

# **Black Friday Study Guide**

## **Black Friday by James Patterson**

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# Plot Summary

On the morning of December 4, officials receive a recorded threat. The voice indicates that a firebomb will devastate the Wall Street Financial District. As a demonstration of what the terrorists can do, they detonate a bomb on the NY pier. They promise that the bombs in the financial district would go off at 5:05 p.m. Throughout the day, officials wait for another call - demands to be met or the bombs will go off. However, the day passes and at the time appointed for the bombing, those officials realize there's not going to be another call. The time passes, and some almost seem to believe it was a hoax, but the actual explosion happens at 6:30 p.m. on December 4. The problem for law enforcement is that they have no idea who the terrorist organization, known as "Green Band", is, and the group has made no demands.

Arch Carroll is an officer with a New York City anti-terrorism group. He is working undercover as "Crusader Rabbit," a bag man, when he's called away to work on the Green Band case. Carroll is a widower with two children who are cared for by his sister, Mary Katherine, and admits that he drinks too much and takes too many risks since the death of his wife, Nora, three years ago. During the investigation, he meets Caitlin Dillon, a financial expert and official of the SEC. Caitlin and Carroll hit it off personally in addition to working together to solve the Green Band case.

Green Band is actually a group of twenty-eight veterans. Several of them work for a company called Vets Cabs and Messengers that provides delivery and transportation services for veterans and their families. That fact is what puts officials on the way to tracking down those in Green Band.

While officials are busy tracking down Green Band, they are met with obstacles and diversions that seem difficult to explain until they discover that an elusive terrorist is actually FBI Director Walter Trentkamp, long-time friend of Carroll's father. When Carroll discovers the deception, he's angry and feels bitterly betrayed.

The bombing of the buildings on Wall Street provide an incredible opportunity for theft, which is what actually occurs. As Caitlin explains, the computer systems are antiquated and leave the financial experts floundering to discover what's missing. Projections are little more than guesses though Caitlin's mentor, Anton Birnbaum, comes up with a plan to have two men do major purchasing in an attempt to rally stock prices. That plan doesn't immediately work but the stock market does rally within hours. It won't be until much later that the officials discover that Green Band is only the military force doing the hands on work of the Wall Street bombing. There are additional strings being manipulated by a group known as the Committee of Twelve. This "committee" is comprised of the current vice-president of the United States, military leaders and others. Another of their goals is to force the U.S. President to step down, putting one of their members in power.

Green Band is commanded by Colonel David Hudson, a military veteran with extensive training who lost his arm in Vietnam. Hudson feels that veterans have been cheated by



the Federal Government and his own motives in participating are honorable - to restore some of the money he feels is owed to veterans. It almost seems that Hudson doesn't know the extent of the manipulation of the Committee of Twelve, but that idea is dispelled by the final chapter of the book. Hudson telephones the President's direct line and informs them that the White House is to be firebombed. While everyone is expected that disaster - and aware that Hudson is the man who could make it happen - the homes of the twelve are bombed.



# Chapters 1 through 8

## Chapters 1 through 8 Summary

On the morning of December 4, officials receive a recorded threat. The voice indicates that a firebomb will devastate the Wall Street Financial District. As a demonstration of what the terrorists can do, they detonate a bomb on the NY pier. They promise that the bombs in the financial district would go off at 5:05 p.m. Throughout the day, officials wait for another call - demands to be met or the bombs will go off. However, the day passes and at the time appointed for the bombing, those officials realize there's not going to be another call. The time passes, and some almost seem to believe it was a hoax, but the actual explosion happens at 6:30 p.m. on December 4. The problem for law enforcement is that they have no idea who Green Band is, and the group has made no demands.

The story begins with Colonel David Hudson standing next to his taxi while looking at the buildings along Wall Street. He imagines an explosion and quietly whispers, "Boom."

Just before 5:30 that same morning, Sergeant Harry Stemkowsky goes in his wheelchair to the Walgreen's Drugstore in Brooklyn where he uses a payphone to telephone FBI Director Walter Trentkamp. When Trentkamp answers, the Stemkowsky pushes the play button and the recording states that the Wall Street Financial District will be firebombed at 5:05 that evening. The recording urges that the district be evacuated and advises that nothing can stop Green Band's mission. Harry then goes to the counter and has breakfast.

Shortly after 6 a.m., people begin arriving on Wall Street. Officials wonder about trying to stop them but don't really have a plan in place to make that happen. At 9:20 that morning, Piers 33 and 34 are bombed - a sign from Green Band of what's to come. At 10 a.m., officials made the decision to suspend trading on Wall Street and sounded the ending bell, causing an immediate panic.

That afternoon, officials begin gathering to consider options. They are mainly waiting for Green Band to contact them with demands - a ransom of sort in order to prevent the bombing. At 5 p.m., with minutes to go, financial experts and the officials of major companies are expecting that the phone will ring any second. At 5:05 p.m., they realized the group wasn't going to negotiate. The U.S. President Justin Kearney is updated on the situation and trading is suspended in other areas as well, including New York. At 6:20, Colonel David Hudson is in his cab. He contacts another of the Green Band members with single instruction to, "Blow it all up."

Arch Carroll is working undercover as Crusader Rabbit, a bag man. He's begging money and truly looks the part except for a couple of points - including his muscular build under the layers of clothing. He's watching two Iraqi men, who are currently eating inside the Sinbad Star Restaurant, when he sees Hussain Moussa, otherwise known as



the Lebanese Butcher, enter the restaurant. In a hail of gunfire, Carroll takes down the Butcher, leaving the Iraqi men wounded but alive.

## Chapters 1 through 8 Analysis

It's significant that Walter Trentkamp is the person first contacted by Green Band. There's an indication that they already had the telephone time slated as the tape indicates that Trentkamp likely has called others to be with him. While Trentkamp will turn out to be a terrorist, he is also not associated with the Committee of Twelve who will later be revealed as the people who originally hatched the Green Band plan.

It's interesting to watch the elite from Wall Street huddled into a room waiting to hear whatever demands Green Band will make. Those financial experts believe that they'll be facing a ransom situation - they'll pay an exorbitant price and the bombers will cease their plan. When they discover that their money can't buy them out of this situation, they are dumbfounded.

Colonel Hudson himself is a Vietnam vet and will say on many occasions that he only feels alive when he has a mission ahead. That's shared by others. Stemkowsky says as he's headed to the Walgreens to make the initial threat that it's the first time in a long time that he had something to live for.

There's no real reason for the inclusion of Carroll's incident with the Iraqi men or with the Lebanese Butcher other than as a way of introducing Carroll as a character. Neither the Iraqis nor the Butcher is mentioned again. This does, however, give the reader some insight into Carroll's character. He admits that his superiors have told him not to make a move on the Iraqis, but says they didn't say anything about the Lebanese man. He takes risks routinely, just as he did her.



# Chapters 9 through 16

## Chapters 9 through 16 Summary

Alry Simmons and Robert Havens, two New York City TAC patrolmen, are in the Federal Reserve Bank to examine the condition of the building when they discover coin machines and bags of coins broken and scattered. In the basement, they find more than one hundred billion dollars worth of gold. An armed security guard is at the doorway, dead from the blast, a green band around his right arm.

Arch Carroll is driving home after his gunfight. As he drives, he keeps replaying the events. He'd told the restaurant owner that the men he'd shot were terrorists. The restaurant owner, looking at Carroll who was dressed the part of the street bum, then said to Carroll, "And just what are you?" Carroll arrives home to find his sister, Mary Katherine, still up. Mary K. cares for Carroll's four children, Mary III, Clancy, Mickey Kevin and Elizabeth. Carroll heads upstairs for a hot bath and is still there, sipping a cold beer, when there's a knock on the bathroom door. Thinking it's one or the other of the children, he says to come in, preparing to splash them when they enter. Instead, it's a man who Carroll says looks like a banker. Instead of being concerned, Carroll blushes. Then the man says that the President needs to see Carroll immediately.

Justin Kearney is the U.S. President and he presides over the meeting in Washington. Walter Trentkamp makes a point of agreeing with someone's assessment that the attack has all the earmarks of a paramilitary campaign. Carroll, an expert on terrorism, says that he believes it could be a group of Soviets led by the elusive Francois Monserrat or a freelance group funded in Iraq, but hastens to add that he's not certain it is a terrorist group at all. Kearney then says that he's received recent intelligence that a mid-Eastern group, possibly including Monserrat, has been planning to initiate a situation to induce panic on the stock market, and that there's apparently a possibility that it's related to the bombing. As they are leaving the White House, Trentkamp catches up with Carroll and urges him to get his drinking and recklessness under control. He ends the conversation by asking Carroll to keep him informed on the investigation and telling him that he's needed.

David Hudson, aboard the subway, allows his mind to wander back to La Hoc Noh Prison, Vietnam, in 1971, where he was tortured by a man Hudson calls "Lizard Man." Hudson withstood the torture, refusing to give up his dignity. The Lizard Man then tells Hudson that he's an assassin, a spy, and has been convicted to die. Then he challenges Hudson to a board game that uses black and white stones. His memories are interrupted when Laurence Hadford boards, accepts an envelope from David with payment for information, then demands more money saying that another million would be nothing compared to what he knows David's group has stolen. David kills the man with a knife and leaves him on the subway. Hudson arrives at a hotel and calls for a hooker. The woman named Billie arrives and David is taken with her. David doesn't climax though he's certain Billie does.





## Chapters 9 through 16 Analysis

The green band around the arm of the guard is significant because the guard is "horribly burned" but the green band is intact. It seems to indicate that the men had been inside the building after the bombing.

Arch Carroll is torn about his family life. He realizes that he's taking incredible chances at work, but says he's not able to stop. He seems only to consider that he needs to spend more time with the children when's he's away from the job, though they're often in bed by the time he does get home.

As Carroll is talking about the possibility of Monserrat's involvement, he has no idea that he's sitting next to the elusive terrorist, also known as Walter Trentkamp. The fact that the two men are so close and interact so often makes the betrayal even more intense for Carroll. Carroll will later replay the words of Trentkamp when he asks Carroll to keep him informed.

David Hudson keeps his emotions carefully under control. When he meets Billie, he's immediately taken with the woman. She notices that he is missing an arm but says it's impossible to feel sorry for him. Hudson relives his moments in the Vietnamese prison several times throughout the book and it's not until Carroll is talking to one of David's superior officers that he discovers that David's training included the use of medically-induced nightmares.



# Chapters 17 through 25

## Chapters 17 through 25 Summary

Carroll boards a plane for Florida as soon as he learns that a Florida drug dealer talked about the Wall Street bombing the day before it happened. On the way, Carroll considers the possibilities and continues to believe that the plan called for more patience than most of the known terrorist cells were capable of. He suspects the information of the Florida drug dealer as being too easily available but makes the trip anyway. When he arrives, FBI Chief Clark Sommers makes it clear that he'll be handling the arrest. Carroll agrees and the group heads to the home of Diego Alvarez. Before they're in place to storm the home, Alvarez rushes out of the house using his cook as a shield. Carroll tells Clark that the drug dealer can't get away, but Clark seems reluctant to put the cook in danger and Alvarez makes his way to his car. Carroll rushes to the parked FBI cars, takes one and plows through the yard, ramming Alvarez's car. When Carroll questions Alvarez, he discovers that his hunch was correct. Alvarez, caught with a massive amount of cocaine, says that he was told to talk about the bombing on a particular day and that he now realizes that he was set up.

Caitlin Dillon, an enforcement officer with the SEC, enters the scene of the bombings. She's escorted by a police officer who complains about the lack of traditional communications. He then says that something should be done. Caitlin asks what he would do differently, and then listens as he explains. She then tells him that the police have been doing just that. He asks her out and she declines. On this, the second morning of the Green Band investigation, Caitlin admits that she knows nothing more than she did on the first day. Caitlin is a self-assured woman who became director of the SEC's security force when her boss died. She becomes so good at her job that she remained, despite that there are few women involved in the financial district.

Carroll attends a meeting led by Caitlin at the New York Stock Exchange building - one of the few financial buildings left standing. Caitlin explains that the computers controlling Wall Street's financial district are out-of-date and that it's impossible to determine the extent of theft - if any - that has occurred. She then warns that there could be a market panic on the following day. As Carroll leaves the meeting, a New York Bomb Squad officer, Francis Nilolo, shows Carroll an unexploded bomb that was found in the men's room

Sergeant Harry Stemkowsky, the man who delivered the original Green Band message, is thinking that he has a reason to live - the Green Band mission - and that it's all thanks to David Hudson. Stemkowsky is sitting outside the Vets cab garage in the freezing rain when Hudson arrives. Hudson yells that Stemkowsky is "going to rust," and urges him inside. Hudson tells Stemkowsky that he's "section eight for life," but secretly knows that the vet was waiting for his commander out of gratitude. The two men then join a larger group of veterans to go over the next step in their plans yet again. There were twenty-six veterans gathered at the garage. Included on the team is Colonel David Hudson,



who is the team leader. Steve "The Horse" Glickman and Pauly "Mr. Blue" Melindez make up a rifleman-sniper team. Michael Doud and Joe Barreiro are ordinance experts. Manning Rubin is an automotive mechanic. Davey Hale is knowledgeable on many topics, including the Stock Market. Campbell, Bowne, Kamerer, Generalli and Clint Hurdle are professional mercenaries. Jimmy Cassio is assigned to Zurich. Harry Stemkowsky and Cohen will go to Israel and Iran. Skully will go to Paris. Harold Freedman is headed to London and then to Toronto. Jimmy Holm is going to Tokyo. Vic Fahey is assigned Belfast. Garry Barr is slated for Rome. Nick Tricosas remains in New York. He works as a dispatcher for the Vets cab enterprise. Thomas O'Neil is the head of security at Shannon Airport in Ireland. He's the person who approves shipment of stolen securities boxed to look like clothing for the relief effort. Calvin Mohammad is in New York City and is among the delivery people. The assignments and roles of Keretsy, McMahon and Martinez are not revealed.

As Hudson leads them through their upcoming plans, Clint Hurdle asks how they can know that no one will betray the team. Hudson says he has been in combat with every man on the team and that he believes in every one of them. He then makes the travel assignments and urges everyone to travel like corporate executives with money to spend. Expensive wardrobes - right down to billfolds - have been provided.

## Chapters 17 through 25 Analysis

Carroll steps out into the Florida heat from the plane and suddenly has a thought - what would it be to go undercover as Crusader Rabbit in Florida? As he's returning home after the fruitless questioning of the drug dealer Alvarez, Carroll has been followed by Irish whiskey. He dreams that he, Nora, and the kids had moved to the "nicest, sugar-white beach in Florida." Carroll continues to grieve fully for his wife and it will take the interest of another woman to help him begin the healing process. It's been three years since Nora's death. Carroll will admit to thoughts of disloyalty for his interest in Caitlin Dillon, but will also admit to being terribly lonely.

Caitlin's dedication to her job has put her in her current position, despite the fact that there are few women working in the financial district. Caitlin will later explain that she wanted to be in finance to reform the system. It's her knowledge that theft on Wall Street is so easy that makes her expect the worst when the market reopens on Monday.

David Hudson has hand selected each of the men involved in Green Band's mission. He knows each and says they all have a "sad sack" story. For example, Stemkowsky has stuttered ever since he was shot multiple times. Each man selected has not fit in with his former life after his return from Vietnam. In Stemkowsky's case, he claims loyalty to Hudson and is grateful that the commander has given him something to do. Hudson has earned the loyalty of the men in this way, though many recall him from the days of warfare in Vietnam and already hold Hudson in high regard.



# Chapters 26 through 33

## Chapters 26 through 33 Summary

Carroll and his officers are questioning those with known terrorist ties in an effort to find someone who knows something about the Wall Street Bombing. Carroll is told that Isabella Marqueza is next. She's yelling for her lawyer until Carroll tells her flatly that she's been kidnapped by officers who have the authority to do whatever is necessary to gain information. Carroll hands over some photos of murder victims believed to have been killed on Isabella's orders. She argues that he has no proof and that she doesn't murder children. Then Carroll threatens her, saying that he can arrange for her to die in a horrible taxi accident. Carroll says that he knows Isabella was Monserrat's lover two years ago and promises to allow her to leave if she'll tell what role Monserrat played in the Wall Street bombing. Finally, she screams out that Monserrat is also looking for Green Band, insists that she never sees him and he changes his look often. Carroll believes that he's gotten all the information she has and allows her to leave.

Isabella is later shopping at Bergdorf's, a department store. She steps into the dressing room to try on an outfit, unaware that she's being followed by Monserrat himself. He admits that she's beautiful but knows that she must have given officials valuable information if she would still be in custody. He enters the dressing room with her and asks why they had allowed her to leave. She assures him that she didn't give up any information, but he shoots her at point blank range with a handgun, leaving her dead in the dressing room. As he leaves, he thinks back to the fact that he'd received the information about her interrogation "not ten minutes after Carroll finished with her."

Caitlin is examining newspapers from the 1929 stock market crash in an effort to better predict what is likely going to happen following the bombings. She's working with her mentor, financial wizard, Anton Birnbaum. They begin compiling a list of people who might benefit from the crash. Caitlin then invites Carroll for lunch to meet Freddie Hotchkiss. Freddie is late, and Carroll is losing patience by the time he arrives and says that he only wants to know what Freddie can tell them about a man named Michael Chevron. Chevron is known to be active in the black market selling of stocks and likely involved with Monserrat. Freddie denies knowing Chevron until Caitlin provides records of Freddie's visits to the man. She then details deposits into offshore accounts, and Freddie tells him that he either can give up the information or be arrested by two waiting officers. Freddie tells them everything about Chevron and Carroll calls for his arrest, saying that he'd lied about allowing Freddie to go free. As they leave the restaurant, another officer informs Carroll that Isabella had been killed.

The following day, Anton Birnbaum, as a respected financier, gives a television interview basically meant to assure the American public that the situation isn't as bad as it might seem. Birnbaum personally thinks that the "purging" of the system is long overdue.



Carroll heads to Paris to meet with Michael Chevron, armed with a French arrest warrant. As Carroll arrives in the city, he's flooded with memories of his trip to Paris with his wife, Nora. He forces himself to focus on the business at hand, and is still concerned that he's following dead ends. Chevron forces Carroll to wait for almost an hour despite the fact that Carroll has an appointment. When he enters Chevron's office, Chevron is uncooperative until Carroll shows the arrest warrant. At that moment, gunmen crash into the room and kill Chevron. Carroll runs and is shot on his way out the window. He does escape, but at least briefly wonders if he'll die in Paris.

## Chapters 26 through 33 Analysis

It's important for the reader to remember that Monserrat is actually Walter Trentkamp, Carroll's friend and confidante. Monserrat was likely told about the interview by Carroll himself, though it might have come from some other source since Monserrat says that Isabella might have given up information in ways she didn't even realize. With that in mind, it seems possible that other people besides David are helping Walter stay updated. Monserrat says that he reacts differently to intense situations. While others are pumping adrenaline, he experiences what he calls, "the chill." Though he admits that Isabella is beautiful, he seems incredibly cold and calculating, especially once his identity is revealed.

Caitlin has a head for the financial system and a professor once said that her beauty would work against her in this traditionally male field. It's probably at least partly because of this analysis that Caitlin is so tenacious about her job. That tenacity's allowed her to have the information readily available to push Freddie Hotchkiss into an admission of his dealings with Chevron. While Carroll still isn't convinced they're on the right track, he seems to be willing to follow any lead in an effort to make some sort of discovery that will help their case.

There's no indication who has the idea for Birnbaum to go on television with his upbeat comments, but Anton privately admits that the situation is not good. He will later play "a large part" in the investigation, ultimately giving his life to help Carroll and Caitlin figure out the details. Carroll's escapade in Paris is another example of his seeming reckless disregard for his own life, even though he didn't deliberately put himself in the position on this occasion.



# Chapters 34 through 40

## Chapters 34 through 40 Summary

Harry Stemkowsky prepares for his trip. His wife, Mary, knows only that her husband is working on a business deal but no details. Other Vets with traveling assignments are also boarding their planes, headed toward various destinations with "samples." Nick Tricosas remains in New York City, dispatching for the Vets Cab and Messenger company. Nick wanders downstairs to a locked room that Hudson told him never to open. He does anyway and four and a half billion dollars.

Meanwhile, David Hudson wants to see Billie again and he calls her service, asking for her by name. They meet at a bistro and Billie wants to move quickly to business, saying that an hour "isn't that long." David asks her to stay for a drink first and asks her tell him something personal about herself. She finally tells him she's from England and that her last name is Bogan.

Carroll is in Washington on the morning of Dec. 9. The President says that a minor stock market crash would be catastrophic but that a major crash would devastate the Western economy. Carroll admits that he's had a good lead, but that Chevron was killed before he could offer any information. Carroll then says that he has no other current leads. When a senator says that he believes the FBI and CIA are being underutilized, CIA Director Phil Berger says that's not true. Then President Kearney says that he wants Carroll to remain on the case in search of terrorist connections, but that he wants to turn the investigation over to Berger. Carroll stands, says he understands the President's decision, and resigns, leaving the White House.

On the plane ride home, Caitlin and Carroll talk about the events. She says that she understands his decision. Carroll kisses her and later wonders if it even happened. Carroll is clearing his office when Trentkamp asks him to remain on the case. Trentkamp says that he understands Carroll's pride has been injured, and Carroll admits that Trentkamp is probably correct in that assumption. He then agrees to stay on until the Green Band investigation is complete. Trentkamp reminds Carroll to "keep in touch."

Caitlin is thinking about her reasons for becoming a financial analyst. Her father was forced into bankruptcy and Caitlin says that she saw the need for reform. She's then thinking about Carroll when he arrives at her office. They're watching incoming messages via computer monitor when they discover that the "KGB has intercepted Pyotr Andronov, important underworld black market specialist" in Moscow. Andronov apparently had more than one million dollars worth of stolen U.S. securities that could be linked to Green Band. The securities were being referred to as "samples." Moments later, a similar message arrives from Geneva, then Zurich, London and Beirut for a total of almost one hundred million dollars worth of securities. Most of the stocks are from the top one hundred companies on the stock exchange. The President calls another meeting but neither Caitlin nor Carroll is invited.



## Chapters 34 through 40 Analysis

There's no indication of the form the money is in. While the group is mainly dealing in stolen securities, it seems possible that it's either gold or cash as members of Green Band will soon be handing money to veterans who need financial help.

David Hudson has always carefully guarded his emotions. The fact that he's called on Billie again, and that he wants to be seen with her in public rather than simply hiding out in a motel room, is a different feeling for him. He's careful to analyze that feeling and will make excuses to allow himself that bit of relaxation.

When Carroll is reporting during the meeting at the White House, he likely feels the pressure to provide results. In this case, he's been thwarted at every turn. Each lead is a dead end and he seems no closer to discovering the identity of Monserrat or deciding whether Monserrat has anything to do with Green Band. It's at least likely that David's own pride prompts his abrupt reaction to the President's decision to put Phil Berger in charge. Not only is he angry that he'll be answering to Berger, he's also probably angry with himself for failing to find a definite direction in his investigation. Again, it's noteworthy that it's Trentkamp who talks Carroll into staying. Carroll again agrees to keep Trentkamp informed, still not realizing that he's passing information to the terrorist, Monserrat.

The reader should note that Hudson told the men who were slated for travel that they'd have "samples," and it seems obvious now that those samples were relatively small numbers of American stocks and securities. Those "samples" are now being found in the possession of people all over the world. It seems doubtful that all the buyers should be caught at the same time and more likely that the members of Green Band somehow leaked information to authorities to prompt the arrests. As the President calls yet another meeting and Caitlin is excluded, her feelings are hurt. She asks Carroll what she'd done to deserve being left out and Carroll was blunt - that she's been spending time with him. It seems likely that Carroll is no longer in the President's favor, both because he resigned in a moment of anger and because he hasn't yet produced results in the investigation. It's likely that those in power wanted to quickly discover that terrorists had prompted the bombing and that there was simply a group of known terrorists to blame. The fact that that's turned out to be untrue means the investigation is dragging on without closure.



# Chapters 41 through 51

## Chapters 41 through 51 Summary

At Zavidavo, the Russian version of Camp David, Russian officials are gathered over breakfast. They are told that there are American securities to be had at a fraction of their original value. While the money is an incentive, they also discuss the fact that a purchase such as this could hurt the Western economy - a positive point as far as these leaders are concerned. They are talking to François Monserrat who is reportedly working with members of Green Band. The Russians are told payment should be made in gold. The Russians call for coffee and it's brought by a maid named Margarita Kupchuck, an American intelligence agent who immediately passes the information on to the driver of a flour delivery truck who passes it to another contact who sends it to the United States.

In his New York apartment, Carroll is awakened from a dream about Nora to discover that his own doorbell is ringing. It's Caitlin, who can't sleep. They share Danishes, talk about their pasts and then make love.

Thomas X. O'Neil is among the veterans recruited by Hudson. O'Neil is the U.S. Customs Chief at Shannon Airport in Ireland. O'Neil approves shipment of boxes marked as clothing for the relief effort in Northern Ireland. O'Neil says that the clothing is for a good cause and watches as the crates are loaded. He then congratulates himself for getting the first shipment of stolen securities into Western Europe.

Carroll and Caitlin then travel to London based on Kupchuck's information, hoping to discover the exact location of the transaction between Green Band and the Russians. While they're waiting, they get a call indicating that the IRA wants to set up a meeting with Carroll in Belfast. Carroll continues to wonder how it is that these groups seem to know his moves before he makes them. While Carroll and Caitlin are in London, Monserrat is also prowling the streets. He's come to decide that Green Band is a threat that they set up meetings that never happen and make a plan but then change the rules. Monserrat is certain that Green Band is near and believes he'll soon know what it is they wanted.

In Belfast, Carroll and Caitlin wait for hours with officer Patrick Frazier. An old man on a bicycle finally delivers a message that Caitlin is to meet them at Fox Cross Station the following morning. She's picked up at the station at 6:04 a.m. by four heavysset Irish men. They ask if she has a tracking device "on her person" and Caitlin says that she doesn't. She has, in fact, swallowed a tracking device and wonders if they can discover that fact. Carroll and Frazier are tracking Caitlin when they're ambushed. Frazier is killed and Carroll rushes toward Caitlin's location. When the ruckus erupts on the street, the men holding Caitlin suspect a trap and threaten her life. As Caitlin is expecting to be shot, a man she doesn't know begins shooting her captors. It will turn out to be a police officer who gave his life for Caitlin's safety. Carroll rushes through the tenement house





and finally finds Caitlin where she's fallen on the floor. He first thinks she's dead but then she moves and he discovers that she's unhurt.

## Chapters 41 through 51 Analysis

The Russians who are considering purchasing some of the securities are interested in two points - making the fast cash the transaction promises and hurting the Western economy. The Russian leaders do confirm that the group selling the securities has plans to sell some of the securities to others as well. While knowledge of the stock market and possible transactions in a situation such as this are helpful, the plan at this point is straightforward. Green Band members are selling their "samples" at a ridiculously low return and those people are then attempting to cash in on their purchases. In some cases, the sale of those stolen securities is happening on stock exchange floors but is somehow discovered even then.

When Carroll first believes that Caitlin is dead, he's very upset. He will later admit that having been through such an intense ordeal with her pushes their relationship along more quickly than it would have moved under normal circumstances. For Caitlin's part, she is frightened when she realizes that her captors mean to kill her. She'd insisted that she would go along with their demands, allowing herself to be taken to redeem the securities. Nevertheless, when she is actually there, she's not nearly as confident and self-assured as usual. Caitlin simply doesn't maintain her calm demeanor when she's not in control of the situation. It's likely that she'd faced so many challenging positions in her job that she just believed she'd also be able to somehow control the actions of those about to offer the securities for sale.

It seems likely that this round of securities being offered for sale were the same ones pushed through security by Thomas O'Neil at the Shannon Airport. Instead of clothing, these particular securities were given to Irish rebels. There's no indication whether they simply called for Caitlin's presence because they somehow knew she was in the country or if the Green Band members told them how to go about "redeeming" the securities for cash money. Caitlin does go to the meeting with the proper codes to pay for the securities and she does confirm that at least some of them are real before the meeting goes bad.



# Chapters 52 through 62

## Chapters 52 through 62 Summary

On December 12, more than three thousand veterans around the country open their mailboxes to find a letter. It seems very official and includes dates of service for each. Then the letter states, "Please consider the enclosed a token of our appreciation for your services, a chance for your country to serve you." Inside are stocks, in the name of the recipient. Veteran Kenneth H. Sherwood received five thousand shares of General Motors stock. Each stock certificate was encircled by a green band.

The second section of the book, called "The Black Market," opens with David Hudson awakening in his room at a cheap motel. He's worried but not about Green Band. Billie Bogan has him concerned. More aptly, it's his feelings for the woman. Hudson worries that he'll make a major slip up because of Bogan but tells himself he has it under control. David again thinks back to La Hoc Noh Prison in 1971. He was just becoming involved with the game prompted by the Lizard Man when he sees his opportunity to grab a gun from one of the guards. He kills Lizard Man and the guards and then runs away into the "terrifying jungle." Hudson is lying in the jungle, irrationally feeling that he's about to burst open when the guards begin poking at him. He wakes to discover that it's been a dream and that he's in a hospital. The doctor continues to talk to Hudson, telling him that he's learning to control himself, even under the influence of hallucinogens.

At home with his children, Carroll tells them that he's met someone special and that he wants them to meet her. It's met with instant disapproval. Carroll admits that it might simply be too soon for the children, and might be too soon for him as well. Back at work, Carroll spends hours going over interrogation transcripts, hoping that he's overlooked something. Anton predicts that this could be the "third world war," and that it would be a money war. The following day, stock prices fall dramatically all over the world though no one can really account for the sudden change when the market had held steady for more than a week after the bombings. Carroll and Caitlin spend that night together in the New York apartment. After Caitlin goes to bed, Carroll spends hours listening to music that reminded him of Nora and looking at her pictures on the third anniversary of her death. Caitlin doesn't interrupt him until there's a phone call early that next morning. Trentkamp says that there's massive panic and a total market crash is imminent.

Carroll and Caitlin go back to the Wall Street command center. They learn that banks are calling in loans in an effort to salvage all they can. Meanwhile, futures such as coffee are falling and metal prices have risen dramatically. By 11:30 that morning, most banks and savings and loans have closed and stock exchanges have shut down trading.



## Chapters 52 through 62 Analysis

There's no indication at this point whether David Hudson was actually in a prison camp or if the entire episode is something he dreamed up. However, Carroll will later learn that part of Hudson's extensive training included the use of drug-induced nightmares. It seems likely that what he's remembering is his actual escape from the prison but then his waking in the hospital during part of his training. However, as David is waking, he himself has trouble deciding whether the prison camp was real or simply a dream.

David's concern that he might lose control of the situation with Billie is part of his military training. He was trained as a version of a terrorist and as such was taught to always be in control of himself. He even manages to keep himself from throwing up during his stay as a POW.

As Carroll passes the night of the third anniversary of his wife's death, Caitlin waits patiently. She actually wants to comfort him in his grief but is afraid to intrude. Instead, she waits for Carroll to figure out what he's ready for. Carroll is dealing with the guilt of wanting to begin a new relationship. His children don't want him to at this point, but Carroll admits that he's lonely and desperately needs someone to share his life with.

On the stock market itself, prices are dependent on a number of factors. Trends in the market can make a particular commodity or stock more attractive, sending the prices up. In some cases, a sign of weakness in a particular group of stocks or even in an entire country can make investors reluctant to speculate on stocks related to that company or entire country. The economic situation in the Western-controlled stocks has major investors ready to bolt. The result is panic and anxious investors tend to follow the course of the panic. In this case, it means that some stocks will be virtually worthless. A person or company that has all its money tied up in that stock has two options - hold and hope that the price goes back up or sell and make whatever is possible from the sale at that moment. The tendency to sell is strong because it's feasible that stocks could become totally worthless. Making a fraction of the purchase price back is better than losing everything.



# Chapters 63 through 67

## Chapters 63 through 67 Summary

Anton Birnbaum takes the floor at the World Trade Center Crisis Room. He says that he has two investors willing to put their money into a plan he's designed in an effort to rally the market. Clyde Miller, CEO of a brewing company in Milwaukee, will purchase General Motors stock until the price goes back to a specific point. He's ready to invest two hundred million dollars. Louis Levine, Tennessee's state treasurer, will buy NCR stock until it reaches a specific point. He's willing to invest seventy-five million dollars. Anton predicts that other investors will follow suit. Their investments are "too little or too late." The total losses during the 1929 stock market crash were fourteen billion dollars. The total on this particular date was more than two hundred billion.

When the market opened in Hong Kong, protestors were hoping for a market crash because of the impact it would have on Western economy. Within a few hours, the market stabilized around the world. Again, there's no explanation though some will credit Anton's plan. There's celebrating at the crisis center but Carroll wonders if they'll ever catch Green Band. With that in mind, he goes back to the beginning of his own notes and prepares to go back through the entire investigation from the beginning.

Carroll and Caitlin begin by using the FBI's files. She begins by searching for active and nonnative veterans who have been under recent police scrutiny. Carroll has already looked at this possibility but hit a dead end. With the FBI's lists, he is immediately given names that haven't come up during his own investigation. They cross-reference the lists, looking for known associations and come up with additional information.

Harry Stemkowsky is headed home with the knowledge that he's financially solvent for the first time in his life. He has more than a million dollars and admits that it's difficult to understand. As he's driving along, someone abruptly steps out in front of him. He slams on the brake only to have someone push a gun into his face. He's injected with a drug and taken away. When he wakes, he's face-to-face with Monserrat who shows Harry a blue cooking pot that belongs to Harry's wife, Mary. They then bring Mary into the room and Harry begs for her life. Harry won't give up David Hudson's name but does give some information before Monserrat kills them both.

## Chapters 63 through 67 Analysis

There is extensive description of the stock market trading that goes on over the course of the day in which the Western market falls so dramatically. The numbers are staggering and it seems impossible that the market could actually recover on any level after the detrimental day of trading. However, the market turns after only a few hours. Some credit Anton's plan though it had already been admitted that the plan had failed. In truth, it was a staged fall and a staged recovery, overseen by the Committee of



Twelve. Sometimes known as the Wise Men, Anton will first tell Caitlin of their existence. The group is made up of various men in power and has been in existence for decades, wielding power behind the scenes. In this case, the Vice President is among their ranks. However, at this point, no one has yet put together the involvement of the Committee of Twelve and Caitlin and the others simply watch, as the Stock Market seems to make completely unpredictable changes.

Carroll's search through the FBI files seems like nothing more than a guess. In fact, he's making that assumption because he's now convinced that there are simply no known terrorist groups that are capable of planning and executing the bombing. His quest will take him to David Hudson though he doesn't yet have the information to make that leap.

Harry is taken completely by surprise when he's taken hostage by Monserrat. He first thinks that the man who ran in front of his cab is a sign that something horrible has happened in Harry's neighborhood. By the time he discovers what's really happening, it's too late to resist. Monserrat will later say that Harry held up to the end, never giving up any useful information about his partners.



# Chapters 68 through 73

## Chapters 68 through 73 Summary

Carroll goes home that night and is greeted by Mary K. She tells him that the kids will come around to his desire to have Caitlin as part of their lives. At 9 a.m. the next day, he's in Washington, D.C. going through additional files. He meets researcher Samantha Hawes who tells him that she's already pulled some files based on his criteria. Then Samantha says that she believes there are pieces of information missing from some files, including David Hudson's. There are no details of many aspects of Hudson's training and no reason given for his leaving the military, despite the fact that he'd been fast-tracked for leadership positions before losing his arm in combat. Everything Carroll reads indicates that Hudson was an all-American boy and excellent at his duties. Samantha tells Carroll that Vice President Elliott had Hudson's file for more than six hours on December 5, the day after the bombing. Mickey Kevin, Carroll's son, is headed home after basketball practice when he discovers someone is following him. He races for home but doesn't see anyone after he arrives and decides it was just his imagination. He doesn't tell anyone.

Carroll next goes to the Pentagon where he meets with Colonel Duriel Williamson who had been Hudson's commanding officer. Williamson says that Hudson was a good soldier but that he was outspoken after his return from Vietnam about the federal government's broken promises to veterans. Williamson says that Hudson was trained to be something of a terrorist. His levels of hatred were pumped up through various means, including the use of drug-induced nightmares. Williamson says that Hudson is capable of planning the bombing and that he simply wasn't happy during peace time. In Washington, President Kearney meets with a twelve-member committee. He's given the one and only copy of a packet of confidential papers titled, "Green Band," and dated six months prior to the bombing. The details of the report or the conversation are not provided.

## Chapters 68 through 73 Analysis

The fact that someone has followed Mickey Kevin home will later become significant. It's likely that Carroll simply hasn't considered the possibility that his family is in danger. Had Mickey Kevin told someone of his scare, Carroll might have paid attention but would likely have put it off as a child's imagination. Carroll and Caitlin are closing in on Green Band but have no idea how deep the lines go and to what lengths the men behind Green Band will go to protect the final pieces of information. When Kearney meets the twelve-member committee, it's actually the Committee of Twelve. Though the details of their conversation aren't included in the book, it will later become apparent that Kearney is going to take the fall for the entire Green Band mission.



# Chapters 74 through 83

## Chapters 74 through 83 Summary

Carroll next goes to visit General Lucas Thompson. Thompson is at first welcoming and provides a glowing picture of Hudson's career. He explains Hudson's exit from the military simply because of the loss of his arm. When Carroll accuses Thompson of having lied about everything, he's asked to leave.

Caitlin attends a meeting led by Trentkamp who seems tense. He turns the meeting over to officers Nicolo and Rizzo, both with the bomb squad. They reveal that they've made a new discovery about the bombing - that each bomb was detonated remotely and that each was detonated at a messenger drop-off room within the building. That leads officials to the realization that a messenger service is likely going to provide the missing clue that will open the case.

Caitlin immediately begins to look for connections to messenger services among her list of veterans and discovers some who work for the Vets Cabs and Messenger service. Carroll decides to raid the Vets' garage and has Caitlin call Trentkamp with the newest information. Hudson and his men meet at the garage earlier that evening, share some last-minute information and leave the garage. They arrive at Fort Monmouth Army Post where they claim to be picking up small arms for their weekend maneuvers. When Carroll, Trentkamp and members of the police force arrive at the garage, it's empty. A green ribbon is all that's left in the building.

Caitlin and Anton go back over decades of history, including several events that seem to have been orchestrated. Anton then tells Caitlin about the Committee of Twelve. Anton says he's certain that the Committee of Twelve is involved in Green Band, but isn't certain whether they've manipulated the group or paid them. Anton says that knowing who is involved makes the predictions much easier.

At the VA hospital, Hudson meets with a man who claims to be Monserrat but isn't. The imposter says that he understands that Hudson is willing to sell the remaining stolen stocks. Hudson agrees that he'll take one hundred, fifty million dollars for the four billion dollars worth of stock, and that he wants the assurance that his men won't be pursued. Hudson then says that he has one last request - that the real Monserrat make the final meeting. He then thinks that he's been trained well and that he's finally ready to enact the revenge that he's been planning for fifteen years. Vice President Elliott walks alone considering that he's about to become President, though he admits that everything depends on the final act of Green Band.

## Chapters 74 through 83 Analysis

Thompson will turn out to be one of the Committee of Twelve. It's likely that at the point Carroll goes to his home, he's more fully aware that Carroll is on the verge of



discovering the truth about Green Band and that he'll be able to reveal the Committee of Twelve's role in the events.

Trentkamp is nervous as the meeting begins and it's likely because officials do seem to be closing in on Green Band. Remember that Trentkamp - as Montserrat - is not a member of Green Band but that he's also been trying to track the group.

It's only now that Hudson's deeper plan begins to emerge. It's seemed up to now that his only motivation was to steal a massive amount of money, giving that money to veterans in an effort to provide the support the federal government had denied. Now, however, Hudson seems immediately to know that the imposter isn't Montserrat. He says that his revenge is at hand and that he's been planning it for fifteen years. It's still not clear what that revenge is for or what role Montserrat plays in the overall picture, though Hudson seems entirely focuses on that goal.





# Chapters 84 through 95

## Chapters 84 through 95 Summary

It's officers Ernie "Cowboy" Tubbs and Maury Klein who see the cabs carrying the fourteen heavily armed vets driving through the city. They give chase, despite the fact that Maury doesn't want to tangle with Special Forces operatives and hopes they get away. The two are eventually forced off the road, ending their involvement. Carroll learns that the group has been spotted and joins the chase in a helicopter but is shot down by a pair of military choppers providing air support to the Green Band mission. Though he's injured, Carroll intends to be there when Green Band is taken down.

Hudson, carrying the bonds, advances to a building where he's searched before being escorted in to meet Monserrat. Hudson at first can't believe the real identity of Monserrat. A man is called to check the bonds for authenticity and he does so. Monserrat moves the money into Hudson's account. As soon as it's confirmed, Hudson begins "counting down" and thinks that Green Band is almost complete except for one final twist. Hudson asks permission to ask one final question and Montserrat - who is actually Trentkamp of the FBI - agrees. Upon hearing the question, Trentkamp says that he's always been with the Russians and that he and others want to destroy the U.S. financial system. Suddenly, the well-armed veterans fire on the building and the helicopter lands on the roof to pick up Hudson.

Carroll pushes his way into the burning building as Hudson emerges onto the roof where he's grabbed by Monserrat. Carroll finally reaches the rooftop and hears voices. He discovers Hudson and Trentkamp arguing and in a flash, Carroll knows the truth about "Uncle Walter." Hudson attacks Trentkamp and Carroll only watches. Then he's surrounded by veterans and realizes that it's the members of Green Band. Carroll realizes that Trentkamp is dead and he asks Hudson what their purpose was just before he's hit repeatedly on the head.

## Chapters 84 through 95 Analysis

Carroll says the helicopter chase and the ensuing gun battle seem like something from a war, but they're happening over the streets of New York City. While Carroll is injured, he's also determined that he won't miss the final showdown with Green Band. As he discovers Walter Trentkamp on the roof, he suddenly realizes that the man he's known as a family friend has deceived him for all those years. He's bitter about the discovery but doesn't have time to analyze it.

When the men run toward Carroll on the roof, he suddenly realizes that he was correct and that Green Band is made up of military men. Though Carroll doesn't catch any of the men, he does seem to believe that the Green Band investigation is complete, at least momentarily. It's not until later that Carroll will realize that he's made discoveries

that will put his life and that of his family in danger. He says that he knows that no one associated with Green Band will be allowed to walk away.



# Chapters 96 through 104

## Chapters 96 through 104 Summary

Caitlin and Anton begin working through what they know. Anton says that Monserrat had met with leaders of the Third World and were reportedly working on a plan to disrupt the Western economic system in an effort to gain control of the stock market. He says the President learned of the plot and he believes the Committee of Twelve created Green Band to counteract the plan. Anton admits that he's still uncertain of Hudson's role and whether he's in control or being controlled by the Committee.

Hudson arrives at Billie Bogan's apartment and the two spend the evening holding each other and talking. Hudson is tempted to tell her about the past year and the money he's recently come into. Then they make love and Hudson falls asleep. Billie gets out of bed and goes to the kitchen. She returns with a gun and urges herself not to hesitate, but she does. Hudson shoots her through the sheets, killing her. He realizes that he's been deceived - that the Committee knew his habits and used the fact that he'd likely come to care about Billie and that they couldn't allow him to live after Green Band is complete.

When Carroll awakes on the roof top, Trentkamp is gone and no one knows what happened to the body. Carroll is suddenly assaulted with concern for his family and he begins the wild ride home. On the way, he goes back over everything he knows - or thought he knew - about Walter Trentkamp. He wonders if his father had suspected Walter's double life. When he arrives home, he tells his sister that the family has to leave the house immediately. He calls Caitlin who meets them at the Durham Hotel in Manhattan. Caitlin and Carroll talk about what they suspect and whom they should tell. They find nothing of the truth in the newspapers.

The next morning, Anton Birnbaum and the researcher Samantha Hawes visit Carroll and Caitlin. Anton says that the Committee of Twelve believes they provide a valuable service. Samantha has discovered that Hudson was approached by General Thompson while he was still in Vietnam. Along the way, Hudson was given information about the stock market and tips of how the investigation was going. The Committee didn't plan for any of the veterans to live after the mission and only about half currently survive. That night, Caitlin and Carroll make love, knowing that they might not have another opportunity. They try to decide what they should do and Carroll knows that no one associated with Green Band is going to simply walk away. The three adults and four children head into the New York Christmas crowds, hoping to find a way to leave the surveillance teams behind. In a desperate move, Carroll runs one direction and sends Mary K., Caitlin and the children in another. They are all captured.

Thomas Moore Elliott - Vice President who is headed for the Presidency - meets with the Committee of Twelve. They rehash the events, including that Green Band was hatched after they heard of the plan of Monserrat and the leaders of the Third World country. The admiral says that they then created the "temporary" panic in the economic



system, and that they controlled it. He says that they need to "close the books," and that they're hoping to finish with Hudson soon. They finish by congratulating Elliott on his pending ascension to the Presidency - the first time one of their own will hold that office.

New York Police Officer Joe Macchio is on patrol when he sees a man hanging out the back of a vehicle. While he's looking at Carroll trying to get away, he sees a second vehicle with four children and two women inside, all screaming for help. Macchio stops the vehicle and begins trying to sort out the details with all the adults making claims and counter claims. When Mickey Kevin says that his father is a police officer, Macchio figures Carroll has been telling the truth and says he'll take the entire group to the police station - a fact that earns him the cheers of the Carroll family. Caitlin and Carroll immediately begin to tell everyone their story.

In the Epilogue, the main telephone line to the President's office rings. There's a pre-recorded message that indicates that the White House will be fire bombed in just a few minutes. While the White House doesn't get hit, the homes of the Committee of Twelve are each bombed. Hudson leaves the city, at peace. He says that he believes he's done the right thing and that there's finally an end to the deception.

## Chapters 96 through 104 Analysis

The Committee of Twelve meets and looks back over their recent successes. They say that the world will have more luck finding the body of Jimmy Hoffa than of Walter Trentkamp. While there was no indication of how Trentkamp's body was removed, the bottom line is that no one believed Carroll when he said the body had been on the roof. Then Vice President Elliott offers the grim news - that Carroll and Caitlin are telling their story to anyone who'll listen, and that they have all the facts. There's no indication as to the result of that telling, though the Committee of Twelve are soon to be singled out by David Hudson.

The telephone call to the White House is remarkably similar to that made to the Wall Street District just before the bombings. With that in mind, those who know about the bombings are bound to take the threat very seriously. It's easy to imagine those officials scurrying to secure White House personnel while Hudson calmly bombs the home of each of the twelve members of the Committee. There's no indication of whether any of those were killed, though it seems feasible. As Hudson has been explained as a character, he's become more likeable and it's distasteful to think of him as a cold-blooded murderer - but that's exactly what the government and the military trained him to be. As Hudson leaves Washington, he is at peace and hopes that his men can find the same.



# Characters

## Arch Carroll

A New York cop and director of the anti-terrorism team, Carroll lost his wife, Nora, three years ago. He has spent his time since then raising his four children, drinking too much and taking incredible risks at work. He says that he realizes what he's doing, but seems powerless to stop. He's seen no one socially since his wife's death and is attracted to Caitlin Dillon. They make love one night in Carroll's apartment and he wants to bring her home to meet his children, but they are reluctant. He does later introduce them and they are taken with her. Carroll is angry when he's ordered to turn over a portion of his command to the CIA and resigns, but agrees to stay on until Green Band is settled. Carroll realizes that he should know something about Green Band, but can't put his finger on that knowledge. It's through a series of sheer guesses - that the group might be military, for example - that lead him to David Hudson as a potential leader for the group. Carroll is angry when he realizes that he's being manipulated - that the drug dealer in Florida knows nothing about Green Band but was a mere decoy, for example. He seems to realize that Green Band is controlling his movements and that they are aware of everything he knows about the case. Trentkamp was a close friend of Carroll's father and Carroll is hurt when he realizes that Trentkamp has been deceiving him all along. It seems that Trentkamp being a traitor didn't bother Carroll. It was the fact that he counted Trentkamp as something of an uncle because of his close friendship with Carroll's father. As Carroll and Caitlin become closer, Carroll realizes that he wants to be more careful that he isn't killed or seriously hurt on the job - a complete change from how he'd felt before Caitlin. As the case is wrapping up, he tells her that he plans to quit police work.

## Caitlin Dillon

Director of Enforcement for the SEC's Division of Trading and Exchange, Caitlin became interested in finances when her father was pushed into bankruptcy. She then wanted to make the financial institution better and admits that she moved to New York as an "avenging angel." She also admits that she's proud of her six-figure income but sometimes wants to throw it all away and have a baby. When she meets Carroll, she's attracted and sometimes finds herself daydreaming about him. She doesn't seem anxious to rush into a relationship but it's Caitlin who shows up at Carroll's apartment on the morning they make love. Caitlin becomes embroiled in the Green Band investigation because of her extensive knowledge regarding the financial district.

Called upon to make predictions, Caitlin is self-assured and confident. When she was in college, professors recognized her genius for the financial classes, but one said that her looks would be her biggest handicap. When Caitlin is thrust into the director's position at the SEC, she works hard to be all business so that no one can accuse her of being too soft, feminine or otherwise ineffective. Men are still in the vast majority on the trading



floors but Caitlin quickly became so adept at her job that she simply couldn't be replaced, winning the grudging respect of those who would have wanted her removed. When the members of Green Band call on her to buy some of the stolen stocks, Caitlin agrees to go. Carroll wants to change places with her but knows that Green Band's demands were specific meaning they won't accept a replacement, and that Caitlin will insist that she handle the assignment.

## **Walter Trentkamp, also known as Monserrat**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Eastern Bureau Chief, Walter was friends with Carroll's father. Walter talks to Carroll about his reckless lifestyle. In addition, Walter goes to Carroll's office immediately after his resignation to ask him to reconsider. He succeeds by telling Carroll that lives will be lost without him and that he shouldn't quit because his pride was wounded. While Carroll hates that Walter can see through him, he admits that the older man is right and agrees to stay on until Green Band is settled. As it turns out, Walter Trentkamp is Monserrat, the terrorist. He says that he has always been with the Russians.

Francois Monserrat is an elusive person some officials believe does not really exist but is actually the combined identity of several people. David believes that Isabella Marqueza was Monserrat's lover, but she says that she's never seen him, that he is also searching for Green Band and that he doesn't understand what's happening either. Monserrat, convinced that she revealed something about him, kills Isabella. Several people say they know Monserrat by a different name because they've seen him on television and in the newspapers. As it turns out, Monserrat is FBI Director Walter Trentkamp.

## **Colonel David Hudson**

David Hudson was an officer in Vietnam and becomes leader of Green Band. Hudson was put on the fast track to officer status and was selected to receive some specialized training above and beyond the normal training. As Arch Carroll would eventually learn, Hudson was trained by the U.S. Government to be a terrorist. He was help prisoner in a POW camp and later lost an arm in Vietnam. Hudson is generally in strict control of himself and his emotions, though he does begin to feel something for the hooker, Billie Bogan. Hudson completes the Green Band mission, but then turns renegade against those who masterminded the plot and blows up their houses as well.

## **Harry Stemkowsky**

The man who delivers the recorded message of the Green Band to FBI, Stemkowsky is a veteran and wheelchair bound. He's one of the few licensed cabbies in NYC who can't walk. He works for the Veteran's message and cabbie service and is a member of Green Band. Harry and his wife, Mary, are later killed though Harry doesn't give up any vital information about David Hudson or Green Band. Stemkowsky is devoted to



Hudson and makes more than a million dollars from their scheme. His final thought before he's killed is that life isn't fair.

## Isabella Marqueza

Marqueza is the Brazilian woman "kidnapped" by David's group and held for questioning in the Green Band incident. Marqueza is believed to be responsible for several deaths, including a wealthy oil magnate, his wife and their two young children. She tells David that she has no idea what Francois Monserrat looks like, that she converses with him by message, then addresses him by name when he approaches her in a NY store.

## Anton Birnbaum

Birnbaum is a member of the NY Stock Exchange steering committee and Caitlin's mentor. It's Anton who tells Caitlin of the existence of the Committee of Twelve and their role in various activities. Anton is elderly and an accepted financial genius of the day. It's Anton who outlines the fact that the Committee of Twelve began their plans in response to a plot hatched by Monserrat to gain control of the Western stock market. Anton meets with Caitlin and Carroll to discuss ways to put an end to Green Band and is killed on his way home.

## Freddie Hotchkiss

Freddie has lunch with David and Caitlin at which time they tell him that they know he's familiar with Michael Chevron. David gives him the option of telling everything he knows about Chevron's dealings or going to jail. Once Freddie has told everything he knows, David says that he lied and that Freddie is going to jail anyway.

## Billie Bogan

Bogan is the hooker who captures David Hudson's heart but who really works for the Committee of Twelve. She attempts to kill David but hesitates, and he kills her instead. Hudson says that Billie seems so genuine, and that's part of what attracts him to her, but Billie's life with David is actually filled with lies. For example, when David arrives at her apartment on their final meeting, he hears piano playing. He says that he didn't know she played. She spins a story about her love for music and how that discovery helped her escape her dull existence in England. David seems to buy it and apparently never learns that the music was taped and that Billie didn't play at all.



## **Martha Kupchuck**

Kupchuck is a spy who works at the Russian hunting lodge Zavidavo, the Russian version of Camp David. It's Margarita who hears that Green Band has contacted the Soviets with an offer to sell stolen securities and passes the word back through her network to the United States.

## **Justin Kearney**

The President of the United States at the time of the bombing, Kearney is working on the investigation. It's his decision that Carroll will handle only a portion of the continuing police work on the case while the authority over the case will be transferred to CIA Director Phil Berger, prompting Carroll to briefly resign. As the case winds down, Kearney is handed the original document outlining the details of Green Band - written six months before the bombing. The details of the report aren't revealed but it's evident that the Committee of Twelve plan to have Kearney take the fall for the bombing and the subsequent stock market crash, allowing them to put Vice President Elliott, a member of the committee, in office.





## **Objects/Places**

### **Walgreen's Drugstore, Brooklyn**

Walgreen's is where Harry Stemkowsky goes to use the pay phone to deliver Green Band's recorded message to the FBI.

### **Pinnacle Club**

The Pinnacle Club is where the top financial leaders go to consider the Green Band threat.

### **Sinbad Star Restaurant**

Sinbad Star is where Arch Carroll kills the Lebanese Butcher and wounds the two Iraqi men.

### **South Ocean Boulevard , Florida**

South Ocean Boulevard is where the arrest of Diego Alvarez happens.

### **Dream Donut and Coffee**

Dream Donut is where Harry Stemkowsky eats breakfast each morning.

### **Bergdorf's**

Bergdorf's is the department store where Francois Monserrat kills Isabella Marqueza.

### **Societe Generale**

Societe Generale is the French Financial District bank building where Carroll meets with Mr. Chevron just before Chevron is shot and killed and Carroll himself is wounded.

### **Zavidavo**

Zavidavo is the Russian version of Camp David where the Russian dignitaries meet for an early breakfast. It's here that they learn that Green Band is willing to sell more than a billion dollars worth of securities for just more than a million dollars.



## **Shannon Airport, Ireland**

Shannon Airport is where security is controlled by Thomas O'Neil who approves the shipment of more than a billion dollars worth of stolen securities through the facility.

## **Fox Cross Station, Ireland**

The site selected by Green Band for the ransom of stolen securities is Fox Cross Station.

## **Silent Death**

Silent Death is the name given to the Israeli automatic pistol carried by Carroll in Ireland. The bullets seek out body heat.

## **La Hoc Noh Prison**

The Vietnamese prison camp where David Hudson is tortured in 1971 is La Hoc Noh.

## **The Committee of Twelve**

Otherwise known as the Wise Men, the Committee of Twelve orchestrates major events by working only behind the scenes, according to financial expert Anton Birnbaum. They are sometimes believed not to exist at all. In this case, the committee includes the vice president. It's this group who is ultimately responsible for the Green Band incident's at the beginning, though they lose control at the end.



# Social Sensitivity

James Patterson begins his novel with an epigraph from William Carlos Williams: "The pure products of America go crazy."

Further, the novel is dedicated, "For anyone who's ever dreamed about some small and delicious revenge against the money changers on Wall Street and around the world." This quote and dedication highlight the major social concerns of *Black Friday*, which reflects many of the concerns of the 1980s. Originally published as *Black Market* in 1986, the novel seems to take the part of everyday people who are powerless against large corporations and the encroaching forces of globalization. However, the novel also reflects a fear of government.

Major social issues addressed by *Black Friday* are a fear of global capitalism, and the transformation of national and international politics as a result of globalization. An important secondary issue is the condition of Vietnam veterans in American society, their attempts to readjust to civilian life, and their wholesale neglect by the government.

Overall, the government, not corporate interest, is the primary enemy; the hand of government pulling too many strings on the economic stage is a threat to the American way of life. While the novel does reflect the fear of terrorism so dominant in the American consciousness at the time of its publication, it casts the government in the role of terrorist, aligning U.S. leaders with corrupt foreigners.

The hero of the novel, Detective Arch Carroll, "supposed tough-guy, well-quoted cynic around town," is actually not all that cynical: he is working to save the American Dream, to reaffirm that the individual life actually has value beyond dollars and gold.

The struggle of Carroll against Green Band is the struggle of the individual against the power of the government, a struggle he sees very much as Us versus Them. Green Band is a ragtag band of disillusioned Vietnam vets, led by David Hudson, who have been appropriated by an elite and powerful cabal of government leaders called the Committee of Twelve to counter an economic plot hatched by the forces of Middle Eastern oil. At first it seems that Carroll is fighting a foreign terrorist organization bent on destroying the Western way of life by blowing up every major financial institution in New York City, itself a metaphor for the decay of modern civilization.

However, as Carroll works to crack the case of Green Band, it becomes clear that the veterans are being used—again—by their government; it is revealed that the veterans are not as much a part of "Them" as was believed by Carroll. In fact, they are tools whose anger and sense of neglect and entitlement is exploited by powerful invisible forces. Anton Birnbaum, the wise old financial adviser called in to work the case, says, "They're ruthlessly using Hudson and his veterans group. It wouldn't be the first time, would it? It wouldn't be the first time these men were used by those who wield power in this country." Thus the controversy over Vietnam veterans in the 1980s intersects with the fear of government control. For Patterson, the two come together in the recognition



that the individual is worthless in the eyes of those in power. The veterans represent all those who are used and exploited by those in power, then tossed aside.

In Patterson's novel, big business is just as much a victim as the man in the street; in the world of Black Friday, even the powerful may become powerless. Patterson's attitude towards the Wall Street elite is evident. He writes, "The original forebears, the first Bears and Bulls, had been ferocious negotiators and boardroom masters. Their descendants, however, their mostly thinblooded heirs, were not particularly adroit at moneychanging." As long as the story leads us to believe that the crimes are being committed by angry vets> the narrator seems to be on the side of the powerless who fight back. The "moneychangers" have it coming. Healthy capitalism and entrepreneurial spirit are threatened by the forces of globalization. As the CEOs of every major financial institution await the first Green Band attack, Patterson writes: This tingling silence was all the more frightening because there were so many highly articulate men crowded into the room— the senior American business executives, used to having their own way, used to being listened to, and obeyed, almost without question. Now their voices were stilled, virtually powerless.

If the economic system upon which the American way of life fails, so does America, and whither America goes, there goest the world.

The novel examines the consequences of: a higher order working inside, working above and beyond the United States government. There had been a higher order for decades. It made all the sense in the world, actually; it made sense of almost everything that had happened over the past forty years: the Kennedys, Viet Nam, Watergate, Koreagate, the 'Star Wars' plan.

Even the president, Justin Kearney, is powerless against the Committee of Twelve.

One after another, those in the novel who believe they hold power are revealed to be powerless in the face of global political and economic interests. Patterson seeks to show how unquestioning trust in and dependence on corporate interest and big government, and the rise of globalization, is dangerous, and on what a weak foundation the American way of life is built.

## Techniques

In many ways, *Black Friday* fits more firmly in a cinematic tradition than a literary tradition. Patterson's techniques are quite filmic. For example, he uses flashback extensively, particularly when detailing the past of David Hudson. Two chapters are devoted exclusively to Hudson's experience in a Vietnamese POW camp; the chapters are titled "La Hoc Noh Prison," and give the dates on which the events were supposed to take place. This technique shows the reader how real and vivid the experience still is for Hudson and ties his past directly and explicitly to his present.

The characters are also familiar to us from popular films of the 1980s. They are instantly recognizable stock characters: the tough but sensitive cop, the cold bureaucrat, the angry vet with a chip on his shoulder. These characters are echoed in the *Lethal Weapon* films and the *Die Hard* films, in particular.

Throughout the novel, Patterson lets us into various characters' heads. Whenever Patterson wants to make an important plot point, or indicate disbelief or revelation on the part of a character, he uses italics. The story is told from an omniscient narrator's point of view, but we are permitted into the thoughts of each character; often, whole chapters will be devoted to the point of view of one character. However, this does not allow us to know the characters any more deeply. Patterson is using what might be characterized as a less sophisticated form of free indirect discourse, but the characters remain as distant from us as they would be if we had no idea what was going on their heads at all. Most of the information in the book comes directly from the narrative voice, 28 which is very strong, and the novel remains plot-driven.



# Themes

## The Desire for Control

There's little doubt that the desire for control is an important theme in this book. David Hudson is a prime example of that though Hudson's own desire is likely an extension of his military training. Hudson is attracted to the hooker, Billie Bogan, but refuses to allow himself the act of climax during sex. He wants to retain control and never allows himself that act. His self-control actually saves his life and Billie attempts to murder him. In other people, the desire for control is over situations. For example, Caitlin Dillon is a female in a male-dominated industry and she feels that she must be in control of any situation.

When she's called upon to authenticate stocks and to transfer funds to "ransom" those stolen stocks, she accepts the challenge. However, when she finds herself at the hands of Irish rebels and unable to control the situation, she loses control completely. She falls to the floor and David believes that she might be dead. Others have different desires for control. In the case of the Committee of Twelve, the men have become accustomed to controlling any number of things, though always from behind the scenes. They've selected party candidates and arranged elections. It's little wonder that they expect that they can control a run on the stock market. In fact, they do manage to control that particular part of the plan, but lose control because of the human element - the veterans they hire to make their plan come to pass.

## Greed

Greed is an overriding theme in the book as evidenced by the number of people who are willing to purchase stolen securities at a fraction of their market value. The Irish rebels and Russian dignitaries are only two of the groups who hope to benefit from the recent theft of Western stocks. That greed is seen in another form in Hong Kong just before the market opening. Students and the unemployed gather to chant anti-Western sentiment. Though they themselves and their fellow countrymen will also feel the effects of a market crash, those people are hoping for a crash because of what it will do to their Western counterparts. In that case, the greed is in the form of hoping that others lose what they have acquired. The greed of the Committee of Twelve is astronomical, though it's also a different kind of greed. In their case, they are greedy for power. They've become accustomed to having whatever they want - a particular candidate in office, for example. While they may have individually profited from the stock market fluctuations, they are more interested in being able to control that giant conglomeration.

Their greed for power knows no bounds. The banks are also greedy, showing their desire to benefit from the unstable market during the early days after the bombing. The banks' reactions are typical of large institutions that are interested only in making money wherever it's available, but are also prime examples of the fact that no one is watching out for the little investor in those situations. Their greed makes them interested only in



the conglomerates where there's big money available. Ironically but typical of the stock market, the movements of those large, greedy banks create trends that impact trading. The greed of David Hudson and his men is downplayed because they were working on behalf of their comrades and were willing to share their wealth, but it's important to remember that they made huge amounts of money as well. When he died, Harry Stemkowsky was in possession of more than one million dollars.

## Honor

Several people in this novel are honorable, though there are also several who show no signs of honor. David Hudson is a military dream. He followed orders and accepted training, becoming an elite soldier willing to carry out whatever he was commanded to do. When Hudson returned from Vietnam, he was missing an arm and the powers that had groomed him for a long military career were suddenly less interested. David became a voice for the veterans, outspoken against the government that he said had betrayed the soldiers. While there could be nothing honorable about outright theft and murder as the plan that was hatched by the Committee of Twelve commanded, David has taken the plan past that. There's no indication of how or why three thousand veterans received letters with stock certificates in the mail, but it seems likely that it was David's idea. That feat alone took time, effort and research. The recipients were thanked for their service, as David seemed to honor each and every one of them with the personal touch of the letter. That honor stretched to leaving Carroll alive on the rooftop after Walter Trentkamp had been killed. Despite the fact that Carroll had been searching for the members of Green Band and would have arrested them, the veterans didn't kill him on that roof. That same kind of honor doesn't stretch to the members of the Committee as they sought to kill each of the veterans from Green Band, then sought out Carroll, Caitlin and Carroll's family.

## Significant Topics

For all his criticism of "moneychangers," Patterson is not offering a critique of capitalism. Class is an issue in the novel only insofar as the author criticizes the misuse of power through economic machinations; money is the root of all evil when it is in the wrong hands. Fair play, loyalty, duty and responsibility, and standing up for the powerless are main themes of the novel. These ideals are pitted against deceit, greed, and ruthlessness. As Walter Trentkamp, the head of the FBI who is actually an international spy and terrorist and the brains behind Green Band, says to Carroll: I don't believe in the same truths as you. It follows that I don't believe the same lies.

Don't you realize that you're living with lies, too. Your own people have deceived you again and again. . . . Everyone has lied to you, Archer. Your government is the greatest lie of all.

Trentkamp was a friend of Carroll's, a trusted father figure who betrayed him and his country. He represents those in power who betray those they are supposed to serve.



Patterson establishes these themes through the point-counterpoint of Arch Carroll and David Hudson. Both men hold tightly to codes of duty, loyalty, and responsibility.

These codes are clearly important in the world of Black Friday, where the worth of the individual is perpetually questioned, and the powerless are always in danger of being exploited. In the novel, the individual struggles against shadowy figures of power for the greater good. America is sick, but the good guys will ultimately triumph. Arch Carroll is cast as the good guy, a tough-talking, cynical New York street cop with a heart of gold. He sees his highest responsibility as protecting the powerless against "Them": Ones who make all the most important decisions. . . . Ones who rob people, without caring one way or the other. On Wall Street, down in Washington. Ones who trade terrorist murderers—for innocent, kidnapped business people. The ones who kill people of brain cancer. The bad guys.

As opposed to ... us.

There is a distrust of power, a longing for a simpler life, for sanity. This desire is represented by Patterson in his depiction of Carroll's attitudes towards his children. His daily return to the home and his constant concern for his children encapsulate most clearly his need for an uncomplicated life based on trust, loyalty, and duty; his desire to protect them shows his drive to protect the powerless.

David Hudson shares with Carroll a need for clarity and truthfulness, and an aspiration to protect the powerless. However, he plays the antihero to Carroll's hero. Hudson's main concerns are dignity and revenge; these concerns counter Carroll's ideals of responsibility and duty. Hudson had been used by the government in the Vietnam War, and sees Green Band as a way to avenge the wrongs committed against him.

He, too, fights for the powerless. However, while Carroll is only able to perform his duty because he sees inherent worth in the individual, Hudson is constantly trying to reaffirm the worth in himself. Speaking almost as a mouthpiece for Patterson, Carroll says after his confrontation with Hudson, "He said that he loved his country.

You know, I still feel that way. I almost feel closer to Hudson than to the others." The novel ends with Hudson blowing up the homes of all the men on the Committee of Twelve: "He had done the right thing, he believed, especially for his men, the other Vets. They had scattered like leaves after a fierce storm; he hoped they would prosper, or at least be at peace. Finally, they had justice. Finally, there was an end to deception."

The novel calls for justice for those who cannot fight for themselves, and a society free from deception; in order to save America from its sickness, drastic measures may be necessary, and Patterson clearly shows sympathy towards those who take those measures.





# Style

## Point of View

Black Friday is written in first person from a limited omniscient point of view. The writing is split between several of the main characters, including Arch Carroll and Caitlin Dillon on the team working to catch members of Green Band and the Colonel and Stemkowsky on the Green Band team. In these cases, the reader knows the state of mind of those characters, but not those who interact with them. The point of view is effective because it's important to know the thoughts of Caitlin and Arch, but it would have given the ending away much too soon to know the inner thoughts of Walter Trentkamp and officials who are members of the Committee of Twelve. As a sub-plot, Caitlin and Arch Carroll are attracted to each other. Knowing each of their thoughts makes that sub-plot more effective.

## Setting

The book begins on Wall Street's Financial District, though the main players will travel to many areas. The Wall Street district is a real place and that setting makes the book at least somewhat more believable. Though it's a fictitious address, the team sets up a command center at #13 Wall Street, one of the buildings that sustained only limited damage from the explosions. Arch Carroll works as an officer with the New York City's anti-terrorism group. As Carroll is working on the Green Band problem, he is told that a drug dealer in Florida knows about the Wall Street bombing. Carroll then travels to Florida before he realizes that he's on a wild goose chase. He then discovers that a man in Paris knows about all the black market and Carroll then travels to Paris. When he's in the Parisian financial district, the contact is murdered and Carroll is shot. Carroll and Caitlin Dillon also travel to Washington D.C. where they meet with government officials, including the United States President.

There are also scenes at the home Carroll shares with his children and sister. The home was Carroll's childhood home and those memories are apparently strong there. Even stronger are the memories of Carroll's wife, who died three years ago, in the New York apartment the couple shared. Carroll holds that apartment for the nights he needs to stay in the city. It's in that apartment that Carroll and Caitlin make love.

## Language and Meaning

The book as a whole is written in easy-to-understand language, though the fact that it's based on Wall Street and is centered on the financial market means there are some passages that contain financial information that may be difficult to understand. There are extensive passages that focus on in-depth financial information - such as the table that explains the prices of stocks at a particular moment. While understanding those passages helps with the overall understanding of the book, there's no need to get



bogged down in those details. The book will generally make sense and the reader will be able to figure out what's happening through the dialog and exposition with just a basic grasp of the technical information. There are occasional pieces of dialog with curse words, but it's not so prevalent that the average reader will have difficulty getting past those points. The dialog is believable and the fact that it differs from one character to the next. Keeping in mind that the setting is Wall Street and that many of the characters are professionals, politicians and military people, the language is sometimes technical but is understandable.

## Structure

The book is divided into four sections. Part One is Green Band; Part Two is The Black Market; Part Three is Arch Carroll; and the final section is the Epilogue, David Hudson. The sections are of varying length, from the one-chapter epilogue to the fifty-one chapters of the first part. There are one-hundred, four chapters, also of widely varying lengths. Many of the chapters are only two pages though some run to ten pages or more. The chapters separate any actions or events, though there are some particular events that are also divided into multiple chapters.

The book is easy-to-read in typical Patterson style. There are sections that seem to have little to do with the overall plot other than misdirection. For example, Arch Carroll, posing as Crusader Rabbit, is tracking two Iraqi men and ends up killing the man known as the Lebanese Butcher when the three are together. The reader might take the inclusion of that section to mean that the Lebanese Butcher or at least the Iraqi men have something to do with Green Band, but it will prove to be a false lead for the reader. Those minor distractions are not a serious problem and the reader is typically able to dismiss the unimportant, though it's sometimes difficult to decide at first glance what relates to the plot and what doesn't.



## Quotes

"Once he had it all vividly in sight, Colonel Hudson squeezed his fingers tightly together. 'Boom,' he whispered quietly. The financial capital of the world completely disappeared behind his clenched right fist."

Chapter 1, Page 3

"The Wall Street Financial District, from the East River to Broadway, is scheduled to be firebombed today. A large number of randomly selected targets will be completely destroyed late this afternoon."

— Message from Greenband, Chapter 2, Page 8

"'We agreed on a figure before you did any work for us on Wall Street. Your fee, half a million dollars, has now been paid in full.' Hudson felt a familiar alarm sounding inside him. 'Any information you've supplied us, any personal risks you took, were infinitesimal considering your financial gain.' Hartford's perfectly capped white teeth gritted slightly. 'Please. Don't tell me how well I've been paid. I know what you're all about now. You've got so much money you couldn't possibly know what to do with it. Another half million is meaningless. What's another million for that matter? Don't be so uptight.'"

Chapter 15, Page 69

"Warning signals were going off like police sirens in his head. David Hudson listened this time. He didn't come. He never did."

Chapter 16, Page 75

"Carroll turned away from the mirror. It would soon be time to come down in the fantasy world of orange juice, Disney World, multimillionaire dope dealers, and hopefully Green Band."

Chapter 17, Page 78

"Then the front wheels struck the concrete curb loudly with a jolting crunch. The car's front end leaped at least three feet in the air. All four wheels were off the ground, and the vehicle moved in slow motion because slow is the speed at which a car flies."

Chapter 20, page 87

"And it was all thanks to Colonel David Hudson. Who happened to be the best soldier, the best friend, one of the best men stemkowsky had ever met. Colonel Hudson had given all the Vets another chance. He'd given them the Green Band Mission to get even."

Chapter 23, Page 105



"The Wall Street banks, the brokerage houses, the investment bankers, even the computer companies - they know that the success of their market place depends on confidence and trust. If they prosecuted all the embezzlers, if they ever admitted how easy it was, how many stock certificates are actually stolen each year, they'd all be out of business. The point is, Wall Street is more afraid of bad publicity than of the actual thefts."

Chapter 30, Page 136

"You must know it isn't your fault. Everybody's frustrated Arch. Green Band didn't just do a number on Wall Street, it created an atmosphere of panic. Our President, who is turning out to be even less decisive than I had imagined he'd be, make a panicky decision. That's all."

— Caitlin Dillon, Chapter 38, Page 176

"The other man, the silent partner, looped a black hood over her hair, then pulled it down tight over Caitlin's face. He was very careful not to bump or touch any other parts of her body. How very Irish Catholic, Caitlin couldn't help thinking. They'd put a bullet into her without blinking, she knew that. But no impure thoughts, no accidental touching of a female."

Chapter 48, Page 223

"And in Hong Kong this morning, many people are deeply concerned, even sad faced .. But the majority, surprising large numbers, mostly university and street gang youths, but also the unemployed - are shouting anti-U.S. slogans, even praying for a shattering Stock Market crash. The people are rooting for a full-scale world economic crash. They're expecting the worst, and they're gleeful about the disastrous outcome ... The long awaited fall of the West."

— From a newscast, Chapter 64, Page 288

"One more fact about Hudson, though. When I knew him, at least, and I think I knew the man fairly well, he loved the United States very much. He loved America. Make no mistake, David Hudson was a patriot."

— Colonel Duriel Williams, Chapter 72, Page 330

"At the end of the yellow hallway were glass double doors to the outside. Through the hospital doors, Hudson could see the fenced-in back lawns. The fences were not intended to keep the Veterans in, he knew. They'd been built to keep the people outside from seeing what was inside: the terrifying, awful disgrace of America's veterans."

— At the VA hospital, Chapter 81, Page 367



"This sucks, man. Sucks! Bar on 125th Street, I tangled with one Green Beret Special Forces dude. That was enough for me, forever.' Maury Klein continued to complain. The notion of mixing it up with ex-Special Forces veterans seemed like one of the worst ideas he'd ever had in his police-force life. Maury Klein was a vet, too, class of '53, Korea."

Chapter 84, Page 376

"Nothing could have prepared him for this awful moment. All his years as a policeman hadn't prepared him. The man Colonel David Hudson had addressed as Monsarrat was Walter Trent amp ... Except the clenched shadowy face Carroll saw on this man was almost a stranger's. The face was ruthless and uncaring."

Chapter 93, Page 406

"At that news, the entire Carroll family started to do a very odd thing, at least Sergeant Macchio and the rest of the New York cops thought it was peculiar. The kids started to balls-out cheer and clap for the NYPD. The New York cops weren't used to that. A couple of the older patrolmen started to blush. They'd almost never been treated like the arriving cavalry before, like the good guys in white hats."

- Upon hearing they'd be taken to the police station, Chapter 103, Page 444

"He had done the right thing, he believed, especially for his men, the other Vets. They had scattered like leaves after a fierce storm; he hoped they would prosper, or at least be at peace. Finally, they had justice. Finally, there was an end to the deception." -

- Colonel David Hudson, Chapter 104, Page 450

## Key Questions

Black Friday taps into a fear that the individual has become meaningless and is open to exploitation. The pair formed by Arch Carroll and David Hudson speaks to two sides of this fear: the drive to make things better, to promote and preserve justice; and the desire for revenge and self-assertion.

Both men try to reaffirm the importance of the individual in the face of daunting global forces. However, while Patterson addresses the need to affirm the self, he also speaks to prejudices and misconceptions that form the root of modern anxieties.

1. How close is the connection between Hudson's trauma in Vietnam and his involvement in Green Band? Do you see this as a realistic motivation? You might consider the psychological effects of the trauma of the Vietnam War, as well as the social problems facing vets in our society.
2. Is Black Friday worth reading as a social document? As a work of art? You might consider style, character development, and engagement with social issues as you weigh the value of the text.
3. Despite Caitlin Dillon's status as "career woman," she is cast in highly conventional roles: as a saint, as a child.

Likewise, Billie Bogan is cast as both a hooker with a heart of gold and a femme fatale. Is the portrayal of women in the text one-dimensional? How do the men and women in the novel relate to one another?

4. How are the fears of the new global political economy expressed in the portrayal of foreigners in the text? What stereotypes are used?



## Topics for Discussion

What is Green Band? How are the members of the group connected? Why is that significant?

How does Green Band deliver the message that Wall Street is going to be firebombed? When is that message repeated? What is the result of the two messages?

What is Arch Carroll's undercover identity? At some points, he says that he would enjoy slipping back into that role. What is it that attracts Carroll to his undercover identity? What does he say about the possibility of that person being in Florida?

Carroll says that he understands that he's been drinking too much and taking too many chances at work. Describe some of the chances he takes. What finally makes him change his attitude?

What is the Committee of Twelve? Who are some of the members? What is their ultimate goal?

What do Caitlin and Carroll do once they discover that no one associated with Green Band will be allowed to live? How does it work out for them?

Describe Colonel David Hudson's military training. How does that prepare him for an operation such as Green Band? What final action does Hudson take?

What are the roles of some of the veterans involved in Green Band? Hudson is asked how he can be certain that no one will give up the group. What is his response? Was he correct? What happens when Harry Stemkowsky is captured?

Describe the relationship between Carroll and Walter Trentkamp. What is Carroll's reaction when he discovers Trentkamp's alternate identity. What happens to Trentkamp? What does the Committee say about the likelihood of him ever being found?

## Literary Precedents

Although Arch Carroll is distantly related to cops of detective fiction and pulp noir, he is closer to the protagonists of thrillers of the last twenty-five years. Carroll is not enough of a cynic or loner to have much in common with Sam Spade. *Black Friday* is part of a subgenre of novels of political intrigue which emerged in the 1970s. As the Cold War grew colder in the 1970s and 1980s, novels that centered on political intrigue and terrorism were increasingly popular.

The issues associated with the global economy and turmoil in the Middle East and behind the Iron Curtain manifested itself in these novels as a fear of threats to the American way of life. Yet Patterson's novel lacks the jingoism and technical hyperdetail of a Tom Clancy novel. Thomas Harris's novel *Black Sunday* (1975) focuses on many of the same issues and concerns as *Black Friday*. *Black Sunday* tells the story of a terrorist plot to attack the Super Bowl in retaliation for American aid to Israel. The plot, like that of *Green Band*, hinges on an angry Vietnam vet. Further, it demonstrates a similar fear of a threat to the American way of life; as *Black Friday* considers a plot against the stock market, *Black Sunday* considers a plot against another great American pastime, football. The two novels also deal with similar concerns towards global political machinations, particularly involving the Middle East. Still, *Black Friday* is in a special subgenre of these thrillers: the economic terrorism thriller. The novel is situated quite firmly in the 1980s culture of capitalism and could be contrasted with a text like Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* (1987), which takes a more topsy-turvy view of a New York City held hostage by the stock market.



## Related Titles

Much of Patterson's other work centers on individual characters in more traditional detective stories, primarily revolving around the investigation of homicides. *Black Friday* represents a significant departure from his previous novels.

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