and chafe at each of us" (Part 2, Association: Chapter 19, pg. 183.)

"The stakes, as they say, were rising" (Part 2, Association: Chapter 20, pg. 202.)

"It was apparent, even to my tired, bored brain that we'd had our first contact with the killer" (Part 2, Association: Chapter 25, pg. 258.)

"Eventually we came up with two overall areas: Either the killer had, as a child, witnessed the brutal campaigns against the Sioux that had led up to and followed General Custer's death at the Little Big Horn in 1876, or he had participated as a soldier in the brutal repression of dissatisfied Sioux tribesmen that culminated in the battle of Wounded Knee Creek in 1890" (Part 2, Association: Chapter 29, pg. 287.)

"The man, I noted quickly, had thinning hair, and his scalp glistened in the morning sun" (Part 3, Will: Chapter 33, pg. 335.)

"It was an unfamiliar sort of conversation for him, and difficult in many ways; but never had I seen the man look or sound so completely human as he did on that train ride" (Part 3, Will: Chapter 35, pg. 361.)

"I suppose that I, too, should have been deeply gratified at the results of this initial interview; yet as I watched Beecham answer Lazlo's questions—his voice growing ever more compliant and even childish, with none of the threatening, arrogant tone he'd used

when we were his prisoners—I became powerfully irritated, disturbed at the very core of my spirit" (Part 3, Will: Chapter 45, pg. 466.)

"Just three years after the Beecham case, the Croton Reservoir—having been outmoded by a new water system constructed after Boss Platt consummated his Greater New York scheme—was demolished to make room for the main headquarters of that most marvelous of all philanthropical endeavors, the New York Public Library" (Part 3, Will: Chapter 47, pg. 487.)

Topics for Discussion

Who is John Schuyler Moore? Why is he recalling a murder investigation? Is he a cop? How did he become involved in the murder case? For what reason? What is his role in the investigation? Why would someone like Moore become involved in this investigation? Why not leave it to the police?

Who is Dr. Lazlo Kreizler? Describe how his beliefs in regards to insanity and psychology are different from those commonly accepted by his peers. Why does Kreizler think differently than others? Why do people shun Kreizler for his beliefs? Why does Kreizler hang on to his beliefs? Who is right? Who is wrong? Explain.

Who is Sara Howard? Why does Sara want to be a police officer? What is standing in her way? What position does Sara take with the police department? Why does Sara become involved in Kreizler's investigation? What role does Sara play in the investigation and for what reason?

Who are the Isaacsons? Why would they have not been hired in the police department by Theodore Roosevelt's predecessor? Why did Roosevelt hire them? What skills do they bring to Kreizler's team? Where did they learn these skills and for what purpose? How do the Isaacsons change the direction of the investigation?

Discuss Theodore Roosevelt. Why did the author choose to include a real person in his fictional work? What role does Roosevelt play in the novel? Is his role important? For what reason? Why does the author choose to show Roosevelt at home with his children in one scene? What does this scene say about Roosevelt? How does it correlate with the opening chapter of the novel and for what reason?

Discuss the setting of the novel. Why has the author chosen the last decade of the nineteenth century for his setting? How does the reader become aware of the setting? What impact does the setting have on the novel? What impact does it have on the characters within the novel? How might the novel be different if it had been set in modern times? Would it have lost some of its impact on the reader? Explain.

Discuss the killings. How do these killings compare to the Jack the Ripper killings in London? Are the setting similar? The victims? Why do you think the author chose to make these comparisons? What impact does the comparison have on the ultimate ending of the novel? What statement does this ending say about the methods used in the Jack the Ripper investigation? Do you think different methods would have resulted in the capture of the Jack the Ripper murderer?