

The Big Bad Wolf Study Guide

The Big Bad Wolf by James Patterson

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Plot Summary

In *The Big Bad Wolf*, author James Patterson offers a suspenseful story of newly minted FBI agent, Alex Cross and his pursuit of a ruthless Russian Mafia leader called "The Wolf." The Wolf is an elusive character known only by his reputation among the law enforcement and organized crime communities.

In this story, the Wolf is dealing in the white sex slavery trade. With a stable of regular customers willing to pay upwards of a quarter of a million dollars, the Wolf makes the buying of another human being possible so that his clients can satisfy their psychotic sexual fantasies.

The story begins with the abduction of a federal judge's wife. Lovely, young and blond, Lizzie Connolly is the mother of two from an upscale section of Atlanta, known as Buckhead. Connolly is taken in front of her daughters in a mall's parking garage. As she is a federal judge's wife, the FBI get involved.

Cross, a recent transplant from the Washington D.C. police department, is assigned to the case because of his knowledge and knack for solving cases of this nature. However, the importance of the case has Cross feeling a little intimidated. Not only is he new to the FBI, but he is also striving to have a "normal" family life by spending more time with his kids and new girlfriend.

Following Lizzie's kidnapping; others are abducted as well. Audrey Meek is next, a highly successful, celebrity clothing designer. A young man by the name of Benjamin Coffey is abducted as well. These abductions follow the same pattern as Lizzie Connolly's. Taken by a man and woman in broad daylight with little regard to witnesses, no ransom is demanded and there is no obvious motive.

The Wolf and his small circle of clients meet regularly in a private chat room where they place orders and chat about their taste. A big break in the case is provided when a fourteen year-old girl hacks into the chat room. Audrey Meek is then released and leads agents to the art director who had been holding her captive. Unfortunately, he commits suicide before providing any information.

As the case heats up, Cross begins struggling to keep his home life stable. The mother of his youngest son starts proceedings to gain full custody. Cross's girlfriend Jamilla lives in San Francisco. Cross relies on his grandmother to help him care for his children.

Following the fourteen year-old girl's report, the FBI begins monitoring chat rooms when they get their next break. It leads them to Dr. Homer Taylor, an English professor. It turns out that he is Mr. Potter, the man who bought Benjamin Coffey and another young college student Francis Deegan, who is later found alive. Potter becomes an informant and leads agents to Lawrence Lipton, the "money man" and a very wealthy, influential resident of Dallas. Lipton then leads agents to Pasha Sorokin, the man the FBI believes to be the Wolf. Cross and his team stage a sting at Sorokin's Florida mansion where



they find Lizzie Connolly alive. A chase with Sorokin ensues, but when he is finally caught, he claims not to be the Wolf.

Sorokin leads the FBI to the last of the Wolf's clients, known as the Sphinx. Surprisingly, it turns out to be Lizzie Connolly's husband. Mr. Connolly had sold his own wife into captivity. Cross is disgusted and treats the judge accordingly. The agents are then given another lead that allows them to capture the Wolf's chief rival. Although many unsavory characters are brought to justice, Cross still wants the Wolf. As his hunt for the Wolf continues, the Wolf assassinates Sorokin by shooting a rocket launcher into the van transporting him to trial.

Prologue, The Godfathers

This is the most important section of the work as it should summarize each chapter. The entire section should run 15-30 pages, although there will be exceptions that are longer and shorter. However, you should aim for at least 20 pages and should break the sections up by chapter. The analysis tends to be shorter than the summary section. If it is a long poem, you can break it out by lines.

Prologue, The Godfathers Summary

The Wolf visits a high security, supermax prison in Colorado and is able to buy his way in to see an Italian mob boss named Augustino "Little Gus" Palumbo. Anxious to meet this man, the Wolf has spent two years planning the meeting. The hope is that the Palumbo crime family and the Red Mafia will merge, resulting in the most powerful crime operation in the world. The two men speak respectfully to one another for a short time. When the don asks how they might merge their two crime syndicates, the Wolf whispers in his hear, grabs onto his head and breaks his neck, killing him instantly.

When Little Gus is found dead in his cell the next day, nearly every bone in his body is broken - a symbol of total domination. The Wolf had become the new godfather.

Prologue, The Godfathers Analysis

The author's introduction of the Wolf shows us that he is at the helm of a worldwide crime syndicate. The lengths he went to in order to gain that position give us insight into his character: the Wolf is brutal, ruthless and reckless and apparently, he is also very well-connected and wealthy in that he was able to pay his way into a supermax prison, kill someone and exit the premises without consequence. Thus at the outset, the author clearly establishes that the Wolf is a very bad "bad guy."



Part 1, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

Part 1, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 Summary

Two individuals, known as The Couple, watch their target for the day -codename "Mom"-as she shops in trendy Buckhead. The target's real name is Mrs. Elizabeth Connolly, a thirty-seven year-old mother of three girls whose degree in art history makes her even more desirable to her buyer, who has purchased her for \$150,000.

Lizzie Connolly is unaware of danger as she tries to remember everything for her daughter's birthday party. After completing her shopping, she heads to her Mercedes station wagon in the parking garage. A passing woman grabs her around the chest. Lizzie screams her loudest, but the woman and her male cohort lift her into her own car, putting a foul-smelling cloth over her mouth. The man comments on her sex appeal, saying that he understands why the Wolf is interested. The Couple's job is complete.

Alex Cross has been enjoying some extra time of late, spending it with his kids, talking to his girlfriend Jamilla on the phone and even reading some poetry. This morning, he has to be at FBI training at the Academy in Quantico by 9:00 am, which has given him enough time to walk his kids to school, with his youngest, Little Alex, in tow. Cross talks with his daughter who wonders whether he is worried about going to school and how he likes being a new FBI agent. Cross is finally feeling a balance in his life.

Cross is already well known for catching pattern killers. FBI director Ron Burns has made special arrangements for him- waiving the age restriction and shortening his training period. Cross's class supervisor at Quantico, Gordon Nooney, resents this special treatment and gives Cross a hard time at every chance. During class that day, Cross is interrupted and told that Agent Nooney wants to see him right away.

Part 1, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 Analysis

The author begins his story with an intense, action-packed scene as a young, affluent mother is abducted in broad daylight from a mall in Atlanta. The Couple, a man and a woman, carry out the abduction, apparently under orders from the Wolf. The woman is very strong and the man has a Middle European accent. The Couple clearly belong to the story's group of 'bad guys.'

The author also introduces the main character, Alex Cross, who is characterized as a former police officer currently training to be an FBI agent. He has three kids and is a workaholic trying to balance work and family.



Part 1, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8

Part 1, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 Summary

Cross reports to agent Nooney's office where he is told that Tony Woods from the director's office has requested his presence in Baltimore. Nooney seems upset as he dismisses Cross from the rest of the day's classes, informing him that a helicopter is waiting to take him to Baltimore. Cross leaves Nooney's office and meets the helicopter at the helipad. In less than half an hour he arrives in Baltimore and is told that a City of Baltimore detective, Dennis Coulter, has blockaded himself in his home, holding his family hostage. Cross knows Coulter as they had worked together on a drug investigation and is told that Coulter has specifically requested him.

Once he arrives on scene, Cross notices that the house has been freshly painted, signaling to Cross that Coulter probably had not been expecting this kind of trouble. Cross asks the SWAT team to lower their weapons until further notice. Cross gets on the phone with Coulter and listens as Coulter tells him that he is being set up by Internal Affairs and that the Baltimore Police Department wants to kill him.

One of Cross's instructors from Quantico shows up on the scene as well, telling Cross that he wants to observe his technique. Cross tries to focus on the task at hand, keeping Coulter talking by asking for more details. Coulter explains that he had reported some of his fellow detectives who had been receiving payoffs from the drug dealers they were investigating. In retaliation, they had alerted Internal Affairs. Cross's instructor stays close throughout the day, encouraging him by joking, "you're supposed to be the hotshot, right?"

Hours pass without the situation improving. Neighbors mill about. Law enforcement personnel swarm the area. Cross has an idea. He asks the Baltimore officer in charge, a man named Sheehan, to release his men and leave the scene. Sheehan reluctantly complies. Then, Cross asks Coulter to come out of the house with his hostages so that Coulter is surrounded by the FBI, which helps him feel safe from the Baltimore Police Department. Cross's plan works and Coulter comes out with hands raised. With Coulter safely in FBI custody, Cross's instructor complements him on a job well done. Cross wonders if this experience had been a test, but his instructor tells him nothing.

Part 1, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 Analysis

In this section, Cross gets the chance to impress the FBI when he is whisked away from the academy to Baltimore where a cop friend of his is holding his own family hostage in their home. This situation shows that Cross is very talented but somewhat unorthodox. At one point, he puts his life on the line by dismissing all of the SWAT and police personnel before meeting the hostage-taker unarmed. The police feel he is insane to

take such a risk. In the end however, it appears that the whole situation has been a test of his abilities by his superiors at the FBI.



Part 1, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12

Part 1, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 Summary

Alex dislikes the thought that the whole hostage ordeal had only been a test. He arrives home late that night to a quiet house. Wanting a beer and to call Jamilla, he hears Little Alex cry out and runs up the stairs to him. When he gets to his room, Little Alex is sitting up in his bed. Cross lies down next to him, comforts him and kisses him on the head, remembering that his own father never kissed him. Father and son drift off to sleep.

The Couple kill time in New York City trying avoid their boss. When they turn their cell phones back on, he calls, scolding them for having their phones off. Another job awaits them. A very rich man and a friend of the Wolf's wants an already-identified female not far from New York. The woman, Zoya, agrees to the job and hangs up the phone. Turning her attention back to the room she occupies, Zoya tells the young blond man tied to the bed that she and her partner are going to break every bone in his body.

Alex Cross wakes the next morning, his son still sleeping by his side. Kissing him on the forehead, he thinks over his upcoming meeting at the director's office in the Hoover Building. On his way over, the director's assistant, Tony Woods, meets him. Cross asks him whether Baltimore was a test and is told to remember that everything is a test. Burns, the director, is waiting in his conference room. Upon Cross's arrival, he tells him that he did a good job in Baltimore and that he was impressed. Burns is in a good mood and the two men talk and laugh together. Burns warns Cross that one cannot always distinguish the good guys from the bad guys but that Cross can always trust him. Cross remembers his mantra to never trust anyone.

As Cross is on his way to Quantico for class, his mobile phone rings. Tony Woods gives him orders to report to Reagan National Airport where a plane was waiting to take Cross to Atlanta. On the plane, another agent hands Cross two folders of case notes on the Buckhead kidnapping of a federal judge's wife, believed to follow a pattern.

Part 1, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 Analysis

The author reveals more about Alex Cross in this section, showing him to be a very devoted father, who struggles to balance work and family life. Cross is frustrated that the hostage situation may have been a test because of the energy he had spent ensuring a positive result. In his meeting with FBI director Burns, he is cautioned that he will not always be able to tell the good guys from the bad. Such statements may offer some foreshadowing that the bad guys are those one least expects.

The reader also learns more about The Couple-Mrs. Connolly's kidnappers. After the kidnapping, they hide out in New York where they prove to be as ruthless and brutal in their spare time as they are while working indulging in their own violent and deviant sexual habits including torturing a young man they seem to have taken hostage for their

own pleasures. The Wolf gives them another assignment, foreshadowing that more kidnappings are on the way.



Part 1, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Part 1, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Summary

After landing in Atlanta, Cross is brought to the crime scene. The entire parking structure where Elizabeth Connolly was abducted has been closed off for the investigation. According to the case files, this kidnapping fits the profile of others that occurred in Texas, Massachusetts, Florida and Arkansas. All were white, wealthy women and no ransom was ever demanded. Luckily, two kids had seen Mrs. Connolly's kidnapping and kidnapers—a man and a woman. Cross finds it strange that she was taken by two people.

Cross knows from reading the case files that of the 220 women listed as missing, seven were linked to "white slave rings." In certain parts of the world, such as the Middle East and Japan, white women were in high demand. After visiting the crime scene, Cross travels to Mrs. Connolly's home to speak with her husband. After briefly meeting the couple's young daughters, Cross is ushered into the library to talk with Judge Brendan Connolly, Lizzie's distraught husband. Cross asks if the judge knows anyone who might have taken a strange interest in his wife and if they fought much lately. None of the information he gathers alerts him.

The Wolf is a forty-seven year old Russian man and the godfather of the Red Mafia, who has designed his life so that no one knows his true identity, enabling him to hide in plain sight. One evening, he throws a party at his 20,000 square foot house in Fort Lauderdale to commemorate the launch of his new men's magazine. The crowd in attendance knows him as Ari Manning from Tel Aviv, only one of the Wolf's many identities. No one in attendance knows the extent of his illicit secrets: illegal diamonds from Sierra Leone, heroin from Asia, the buying and selling of weapons and jets with the Columbians, his stake and involvement in the white slave trade. The Wolf's thoughts are on Lizzie Connolly, his Claudia Schiffer look-alike. Bound and gagged in a closet behind a heavy wooden door in the same house, she is close enough for him to lust after.

Lizzie hears the Wolf's party and weeps. The Wolf told he will kill her. Lizzie hears entire conversations but cannot tell where she is or who the people on the other side of the door are. The party continues growing noisier and more rowdy. Some of the guests had arrived in limousines but leave in amazingly expensive and rare cars. All were stolen.

Part 1, Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Analysis

As Cross begins his work on the White Woman Case and Lizzie Connolly's kidnapping, the author provides a characterization of the Wolf. As the reader already knows, he is the head of a massive crime syndicate, the Red Mafia. No one knows his true identity as he uses different identities within different circles. One of his identities is Ari Manning, a successful businessman from Tel Aviv. Another name the author mentions is Pasha



Sorokin. However, it is not clear whether this is the Wolf's real name or just another identity. The Wolf is characterized as having his hands in just about every illegal trade, from blood diamonds, to weapons, to the white slave trade.

The reader also learns that he is holding Lizzie Connolly hostage in his home in Florida, while he throws a very ostentatious party, hiring a chef from the renowned Le Cirque in New York and flying in dessert from Vienna. In spite of the extravagant party, the Wolf despises his guests, seeing them as boring and self-involved. The author has characterized the Wolf as being without any redeeming qualities. There is nothing in the Wolf that would endear him to the reader.



Part 1, Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21

Part 1, Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 Summary

Cross is back home with his family by six that evening and able to listen to his daughter practice her violin before taking her to the Kennedy Center for family night. Later the same night, he speaks to Jamilla on the phone. What begins well enough changes after about fifteen minutes. When Cross tells Jamilla that he misses her, she says she needs to run. Cross finds it ironic that she is running, while he is trying to stop.

The next day, Cross is asked to attend a meeting about the "White Girl" case, now elevated to major status. Ned Mahoney is there, as is Monnie Donnelley, a Violent Crimes analyst, who is working on the case. The senior agent making the presentation explains that upscale, white women had been disappearing at a rate three times what was normal. A catalogue of women for purchase is passed around. The catalogue had never been linked to anyone. The senior agent also says that the Connelly case was thought to be connected because of the team kidnapping and the lack of a ransom demand, both of which are common in slave trade kidnappings.

After the meeting, Cross returns to his orientation classes, only to be badgered by Nooney, who tries to stir up anger in Cross by asking him about how he got along with his former Chief of Detectives in the D.C. Police Department. Cross tries not to say much and walks away saying he has work to do. Cross wonders if Nooney picks on him because of his involvement in the White Girl case.

That night, Cross works late reading about white slave trade cases in the U.S. A couple cases stand out to him, including one commonality among all the victims: their lovability.

Part 1, Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 Analysis

As Cross continues to try and make time to nurture his family life, he sees his professional life heating up. The White Girl case has been elevated to major case status and continues to be baffling with few leads. In addition to the major case, Cross is trying to keep up with his FBI orientation classes while being mistreated by the agent in charge of his training. There is a great deal of juggling in his life, a continual point of conflict in the story.



Part 1, Chapters 22, 23, 24

Part 1, Chapters 22, 23, 24 Summary

When Alex returns home very late that night, his friend John Sampson is waiting for him on his front steps. Sampson, Cross's partner and best friend before he left for the FBI, comments on Cross's late-night arrival. The two men have a couple of beers and talk about Sampson's wife and Jamilla. Cross misses working with him and begins to plot about getting him into the Bureau. Sampson tells Cross that his wife is pregnant and he would soon be a father.

In the King of Prussia Mall in Pennsylvania, The Couple dons costumes in order to blend in with the crowd while they follow their next target. Audrey Meek, a celebrity fashion designer, has her two small children in tow causing The Couple to debate whether or not to snatch her with the children present. Slava thinks it would be a nice challenge, while Zoya refuses, knowing the Wolf would be upset.

The Couple follow Ms. Meek into the parking garage. As she loads items into her late-model Lexus SUV, The Couple grab her. Audrey yells at her children to run. The Couple throw her into the Lexus and leave the children crying in the garage. Her buyer, the Art Director, had purchased Audrey for \$250,000.

Part 1, Chapters 22, 23, 24 Analysis

As Alex Cross takes time to catch up with his best friend, The Couple strike again, abducting celebrity designer Audrey Meek, who has been purchased for \$250,000. Strangely, they leave Audrey Meek's two children in the garage as witnesses rather than taking them or killing them. For some reason, this move seems to be a part of their plan.



Part 2, Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28

Part 2, Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28 Summary

The Wolf, a former Russian police officer, is a difficult individual and few who deal with him understand him. One afternoon, he visits one of his colleagues regarding a security item. Yeggy had handled the security of his website and production of his catalogues of women for the last year. At the conclusion of their meeting, the Wolf shoots Yeggy twice in the head, annoyed that he had had to pay the man a visit. Then, he sits down at the laptop, makes some changes to the catalogue, burns it onto a CD and takes it with him.

Cross skips class to do some research on the white slave trade and he asks Monnie Donnelly for help. Cross tries to concentrate on the research she provides him to study. Later that afternoon, he receives news of Audrey Meek's abduction and prepares to travel to the scene in Pennsylvania. Soon after, Cross receives word from Nooney that he is expected in his classes and not permitted to go.

During his classes that afternoon, Cross stewes in anger at not being released to travel to Pennsylvania. The next morning, the headline on the newspaper reads "Abductions of Two Women May Be Connected." Only a few in the FBI knew the details revealed in the newspaper and none of them were to be released to the press. None of this makes sense to Cross and he suspects that someone is trying to sabotage the investigation.

During class the next day, Cross is interrupted and summoned by Nooney's assistant to his office. Cross wonders what is in store for him. Once in Nooney's office, Cross is quizzed about the headline and whether he had leaked the information. Cross maintains his innocence even when Nooney raises his voice, but he leaves the office angry.

Part 2, Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28 Analysis

Once again the reader is shown the ruthlessness of the Wolf as he murders one of his employees and then has the heartlessness to sit down at the victim's computer and make some changes to his catalogue.

Meanwhile, just as Cross is getting some perspective and understanding of the White Girl case, he is pulled from it and ordered back to class by Gordon Nooney, the training supervisor. Cross is frustrated and angry but able to keep his cool. However, he is struggling with how to understand the political climate of the FBI so that he can break free to do his job as an investigator.



Part 2, Chapters 29, 30, 31, 32

Part 2, Chapters 29, 30, 31, 32 Summary

The Couple is in Newport, Rhode Island posing as a gay couple in a gay club. They spy their target: a handsome, young, Brad Pitt look-alike named Benjamin. Following him into the men's room, they accost him and put a chemical-filled cloth over his mouth. After he loses consciousness, they carry him out to the parking lot.

Benjamin had been purchased by a man living on a farm near Webster, New Hampshire. The man's name was Mr. Potter and he was a professor of English at Dartmouth. When Benjamin is delivered, wearing only a silver thong and bound and gagged, Mr. Potter is pleased with his purchase. Benjamin is terrified. Potter tries to assuage his fears by whispering to him and kissing the gag over his mouth.

In another part of the country, Audrey Meek watches her demented captor cook her a breakfast of her favorite foods in a nice cabin at an unknown location. The man calls himself the Art Director and when Audrey asks him about her kids, he tells her they are fine. When she questions him about her captivity, he explains that she would come to understand in time.

At Quantico, Cross is suffering through another day of classes. As soon as class lets out, he goes to see Monnie Donnelly to check in with her regarding the research she has been doing on the White Girl case. Monnie's research shows a trend of well-off, white, blond women being kidnapped in numbers that were higher than usual. Cross is given a stack of reading to do and he encourages her to go home to her kids.

Part 2, Chapters 29, 30, 31, 32 Analysis

In this section, The Couple abducts a young man who has been purchased by a client. This development shows that the trend of white women is not necessarily all-encompassing. Benjamin, the young man who is kidnapped, was purchased by a college professor, named Mr. Potter and is taken to Mr. Potter's country house in Webster, New Hampshire. At the same time, the reader learns more about Audrey Meek, who is being held in a remote cabin by a man called the Art Director, who cooks her favorite foods for her.

The author does a great job portraying the insanity of the situation when the captor says that he wants to treat Audrey well and prepares great meals for her while keeping her chained up. At the same time, Audrey believes at times that he is a reasonable man and has to work to remain vigilant in not letting down her guard.



Part 2, Chapters 33, 34, 35, 36

Part 2, Chapters 33, 34, 35, 36 Summary

Alex Cross returns home late from work to find his family waiting for him on the front porch. Upset that his nights seem to be getting later and later, Nana lectures him about his love life and reminds him that his kids were counting on him to take them to the movies. Cross takes Damon and Jannie to the park to play basketball in lieu of their movie plans. After returning home, he makes his dreaded but promised call to Judge Connolly, assuring the judge that while the FBI was working hard on his wife's abduction, they had no news yet.

In thinking about the recent abductions, Cross cannot make sense of the abductors' increasing carelessness. Burns convenes an emergency meeting. An agent from the Behavioral Analysis Unit tells the group that there has been another kidnapping, a male victim abducted by two males. Cross wonders why the kidnappers are making mistakes.

Lizzie Connolly is still locked in a closet, certain she is about to die but trying to plan an escape. Terrified, she tries to hold on to her sanity by thinking about other scary times in her life. Lizzie is a strong woman and she knows that it is her choice to live or die and she is sure that she wants to live.

Cross is summoned to the main conference room at Quantico for a meeting the next morning. Most of those involved with the White Girl case are assembled. A suspect from New Jersey, repeat sex offender Rafe Farley, knows too much about Audrey Meek's abduction. The agents are given orders to bring him in.

Part 2, Chapters 33, 34, 35, 36 Analysis

As the investigation of the abductions continues, it takes some surprising turns. In this section, the FBI finds out that a young male is abducted under the same suspicious circumstances as the white women.

The author also gives a further characterization of Lizzie Connolly, the first abduction victim in this story. A determined and devoted woman, she wants to live in order to see her husband and children again.



Part 2, Chapters 37, 38, 39, 40

Part 2, Chapters 37, 38, 39, 40 Summary

After the briefing about the suspect in New Jersey, Cross wonders how long Director Burns had known about the suspect and why he had not told him. Cross doesn't feel right about this bust, although he is a little excited about it. Cross is flown by helicopter to the location of the bust. Surveillance shows that Farley is in his house with his girlfriend. Cross thinks the circumstances are strange. The team pushes ahead.

The first team moves on the small home and as soon as they open the door, Cross hears a blast. The place is booby-trapped with explosives. The rest of the agents, including Cross, race for the home. Cross enters to see Farley and his girlfriend lying naked and spread eagle on the floor. The woman isn't Audrey Meek and Farley is a large man. Cross is doubtful that these two abducted Meek or anyone else.

Ned Mahoney and Cross interrogate Farley in his bedroom. Farley begins by spitting at Mahoney until he has no spit left. When they ask him about Audrey Meek he is surprised, claiming he has no idea where she is and that he didn't abduct her. Farley says that he only knows about her abduction because of what he hears on his police scanner. Cross believes him when Farley says that he wouldn't have the guts to pull off an abduction like Meek's.

The Wolf and his five main clients, Sterling, Mr. Potter, The Art Director, Sphinx and Marvel meet on their secure website to chat. On this particular evening they are discussing what to do with The Couple, concerned that they had been seen a couple of times. The Wolf suddenly commands them all to stop chatting, fearing that someone has broken into the Den. The Wolf promises to find out and kill whoever it is.

Part 2, Chapters 37, 38, 39, 40 Analysis

Cross is asked to be an integral part of the take-down of a suspect in the White Girl case. Even though he is hesitant about the whole operation, he still feels the rush of getting to be out in the field. Given the chance to conduct the interrogation of the suspect with Agent Mahoney, Cross feels that Farley is not the man they are looking for.

The reader learns about the Wolf's secure website and that its security is breached while the men who buy and sell white women are chatting online.



Part 2, Chapters 41, 42, 43, 44

Part 2, Chapters 41, 42, 43, 44 Summary

Fourteen year-old Lili Olsen has hacked into the Wolf's website. Reading the conversations, she knows that the men in the chat room are demented individuals. Lili hopes that what she has read was being made up. As she thinks about the fact that they knew she had compromised their security, she becomes afraid that they might find her. The doorbell rings, scaring her. Luckily, it is only a pizza delivery.

The Wolf makes a trip to New York, a place he hates, to deal with Slava and Zoya. The Couple live on Long Island in a suburban ranch house. The Wolf finds them in their bedroom, ties them up and accuses them of selling him out to his enemies. Then, he breaks Slava's neck, killing him. The Wolf then turns his attention to Zoya, telling her that he will kill her after they drink vodka, play chess and sleep together.

As a result of his further interrogation of Zoya, the Wolf makes another stop in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn. There, he finds his ex-wife and her lover, who he believes paid Zoya and Slava to sell him out. The Wolf murders them in the bar with the bar patrons looking on. Then he threatens all the on-lookers, telling them never to cross him.

Benjamin Coffey, Mr. Potter's captive, finds God while being held in the barn cellar. As he deals with his captivity, he thinks about his life and why this is happening to him at such a young age when his whole life is ahead of him. Unable to quit crying, Benjamin wonders if he will live or die. Mr. Potter is angry with him because of his tears and when he returns to the cellar, he has a sledgehammer in his hand.

Part 2, Chapters 41, 42, 43, 44 Analysis

The reader learns that the person who infiltrated the Wolf's chat room is a fourteen year-old girl, whose life is now in danger. The Wolf's callousness and brutality are again shown when he travels to New York to visit The Couple and snaps the neck of the man and then tells the woman that he's going to make her drink vodka, play chess and have sex with him. The author continues to show the reader that the depth of the Wolf's brutality is limitless.

Also undeniably violent and soulless is Mr. Potter, Benjamin Coffey's captor. Pretending to be the FBI, he gives the young man hope of being rescued, only to dash his hopes and visit him with a sledgehammer in hand.



Part 2, Chapters 45, 46, 47, 48

Part 2, Chapters 45, 46, 47, 48 Summary

Mr. Potter's true identity is that of Homer O. Taylor, an English professor at Dartmouth. Potter is mourning the loss of his beautiful Benjamin, emotionally and financially. Potter has been financing his purchases with two million dollars that he had inherited. The money however, was going fast. Potter contacts Sterling to let him know that he is ready to make another purchase.

As the White Girl case gets busier and busier, Cross continues to try and keep balance in his life. Every day, he tries to call Jamilla and even takes time to visit his friend Sampson and his pregnant wife. As for the case, Cross has received the report of Slava and Zoya's murder, under investigation by agents in New York. Cross visits Monnie in the mornings before his classes start and continues to look through her research on the white slave trade. Monnie and Cross both believe the kidnapping in Newport is linked to the case.

Cross spends that night reviewing research on the Russian mob. The Russians are loosely knit networks-independent but cooperative. Prostitution seemed to operate somewhat like professional baseball, where one girl or a group could be traded from one owner to another.

The Art Director is driving Audrey Meek in his Mercedes SUV, while commenting on the beauty of the day. Audrey tries to small talk, although she is terrified. The Art Director has not only held her captive but has raped her multiple times. Audrey is sure he is about to kill her and bury her in the woods. The Art Director drives down a narrow, quiet road and stops. Telling her to get out of the car quickly, he sets her free.

Part 2, Chapters 45, 46, 47, 48 Analysis

The author gives further characterizations of the Wolf's fellow colleagues in the slavery ring. Both Mr. Potter and the Art Director are sick, masochistic individuals. Mr. Potter thought he loved Coffey but kills him with a sledgehammer. The author increases the tension and terror of this thriller by characterizing these men as seemingly functional, normal individuals in their everyday lives.

As these horrific individuals move about society, the author increases the tension by letting the reader know a little more than Alex Cross knows. So far, Cross is on the right track with his suspicions about the Russian mob.



Part 2, Chapters 49, 50, 51

Part 2, Chapters 49, 50, 51 Summary

Cross receives the news that Audrey Meek is found alive. When he arrives by helicopter at the scene, Cross is briefed by agents who have been on the ground. They tell him that Meek's captor had brought her to the location that morning, but she did not know the direction they had traveled or for how long. However, she is able to provide a detailed description of her captor and his vehicle.

Cross meets with Meek, who is very unlike her public persona. After introducing himself, Cross reluctantly begins to interview her. With all that she has been through, he knows talking about her ordeal is the last thing she wants to do. However, she is very cooperative and tells him that her captor took her for walks, cooked her meals and raped her. Audrey gives Cross a description of her kidnappers and describes the Art Director's house as being covered with plastic. Cross is astonished that she is alive as he has never seen a similar instance where the captor let the woman live.

Another break comes when a house covered in plastic is discovered in Ottsville, Pennsylvania. Cross arrives on the scene to waiting police officers and agents. After a small turf war between the Police and the FBI, the officers move on the house. Cross knows that this man wanted to be found and once in the house, it is apparent why. The Art Director had committed suicide and left a note in which he explained why he had taken Meek. Cross wonders what he means in his note when he says he had the "opportunity" to get what he wanted. Who had provided the opportunity?

Part 2, Chapters 49, 50, 51 Analysis

With a major break in the White Girl case and Audrey Meek found alive, Cross's case takes a giant leap forward. Meek is a strong woman to survive her ordeal and provides information to Cross that enables the FBI to find her captor. Unfortunately, the Art Director has committed suicide by the time he is discovered.

Cross is surprised that Meek is still alive and throughout the section is asking himself why the captor would be so bold as to let her see him and so demented as to cook her meals, take her for walks and rape her at the same time.



Part 3, Chapters 52, 53, 54, 55

Part 3, Chapters 52, 53, 54, 55 Summary

Cross doesn't return home until after ten o'clock the following evening and he knows he will get the cold shoulder from his family. Jannie is still awake in her room reading magazines. Cross thinks of his wife Maria, who was tragically killed in an unsolved drive-by shooting. Cross apologizes to his daughter for being late and Jannie assures him that it is okay and that she understands. The two hold hands and she comforts him.

The Wolf goes to Washington, D.C. to meet with an Italian mobster from New York. During a discussion of future plans, the Wolf says he wants to make a billion dollars on one job. After dinner, the Wolf meets with an FBI agent in Potomac Park. The Wolf can buy anything and anyone, even the FBI and he wants to know whether anyone at the Bureau is talking about him. The man tells him they had connected the murder of The Couple with the Connolly kidnapping. The Wolf vows that he will go after them.

Cross actually makes it home by dinnertime at six o'clock. Christine Johnson calls, asking to see her son, Little Alex. Cross and Christine had been in love but had split up over a year ago, mainly because of Alex's job. Cross hadn't known that she was pregnant when she gave birth to little Alex and moved to Seattle. Christine had not been mentally stable enough to care for the child and had left him with Alex, who agrees to let her see the boy the next morning.

The next morning, Christine arrives to see Little Alex. Cross still finds her very attractive. Seeing her again is strange and Cross wonders why she is back in D.C. While holding Little Alex, she tells him how much she misses him and talks with Cross about her life in Seattle. Cross is suspicious and heartbroken.

Part 3, Chapters 52, 53, 54, 55 Analysis

In this section, the reader learns more about Alex Cross and that his job has put the women in his life in danger. Cross's wife Maria was killed in a drive-by shooting. Cross could never solve the crime and he still feels responsible. Then Christine, the mother of his youngest son, returns from Seattle to see the young boy. Christine had been kidnapped because of his work and had never really recovered mentally.

During Christine's visit, the author provides some foreshadowing that this will not be the last time she appears in their lives, calling it the "first twist" of many in their relationship.



Part 3, Chapters 56, 57, 58, 59

Part 3, Chapters 56, 57, 58, 59 Summary

The next day, Cross is still reeling from Christine's visit. Sure that she had come back because she wanted to take Little Alex, he could think of no other reason for her to reappear. As he tries to concentrate once again on the White Girl case, he gets a call from Monnie who tells him that two more suspects have been arrested. Cross works at Quantico all day but never hears any news about the arrests. Still, he calls Judge Connolly to give him an update. Not until the end of the day does he realize that his class has graduated.

Lizzie Connolly tries to stay sane and begins to accept her captivity. In her mind, she finds some escape by imagining herself swimming the way she used to. In assessing her surroundings and planning her escape, she thinks about where she is and what she knows. Lizzie is certain that she is in a city in the South, that her captor is large, strong and sadistic as he is keeping her chained in a closet, screams at her and has threatened to snap her neck. Lizzie knows her captor is attracted to her and she has a strong desire to kill him.

One night, the Wolf goes to a meeting with two professional hockey players at Caesars in Atlantic City. A big fan of the game, when he arrives at the meetings, a wealthy cable operator-his connection to the players-is there with the two men. The men do not know who he is and the Wolf enjoys his anonymity for a few minutes. Then, with a lead pipe hidden in the couch, he smashes one of the player's cheeks and the other player's nose and holds a gun to the cable operator's head, threatening to kill them all if they don't throw the game between Montreal and Philadelphia.

Alex Cross is summoned to a task force meeting at the Hoover Building. The meeting is convened by Stacy Pollack, the head of the Strategic Information Operations Center, who begins by identifying Monnie Donnelley, now removed from the case, as the leak from Quantico. Cross responds in disbelief, as she has nothing to gain. Pollack then leads a discussion of the Red Mafia and the mob war brewing between the Russians and Italians.

Part 3, Chapters 56, 57, 58, 59 Analysis

In this section, the reader learns that Lizzie Connolly is still alive and trying to hold on to her sanity while in captivity. If given the chance, she is sure she could kill the Wolf. The Wolf continues his ruthless ways by smashing the faces of two professional hockey players and a cable operator so that they would change the outcome of an important hockey game. A twist in the story comes when Cross's research analyst at the FBI is suspected of leaking information to the press. Cross doesn't believe it and stands up in

her defense. The news about Monnie creates more suspense as it is unclear if she is the leak and whether she could even be leaking information to the Wolf.



Part 3, Chapters 60, 61, 62, 63

Part 3, Chapters 60, 61, 62, 63 Summary

Cross calls Monnie to inform her of the accusation and she is taken aback. Alex offers to take her and her kids out for a cheap dinner. After dinner Monnie thanks Cross, reiterating she has not leaked any information. Cross encourages her to keep working the case as he believes she is on the right track.

A young gay couple, Vince and Francis, are juniors at Holy Cross College. This night, they are on a blanket under the night sky, holding hands and talking. Francis, blond, tall and slim, is about to be abducted.

Three thugs watch as Vince and Francis enjoy the evening on their blanket, kissing and holding hands. One of the men points at Francis and the other two quickly approach the young couple. Francis is bound and stuffed into a duffle bag. The third man slits Vince's throat.

Francis is in denial that he is a captive and that his lover Vince is dead. A strange man named Mr. Potter, dressed in a black leather bodysuit, is angry and yelling at him. Mr. Potter calls Francis by the name Ronald. Francis tries to reason with him and ends up having his nose bloodied.

Part 3, Chapters 60, 61, 62, 63 Analysis

Even though his superiors believe Monnie Donnelley is the leak at the FBI, Cross takes a chance and decides to continue working with her, offering encouragement to her when he takes her and her children out to dinner. Cross feels he has a good sense of people and only time will tell whether his suspicions are correct or not.

Another boy is abducted but will the FBI be able to link it to the Wolf? The crime is not carried out by The Couple-previously murdered by the Wolf -but by three thugs. The only witness to the crime has his throat slit-a perfect success in the Wolf's eyes.

In the final scene, Francis has been delivered to Mr. Potter, who has begun his twisted torture routine on the young man.



Part 3, Chapters 64, 65, 66, 67

Part 3, Chapters 64, 65, 66, 67 Summary

Cross receives a curious email from Monnie asking him to meet her again that night-same time, same place-to get some information. Cross meets her at the restaurant where they had been the night before and she gives him a lead to follow up on. The FBI had received a tip about a website where one could "buy" a lover called the Wolf's Den. A fourteen year-old girl had breached the site.

Monnie and Alex go to visit the girl. Cross wonders if this break could lead them to the kidnapers. Lili tells them what happened and that she is afraid of being found out and of letting down the authorities. Cross reassures her that she will be fine, thinking to himself that if they knew about her she would already be dead.

Lili offers to take them online to see the site and Cross agrees as he knows that based on what has already happened, the family would have to be moved so there was no chance at increasing the danger they were in. When Lili tries to sign in, they are unable to hack in as the website's security had been increased, initiating eye scans for authentication.

Cross works at the Hoover Building at the SIOC all the next day and attends a late night Task Force meeting. The abduction of the Holy Cross College student is discussed, as is the possibility that he may be the replacement for Benjamin Coffey. Cross presents the lead from the young hacker, Lili. Cross also brings up the Wolf, the Russian gangster by the name of Pasha Sorokin and states that he is going to need a great deal of help to bring such a man to justice. Stacy Pollack assigns the necessary resources to him.

Part 3, Chapters 64, 65, 66, 67 Analysis

The investigation has gathered speed. The FBI has identified the Wolf as Pasha Sorokin and will use all necessary resources to find him. Thanks to Alex's and Monnie's efforts, the team will now try to find the Wolf and those who purchase hostages from his website. The suspense increases as the race heats up to find the Wolf and the captives alive. Cross impresses his superiors and team as he once again rises above the crowd with his outstanding investigative abilities.



Part 3, Chapters 68, 69, 70, 71

Part 3, Chapters 68, 69, 70, 71 Summary

More than thirty FBI agents are mobilized to look into the Russian mafia and monitor porn sites and chat rooms. Later in the day, Cross has to leave to meet at a lawyer's office with Christine, who has initiated the process to take Little Alex back. Cross is very upset but tries to remain calm and remember his son's best interest. So, he decides to attend the meeting without his attorney.

The meeting begins with Christine apologizing for the difficult circumstances. Cross doesn't know what to say. Christine's lawyer begins to ask questions about Cross's grandmother's care of the children, the dangerous nature of his work and how much it keeps him from home. Cross tries to defend himself but eventually gets up to leave, telling Christine, "This is wrong."

Cross tries to go back to work but is unable to concentrate so he goes home. When he arrives, Nana tells him they are going for a drive. While out on the road, she asks to hear what happened at the meeting, angry at the situation and wanting her grandson to express his anger, too. Cross tells her he already yelled all the way home from work.

That night Cross receives a call from Jamilla, but he is still in a bad mood. Blaming his distemper on work, Cross realizes after they hang up that he is unconsciously blaming the situation with Christine on Jamilla and he feels badly for it.

Part 3, Chapters 68, 69, 70, 71 Analysis

Just when the heat is turned up on the White Girl case with more than two dozen FBI agents working on it, Alex Cross's ex-girlfriend, Christine, decides that she wants to take back custody of their young son. Understandably, he is incredibly upset. After a meeting with Christine and her lawyer, Cross prepares mentally to fight her and not let her take Little Alex, which he will have to do while solving the White Girl case, caring for his other children and building a relationship with Jamilla.



Part 3, Chapters 72, 73, 74, 75

Part 3, Chapters 72, 73, 74, 75 Summary

Alex calls Jamilla back to apologize and explain himself, telling her about Christine's reappearance in their lives. Jamilla is supportive and understanding, encouraging him to fight to keep his little boy.

Soon after Alex hangs up with Jamilla, the phone rings again. Ron Burns is on the line and acknowledges Cross's frustration with the slowness of the White Girl Case. Then, he tells him they had grabbed a suspect in New Hampshire. Cross is frustrated that this is the first time he is hearing of this suspect. Burns asks him to get on a plane to New Hampshire in the morning and to try not to get too frustrated with the Bureau.

The FBI had picked up on a suspicious Internet conversation and started surveillance of a well-respected English professor at Dartmouth named Dr. Homer Taylor, who used the alias Mr. Potter. During the week, he lived near campus but had a farm in Webster, New Hampshire that he visited on weekends. Cross arrives in New Hampshire to watch the professor. That night, the professor drives to the farmhouse. The agents follow, leaving their cars to get a closer look on foot.

The suspect moves toward his barn, oblivious to his surroundings. Once Mr. Potter is inside, Cross hears music from the rock band Queen blaring from inside. The agents decide to rush the barn. Cross blasts through the barn door and yells, "FBI," telling Potter he is under arrest. Potter is clearly surprised. Naked, bloodied and hanging from the hayloft is Francis-alive.

Part 3, Chapters 72, 73, 74, 75 Analysis

Cross gets his first major arrest in the White Girl case after an internet lead takes the team to a Dartmouth professor in New Hampshire. Even though Cross is generally frustrated with his fellow officers and their slow ways, he takes charge at the scene in New Hampshire, arresting Potter and finding the captive alive.



Part 3, Chapters 76, 77

Part 3, Chapters 76, 77 Summary

Cross is the first to interview Potter in his nicely decorated home. As Alex looks around, he is impressed by how this sick man compartmentalized his life. No one would have ever expected this man to have a dark side. Cross asks him about Benjamin Coffey, but Potter is smug. Cross realizes it will take time to deal with this man.

Alex again asks Potter where Coffey could be found and Potter continues to deny that he knows Benjamin Coffey. Potter claims Francis was in the barn of his own free will. The smugness and arrogance continues until Cross is fed up, putting his boot to Potter's chest and knocking him to the floor. Potter cries for his lawyer for about an hour. After he stops, he is ready to make a deal. Cross tells him that he wants to know how and where Potter got the boys. Potter begins to talk and tells Cross about the mysterious Wolf and his ties to the Russian Mafia. Cross thinks of how insane the situation is and has to remind himself that he is dealing with crazy criminals.

Part 3, Chapters 76, 77 Analysis

Cross shines as an interrogator in this section. Patient and methodical, he brings Potter to his breaking point. The author portrays Cross as intensely focused on getting what he wants from this deviant. Cross knows that Potter is not who he is after, as he now knows for certain that the Wolf is the mastermind and must be the subject of his focus from now on. As much as Cross has seen in his career, he is especially struck by the psychotic nature of the criminals he is after in this case. The author provides some foreshadowing when Potter warns Cross that they will all be sorry that Potter has identified the Wolf to the FBI.



Part 4, Chapters 78, 79, 80, 81

Part 4, Chapters 78, 79, 80, 81 Summary

Once back at the Hoover Building, a meeting is convened by Stacy Pollack to debrief the team on what was learned in New Hampshire. Cross takes the floor and tells the team what Potter had told him about the Wolf, passing on Potter's warning that the Wolf will come after them. Other agents begin to share what they had learned about the Wolf, how he lives on the edge and had originally entered the US by manipulating the CIA. They report that he is suspected of stealing \$200 million from a Miami bank and killing one of his ex-wives. Pollack wraps up the meeting, commenting that they are closer to the Wolf than ever.

The Wolf is in Philadelphia at the hockey game he had "fixed" previously. After the Canadians take the lead in the third period, he turns to his son, Dimitri and tells him it is time to leave, that the Canadians would win. Dimitri complies, knowing better than to cross his father.

For the first time, Cross is going to use Potter's eyes to get access to the Wolf's Den. Again, Potter warns that the Wolf is crazy and would get revenge. Cross sticks to his plan, using Potter's eyes for the eye scan. Once he is in the chat room, Cross poses as Potter looking to purchase another boy. There are other characters in the chat room using the screen names "Sphinx 3000," "ToscaBella," "Louis XV," and "Sterling 66." Cross wonders if the Wolf is online, too. Cross is able to blend in as the other members chat about who they want to purchase next. Cross chimes in that he is ready to purchase again, too. Then, the Wolf tells them all to be careful because they are being watched.

Cross is astonished at the Wolf's comment. Does he know that Cross is posing as Potter? Cross tells Sphinx he is ready to make another purchase-a young man he met at a symposium at Harvard. The Wolf responds that it is too soon and he needs to be patient. The Wolf signs off and after a few minutes, Cross signs off too.

Part 4, Chapters 78, 79, 80, 81 Analysis

For the first time, it seems that Cross and the FBI have the upper hand in the White Girl case. Arresting Potter and getting his cooperation was a major break in the case and a big win for Cross. Potter continues to warn them that the Wolf will find out and come after them. Nevertheless, Cross pushes onward and makes the very dangerous move of infiltrating the Wolf's Den chat room with Potter's help. Once in the room, Alex gets the opportunity to see the awful characters in the Wolf's circle. There are four other individuals in the chat room, disguised by screen names.

The developments in this section have increased the suspense of the story. Will Cross be able to find the Wolf before the Wolf finds him? How long will it take the Wolf to find out that Potter is cooperating with the FBI? Does he already know?



Part 4, Chapters 82, 83, 84, 85

Part 4, Chapters 82, 83, 84, 85 Summary

Cross waits at the Hoover Building for the Wolf's Den to get back to him regarding "Potter's" next purchase. Disgusted by these men, Cross wants to bring to justice. During the long hours of waiting, Cross has the chance to speak to Jamilla numerous times, his buddy Sampson, his kids and even Christine. There is a lot on his mind other than this case. Cross tells Jamilla that he will come visit after the case is done.

The Wolf finally makes contact with "Potter," emailing him that a decision had been made regarding his request. Cross doesn't answer right away but tries to remain coy. The FBI have replaced Potter with an agent who looks like him, living at his home and claiming to be sick and unable to teach classes. So far, their plan has not roused any suspicions. Cross again uses Potter's eye to gain access to the Wolf's Den and responds that he is ready to buy his next lover.

Cross waits for the Wolf's response, but there isn't one for a long time. Finally, the Wolf asks him what happened to his last purchase. Cross tells him that Francis Deegan made him angry and he had been forced to get rid of him. The Wolf asks him about money and then before signing off, he asks "Potter" to confirm how he got his screen name. Cross panics, unsure of the answer. Monnie whispers an idea, but Cross shrugs it off. At the last second, Cross remembers the title of a book in Taylor's farmhouse, a Kincaid novel entitled "Mr. Potter." Cross types his response. The Wolf tells him he will get the boy.

An agent by the name of Paul Gautier is sent in to play the part of Paul Xavier, the object of Potter's desire—a handsome, boyish college student at Harvard. Now, the agents just had to wait for the Wolf's men to try and abduct him. One night after clubbing, the agent playing Xavier cruises looking for sexual encounters. Cross and his agents monitor the scene and spot two men talking into their sleeves, who are not FBI. Xavier is about to be abducted.

Part 4, Chapters 82, 83, 84, 85 Analysis

The story continues to grow in suspense as Cross once again chats online with the Wolf. There is a moment of great tension when he is almost discovered through a question, but is able to scramble for the answer and averts discovery. However, the Wolf is testing him, which may mean that he is aware of the FBI. The FBI then plants an agent to be Potter's purchase. The suspense is heightened as Cross's men prepare to apprehend the Wolf's men who are about to abduct Potter's next purchase.



Part 4, Chapters 86, 87, 88, 89

Part 4, Chapters 86, 87, 88, 89 Summary

Cross draws his gun as he and the other agents moved in on the would-be abductors. One of the men grabs Gautier, the target and holds a gun to his face. The lead FBI agent yells for the agents to shoot. The man with a gun to Gautier's head commands them to step back or he will shoot. Then, he shoots Gautier in the face.

All hell breaks loose and the three men scatter. Cross chases the blond who shot Gautier, astonished that the man shot so ruthlessly and wondering if the man he is chasing is the Wolf. All of a sudden, the man turns and fires at Cross who hits the ground, dodging the bullet. Then, he hears a shot from behind him and the blond falls. When Cross turns around, he sees his fellow agent Peggy Katz in her shooting stance. The other two men escape. Gautier is severely wounded.

Following the botched bust, Cross is devastated about what had happened to Gautier. The man Katz shot had died instantly and had no identification, so they have no information on him. Cross is summoned back to Washington for a meeting with Burns, who makes it clear that Cross is not being blamed for what had happened. Then he tells Cross some good news: the money transferred to pay for Potter's purchase was traced through the Caymans to a man in Dallas. Cross then heads to Dallas.

The man in Dallas, Lawrence Lipton lives in a wealthy section of town and owns numerous businesses including a winery. Cross wonders if this man is the Wolf, but since he has no Russian ties and is not of Russian descent, he probably is not. However, Lipton has just put himself under armed guard.

Part 4, Chapters 86, 87, 88, 89 Analysis

In this section, the bad guys score one on the FBI when Cross and his team's hesitation puts the life of one of their agents in grave danger. Cross is almost shot and in order to save his life, another agent shoots the one suspect they have and kills him. The operation is a total disaster and now the Wolf will know that the authorities are on his trail.

Cross finally gets some good news when Burns reveals that they have followed the Wolf's money trail to a man in Dallas. Could this man be the Wolf? Cross is on his way to Dallas to find out.



Part 4, Chapters 90, 91, 92, 93

Part 4, Chapters 90, 91, 92, 93 Summary

Lizzie Connolly is still alive in the closet where her psychopathic captor visits her a few times each day. Continuing to develop an alternate reality in order to remain sane, she loses herself in happier memories while the Wolf rapes her two, three, sometimes five times a day.

When the Wolf is gone, Lizzie explores the closet and knows every inch by touch because she lives in total darkness. Each article of clothing is known to such detail that she notices when something new appears in a pocket. The minute details of pockets and their contents keep her occupied, as she remains determined to live and determined to have revenge.

Once in Dallas, Cross and his team of agents set up outside Lipton's house waiting for the order to move on the house. Cross is extremely disappointed when they receive the word to stand down. The agents are recalled to the field office where they all wait for an explanation that never comes. The supervisor suggests they all get some sleep.

In the morning, the team assembles again and Director Burns is on the phone, explaining that politics had gotten in the way, but now the team is free to take Lipton down. After giving the team a pep talk and signing off, he calls Cross's cell and asks how he did. Then, he tells Cross to do whatever he had to do to get the necessary information out of Lipton, warning him not to mess up.

Part 4, Chapters 90, 91, 92, 93 Analysis

The author inserts Lizzie Connolly back in the story in order to continue the readers' connection and interest in her character and situation. Lizzie remains alive in the closet where the Wolf rapes her numerous times each day, but she is determined to live and to get revenge on her captor.

Meanwhile, Alex and his team have converged upon Dallas to chase down their next lead. Just as they were preparing to pay a visit to Mr. Lipton they are ordered to stand down. After the politics are worked out at a higher level, Director Burns lets Cross know once again that he is depending on him to make this operation a success and to lead them one step closer to the Wolf.



Part 4, Chapters 94, 95, 96, 97

Part 4, Chapters 94, 95, 96, 97 Summary

The Lipton operation is back on and Cross is chosen to confront him at his office. After discussing strategies with Nielsen, he is ready and goes to Lipton's office alone. After identifying himself as FBI, Cross asks to see Mr. Lipton but is asked to wait. Cross waits for a while and then demands to see Lipton at once. Finally, Mr. Lipton presents himself.

Lipton, a big, loud man, demands to know why Cross is there. Cross thinks his tough guy persona is an act, so he looks him in the eye and tells him he is there because of kidnapping and murder. Cross then calls him by his screen name "Sterling" and tells him they traced the money to him. Lipton remains belligerent and denies everything and threatens to call his lawyer. Cross radios his team to begin their search of Lipton's office and home. Then, he arrests him.

Not far from the scene of the Lipton's arrest, Pasha Sorokin is watching, determined to make the FBI wish they had never got involved with him. Sorokin asks his driver to drive by them as they bring Lipton out to the car. As Cross is leading Lipton out, Sorokin recognizes him from his informant's information. Pulling out his gun, he takes aim at Lipton. Cross throws Lipton to the ground and rolls him behind another car. Sorokin's shot misses, but he sends a clear message.

Cross and a few of the other agents interrogate Lipton for over seven hours. When Cross tries again, he brings Lipton's father into the conversation and reminds him of the Wolf's power to hurt his family. Feeling no other way out, Lipton finally relents and reveals his role as the money man. Lipton asks for protection for his family in exchange for his information.

Part 4, Chapters 94, 95, 96, 97 Analysis

Cross gets his chance to shine as he is chosen to take down Lipton. However, this operation is much quieter and less dangerous than the last one with Gautier. Cross and Nielsen come up with the strategy to take Lipton down at his office in order to humiliate him. Once they have him in custody, Cross gets three chances to interrogate him. During the third session, Lipton finally agrees to lead them to the Wolf.

The author has begun to create a rivalry now between the Wolf and Alex Cross. The Wolf has seen Cross and knows who his competition is and Cross proves himself a worthy opponent as he saves Lipton from the Wolf's bullet at their first encounter.



Part 4, Chapters 98, 99, 100, 101

Part 4, Chapters 98, 99, 100, 101 Summary

Cross continues his interrogation of Lipton until very late, hoping to stick around until he has gotten as much information as Lipton can give. Lipton reveals that he got involved with the Wolf because of his obsession with sex. The Wolf had approached him and quickly turned him into a customer. Lipton swears that he never killed any of the girls he purchased but let them go when he was done with them. The Wolf asked him to go into business and sell his service to other wealthy buyers. Lipton also tells Cross that Pasha Sorokin is going by the name of Ari Manning.

Alex Cross, fellow agent Ned Mahoney and two assault teams of seven are aboard a luxury cabin cruiser outside of Ari Manning's house in Fort Lauderdale. Manning is throwing another famous party and the FBI knows he is in attendance. The team docks the boat and runs toward the house.

Cross makes his way through the crowd of partiers and spots Sorokin based on Sterling's description. Cross draws his gun. Without moving a muscle, Sorokin asks Cross and his lawyer to move their party inside to a more private location. As they walk into the house, Sorokin asks about Cross's youngest son, Alex.

Lizzie Connolly hears the FBI announce their arrival and hears the Wolf's voice from her closet. Almost disbelieving, she wonders if they know she is there. This situation is something she had hoped for; she is terrified but knows she has to act fast.

Part 4, Chapters 98, 99, 100, 101 Analysis

Cross is closer to the Wolf than ever. After interrogating Sterling, he now knows the name that the Wolf is using in the U.S. and where he lives. Immediately, he and his team are on their way to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to apprehend the Wolf.

When they arrive, it is almost as if Sorokin is expecting them. Unalarmed that they are interrupting his party, he wants to talk. However, Lizzie can hear everything going on from her closet and what Sorokin doesn't count on is her will to escape and live. The author ends the chapter with Lizzie plotting how she can let the FBI know where she is.



Part 4, Chapters 102, 103, 104, 105

Part 4, Chapters 102, 103, 104, 105 Summary

The Wolf maintains his coy demeanor as he informs Alex how his many business associates are insulted with his rude entrance. Cross tells him that he is there to arrest him for kidnapping. Sorokin acts astonished at the questioning of his character. Suddenly, they hear someone shouting about a fire. Cross and Mahoney leave Sorokin with a team of officers and run to the scene of the fire. When Cross knocks down a locked door where the fire is, he sees Lizzie Connolly's face and she is burning.

Cross charges into the closet and pulls Lizzie to safety, who thanks him and Mahoney as they remove her bindings. Just then, shots ring out and Cross and Mahoney run back to the living area to find two agents shot but alive. The agents direct Cross upstairs. The Wolf and his lawyer have disappeared. Mahoney finds a secret escape route leading to the water.

Cross's entire team searches the water to no avail. Alex figures the Wolf must still be somewhere in his neighborhood. The team goes door to door, but the only thing they find is a stray cocker spaniel. The dog's owners live at the end of the street. Cross and Mahoney go to return the dog.

As they begin to return the stray dog, a call comes over the radio about two suspicious males. By the time Cross and Mahoney reach the scene, the two men are cornered in a Gap clothing store. Cross commands them to come out with their hands up. The men walk toward the front of the store and out the door, without complying with Cross's orders. Sorokin reveals to the FBI that he is not the Wolf.

Part 4, Chapters 102, 103, 104, 105 Analysis

At the beginning of this section, Cross is about to take the Wolf into custody, when a fire breaks out at the Wolf's house. Lizzie Connolly is found and rescued; however the Wolf and his lawyer escape. Cross continues his relentless pursuit and refuses to lose. By the end of the section, Sorokin is found but reveals that he is not the Wolf. The author leaves the chapter with numerous unanswered questions such as whether Sorokin is telling the truth or not.



Part 4, Chapters 106, 107, 108, 109

Part 4, Chapters 106, 107, 108, 109 Summary

Cross is reeling from Sorokin's revelation. The two men they took into custody claim to be part of the Red Mafia who are just stand-ins for more powerful people, including the Wolf. The FBI begins making deals with the CIA and the two men. The CIA confirms that Sorokin is not the man they allowed entry into the States years ago. Part of Sorokin's deal is that he will lead the FBI to Sphinx, another member of the Wolf's demented network. Sphinx turns out to be judge Brendan Connolly, Lizzie's husband, who had sold his own wife into captivity. Cross and Mahoney plan to arrest him outside of his home so as to not upset the family any further. As they followed him in his Porsche, he tries to flee.

Mahoney and Cross pursue Judge Connolly in his silver Porsche on windy roads. Connolly takes one corner too fast and runs off the road and down a steep hill. Cross and Mahoney get out of their car and head after him.

As they approach, Connolly begins shooting. Luckily, he misses. Cross runs after him and hits him from behind. After tumbling, he gets up again. Cross sees his chance to give him a taste of what his wife experienced, throwing punches until Connolly is out cold, lying in the mud where Cross feels he belongs.

For a couple of weeks following Sphinx's arrest, things are quiet. Cross takes a week off to spend time with his family. Assigned to work at the Hoover Building, Director Burns summons him for a meeting. Burns tells Cross there are cases for him to work on if he wants to stay with the FBI. Cross answers affirmatively. Burns also tells him Gordon Nooney turned out to be the leak and was fired and that if he wanted, Cross could tell his old partner John Sampson that a position awaited him at the FBI.

Part 4, Chapters 106, 107, 108, 109 Analysis

The author has begun to wind down the story, resolving open issues in the plot line. The reader learns that Lizzie Connolly's husband is the one who sold her into Sorokin's captivity. Following the arrest of Sphinx, Cross begins to wonder what is next for him. The author begins foreshadowing the sequel to this story, as Cross still wants to catch the Wolf and work with the FBI and thanks to Director Burns' invitation, he may be reunited with his former partner, John Sampson. However, suspense remains. The Wolf is still loose and Cross is still trying to catch him.



Part 4, Chapters 110, 111, 112, 113

Part 4, Chapters 110, 111, 112, 113 Summary

Cross is getting settled into his new office when Burns' assistant tells him to get ready to leave for Brooklyn with Stacy Pollack. A new lead had developed regarding the Wolf. As they are walking toward the helicopter, a shot rings out and hits Pollack. Cross covers Pollack until help arrives. Remembering Sorokin's warning that the Wolf would catch up to him, Cross wonders if the shot was meant for him. Later that day in a meeting, Burns' gives the order to take the Wolf down "by any means," which is exactly what Cross wants.

Everything begins to snowball as Cross is no longer in control of the situation. The Wolf has brought the war to him. Lipton and his family are murdered. Burns's house is hit, but he and his family had already gone into hiding and were safe. The FBI sends a van to pick up Alex's family to hide them as well. As they leave in the van, Cross notices a photographer across the street. The man is probably working for Christine's lawyers.

After Lipton's murder, Cross makes his way to Texas where he had been held. No one has any idea how the murder happened. Every bone in his body had been broken-the Russian Mafia's sign. From there, Cross travels to Colorado to visit the supermax prison where an old friend of the Wolf's is being held for murder. Kyle Craig is a former FBI agent and a serial killer, who had actually met the Wolf and played chess with him. Craig agrees to help Cross.

After negotiating with Craig for a day, Craig finally gives Cross a name. Cross returns to Washington and meets with Burns and the Director of the CIA. Both men tell Cross to take down the Wolf.

Part 4, Chapters 110, 111, 112, 113 Analysis

Again, the story heats up as the focus has been turned back to the Wolf, who is now targeting the FBI, especially Cross and Burns. The author builds suspense in this section when the Wolf's activities show up in unexpected places. First, Stacy Pollack is shot by a sniper's bullet. Then, Burns's and Cross's families have to be evacuated when the Wolf comes after them. One of Cross's star witnesses is murdered in prison, so Cross has to visit a serial killer and former friend of the Wolf's for help, but he gets his riskiest and best lead: the name and address of the Wolf in Manhattan. Both his boss at the FBI and the CIA give him the go-ahead, all of them hoping the end is in sight.



Part 4, Chapters 114, 115, 116, 117, Epilogue

Part 4, Chapters 114, 115, 116, 117, Epilogue Summary

At four in the morning, the FBI, CIA and NYPD descend upon the Wolf. Cross had never before been part of such a large operation. As they prepare to make their move, their suspect climbs out of his window, running across the roof. Mahoney and Cross chase him and he fires, hitting them both and knocking them down. Luckily, their vests prevent any other injury. A helicopter appears overhead and two men come out of the building. All are shooting. The FBI agents return fire and secure the area. Cross and Mahoney arrest Andrei Prokopev, the head of the trade delegation to New York.

With Prokopev in custody, Burns asks Cross to return to Washington. When he arrives, a meeting is in progress. Burns brings him up to speed, telling him that the Russian government had been cooperating, but that Prokopev was not the Wolf. Apparently, Prokopev had been set up and was actually the Wolf's chief rival in Russia. However, the Russians would not tell them who the Wolf actually was. Burns assumes it is because they are scared of him, too.

Cross returns home deeply disappointed that they had not caught the Wolf, but still grateful that they were able to save Lizzie Connolly's life. The next day he and his kids go to the airport to pick up Jamilla. When she arrives, they embrace and Cross tells her that he loves her. As they are leaving, he notices the same photographer taking pictures.

A week after Jamilla has returned to California, Christine and Child Protective Services arrive at Alex's house to pick up Little Alex. The courts had ruled in Christine's favor. Cross tries to focus on the good of his son, but his heart is broken. The family has one last group hug and they take Little Alex away.

Sorokin is due in court on Monday morning in Miami. As he is being transported to the courthouse, his van is surrounded by half a dozen large men with weapons. The Wolf approaches the van and looks into the window, unhappy that Sorokin has turned against him. Sorokin begs for his life, but the Wolf fires a rocket launcher into the van.

Part 4, Chapters 114, 115, 116, 117, Epilogue Analysis

Once again, Cross is hot on the Wolf's tail and is fooled. The man they arrest in New York turns out to be the Wolf's chief rival instead of the Wolf himself. So, at the end of the story the Wolf is still on the loose.

The author resolves a couple of story lines that deal with Cross's personal life. His girlfriend visits from California and they pledge their love to one another. On a more



tragic note, Cross's youngest son is placed in the custody of the boy's mother, Christine. Cross's heart is broken.

Although the author resolves many of the plot lines in the book, he leaves the main plot line - the pursuit of the Wolf-open for a sequel. In the last scene of the book, the Wolf appears again to exact his murderous justice on Sorokin, a would-be informant for the authorities.



Characters

Alex Cross

Cross is a career law enforcement man who has just joined the FBI as this story opens. Characterized as a man who loves being out on the street solving hard cases, Cross is gutsy, defies authority and is unendingly persistent.

As much as Cross loves being in law enforcement and chasing bad guys, he is a devoted family man and tries his best to create a good home for his children, which brings him both fulfillment and frustration. Throughout the story, he struggles to find time for his young children while under pressure to solve his big case. Then, the mother of his youngest son, Little Alex, reappears and begins proceedings to take custody of the young boy she abandoned a year earlier.

As for his love life, Cross tries to maintain a romantic relationship with a homicide officer on the opposite coast in San Francisco, named Jamilla. Throughout the book they struggle with making time for each other and trying to maintain a relationship.

Cross proves himself to be a worthy challenge for the ruthless Wolf. Cross has great instincts and no fear. Although the Wolf makes numerous attempts on his life, Cross continues to push forward and gets closer and closer to bringing the Wolf to justice. Unfortunately, the culmination of such justice will have to happen in a sequel.

The Wolf

The Wolf is a mystery man, whose real identity seems to be known by no one. The only individuals who can positively identify him are the CIA agents he duped into letting him in to the U.S. many years before. The Wolf is the head of a large organized crime ring and working hard to become the head of all organized crime, Russian or otherwise, in the United States. Originally from Russia, he is a former member of the KGB.

In the U.S., the Wolf is a ruthless boss who will kill or maim without hesitation. Imminently powerful, he can buy his way into or out of just about anything. Once, he bought his way into a maximum security prison in order to murder an Italian mob boss and break every bone in his body. There were no reported witnesses. All who know him are extremely fearful of him. A man without a soul, he hides in plain sight and moves throughout society freely because so few know his true identity.

Ron Burns

Burns is the director of the FBI and the reason Alex Cross is working for the FBI. As Cross's mentor and advocate, he assigns Cross to the White Girl case and advises him along the way.



Pasha Sorokin

Up until the end of the book, the author leads the reader to believe that Pasha Sorokin is the Wolf. Sorokin is also a Russian-born Mafia member. At the end of the story however, he reveals that he is not the Wolf, just a well-paid stand in.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Connolly

Lizzie is the first kidnapping victim in the story. She is the wife of Federal judge, Brendan Connolly. Her husband turns out to be one of the Wolf's clients, Sphinx.

Jannie, Damon and Little Alex

Jannie , Damon and Little Alex are Alex Cross's three young children. Alex had Jannie and Damon's with his wife who was killed years before in a still unsolved murder. Little Alex is Cross's youngest son he had with his ex-girlfriend, Christine. Christine re-appears in their lives after leaving Little Alex with his father and moving to Seattle.

Nana Mama

Nana Mama is Alex Cross's grandmother. She lives with Alex and his children and cares for the children when Alex is away from home.

The Couple - Slava and Zoya

The Couple take orders from the Wolf and abduct the purchased victims. They are a Russian man and woman that the Wolf knew in Russia and helped them come to America. In return they work for him. The Wolf ends up murdering both of them after finding out they have become careless in their abductions and are trying to sabotage him.

Monnie Donnelley

Monnie is a research analyst at the FBI and becomes Alex's right hand in the research and investigation of the White Girl Case. She is a single mother and devoted to her work. She and Alex form a friendship and can relate to each other easily as single parents that work too much.

Jamilla

Jamilla is Alex Cross's girlfriend. She is a busy homicide detective in San Francisco, so they do not see much of each other. She comes to visit Alex at the end of the story,

however is only present on the phone during much of the story. By the end of the story she and Alex pledge their love to one another.



Objects/Places

Hoover Building

The Hoover Building is the headquarters of the FBI, where the main character, Alex Cross, spends a great deal of his time.

Washington, DC

Cross lives and works in the Washington area. He was a Washington DC police officer, who now lives and works there as an FBI agent.

Quantico

The FBI Training Academy is in Quantico. Alex is a new FBI trainee and attends his classes in Quantico.

Buckhead section of Atlanta, Georgia

Lizzie Connolly, the first kidnapping victim, was kidnapped from a mall in Buckhead. She, her husband and children also resided in Buckhead.

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Pasha Sorokin's home is in Fort Lauderdale. Alex Cross and the FBI raid his home and rescue Lizzie Connolly there.

Farm in Webster, New Hampshire

The location of where abduction victim Benjamin Coffey was held. His buyer, Mr. Potter, is one of the Wolf's clients and turns out to be of great help to the FBI.

The Wolf's Den

The Wolf's Den is an online chat room only accessible by the Wolf and his demented group of customers that purchase people for their pleasure. The FBI gets a major break in the White Girl case when a fourteen year old girl hacks into the chat room.



Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Bucks County is the site of where one of the abduction victims, Audrey Meek, was found after being released by her captor. Alex Cross traveled to the scene to interview Ms. Meek.

Boston, Massachusetts

Alex and the FBI conduct a sting operation in Boston after they have infiltrated the Wolf's Den, posed as Mr. Potter and ordered the abduction of another young man. The operation ends up a failure.

Dallas, Texas

After the sting operation in Boston, the money paid by the FBI for the abduction is tracked to a man in Dallas. Alex Cross travels to Dallas to arrest another one of the Wolf's clients who is also the money man for the operation.

New York City, New York

New York is the site of another FBI sting. Alex and the FBI believe they have the Wolf in their sights and raid an apartment on Central Park West to attempt to apprehend him.



Themes

Good versus Evil

The Big Bad Wolf portrays a literal struggle between good and evil. Alex Cross, the family man and career law enforcement officer represents the good as he has devoted his life to catching bad guys and bringing them to justice.

The Wolf represents one of the most evil individuals one could possibly imagine. The author characterizes him as having neither soul nor redeeming quality. The Wolf is so evil that there is not one shred of redemption or likeability in his character. The entire story is about the struggle between the good guy, Alex Cross and the evil Wolf he tries to bring to justice.

The nature of a crime drama such as this story virtually requires a struggle between good and evil and this story is no different. For this crime drama the author has chosen two polar opposite main characters. Alex Cross is a very good guy, with seemingly no dark corners in his character. He selflessly gives himself to his family, his career and the cases he solves. Likewise, his nemesis, The Wolf has no shred of good in his character. He is able to kill without remorse and his evil actions are taken with no thought to anyone other than his selfish motives.

Appearance and Reality

Early on in the story, the reader learns that appearance and reality are a central theme in this book. From the very start, the identity of the Wolf is mysterious and becomes more and more mysterious as the story progresses. Additionally, the theme of appearance and reality is present in all of the bad guys. The Wolf has Sorokin pretend to be the Wolf. Additionally, all of the Wolf's wealthy clients appear in society to be normal, healthy and good as they go about their daily lives as a judge, a professor, or business executive. However, the reality is that they are psychotic killers and criminals.

The theme of appearance and reality is what Alex Cross and the other agents must deal with as a part of their profession. Much of Cross's talent to solve cases in this story rests on his ability to see through appearance to reality. The author uses this theme to his advantage in the book as a tactic to create further suspense and mystery. Even at the end of the story, the reader does not know the true identity of the Wolf.

Work, Life Balance

Throughout the story Alex Cross struggles with balancing his work life and home life. For example his attempt at having a romantic relationship with Jamilla. Although they are apparently attracted to one another, Alex seems to have a difficult time fitting in phone calls and visits with her. Another example of the work, life balance theme that



becomes a sub-plot when Alex's youngest son, Little Alex's biological mother returns to take custody of Little Alex. She uses Alex's hectic work life as proof that he is an unfit caretaker and her more normal life would be a better situation for their son. In the end, Alex loses the legal battle and has to give up his son.

Applying the work, life balance theme gives Alex, the main character depth and makes him seem more real. This story is one of a series and thus the author needed to develop themes that could remain consistent throughout the story. Consistent throughout this story are his feelings of guilt as a result of not getting to spend as much time with his children as he would like. During the course of the story he often makes plans with them but ends up being too late. However, by the end of the story he makes some changes in his priorities and makes time for Jamilla to come visit and takes some time off from work to spend with his kids.



Style

Point of View

Most of the story is third person omniscient in which the reader can see everything that is going on, not just the events from one character's point of view. In an action, suspense story like this one where many different events are happening with many characters in many locations, the third person point of view allows the author to change scenes and places quickly and easily. For example, third person point of view allows the reader to witness first hand and judge first hand the murders at the hands of the Wolf. Third person point of view also allows the author to reveal that Lizzie Connolly is still alive in one scene and see how close Alex Cross is to finding her in another scene. It also allows the author to give information to the reader regarding the mystery that creates more suspense.

However, when Alex Cross is in the scene, the story is told from his point of view and so is in first person. The importance of using first person point of view for the main character is so that the reader gets a more intimate, internal view of Alex Cross and his thoughts and feelings. First person point of view also adds suspense because the reader doesn't know any more than Cross at those times.

Setting

The story is set in modern-day Washington, DC. Cross, the main character, lives and works in Washington, DC, although the White Girl case takes him to numerous other crime scenes and various settings. The author likely chose Washington, DC as the setting because it is where the FBI is headquartered. The story is set mainly in the Hoover Building and in Quantico at the FBI Training Academy. The story takes its characters to various other settings around the United States such as Atlanta, Pennsylvania, New York City, Dallas, Boston and Florida.

In terms of the crime setting, the relevance of the type of crime chosen in this novel is significant because the story is based partly on an authentic criminal element in modern times. The white sex slave trade is real in the United States and is very likely an authentic FBI case.

Language and Meaning

The Big Bad Wolf is a relatively quick and easy read. The story is driven by the characters and plot. The language chosen by the author reflects a fast-moving, suspenseful, crime drama. The story includes a great deal of dialogue and short, focused descriptions. Characterizations are only as deep as they need to be to move the plot along. The author keeps the language light and to the point by not including much foreshadowing, deep themes or much symbolism. The language is easy and



conversational without including many detailed descriptions. The author intended this story to be very exciting, suspenseful and fast-moving and thus the language includes very few unnecessary or overly descriptive narrative. Much of the story is told in the first person, through the eyes of Alex Cross, an FBI agent. The language he uses when telling the story in the first person is straightforward as if being told orally by a straight-talking career police officer..

Structure

The Big Bad Wolf is divided into four parts, with a prologue and epilogue at the beginning and the end respectively. The text is divided into 117 short chapters. Virtually every change of scene marks a new chapter, which hastens the pace of reading. The short, quick chapters allow the book to move along at an exciting pace. The reader is pulled into the action and constantly turning the page to see what will happen next.



Quotes

"Early Monday morning, I was oblivious to the rest of the world and its problems. This was the way life was supposed to be, only it rarely seemed to turn out so well. At least not in my experience, which was limited when it came to anything that might be considered the 'good life.'" Chapter 3, pg. 16

"There's been a kidnapping in the Buckhead section of Atlanta. Woman in her thirties. White woman, well-to-do. She's the wife of a judge, which makes it federal. More important, she isn't the first." Chapter 12, pg. 50

"I knew from my hurried reading of the case notes that there were more than 220 women currently listed as missing in the United States and that at least seven of the disappearances had been linked by the Bureau to 'white slave rings.'" Chapter 14, pg. 55

"The modern-day godfather. A forty-seven-year-old Russian now living in America and known as the Wolf. Rumored to be fearless, hands-on, into everything from weapon sales, extortion and drugs to legitimate businesses such as banking and venture capital. No one seemed to know his true identity, or his American name, or where he lived." Chapter 15, pg. 60

"The next morning, I was told to attend a key-person meeting about the Connolly kidnapping and the possibility that the abduction was connected to others in the past twelve months. The case had been upgraded to 'major,' and it had the code name 'White Girl.'" Chapter 19, pg. 71

"The name of the woman who'd been purchased was Audrey Meek. She was a celebrity, having founded a highly successful line of women's fashions and accessories called Meek." Chapter 24, pg. 87

"No one had been able to figure out the Wolf yet. According to information from Interpol and the Russian police, he was a no-nonsense, hands-on operator, who had originally been trained as a policeman." Chapter 25, pg. 93

"Do you know what they say about you, Dr. Cross? That you're close to psychic. Very imaginative. Maybe even gifted. You can think like a killer. That's why they put you on the White Girl right away." Chapter 26, pg. 98

"The buyer's name was Mr. Potter...Potter was very happy with Benjamin and he'd told this to the Couple when they dropped the package at his farm in Webster, New Hampshire, population of a little more than fourteen hundred - a place where no one bothered you." Chapter 30, pg. 111

"Another of the captives, Audrey Meek, watched her obscene, deviate, possibly insane captor as he calmly and coolly fixed her breakfast." Chapter 31, pg. 114



"The cover names sounded harmless, but the men behind them weren't. During one session, Potter had nicknamed the group Monsters Inc. as a joke and that was an accurate description. They were monsters, all of them. They were freaks; they were deviates and worse." Chapter 40, pg. 142

"There was a break in White Girl. One of the women had been found-alive." Chapter 49, pg. 171

"Anyway, my friend alerted me to a message the Bureau got a couple of days ago but dismissed as a crank call. It's about a web site called the Wolf's Den. Supposedly, you can buy a lover at the Den, as in, have someone abducted. The site is supposed to be impossible to hack into. That's the catch." Chapter 64, pg. 226

"I can't quite believe Pasha Sorokin would be personally involved in this, but if he is, it's huge. We've been interested in Sorokin for six years! We're very interested in the Wolf." Chapter 67, pg. 237

"I could also make out someone else in the shadows of the barn. He was tied with leather bindings to a wooden post attached to a beam in the hayloft. He had no clothes on. Nothing. His chest and genitals were bloodied. But Francis Deegan was alive!" Chapter 75, pg. 260

"As many of you know, the Wolf has been a key target on our Red Mafia list, probably the key target. He's rumored to be into everything-weapon sales, extortion, sports fixing, prostitution, the white slave market." Chapter 78, pg. 269

"Dallas. The money went to Dallas. And we have a name-a recipient for the funds. We're hoping that he's the Wolf. At any rate, we know where he lives, Alex. You're going to Dallas." Chapter 88, pg. 305

"You're also involved with a kidnapping and murder scheme that we've been tracking closely for several weeks. You're Sterling and I want you to understand something-all your connections, all your father's connections in Dallas, will not help you now." Chapter 95, pg. 324

"Pasha Sorokin was close by and he was watching everyone and everything with great interest. Maybe it was time to show the FBI how these things were done in Moscow, to show them that this wasn't a child's game to be played with rules made up by the police." Chapter 96, pg. 327

"'My name is Pasha Sorokin. But I'm not the Wolf.' He laughed. 'I'm just some guy shopping in the Gap. My clothes got wet. I'm not the Wolf, Mr. FBI. Is that funny or what? Does it make your day? It makes mine. And it will make the Wolf's too.'" Chapter 105, pg. 355

"We had lost to the Wolf. It happened a lot in police work, though nobody wanted to admit it. Lives had been saved, though." Chapter 116, pg. 389



Topics for Discussion

Discuss who you think the Wolf is and why. Has the actual Wolf even been introduced in this book?

Discuss the characterization of the Wolf. Was his character believable? Is it important for a villain to be with or without the possibility of redemption?

Discuss Alex Cross's family life. How is he doing as a father? Discuss his struggles as a single parent.

Discuss your thoughts about the ending of the book and the fact that the Wolf is still on the loose.

Where does the story go from where this story ends? What is the future for Alex Cross, his family, his career and his pursuit of the Wolf?

Discuss the characterization of Ron Burns, FBI Director. What is the role his character plays in the story?

Discuss how the author's treatment of white slavery in the United States has changed your perspective.

Discuss the future of the relationship between the Wolf and Alex Cross.

Discuss the author's methods for maintaining a fast-paced and suspenseful story.