

The Amber Room Study Guide

The Amber Room by Steve Berry (novelist)

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Plot Summary

The Amber Room by Steve Berry is a tale of intrigue, mystery, and journey of love. Berry sets his tale in the United States, Russian, Italy, and Germany. After the sudden death of her father, Rachel Cutler ventures to find information about the Amber Room, an invaluable piece of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II. Rachel is hunted by Christian Knoll and Suzanne Danzer for her knowledge. Her ex-husband comes to her aide abroad and the two solve the mystery of the Amber Room's location and fall in love again.

The novel begins in 1945. Karol Boyra is being held in a Nazi concentration camp in Austria. While there, he learns of the existence of the Amber Room. After the Nazis loose the war, Karol is forced to become an investigator of Soviet Russia. It is his job and his partner, Danya Chapaev, to find art that the Nazis stole. Danya and Karol were assigned to the Amber Room. In the present, Karol lives in Atlanta, GA. His daughter, ex son-in-law, and grandchildren also live there. Unfortunately for Karol, he gets a visit from Christian Knoll, a German who works for Franz Fellner. Fellner is looking for the Amber Room. Knoll kills Karol for not giving him information.

After Karol's funeral, Paul finds letters from Karol about the Amber Room. Rachel decides she wants to go the Germany to talk to Karol's ex-partner. She does not think her father's murder was an accident. She goes to Germany alone and is approached by Christian Knoll. Knoll seems helpful, but has a hidden agenda. Before Rachel and Knoll can get to Danya, Suannze Danzer, Ernst Loring's employee, forces him to lie about the location of the Amber Room. This sends Rachel and Knoll to the Hartz Mountains. Once inside, Knoll decides to kill Rachel, but before he does, Suzanne detonates explosives in the mountain caves. Both Knoll and Rachel escape separately.

Knoll and Suzanne try to kill each other because Suzanne has broken a rule by trying to kill Knoll. Knoll is given permission to kill whoever causes problems.

Paul arrives in Germany because he is worried about Rachel and finds her hurt. He wishes to go home, but instead they go to speak with a German federal investigator. Luckily for Paul, Rachel is alright. The couple decides to go see Wayland McKoy, who is trying to find the Amber Room. The trio quickly discover that the Amber Room may be in the possession of Ernst Loring.

They travel to Loring's castle and discover the Amber Room. Confrontation and fighting ensues, ending with Loring, Suzanne, and Knoll killed. Wayland and the Cutlers walk away from the castle as heroes to the Russian and German governments for finding the location of the Amber Room. Rachel and Paul renew their vows to seal their new love for one another. They also bury Karol in Belarus, his hometown.



Prologue

Prologue Summary

The Amber Room by Steve Berry is a tale of intrigue, mystery, and journey of love. Berry sets his tale in the United States, Russian, Italy, and Germany. After the sudden death of her father, Rachel Cutler ventures to find information about the Amber Room, an invaluable piece of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II. Rachel is hunted by Christian Knoll and Suzanne Danzer for her knowledge. Her ex-husband comes to her aide abroad and the two solve the mystery of the Amber Room's location and fall in love again.

As the novel begins, the reader is introduced to Karol Broya, a Russian man being held as a Nazi prisoner of war. The other Russians in Karol's barracks call him Ears because he is the only one that speaks Russian. As the men huddle together in their lice ridden bunks, Sergeant Humer barges into the barracks demanded four "volunteer." The prisoners are frightened, scared, and confused. Normally, killings did not occur at night. The Nazis had to give the gas chambers time to air out before the next batch of prisoners were killed.

As the men are led from the barracks, they are given wool coats. Shocked, they put on the coats and continue following Sergeant Humer. Since being taken as a prisoner, Karol can not remember the last time he wore a real coat. Since arriving at the Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Austria, Karol has hardly felt like a human. Stripped of his clothes, hair, and humanity, he is replaced by a number, 10901.

As the Russians stand outside in the freezing cold, four German soldiers or Nazis walk out into the field. Humer instructs the Russians to tightly tie the soldiers to wooden stakes in the ground. Karol wonders what the men could have done. Suddenly the main gate to the yard swings open and a fat, very well dressed man enters the court yard. Karol recognizes him as Hermann Goring, Hitler's chosen successor. Goring tells the soldiers that until they give him the information he wants, the Russian prisoners are to torture the soldiers by pouring freezing cold water on the them until they confess where the das Bernsteinzimmer is or the Amber Room. Once they confess, a prisoner will take their place and die. Goring begins to question Mathais, the strongest soldier and obvious leader. Mathais calls Goring a liar and refuses to tell him where the Amber Room is. Goring urinated on Mathais, which only provokes Mathais to spit on Goring.

It takes two hours for Mathais and the other soldiers to die of hypothermia.

Prologue Analysis

As the novel begins, the reader is quickly informed about the early life of Karol Boyra. Because Karol is the only German speaking Russian in his group of fellow war prisoners, the others look up to him. They depend on him to discover how to act. If



Boyra makes a wrong move, all of his fellow prisoners will be killed. They deeply depend on one another in this intense time of life or death. Although Boyra has been beaten, defeated, and is on the brink of death, he feels the fear, ruthlessness, and loyalty of the German soldiers. While he feels bad for them, he also sees them as his captors and blind followers of Hitler. Karol is only able to relate to Mathais for a couple minutes before he remembers that in order for him to survive, Mathais must die.

Berry's descriptions of the Mauthausen concentration camp show the cruelty and brutality of the camps in World War II. His clear descriptions allow the reader to envision the horror of the camps. Berry cannot assume that his reader knows anything about Hitler, concentration camps, or World War II. He must clearly create a picture of what it was like to live in a camp. Hermann Goring was a real person. Through his character portrayal in the book, the reader truly understands the crazed, cruel person Berry portrays him as.



Part 1: Chapters 1-4

Part 1: Chapters 1-4 Summary

Switching to present day Atlanta, Georgia, Chapter 1 begins in a courtroom. Rachel Cutler is presiding over a case. The defending lawyer presses for a mistrial. Rachel reminds the lawyer that he has addressed her as "sir" several times. The Lawyer, T. Marcus Nettles, is trying to offend Rachel so that he can insist she shows bias as a judge. Rachel does not fall for the tactic and insists that Nettles come to her chambers after court. In chamber, she vigorously reprimands Nettles. After Nettles calls her several derogatory terms and curses her, she finds him in contempt of court and throws him in jail.

In Chapter 2, Rachel reflects on her career as a judge. She has enjoyed being a judge and is rated as one of the best judges in Fulton County. This year is an election year and she is not looking forward to campaigning. Her next case is a name change. The requester name is Karl. He was a lieutenant in the Soviet Army During World War II and captured by the Nazis. He fled to America during Stalin's regime and changed his name so that his family in Russia would not be harmed. Rachel grants his name change to Karol and then rises to hug the man. It is revealed that Karol is Rachel's father and the same man from the Prologue.

As Chapter 3 begins, Paul Cutler stands in a deposition waiting for Nettles. He is informed by a clerk that his ex-wife, Rachel, has put Nettles in jail. Nettles suddenly barges in without apologizing for being late. He calls Rachel many names included Ice Queen. Paul hates it when people complain about Rachel to him. Nettles thinks that Paul is still in love with Rachel.

Chapter 4 starts with Karol driving. In this point in the novel, Karol is eighty-one years old. He has lived in Fulton County for 40 years. When he was fifty-seven, his wife died and luckily, Rachel never moved far away from Karol. As Karol arrives home, his grandchildren Brent and Marla charge into the room. Rachel follows behind. Karol wonders why Paul was not at the name change hearing and Rachel says Paul was held up in court. Karol presses Rachel about finding a suitor. Rachel insists she does not want to talk about it with her father. She also insists she is no longer in love with Paul, which Karol does not believe. Rachel leaves the children with Karol while she attends a campaign fundraiser.

After Rachel leaves, Karol hears about an interesting expedition on the news. Wayland McKoy, a millionaire contractor is going to search for the tunnels the Nazis built to hide money, pieces of art, and jewels. This catches Karol's attention because the reporter mentions the Amber Room.



Part 1: Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Rachel Cutler and Paul Cutler are introduced in this section. Rachel is a brass, no-nonsense, extremely smart judge. She is a good loving mother and very loyal daughter. As the reader gets to know Rachel, he discovers that she will not let anyone pull the wool over her eyes. Sometimes Rachel is definitely too quick to act. Her cold demeanor and quick tongue often get her in trouble and have earned her the name of Ice Queen. Men like Nettles are jerks, but Rachel could have shown more diplomacy so to not aggravate him too much. Quickly the theme of Pros and Cons of Powerful Women quickly comes into play. It is Rachel's boldness and hurtful words that lead to the end of her and Paul's marriage. Berry will not allow Rachel to be happy unless she changes. Also, if a man acted the way Rachel had, he probably would not have to suffer the consequences Rachel is often faced with.

It is also revealed that Karol is Rachel's father. The two are extremely close and love each other very much. While Rachel knows her father well and has heard of many of his experiences in the Nazi camp, she knows nothing of the Amber Room. Karol's interest is piqued when he hears a story on the news concerning the Amber Room. In a way, this news report foreshadows the people and places that Rachel will soon meet on behalf of her father.



Part 1: Chapters 5-8

Part 1: Chapters 5-8 Summary

In Chapter 5, Paul picks the children up from Karol's house and apologizes for not being able to make Karol's name change hearing. As Paul leaves with the kids, Karol continues listening to the news for information concerning the McKoy exhibition. Two years prior, McKoy led another expedition to the Heimkehl Caverns in Germany where they found cars and famous paintings. McKoy secured permits to go on the excavation and is only allowed to keep a certain amount of the money.

At the beginning of Chapter 6, Paul brings Marla and Brent back home. He gets into the house easily because Rachel insists he keep a key to the house. The house still remains in both of their names and he is welcome to come there whenever he wants to be there, but tries not to abuse it. Paul misses Rachel and wonders who will be in charge of her next campaign. As Paul begins to leave, Rachel returns home. Paul warns Rachel against Nettles, who has decided to back the other two candidates running against her. The two argue about how Rachel should live her life and then storms off.

In Chapter 7, the location of the book and characters completely change. In Northeast Italy, Christian Knoll breaks into the chateau of Signor Pietro Caproni. Quickly, Knoll discovers the item he has been sent to steal, a silver and gold Faberge match case that belonged to Nicholas Romonov, the last Tsar of Russia. Suddenly Pietro Caproni appears on the other side of the room holding a gun. He says that he has been waiting for Knoll ever since Knoll visited posing as an art historian. Pietro lets Knoll touch the match case, but just as he is about to shoot Knoll, Knoll throws a knife that lands in Pietro's chest.

Knoll, ever the jet setter, quickly returns to Russia in Chapter 8. He goes to the records depository to learn about the next items he must steal. After World War II, the Russian government created the Extraordinary State Commission on the Registration and Investigation of the crimes of the Fascist German Occupiers. The Commission employed thousands of people sent to investigate the whereabouts of art stolen by the Nazis throughout the world. Knoll finds a case file with a name he recognizes: Danya Chapaev. The second note on the record was recorded by the KGB only seven years ago. It mentioned that Yxo (Ears in Russian) is really Karol Borya who immigrated to the US in 1958 and changed his name to Karl Bates. From the KGB information, it seems that Yxo never found the yantarnaya komnata (The Amber Room). Knoll is excited because this is a new lead in his case.

Part 1: Chapters 5-8 Analysis

Paul Cutler is further introduced in this chapter. Paul is a kind caring man, who honestly and truly loves Rachel. The reader can tell that the two characters still have feelings for



each other, but something went terribly wrong. Paul is too eager to please and too quick to help. Rachel predicts that he will always be around for her, and this begins to bore her. She does not want his predictability or lectures on how she should act. This angers Paul who only wants the best for the woman he still loves.

Here, Christian Knoll is introduced into the story. Immediately, the reader can tell that Knoll is an extremely dangerous man. He kills Pietro without a second thought, almost delighted that the man is carrying a gun. Knoll is also seen as an incredibly smart person. He quickly goes through pages and pages of report notes on the Commission. He is perceptive as he notices that the clerk is obviously spying on him.



Part 1: Chapters 9 - 11

Part 1: Chapters 9 - 11 Summary

In Chapter 9, the reader learns a little bit about the Christian Knoll. Knoll lives at a castle, called Burg Hertz. Burg Hertz is the home of Knoll's employer, Franz Fellner. Knoll's father was a factory worker and his mother was a music teacher. They lived in a small apartment in Munich. Jacob Knoll, instilled anger into his son. He was also a fervent member of the Nazi party and remained devoted to Hitler until he died. At 18, with his father and mother dead, Knoll enrolled at the University of Munich. He then secured a fellowship at Cambridge and then a job at Nordstern Fine Art Insurance Limited in London. Knoll met Franz Fellner, an art collector, eight years ago who lured Knoll into his employment. Knoll loves his job including the killing, the stealing, and the women. Knoll gets a call to meet Monika Fellner, the heir to the Fellner Communications empire and the art collection. Monika informs Knoll that her father is furious and he wishes to see Knoll. The death of Pietro Caproni has been all over the newspapers. Before going to see Monica's father, the two have sex.

In Chapter 10, Monika and Knoll make their way to Franz's secret office. There, Franz insists that Knoll not kill anyone again. Franz would soon like to retire, but before he does, he would like to find the Amber Room. Knoll informs Franz that his searches at the depository have led him to a new lead: Karol Borya. Franz is desperate to find the Amber Room, so he pushes Knoll to go to France and question Boyra on Danya Chapaev. Monika and Franz pressure Knoll to watch out for Suzanne Danzer, Ernst Loring's employee.

Chapter 11 takes the reader to England where they meet Suzanne Danzer. Suzanne has successfully stolen a B.N. snuffbox from a man she is sexually involved with. In Chapter 12 Suzanne makes her way to Volary in the Czech Republic. Suzanne is happy to have acquired the box that her employer, Loring, wanted. As it turns out, Suzanne was raised on Loring's property, Castle Loukov. Her mother died when she was very young and her father's frequent travels left her on Loring's property. Loring always treated Suzanne as a daughter. As she approaches Loring, he is gardening. Loring is thrilled with the snuffbox. The two begin to speak about The Amber Room and how Franz would like to find it for Monika's unveiling as his successor. Suzanne has been bribing the clerk from the records depository. While Loring thinks there are many other important discoveries to be made, he would not want Monika and Franz to discover The Amber Room first. Loring and Suzanne agree she should go and keep an eye on Knoll.

Part 1: Chapters 9 - 11 Analysis

The reader also learns more about Christian Knoll. Whereas one might have thought Knoll only killed for his job, it seems that Knoll relishes in the killing. Maybe he got the



need to kill from his angry Nazi father? Christian is no Nazi sympathizer but he can be an extremely cruel and unhinged person when he is provoked.

In this section Monika and Franz Fellner are introduced. Fellner is obviously a man who loves art, but does not think that innocent people should be murdered because of it. He feels that Christian should have more control over himself. Monika, on the other hand, is a bit of a loose cannon. Sexy, smart, and angry, Monika will inherit her father's company and art. Monika is extremely temperamental. She is also Christian's lover, so the two characters have gotten to know each other well.

The reader is lastly introduced to Suzanne Danzer, Christian Knoll's female counterpart. Suzanne has worked extremely hard to get where she is today. As the novel pursues she and Christian will battle each other at every turn, even though they are attracted to one another.



Part 1: Chapters 12 - 15

Part 1: Chapters 12 - 15 Summary

Peeked by new curiosity surrounding The Amber Room, Karol begins to review the history of the room in Chapters 12-13. In 1701, Frederick I of Prussia commissioned panels of amber at his Charlottenburg palace (the Catherine Palace). He thought an amber filler room would be beautiful. The room was only partially completed in 1712, when the kingship passed on to Frederick William I who declared the room would not be finished and packed up the panels. In 1755, Empress Elizabeth of Prussia decided to put the panels on display. The room was finally finished by 1770. The room survived several revolutions and restorations were performed. The Catherine Palace had been turned into a museum by 1941. The day before the palace was taken, Russian officials had many things shipped away but could not ship the panels, so they attempted to cover the panels with wallpaper. When Hitler learned of the panels he instructed Erich Koch to return the room to Königsberg. The Nazis opened their own museum and claimed it was a part of German history. In 1945, the beginning of the end for the Nazis, Koch ordered that the panels be taken away and Alfred Rohde supervised their removal.

There is a knock at the door and to Karol's surprise it is a man with a German accent, Christian Knoll. Knoll is somewhat polite to Karol and begins to question him concerning The Amber Room. Karol insists he does not know where the room is or where Danya is. He also retells the story of Maithus. Knoll begins to leave, and feeling overcome by his emotions and years tortured by the Germans, Karol spits on Knoll. Knoll leaves. Karol settles in for the night.

In Chapters 14 -15, Karol is startled to hear something stirring downstairs. He calls to his cat Lucy, but is jumped by a very angry Knoll. Knoll is extremely insulted by being spit on. He threatens Karol but Karol admits nothing. Knoll cruelly snaps Karol's neck. From outside the house, Suzanne witnesses Knoll kill Karol. She has been following Knoll all day. She remembers Karol's house from her visit to see him two years ago. Suzanne walks through the house but finds nothing. She checks Karol's pulse and he is definitely dead.

Part 1: Chapters 12 - 15 Analysis

Berry delivers the history in the novel as excitedly as possible. He builds the information that is revealed about the Amber Room as the book progresses. Again, He cannot assume that the reader knows anything about World War II or the Amber Room. It is important to fill the reader in.

Karol and Knoll's confrontation remind Karol of being in the concentration camp over 50 years ago. He cannot get the pain and degradation from his mind. He also knows that



anyone asking about the Amber Room is not good. To him, the Amber Room should stay good and buried so less people die for looking into the mystery. Knoll maintains a facade of politeness as he leaves Karol, but this mask is quickly changed when Karol spits on Knoll. Until the end, Karol Boyra was a strong brave man. Knoll believes himself to be good at his job, but he does not notice Suzanne looking in on him. This should bother Knoll. It foreshadows Suzanne's trail along Knoll's cases.



Part 1: Chapters 16 - 19

Part 1: Chapters 16 - 19 Summary

In Chapter 16, Rachel discovers the body of her father. It has been placed at the bottom of the stairs and looks like he fell down the stairs and broke his neck. Meanwhile, Paul is at the High Museum of Art. A reporter has requested to do a profile on Paul. As the reporter and Paul discuss Paul's work at the museum, the reporter points out that Paul's parents, Yancy and Maureen, were also benefactors at the museum. They and 27 other people died on an airbus leaving Italy. Paul quickly leaves the museum.

In Chapter 17, Rachel, her children, and Paul are at Karol's funeral. Rachel begs Paul to go through Karol's things and handle his last wishes and will. Paul obliges and wishes that he and Rachel were still together. Paul does not find anything concerning the will at Karol's house, just some research concerning the Amber Room. At the Georgia Citizens Bank, Paul finally retrieves Karol's will with other important papers attached.

Chapter 18 is a collection of letters between Karol and Danya. After so many years, the KGB is asking questions about the Amber Room and this concerned Karol. They both have families and grand children they do not want harmed. He thinks that the two men should no longer communicate and never discuss what they know about the room. He tells Danya he thinks it is his fault that Yancy and Maureen Cutler are dead. He should never have asked Yancy to make inquiries about the Amber Room or Loring again. Lastly, Karol has left a letter to Rachel. He apologizes for Yancy and Maureen's deaths. He hopes that Rachel and Paul will get back together and begs Rachel to never go looking for the Amber Room.

Paul has brought the letters to Rachel in Chapter 19. She cannot believe Karol's letters and wonders at what the Amber Room is. Both Paul and Rachel are confused as to why Karol thought he was responsible for the Cutlers' deaths. Rachel quickly decides she wants to go to Germany to find Danya. Paul says she is crazy and that she should not act too quickly. Rachel is resistant because she believes her father, and Paul's parents were murdered. Paul discovers where Danya lives because Karol had Danya's hometown circled on a map.

In Chapter 20, Rachel cannot get the letters out of her mind. She recalls the story of Goring, the German soldiers, and the four Russian prisoners. Her father told her the story many years ago. She is paralyzed by the idea of finding the Amber Room. Rachel's mind is made up about going to Germany to see Danya. She heads to Paul's office to let him know her decision. Paul has always thought things through carefully while Rachel is hotheaded. At first she loved Paul's predictability, but it also became boring. Rachel and Paul fight over her decision, but Paul promises to watch over the kids when Rachel leaves.



Part 1: Chapters 16 - 19 Analysis

Rachel is overcome with grief over the death of her father. This grief causes her to act hastily and decide to go to Germany to research what her father warned her against: The Amber Room. Paul is confused because Karol mentions his father and mother in two of his letters. Why does he apologize to Paul for their deaths? This perplexes Paul, but does not cause him to want to run off to Germany to research the Amber Room. Rachel becomes angry. Why does Paul have to be so careful? Since when did his carefulness make her angry?

Before Karol's death, Rachel had unknowingly proved she still had feelings for Paul by leaving the house in his name, asking him to manage their stocks, and leaving pictures of him everywhere. Paul knows he can't force his way back into Rachel's life or force Rachel not to go to Germany. His best option is to let her go and search for Danya and more information on the Amber Room.



Part 2: Chapters 21-23

Part 2: Chapters 21-23 Summary

As Chapter 21 begins, Knoll is at Rachel's office. He is informed by her secretary that Rachel will not be in to work today. Using his charm, Knoll discovers that Rachel will be leaving for Munich tomorrow. He asks the secretary to let Rachel know he came by. Knoll made a call in to Monika to give her an update. She warns him about killing Rachel because she knows he has killed Karol.

In Chapter 22, across the mezzanine from Rachel's office, Suzanne Danzer stands disguised waiting for Knoll. She has been tracking him since he killed Karol Boyra. Suzanne congratulates herself on staying unnoticed by Knoll. The narration quickly shifts to Knoll's point of view. Knoll notices Suzanne has been following him as he makes his way to this hotel room. Wasting no time, he tries to find a ticket to Munich through Delta's phone service. Securing the ticket, he quickly leaves the hotel room. The narration then quickly shifts back to Suzanne who is shocked and annoyed to see that Knoll is going to the airport. Again, the narration shifts back to Knoll who gets to the airport quickly. Knoll notices Suzanne's sloppy disguise change. He buys his ticket and notices Suzanne buy whatever ticket she can get. He makes his way to the terminal and sees a chance to lose Suzanne by yelling that he is airport security. Knoll hops on the escalator and then onto the train that will take him to the international terminal. He slyly waves at Suzanne as he gets to the terminal without her. Just as Rachel Culter gets on the plane, Knoll locks eyes with her.

Suzanne strolls into Paul Cutler's office dressed in a new disguise of a chestnut wig, crepe skirt, double-breasted jacket and name in Chapter 23. Suzanne presses him for information concerning Rachel and Karol. At first Paul is hesitant, but when Suzanne emphasizes the danger Rachel is in, he quickly warms up to Suzanne. Paul gives her a copy of Karol's letters and final note to Rachel. He also tells Suzanne that Rachel went to Munich to find Danya. Suzanne thanks Paul for his help and tells him he has lovely parents. Paul tells her of their death and she apologizes for his loss. Suzanne remembers the last time she saw that couple when she put a bomb on the Italian plane that killed 29 people.

Part 2: Chapters 21-23 Analysis

Suzanne Danzer uses her manipulative sexuality on Paul without his knowledge. For instance, she dresses as a woman that would fit into his office and his lifestyle. She can mold herself into any appearance and make herself trustworthy for many different people. Paul instantly begins to feel at ease with Suzanne in her disguise. He trusts her enough to think about going to Germany and also giving Suzanne the letters to read. Suzanne is revealed to be just as deadly as Knoll. She was responsible for the deaths



of Paul's parents. She calmly says she is sorry for his loss, but she was the cause of his loss.

Suzanne's pursuit of Knoll is interesting because it proves that she can catch up to Knoll, who underestimated Suzanne for so long. In this section, the voice of the character is quickly changed, but Berry keeps the changes in voice clear with his mini breaks and use of the third-person and subjective voice.



Part 2: Chapters 24 - 26

Part 2: Chapters 24 - 26 Summary

Rachel arrives in Munich in Chapter 24. She is exhausted and so instead of going to Kehlheim, she takes a nap and then goes out for dinner. On her way back to her hotel room, Rachel passes some tourist groups and begins to admire the sights of the city. As she crosses an intersection, a rouge taxi driver comes out of nowhere. The brakes squeal but Rachel can't move. A man jerks him out of harm's way. He introduces himself as Christian Knoll and insists that they get a glass of wine to calm Rachel's nerves.

Rachel is flustered, but Knoll tries to calm her down. After they get their wine, Knoll admits that he has been following Rachel. He wanted to speak with her father, but when he arrived in Atlanta, he learned her father had died. He waited to contact her because she had just suffered a great loss. He also points out that he left messages with her secretary. At first, Rachel is suspicious, but then she is intrigued by Knoll.

Rachel does not trust him, but does tell him she is looking for Danya and information on the Amber Room. Knoll suggests that he drive Rachel to Kehlheim. At first Rachel refuses, but when Knoll insists that he will follow her anyway, she accepts his ride. Knoll makes his way to the Maximilianstrasse and walks to the fourth taxi in line. He hands over 500 euros and thanks the man for scaring Rachel with his car. This taxi driver has worked for Knoll in the past. He is surprised that Knoll did not want him to kill Rachel. He thinks Knoll may be interested in her.

Back in Atlanta, in Chapter 25, Paul is worried about Rachel. He has not heard from her since her flight arrived. He becomes increasingly worried about her safety, especially now that a dangerous Knoll is following her. Uncharacteristically, Paul calls an airline and books the first ticket he can find to Munich.

Luckily for Suzanne, she makes good time getting to Munich and then to Kehlheim in Chapter 26. Sporting a reddish-blond wig, larger breasts, and all-over body padding, Suzanne is sure people from the village will remember that a busty and heavy-set woman came to visit and not her. She asks where Danya Chapaev lives. Some of the older men cannot help her, but they summon Julius, Danya's grandson. He happily agrees to take Suzanne to see his grandfather.

Part 2: Chapters 24 - 26 Analysis

Knoll's sexual attraction hits Rachel with a ton of bricks. Knoll presents himself as a kind, helpful, and wonderful stranger that saves her life. He knows how to present himself in a way that Rachel will find incredibly attractive. Knoll also finds Rachel's brassiness and looks attractive. He lets this powerful woman's personality get in the way of why he is really in Germany. Rachel does not know whether she should trust Knoll or



mislead him. She is oddly attracted to him, but knows better than to get involved with a stranger. While she is normally quick to act, she is not as quick to open up to others.

It is interesting to note that Knoll never believes in uses a disguise or fake name as Suzanne does. This again proves his cockiness and sureness that no one will ever catch him. This behavior also shadows Knoll's downfall. Because he is so sure of himself, he never knows when Suzanne will attack. He also underestimates the power of the Cutlers. If Knoll had been less sure of himself, he would be even more successful in his search for the Amber Room.



Part 2: Chapters 27- 28

Part 2: Chapters 27- 28 Summary

In Chapter 27, Knoll and Rachel make their way to Danya's home. Rachel tries to uncover information about Knoll's boss. While Knoll attempts to breakdown Rachel's emotional barriers. He asks about Paul and if she is still in love with him. Rachel quickly changes the subject and the two continue to flirt. She is oddly attracted to Knoll. Knoll apologizes for Rachel's father's death, which intrigues her more, but shows the liar and manipulator Knoll is.

Rachel and Knoll arrive in Chapter 28. Danya eagerly welcomes them inside, saying that he immediately sees Karol in Rachel's face. Danya welcomes them both in and hears of the death of his friend. He quickly (and with little reluctance) tells them about Enrich Koch, one of Hitler's provincial governors. Koch claimed to know the location of the Amber Room to keep himself alive after the war. Koch lied and when it came time to identify the whereabouts he said he was confused because Konigsberg had been bombed during the war. Danya continues on stating that he saw the Amber Room. He and Karol found it by accident in the caves of the Hartz Mountains. Danya draws a map for Rachel and Knoll. Knoll asks why Danya is so forthcoming, hinting that he is suspicious of the old man's readiness to give information on a great secret. Danya then says he chose to share the information because of Rachel, not Knoll. The two leave and Danya wishes him luck.

The narration shifts as Suzanne comes out of Danya's bedroom. Danya begs Suzanne to let his grandson go because he lied to Rachel and Knoll about the Amber Room location. Suzanne reveals that she will have to kill Julius to tie up loose ends. She also reveals that Knoll killed Karol and Rachel does not know. As she points a gun at Danya, she says she will consider his request to not kill Julius.

In Chapter 29, Rachel and Knoll make their way to Warthberg. Knoll checks in with Monika and Rachel calls Paul, but leaves a message when he does not answer. Knoll purchases flashlights, shovels, and cord. Rachel comments that it seems Knoll has excavated a cave before. Before the two head back to their respective hotels, Knoll propositions Rachel. While Rachel is interested, she is not stupid and as no desire to rush into bed with Knoll. Knoll becomes more intrigued rather than insulted.

In Chapter 30, Rachel and Knoll head out to the caves. They notice signs warning intruders of explosives in the mines. The narration shifts to Suzanne who watches Knoll and Rachel enter the cave together. She cannot believe how careless Knoll is becoming. In these same caves, Suzanne lured a nosy, Polish reporter. She set off explosives and no one inquired because the mines in the Hartz Mountain caves were quite active. Suzanne activates the explosive's detonator. Shifting back to Knoll and Rachel, Knoll realizes that there has recently been an explosion in this cave. He decides to kill Rachel and let the rubble hide her body. Knoll whips out a knife as Rachel



turns around. As he is about to stab Rachel, the cave begins to shake and they become mined in. Knoll quickly finds his way out of the cave, leaving Rachel to die.

Part 2: Chapters 27- 28 Analysis

Knoll apologizes for Rachel's father's death, which intrigues her more, but shows the liar and manipulator Knoll is. Just as Karol was suspicious about Knoll, Danya shows his trepidation concerning Knoll. Knoll quickly understands that Suzanne has set him up. He becomes concerned that she is changing the rules of the club. No Acquisitor has ever killed another before. Knoll is shocked that Suzanne would take their rivalry to the next level. He realizes that he needs to kill Rachel, no matter how much she is appealing to him. Knoll quickly drops his charming exterior and tries to kill Rachel with his stiletto.

Suzanne is presented in a very cruel light in this section. She threatens to kill a young boy to discover more about the Amber Room. She also steals Danya's life. Suzanne's line of work will soon cause her to question her career. As she excels with her employer, she will begin to think that she cannot be a powerful and successful woman in the art stealing business and also have a family without being judged by others and herself.



Part 2: Chapters 31-34

Part 2: Chapters 31-34 Summary

In Chapter 31, Paul arrives in Germany. Hearing there has been a murder at Danya's house, he quickly rushes to Danya's home. Once he arrives, Fritz Pannik, a federal investigator, explains that a woman is the suspect for Danya's murder. Paul assures Pannik that Rachel does not match the murderers description. Paul fills Pannik in on Suzanne, Karol's letters, and the Amber Room. As the two men talk, Pannik is notified about an explosion in the Hartz Mountain caves. Rachel has been found hurt, but alive.

Paul is relieved to find Rachel alive at the beginning of Chapter 32, but he chastises her for rushing off to Germany and trusting Knoll. Rachel explains that Knoll saved her life and seemed like a kind man. Pannik alerts Rachel and Paul that there were never explosives in the Hartz Mountains and so it is strange that there was an explosion today as well as a couple years ago.

Chapter 33 deals with Suzanne and Knoll checking in with their employers. Suzanne and Loring think that Knoll is dead. Knoll and Fellner are angered that Suzanne set Knoll up. In Chapter 34, Paul and Rachel go to a restaurant to reboot and recuperate. Rachel is eager to continue on with the investigation. She owes it to her father to understand the Amber Room. Paul is less eager, feeling that they should protect themselves and their children. Paul likes to think things through and plan every move. Rachel persuades Paul into seeing William McKoy before they head back to Atlanta.

Part 2: Chapters 31-34 Analysis

Paul is persuaded by Rachel to go to the dig site of Wayland McKoy. This time, it does not take as much persuasion to get Paul to agree to explore. This surprises Rachel and the two embark on the adventure together. This decision is what their relationship needs. In order to repair their broken marriage, they must work together to create a new relationship. They must learn to grow, explore, and feel new things together. This will allow the next part of their relationship to be exciting and new. The trip to Stod foreshadows the repair of a three-year rift between people who were meant to be together.



Part 3: Chapters 35 - 39

Part 3: Chapters 35 - 39 Summary

In Chapters 35 & 36, Paul and Rachel make their way to visit Wayland McKoy, who is currently excavating caves for art treasure in Stod Germany. Rachel and Paul quickly give Wayland the details of their journey, but are interrupted by some progress in the caves. Wayland allows them to venture into the caves with him. Upon entering the group discovers 4 Bussing Nags or trucks and two bodies with bullet holes in their heads. Paul notices a wallet in the sand and quickly picks it up before anyone notices. There is writing in the wallet, but Paul cannot make it out. Paul watches as Herr Doctor Alfred Grumer, Wayland's employee, erases the letters O I C from the sand. As the party moves deeper into the cave, Wayland becomes incensed. The site is empty nothing is there! Wayland's investors will be furious.

In Chapter 37, Suzanne and Knoll quickly, separately make their way to Stod. Suzanne goes to Hotel Garni to confirm her meeting with Alfred Grumer. Knoll watches Suzanne disappear into the hotel. Chapter 38 shifts back to the caves. Wayland is concerned about his legal woes with investors and elicits the knowledge of Rachel and Paul. Wayland had guaranteed investors \$100,000 whether or not he found an art fortune. Because they are helpful, Wayland insists the Cutlers stay at his hotel. At the hotel, Paul reveals his suspicions concerning Grumer to Rachel. He does not wish to tell Wayland yet because they do not know if they can trust him.

Chapter 39 begins with a meeting between Margarethe and Grumer. Grumer fills Suzanne in on Wayland's findings, the letters he erased and the Cutlers. He then demands 5 million euros to find Karol's letters in the Cutler's hotel room. Suzanne silently decides she will have to kill Grumer as well as the Cutlers. The two decide to meet at the hotel at 8am to search for the letters. They also set up a second meeting at the Church of St Gerhad at 10:30 pm to discuss payment. Knoll has heard their entire exchange.

Part 3: Chapters 35 - 39 Analysis

Wayland acts shocked and angered that there is nothing in the caves. His actions should be studied because it foreshadows what he will reveal he truly knows about the art treasures and the Amber Room. Paul decides not to tell Wayland anything about Grumer or the wallet, because Grumer seems suspicious. Paul cannot get over the man's very odd behavior. He also does not yet trust Wayland even though Wayland seems extremely forthcoming with the Cutlers.

Soon it is revealed that Grumer is a spy for Suzanne. Grumer is also discovered to be an extremely greedy man. Often, people who can only think of money, let their entire lives be driven by it. It seems that Grumer has no other motive in life besides making



and spending money. This annoys Suzanne who quickly realizes that she will have to silent Grumer for good. Meanwhile, Knoll tries to regain his confidence after blindly following the lead on the Hartz Mountain mines. He is quietly keeping track of Suzanne and stalking her like a cat.



Part 3: Chapters 40 - 42

Part 3: Chapters 40 - 42 Summary

In Chapters 40 and 41, Paul and Rachel examine Wayland's letters to investors. They decide Wayland's letter is ambiguous rather than fraudulent. He did not pay himself upfront, and only used the funds to pay Grumer, secure permits, and dig. Meanwhile, Suzanne (as Margarethe) and Grumer search the Cutlers' room and find nothing.

Chapter 41 begins with Knoll, Monika, and Fellner discussing Suzanne and Loring. Since 1957, there have been a string of deaths of reporters, investigators, and police investigators looking for the Amber Room. While Josef Loring, Ernst's secretive father, loved amber, the group is unsure of Ernst's interest in the Amber Room. It is weird the Suzanne is now trying to kill Christian and pay five million euros for information. Fellner gives Christian the permission to "handle the situation at will."

Chapter 42 begins with Wayland McKoy addressing the fifty-six investors that traveled to Germany to hear the outcome of the dig. Wayland has been prepped by Paul and Rachel on what to say and handles himself smoothly. Grumer then addresses the audience telling them of the find and that they must now dig beyond the current cave chamber. During the session, Paul notices a blond woman peek inside the meeting. His attention is interrupted when he is introduced by Wayland. But Paul senses he has seen the woman before.

Part 3: Chapters 40 - 42 Analysis

Wayland immediately takes a liking to Paul and Rachel, but the reason is not clear. He seems to be very trusting of the Cutlers. Perhaps this is because he knows they are looking for the Amber Room? Paul and Rachel quickly help Wayland calm his investors and further make themselves appealing to Wayland. Paul seems to think it is too early to tell Wayland of Grumer's betrayal. He still wants to see who the true Wayland is. Discovering if he can trust Wayland will prove to be necessary as the book draws to a close. At the meeting with investors, Wayland uses his charm to win everyone over. Grumer uses his intellect to calm the fears of the investors. It is interesting to see how the men work to manipulate a room of smart, rich, confident people. But greed and the possibility of a big pay off are always attractive to many individuals.



Part 3: Chapters 43-46

Part 3: Chapters 43-46 Summary

In Chapter 43, Suzanne makes her way to the dig site, only to find the Christian Knoll has been there. Knoll sense someone behind him, but tries to keep his movements natural as he surveys the trucks and skeletons. Knoll leads Suzanne into the shaft, blocking her exit. She draws her gun and he draws his stiletto. Suzanne is ready for the stiletto that hurls past her head. She shoots the lights out over Knoll's head and runs for the exit. Knoll follows her. Suzanne gets to her car first and zooms off.

Later at the mine, Paul, Wayland, and Rachel find an injured worker in Chapters 44. They guess the Knoll and Suzanne have been there. Paul decides to tell Wayland about the mistrustful Grumer. Wayland barges into Grumer's hotel room and threatens him. Grumer tells them about Margarethe and the Retrievers of Lost Antiques. Grumer assumes Margarethe works for Loring, a member of the society that only steals already stolen pieces of art. Loring and Margarethe must be after the Amber Room. Goring and Hitler were competing against each other to create great museums in their respective home towns. Margarethe wanted to know if any information found in the excavation predated 1945. They all begin to think that at one time, the Amber Room was in the Stod cave. Grumer agrees to tell the trio when he meets with Margarethe. Paul and Rachel return to their room to find it wrecked. Paul reveals he taped the letters and wallet to his body. Rachel decides she wants more from Paul than just a friendship and as Paul thinks about it, he sees Grumer leave the hotel. The two go to follow Grumer.

In Chapter 45 & 46, a lot of action takes place at the abbey. Margarethe (Suzanne) meets with Grumer, with Paul and Rachel in tow. Grumer demands his money, but Suzanne refuses him because he found no letters and could not retrieve the wallet Paul found. Grumer tells Suzanne he knows the site has been violated and that although Wayland will excavate, he will find nothing, because the chamber has obviously moved. Suzanne curses him for being nosy, but before she can kill him, Knoll hurls his stiletto at Grumer killing him. A fight and chase ensue between Knoll and Suzanne. Knoll pushes Suzanne to ask why she is breaking the rules by trying to kill him. The fight takes the two to the chapel, where Paul and Rachel wait behind velvet curtains. They move and Knoll shoots the curtain. Aware that the Cutlers are there, Knoll finds Paul and knocks him unconscious. He then threatens Rachel and tells her to leave Germany or he will kill her. He knocks her out with a blow to the head also.

Part 3: Chapters 43-46 Analysis

Suzanne and Knoll again face off with one another here. The reader can draw comparisons between the two talented characters. They both have faults but know how to hunt, stalk, and find what they or their employers want. Knoll is also slow to kill



Rachel, warning her to leave before she gets killed. Why does he wait to kill Rachel? Wouldn't it be easier to get the Cutlers out of the way?

As the action picks up in the novel, Berry utilizes the third-person and subjective voice to swap between characters and perspectives. This is helpful for the reader because otherwise, the scene would become very confusing as characters constantly referred to them selves as "I" or "me." The reader could then become confused as to who is speaking in the novel. Berry also uses mini breaks in the chapters so signify when switching over to another character's perspective or thought.

Paul seems to be changing and evolving as a character. While Rachel thinks they should start to remove themselves from the situation, Paul pushes ahead, becoming more bold with his actions and words. He wants to know about the Amber Room and more information on who killed his family.

Grumer is a classic example of how greed and blind people and cause them to think irrationally. Grumer's greed leaves him unprotected and alone. Grumer further exemplifies the greed that is shared with many other characters in the novel. It is his greediness that stops him from realizing that Suzanne is not truly who she says she is. It blinds his senses to understanding that he will never get him money and instead that he will be killed.



Part 4: Chapters 47- 48

Part 4: Chapters 47- 48 Summary

In Chapter 47, Suzanne thinks she has gotten away from Knoll. She is wrong because Knoll quickly finds her and confronts her. No Acquisitor has ever killed another. Suzanne promises to sleep with Knoll, call a truce, and tell him everything. Knoll hesitates for an instant, and is kned in the groin by Suzanne. She kicks him in the crotch again to assure her escape.

In Chapter 48, Rachel and Paul wake up in a lot of pain. Wayland comments that he never thought things would go so far. Paul wants answers. Wayland says the mine was robbed. The chamber was breached postwar. Wayland does not think the Nazis or Soviets sealed the mine. Someone came in the 1950's and pillaged the cave. While Hitler wanted the Amber Room, Goring wanted it more and Enrich Koch was loyal to Goring. Koch moved the Amber Room with the help of Josef Loring. Loring worked for the Nazis as well as the Soviets. Wayland was searching for the Amber Room all along, but figured that investors would go along for the ride whether he found the Amber Room or expensive art treasures. He insists that the chamber at Stod was never meant to be found. Rachel presses Paul to go home, but Paul wishes to discover why their family has been involved in this intrigue. Wayland says that if Karol truly did not want Rachel to search, he would have burned all letters. This pushes the couple to continue on.

Knoll returns of Herz Burg while Suzanne goes back to Castle Loukov. The Retrievers of Lost Antiques were some of the richest men in the world. The group keeps its Acquisitors in line. There had been no death attempts until now. This enrages and confuses Knoll. Shifting to Suzanne at the castle, she assures Loring that the trail for the Amber Room is cold. The Cutlers and Wayland are nothing to worry about. Loring surprises Suzanne by telling her he is leaving his castle to her, his collection, his club membership and 1.5 million euros.

Part 4: Chapters 47- 48 Analysis

In Chapter 47, Suzanne is able to use her manipulative sexuality to fool Knoll. Knoll is so cocky that he forgets that Suzanne is just as smart, quick, and talented as he. He let his guard down for less than 2 seconds and Suzanne had attacked him, taking him down while she flees. Suzanne is able to wield her sexuality so that it works in her favor.

Wayland's character is also further examined in this section. Previously, Wayland is depicted as money hungry, stupid, and annoying. Now, he proves to the Cutlers that he knows a lot about Nazi, German, and Russian history. He also reveals that he has been looking for the Amber Room all along. He insists that he did not lie to their investors. He promised them some kind of treasure, whether it was the Amber Room or other art

treasures. This causes Paul and Rachel to distrust Wayland for not being more upfront with them.

Here the bond between Suzanne and Loring is further examined. For example, Loring admits that Suzanne is the daughter he never had. She shares his love for art and the finer things in life. Suzanne is honestly surprised and overcome with gratitude and being given a chance to run an amazing collection of art. This makes her willing to protect Loring's legacy by any means necessary.



Part 4: Chapters 48 - 51

Part 4: Chapters 48 - 51 Summary

Knoll returns of Herz Burg while Suzanne goes back to Castle Loukov in Chapter 49, 50, and 51. The Retrievers of Lost Antiques were some of the richest men in the world. The group keeps its Acquisitors in line. There had been no death attempts until now. This enrages and confuses Knoll. Shifting to Suzanne at the castle, she assures Loring that the trail for the Amber Room is cold. The Cutlers and Wayland are nothing to worry about. Loring surprises Suzanne by telling her he is leaving his castle to her, his collection, and 1.5 million euros.

Loring and Suzanne invite Fellner and Monika to the castle to talk on Loring's jet. The pair apologize for Suzanne's recent actions and show Monika and Fellner the reason for their vicious secrecy and ruthlessness: The Amber Room is at Castle Loukov. Monika and Fellner are shocked. Loring explains that his father hates the Nazis and provided them subpar bullets and guns. He helped the Soviets when he could. By the end of the war Goring had gone insane and Koch was scared of him so he hid pieces of the room in different locations. Josef Loring breached the chamber and found the amber in horrible conditions. Goring had imprisoned some of the craftsmen during the war. Josef found them and brought them back to work on the recreation of the Amber Room, with the promise of lifelong protection. Loring further explains that Loring killed the men who helped him excavate the Amber Room from Stod. Since then, the Loring Acquisitors have killed to keep the secret from the Soviets. The Lorings funded Koch's legal fight, ensuring his silence. Loring then proposes a truce. Monika insists they tell the other members of the The Retrievers of Lost Antiques. Loring agrees. Suzanne and Loring see Monika and Fellner back to Loring's plane. The two are on board and in the sky when the plane explodes. Suzanne and Loring have murdered the Fellners.

Part 4: Chapters 48 - 51 Analysis

This chapter shows the ruthlessness of Loring and Suzanne. They will do anything to protect the secret of the Amber Room, even if it means killing. In this section, however, they have taken the killing to a new level. This is because they are killing club members. Monika and Franz are very cocky and overconfident in themselves. They willing go to Loring's house and confront him with all the killing he has done to protect the Amber Room. Instead of ever thinking that Loring would kill them, they calmly and happily get on the get back to their house. Their ability to underestimate others leads to their demise. they should have been a lot more worried about Loring and his family's obsession. Franz and Monika are also outraged that Loring has had the Amber Room all this time.



Part 4: Chapters 52 - 54

Part 4: Chapters 52 - 54 Summary

Chapter 52 begins with Knoll lurking outside of the Loring Castle. He is excited that Monika had given him permission to invade the Loring Castle. He backs off when he hears police cars. The police question Suzanne and Loring, but have little interest in actually investigating the great Loring family. Meanwhile Paul, Rachel, and Wayland make their way to Loring's castle, determined to find answers. Loring comes out to greet the visitors. The four settle in for a snack as Wayland launches into accusing Loring of stealing the Amber Room. He demands money. Paul and Rachel are shocked and want no part in the extortion deal. Loring suggests that his three visitors stay the night.

In Chapters 53 and 54, Loring sends a servant to Suzanne instructing her to use the back passages of the house. Meanwhile, Knoll continues sneaking on Loring's grounds. Knoll overhears several house employees discussing the death of Monika and Fellner. During dinner, Loring talks about the Amber Room with his guests. Loring shows them a couple of pieces of amber. Wayland calls Loring a liar and proves he knows more than he should when he calls Grumer "Doctor." Wayland claims that he wants 3 million dollars and Loring asks him to settle for 2 million instead.

Back in the Cutlers' room, Rachel and Paul realize their love for one another and have sex in Chapters 55 and 56. Knoll watches and is jealous of Paul. Later, Paul wakes up and goes into the hall. He sees Wayland and the two men decide to explore, venturing into the Romanesque Room. Wayland notices there is a secret door. They figure out how to open the door and wonder into Loring's secret collection, which is full of stolen artwork. Past two double doors, the men find the Amber Room. As the two men stare, Suzanne and Loring enter with pistols. Suzanne then leaves to find Rachel. Loring explains that his father found the room in Stod seven years after the war. Loring became aware of Paul's father's inquiries in Italy and wanted to end Karol and Yancy's search. Suddenly, Wayland launches himself at Loring for a distraction. Loring shoots Wayland and Paul gets away. Wayland struggles with Loring, but eventually suffocates and kills him before Wayland passes out.

In the Cutlers' bedroom, Rachel is accosted by Knoll. She spits on him for watching her and Paul have sex. Knoll attempts to rape Rachel, but is stopped by Suzanne. Knoll slugs Rachel in the head and then hurls the knife at Suzanne and it strikes her. She tries to run to the hall, but Knoll catches up to her and kills her with his silencer, saying it was "for Monika." Knoll decides to continue raping Rachel, but before he can proceed, Paul lunges at Knoll. The two men struggle. Just as Knoll is about to kill Paul, Rachel wakes enough to grab the gun on the floor and shoot at Knoll several times, killing him.



Part 4: Chapters 52 - 54 Analysis

This section is the climax of the entire novel. Many things are revealed about central characters in the story:

Rachel Cutler: Rachel has finally let down her hard exterior and accept that she still loves her husband. She realizes that Paul is the man for her and gives her heart, mind, and body to him again. Rachel finally realizes that Paul is capable of changing and is the partner she always wanted. Her rash actions in the past were too hasty.

Paul Cutler: Paul shows that nothing will stand in the way between him and Rachel. He will act rashly and leave caution to the wind if he feel that Rachel will be in danger. Paul risks his life to save Rachel.

Wayland McKoy: Previously, Wayland McKoy was describe as a North Carolina ignorant, redneck. In this section he reveals himself to be more compassionate. He shows himself to be capable of sacrifice, even when he has nothing to gain from the sacrifice.

Suzanne Danzer: Danzer proves that she is simply "daddy's girl." Willingly to be Loring's pawn in a high stakes game. She is also greedy, wanting to kill to ensure the Amber Room passes to her along with its wealth and promise for greatness.

Christian Knoll: Knoll shows that Monika and her father were more than his employers. He loved them as friends and confidants. Knoll's greed has landed him in an ambiguous situation. It also shows the ruthless pursuit of Suzanne for taking away what is important to him. Knoll also shows they he is cruel enough to rape a woman.

Ernst Loring: Loring shows his obsession with keeping the family secret. He will do anything possible not to have his secret leak, even kill innocent people.



Epilogue

Epilogue Summary

In the Epilogue, Rachel and Paul have renewed their vows in St Petersburg, Russia. Their children and Wayland were in attendance. After Knoll's death, Rachel phoned Pannik. The German, Russian, and Czech authorities all vie for the Amber Room. Because there were no heirs left, German authorities assumed control of the Fellner estate and the panels were sent back to Russia. The identities of the other members of the club were made public and their collections were investigated. The Russian government was so happy, they invited Rachel and Paul to be present at the unveiling. As the novel ends, Rachel and Paul bury Karol and her mother in Belarus. Paul and Rachel are ready to start their new lives together.

Epilogue Analysis

As the novel ends, Rachel and Paul are reunited. Through their journey across countries and time, both characters changed into a more suitable partner for their counterpart. People usually change over the course of a marriage. Paul and Rachel suffered and fought because they were unwilling to change for one another. As time goes on, it is important to spice things up in a relationship. The journey for the Amber Room allowed the two main characters a chance to grow and get to know one another again.

Lastly, there is a resolution to the story. Karol and his wife can rest at peace in their home town. Rachel is happy that she could give her father the burial he always wanted and deserved.



Characters

Rachel Cutler

Rachel Cutler is one of the protagonists of the novel. Rachel is a tough, no-nonsense, strong judge. As a woman, she is quick-witted, clever, attractive, and feisty. Rachel never allows a lawyer, rouge police officer, or court members sass her. Although Rachel is strong, she is also stubborn. Rachel's inability to control what comes out of her mouth, cause her to lose her husband and is partially the reason she gets a divorce. Her steely exterior rubs her colleagues the wrong way. People often refer to her as the Ice Queen. Rachel is a wonderful mother and faithful daughter. At the beginning of the novel, Rachel does not realize that she is still in love with her ex-husband, Paul. Although the two characters have been separated for over three years, it is clear that they still harbor feelings for one another. When the attractive Christian Knoll tries to seduce Rachel, she cannot sleep with him because she still loves Paul.

Over the course of the book, Rachel's character changes. While she is extremely determined to find more information concerning her father's killer, she soon learns that she cannot always jump head first into everything. Traveling throughout Europe and almost getting killed by vicious Acquisitors calms Rachel in a way. She begins to rethink about her children and realize that her safety is important for their survival. Rachel also learns that it is alright to have someone else take the reins. She does not have to always be in control.

Rachel's character exemplifies the theme of being a powerful female. While Berry lets Rachel be a strong, powerful woman, she is not allowed to have it all. Since she is so powerful, she has a lot of trouble letting other people in. Only when Rachel changes and becomes less brazen and sharp is she able to have her family whole again.

Paul Cutler

Paul Cutler is a smart and good-looking lawyer from Atlanta, GA. Cutler is revealed to be a meticulous planner and organizer. He ascended quickly through the ranks of his law firm. Rachel and Paul were married for 10 years, but divorce because Rachel becomes tired of Paul and his predictable ways. At one time, Rachel thought Paul's predictability gave her a sense of stability, but she soon grew tired of it. Paul is a great loving father. Even though, he and Rachel are divorced, he never wanted the divorce. He is still in love with Rachel and constantly questions whether she still loves him. Although Paul has access to Rachel's house, financial records, and other shared items, he always tries to respect Rachel's privacy and rights as a single woman.

As the book continues on, Paul's character significantly changes. When he discovers his parents' death was connected to the Amber Room, he decides to get involved. Once he discovers Rachel's life is in danger, Paul begins to act without thinking, going by his



instinct. In the last scenes of the book when Knoll attempts to rape Rachel, a primitive, territorial, angry Paul emerges. He will do anything possible to save Rachel. Ultimately, Paul's new "take action" approach to life is what wins Rachel back.

Christian Knoll

Christian Knoll is a smart, high educated, extremely handsome, and vicious man. Christian grew up in Munich, Germany with a mother who loved him dearly and a father who was a Nazi. Although Knoll was no Nazi sympathizer, Knoll developed an angry streak, a love of women, and a love of killing. After gaining an education and working for a couple of years, Knoll is recruited by Franz Fellner to be his new Acquisitor. In this job description, Knoll travels throughout the world collecting expensive, already stolen pieces of art. While Knoll is supposed to behave by a code, he often acts out on his own, killing people who he considers to be loose ends. Knoll kills Karl, tries to rape and kill Rachel and succeeds at killing Suzanne Danzer. Knoll sees Fellner as a great employer and enjoys getting paid handsomely by Fellner. For some time, he has an affair with Monika Fellner, Franz's heir to his collection. Knoll is extremely cocky. Suzanne points out his cockiness when she notes that he never gives fake names or disguises. Knoll simply cannot believe that anyone will out smart him.

Knoll is Berry's primary character that shows the theme of Manipulative Sexuality. He uses his looks and charms to mislead several women throughout the book: specifically Rachel Cutler and Monika Fellner. Instead of using a woman, Berry uses Knoll's character as a sexual object, even though Knoll views women as sexual objects.

Suzanne Danzer

Suzanne Danzer is the Acquisitor for Ernst Loring. Suzanne came into the position by taking her father's place as the Loring Acquisitor. Suzanne was practically raised by Ernst Loring on his estate in Czechoslovakia. She worked very hard in school and then in college. Suzanne trained quickly to become an Acquisitor. Suzanne is an attractive, sexy, smart, and powerful woman. She depends heavily on her disguises to cover her tracks. As the story unfolds, Suzanne's fierce loyalty to Loring is discovered. She will kill, maim, cheat, and steal to please the man she believes to be her father in spirit. Loring decides to leave 1.5 million euros, the castle, and his entire art collection to Suzanne. Suzanne is responsible for planting bombs on Loring's jet and Paul's parents' plane. Suzanne also killed Danya Chapaev. Just as Rachel's character embodies the theme of the Pros and Cons of a Powerful Female, Suzanne's character is similar. While Suzanne wishes to please Loring, this often includes killing. Suzanne does not know how she can kill people and then carry on with a family. She also cannot have the career she wishes and the family she desires.



Karol Boyra

Karol Boyra is Rachel Cutler's father. Karol was a soldier in the Soviet Army during World War II. He was captured and sent to Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Austria. While there, Karol witnesses Hermann Goring torture four German soldiers. Years later, he discovers that the Germans were killed over the Amber Room. Karol and his partner Danya Chapaev are forced into service for the Extraordinary State Commission on the Registration and Investigation of the crimes of the Fascist German Occupiers. Karol and Danya follow up on leads for stolen Soviet artwork. It is not clear as to whether Karol and Danya ever found the Amber Room but both men are killed because of the knowledge of the room. Karol is killed by Christian Knoll.

Danya Chapaev

Danya was a member of the Extraordinary State Commission on the Registration and Investigation of the crimes of the Fascist German Occupiers. Danya never tells anyone what he knows about the Amber Room but keeps a correspondence with Karol. Danya resides in Kehlheim Germany. He is killed by Suzanne after he gives wrong information to Rachel and Knoll.

Ernst Loring

Ernst Loring is Suzanne's employer. He is extremely wealthy and a member of the Retrievers of Lost Antiques. Loring has asked Suzanne to do whatever possible to keep leads on the location of the Amber Room dead. While he is not an amber lover like his father, he must keep the family secret safe. Loring loves Suzanne like a daughter and leaves his entire art collection to her as well as his membership into the Retrievers of Lost Antiques.

Franz Fellner

Franz is Christian Knoll's employer and another member of the Retrievers of Lost Antiques. Franz is interested in the Amber Room and even more interested when it seems that Loring is chasing after the room. Fellner likes to play by the books and does not approve of people being killed. Franz does not suspect anything when he is invited to Loring's estate and shown the Amber Room. Loring and Suzanne blow up the private jet to kill Franz and Monika.

Monika Fellner

Monika Fellner is sexy and dangerous. She is slowly taking over her father's business and this scares Loring. Monika does not play by the rules and would surely be a pain to



Suzanne and Loring. Knoll sees Monika has a way to advance his own position. He thinks that she can use Monika to control the Fellner's company and money.

Wayland McKoy

Wayland Mckoy is a fast talking wealthy business tycoon from North Carolina. Wayland decides to find the Amber Room. To fund his trip, he entices investors or partners into giving him money to dig. Wayland seems uninformed at first, but is soon discovered to be a history buff who knows his facts. He quickly forms an attachment to the Cutlers. Wayland risks his life to save Paul and Rachel.

Fritz Pannik

Fritz Pannik is the German federal investigator that helps Rachel and Paul after Rachel is attacked. Pannik notices the connection between several explosions in the Hartz Mountains.



Objects/Places

Atlanta, GA

Atlanta, Georgia is where the Cutlers and Karol Boyra live at the beginning of the novel.

Mauthausen

Mauthausen was a concentration camp in Austria. Karol Boyra was caught and shipped to the camp as a prisoner of war.

Munich, Germany

Munich, Germany is the city Rachel flies into before going to see Danya. This is where Knoll hires the taxi driver to scare Rachel.

Kehlheim

Kehlheim is the town Danya currently lives in. He is murdered at his home in Kehlheim.

Hartz Mountains

The Hartz Mountains were used by the Nazis during the war. Postwar, they were mined to search for treasures. Suzanne lures Knoll and Rachel here and tries to kill them in the mines.

St. Petersburg

Knoll visits St. Petersburg, Russia while researching files about the Amber Room. Rachel and Paul return here when they renew their wedding vows.

Castle Loukov

Castle Loukov is located in the Czech Republic. This is the home of Ernst Loring and Suzanne.

Stod, Germany

Stod, Germany is where Wayland begins mining for the Amber Room. He soon finds that the room was once there, but was violated postwar.



Belarus

Belarus is Karol's hometown. Rachel and Paul return his body here at the end of the book.

Northeast Italy

Northeast Italy is where the reader first meets Christian Knoll. Knoll was sent there to steal from Pietro Caproni.

The Amber Room

In 1701, Frederick I of Prussia commissioned panels of amber at his Charlottenburg palace or the Catherine Palace. He thought an amber filler room would be beautiful. The room was only partially completed in 1712, when the kingship passed on to Frederick William I who declared the room would not be finished and packed up the panels. In 1755, Empress Elizabeth of Prussia decided to put the panels on display. The room was finally finished by 1770. When Hitler learned of the panels, he instructed Erich Koch to return the room to Königsberg. The Nazis opened their own museum and claimed it was a part of German history. In 1945, the beginning of the end for the Nazis, Koch ordered that the panels be taken away and Alfred Rohde supervised their removal. The panels were lost after the war.

Themes

Pros and Cons of the Powerful Female

As the novel begins, the reader is immediately introduced to Rachel Cutler, a smart, quick-witted, and a fast-tongued lawyer. Rachel never lets a man cross her the wrong way. As with Nettles, she quickly puts him in his place when he attempts to insult her. Although being quick-tongued, cutting, and clever helped her to get elected as a judge, it is not always helpful in her career and family life. Since Rachel is a powerful woman, Berry makes it clear that being a strong woman does not always make you popular with others. As Rachel knows how to assert herself, she becomes known as the Ice Queen by police, lawyers, and the prosecuted. Berry seems to be commenting on the difficulty of "having it all" in today's society. Although women have more rights, privileges, and job opportunities, they are quickly considered over-aggressive, unattractive, PMS-ing, or witches when they try to assert themselves in the work place.

Although Suzanne and Rachel have little in common in job profession, they are both smart women in predominately male-dominated professions. As Suzanne goes on a killing spree for Loring, she considers her maternal side. Should a woman who has repeatedly killed others, even have children? Again, Berry shows that sometimes women feel they cannot have it all as men can. Loring and his father approved the killing of many people. They felt no remorse or hypocritical feelings in having children. Our world society has allowed men to have it all, such as money, career, and family.

The dilemma of the powerful female continues. Although Berry promotes two strong female characters, they cannot have their adventures, money, and family as the men in the novel can. Their counterparts, Knoll and Paul are allowed to imagine endless possibilities for their lives, while Suzanne and Rachel are not. Suzanne is killed before her future is realized. Rachel tries to placate herself to win her husband back.

Manipulative Sexuality

Sexuality is used by several characters to get what they want. Firstly, Christian Knoll uses his good looks and charms to gain access to many people. With his handsome face and physique, he charms Rachel, a person who normally does not fall for this kind of behavior. It is interesting that Berry uses Knoll as the flagrantly sexual object in the novel. Usually, women take this role. In a way, it is refreshing for Berry to use a male character instead of a female character to be the object of desire and sexuality. Knoll is not only objectified, he uses his good looks to manipulate and control people into thinking what he wants him to think. As Monika continues her infatuation with Knoll, he sees an opportunity to control more than he ever could under Fellner. Monika is an attractive, easily manipulated puppet that Knoll can control with his sexuality and smarts.



It is interesting to note that Suzanne relies more on her disguise of femininity than her own physical attributes of sexuality. Suzanne's disguises appeal to the situation or person she will be interviewing or visiting. She uses the typical stereotypes of being a woman to entice men and help her in her work for Loring. For example, dressing as a buxom, heavy-set woman in Danya's small town attracts the attention of men that would appreciate this type of woman. Several times throughout the novel Suzanne uses her brain and cunning to manipulate Knoll. Knoll finds these attributes about Suzanne insanely attractive. It is interesting to watch two characters use their manipulative sexual powers on one another. In a move that is not traditional for our society, Suzanne often wins this sexual battle against Knoll.

Journey of Love

While *The Amber Room* is a story of intrigue, intensity, and mystery, it is also a story of love and more specifically the journey that love often takes us on. As the novel begins, Rachel and Paul have been divorced for three years. Both obviously still love and care for one another but cannot identify why they began to fight at the end of their marriage. Throughout the beginning of the novel, Rachel questions Paul's meticulousness and predictability. What she once found comforting became boring. Why did he have to plan every detail of their lives? Paul on the other hand, always knew Rachel's nature. He knew she rarely meant the mean outbursts and wanted to make things work.

As the two characters embark on a fascinating yet dangerous journey, they realize their true feelings for one another. Traveling and extreme situations, showed them that no matter what their differences, they truly still care for one another. The book arcs with the relationship of Rachel and Paul. At the beginning, Paul and Rachel are amiable. As Rachel ventures out on her own and shows interest in Knoll, she is shocked to discover her secret feelings for Paul. Once Paul meets up with Rachel in Germany, their romance ignites as the two learn more about one another. Berry's theme of the Journey of Love is sentimental and sweet. From the beginning of the novel, he sets the reader up to want Rachel and Paul to remain together. Through his characters, he proves that sometimes people need to accept the growth of their partner.

Style

Point of View

Berry uses a third-person, omniscient point of view throughout the entire novel. While the narration never comes from the character, the narrator knows how each character feels, giving the reader knowledge of all feelings and emotions throughout the book. Berry clearly makes the point of view shift throughout chapters by adding a pause into the text. This way the reader stays clear on whose version of the story they are getting.

Berry's choice for third-person, omniscient point of view is an excellent one. The readers become closer to every character because they can sense what the character is really feeling. Although it seems that one of the characters might give away too much information, Berry allows the characters to slowly unveil their knowledge of the Amber Room as well as their true feelings for one another. The narration is reliable because it is constant (in its omniscient nature) and does not willingly mislead the reader.

Berry's point of view is different than in other mystery novels, which are typically told from the third-person and limited point of view. By keeping a third-person and limited point of view, other authors keep more of the information "under wraps."

Setting

The Amber Room has many exciting settings because the characters get the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe. The novel begins with a flashback. Karol Boyra is being held in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. As the book switches to present day, Karol Boyra now lives in Atlanta, GA. His daughter, grand children, and ex-son in law live their also. The story then switches to Christian Knoll who goes to Northeast Italy and then St. Petersburg, Russia. Knoll then returns to Burg Hertz in Germany to see his employer, Franz Fellner. Fellner instructs Knoll to go to Atlanta and speak with Karol Boyra. Meanwhile, Suzanne Danzer is finishing up some business in England. She finishes her assignment and then travels to Castle Loukov, in Czechoslovakia where her employer Ernst Loring resides.

Both Knoll and Suzanne travel to Atlanta, where Knoll kills Boyra and Suzanne gets information from Paul. Rachel decides to go to fly to Munich and then Kehlheim to find Danya. Knoll approaches Rachel in Munich and convinces her to let him go with her to Kehlheim. There, Danya tells Rachel and Knoll that the Amber Room is in Hartz Mountains. It turns out this was a lie. Danya was forced to lie by Suzanne who kills him in Kehlheim. The Hartz Mountain caves are blown up and Knoll tries to kill Rachel in the mountains. Paul comes to Munich to help Rachel recover from the explosion. The two decide to go to Stod, Germany where another dig for the Amber Room is being conducted by Wayland McKoy. There is no Amber Room at the caves in Stod. The trio travels to Czechoslovakia to confront Loring. There, Loring Suzanne, and Knoll are



killed and the Cutlers and Wayland find the Amber Room. In the Epilogue, the Cutlers go to St. Petersburg, Russia where they renew their vows. They then bury Karol and his wife in his hometown of Belarus.

Language and Meaning

Throughout the novel, Berry's language is very simplistic. He chooses to keep his word choices this way because a lot of action takes place in many scenes. At the same time, he is also trying to divulge and describe a historical period. Berry cannot be bogged down by excessive language or wordy sentence structure. In order to clearly convey his stories for his readers, he must give them quick, easy to understand dialogue. The reader should not feel let down by Berry's word choices because there is enough information to absorb.

There do not seem to be any type of hidden meaning to Berry's language. His word choices are straightforward and to the point. Showing the feelings, moods, and thoughts of each of his characters. Berry cannot hide anything from the reader because of the point of view he has chosen. Third-person, omniscient means the reader will eventually know what every character is thinking. They might not know while hearing a separate character's point of view, but eventually they will discover the truth.

Structure

The book is separated in to four sections. They are simply titled Parts 1 -4. The way Berry sections off the book is helpful to readers. Within the parts are shorter chapters and within the chapters are mini breaks used for switching the point of view. This organization is helpful for the reader to organize the information that is quickly given. The book is mostly made up of dialogue and descriptions of history. The dialogue moves quickly so that the plot can continue to flow. This is essential for a mystery book. Keeping the readers attention is important so that they don't loose interest in the characters and action.

The Structure and Language of the book work very well together. Berry uses an easy structure, just as he tries to use simple dialogue to propel the plot. Over the course of 400 pages, he has a lot of information to impart on the reader including the relationships between characters, the history of the Amber Room, and multiple action sequences.



Quotes

"I am your Reichsmarschall. Second only to the Fuher. No one wear a uniform but me. How dare you think you can soil it so easily. You will tell me what you want to know, Maithus, or you will freeze to death. Slowly. Very Slowly. It will not be pleasant" (Part 1, Prologue, pg. 8.)

"He possessed a talent for searching, emmensly the challenge of finding what people went to enormous lengths to hide. But killing particularly excited him. Was this his father's legacy? Hard to say. Was he sick? Depraved? Did he really care? No. Life is good" (Part 1, Chapter 8, pg. 57.)

"He often thought Monika's cool, tailored, almost untouchable air result of her mother's rejection [...] She stood proud, like always, her tangled dark curls falling in carefree wisps. A flick of a smile creased her lips" (Part 1, Chapter 9, pg. 59.)

"Why had he lied? And her father never mentioned anything about the KGB visiting him. Nor much about the Amber Room. It was a little unnerving to think that the KGB had known about her, Marla, and Brent. She wondered what else her father held back" (Part 2, Chapter 24, pg. 159.)

"Why couldn't you leave it alone. Let the matter die. How many more have your corresponded with? My employer does not want to take any more chances. Boyra's gone. The other searchers are gone. You are all that's left" (Part 2, Chapter 28, pg. 182.)

"There was something about Alfred Grumer that Paul simple did not like. The furrowed brow? The eyes that seemed to consider something else as the ears listened?" (Part 3, Chapter 35, pg. 233.)

"She was good. Her instincts were sharp. He'd always liked Jung's comparisons of how the ancients viewed women as either Eve, Helen, Sophia, or Mary- corresponding to impulsive, emotional, intellectual, and moral. Danzer certainly possessed the first three, but nothing about her was moral. She was also one other thing- dangerous" (Part 3, Chapter 37, pg. 248.)

"She thought again of Christian Knoll. His self-assurance had intrigued her and stirred her and stirred feelings long suppressed. She was forty years old and had loved only her father, a short romance in college she thought was the real thing, and Paul" (Part 3, Chapter 39, pg. 261.)

"And the bodies, Were they robbers from past decades ago? Perhaps. Nothing unusual about that. Many of the Hartz chamber had been pillaged, most by US and Soviet armies that raped the region after war, some later by scavengers and treasure hunters before the government took control of the area" (Part 3, Chapter 43, pg. 283.)



"I'm a North Carolina redneck. Right now, a half drunk North Carolina redneck. You may not know what that means, but I'll tell you it ain't good. I'm in no damn mood, Grumer" (Part 3, Chapter 44, pg. 293.)

"Your father understood the risks he took in life. You should have taken the advice he offered. I am quite familiar with Phaethon's story. A fascinating story about impulsive ways. A fascinating tale about impulsive ways. The helplessness of the older generation trying to teach the younger" (Part 3, Chapter 46, pg. 320.)

Rachel's look was curious. Was she discovering something about him? Something she may never have noticed before. A determination that hid beneath a deep veneer of controlled calm" (Part 4, Chapter 48, pg. 343.)



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the gender roles of characters throughout the novel, specifically, Rachel and Suzanne. How do these two characters work to fight typical gender roles and how do they enhance gender stereotypes?

How are Rachel and Paul foils of one another? Discuss a literary foil and how Rachel takes on some of Paul's qualities, and vice-versa.

Discuss the theme of Sexual Manipulation in regards to the following characters, Rachel, Knoll, and Monika. How are these characters manipulated or how they manipulate?

How does Berry foreshadow the eventual location of the Amber Room? Describe how he leads the reader to guess where the Amber Room may be.

How does Rachel and Paul's journey create a second chance for their relationship? How did the excitement of the journey make the two relate each other on another level?

Compare Knoll and Suzanne. How do the two Acquisitors differ and what qualities do they share? What qualities would you assume an Acquisitor would need to have in order to be successful?

Compare Franz Fellner to Ernst Loring. Why do Fellner and Loring keep up a cordial relationship if both men hate each other? Do they hate one another or are they a part of a friendly competition?

Discuss the pros and cons of the Powerful woman theme. Which character more clearly shows the female dilemma? Is it Rachel or Suzanne?

Why do you think Steve Berry decides to write a book about the mysterious Amber Room. How much of the novel do you think is truthful?

Did you find the structure of the novel useful? Did the point of view utilization and stylistic choices make the book easier to understand? Explain why or why not.