

Blood Work Study Guide

Blood Work by Michael Connelly

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Plot Summary

Blood Work by Michael Connelly is a mystery that has many twists and turns. In epic Connelly style, Terry McCaleb, a medically retired FBI agent who specializes in the profiles of some of the worst criminals is asked by a woman to help find her sister's killer. While at first McCaleb is reluctant, and tries to steer her towards others in the field who might help, Graciela Rivers is persistent. Her reason is clear as soon as she confesses that the heart transplant he received belonged to her murdered sister. Feeling that he at least owes the family that much, he agrees to at least talk to the detectives on the case, but he counsels her not to get her hopes up. Thus begins a journey that will take Terry McCaleb from law abiding agent to suspect. In the many turns this case will take, Terry will also discover that the myriad of evil he has faced throughout his career has not permanently damaged him as he once thought, and when everything is over, Terry will begin to believe in angels again.

Terry begins with the detectives assigned to the case, but the lead detective Arrango is less than cooperative, seemingly more concerned with his reputation than he is with his solve rate. When he digs deeper, the case takes several unexpected turns, starting when he discovers this is no isolated robbery in a market. In fact, the same weapon had been used in an ATM robbery shortly before. The lead detective on that case is an old coworker of Terry's and is much more forthcoming with information and files. He digs deeper still and the twists and turns continue. Not only does he find a third victim linked to the same killer, but he also discovers that the killer is taking trophies in each case. Every time Terry gets close, another turn takes him further down the rabbit hole of the mystery involving the murder of Gloria Torres.

Just when it appears as though he is making headway, several incriminating items are planted on his boat, and an anonymous tip leads the investigating agents right to him. It looks as though Terry is headed for arrest as their prime suspect; but as is typical of his organization ability to see a case and work the details, Terry manages to find the inconsistencies and avoid prosecution himself. In a suspense filled ending, Terry finds the killer after he discovers that all the murders were committed to secure him and his rare blood type a heart transplant. The killer, an old nemesis of Terry's dubbed the Code Killer for the cryptic numerical codes he leaves behind at each crime scene, decided he missed the interaction with McCaleb when his heart gave out. Gloria Torres matches his blood type and is the killer's Valentine to Terry. The last straw is when the killer then kidnaps both Gloria's sister Graciela who has managed to warm Terry's damaged and discouraged heart, and her nephew Raymond. Terry will break the law and all the rules to save them and his one true chance at a normal life again.



Chapters 1 - 3

Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

Blood Work by Michael Connelly is a mystery that has many twists and turns. In epic Connelly style, Terry McCaleb, a medically retired FBI agent who specializes in the profiles of some of the worst criminals, is asked by a woman to help find her sister's killer. While at first McCaleb is reluctant and tries to steer her towards others in the field who might help, Graciela Rivers is persistent. Her reason is clear as soon as she confesses that the heart transplant he received belonged to her murdered sister. Feeling that he at least owes the family that much, he agrees to at least talk to the detectives on the case, but counsels her not to get her hopes up. Thus begins a journey that will take Terry McCaleb from law abiding agent to suspect. In the many turns this case will take, Terry will also discover that the myriad of evil he has faced throughout his career has not permanently damaged him as he once thought, and when everything is over, Terry will begin to believe in angels again.

Terry attends his regular heart biopsy and Dr. Bonnie Fox is professional and thorough as always. She returns to him after the lab work is done and give him the good news that everything is find so far. Terry still takes a carefully choreographed selection of drugs to ensure he does not reject his new heart and that require him to shave three times a day. Still, only eight weeks since the transplant, Terry feels lucky to be alive and to have such a good heart surgeon looking after him. In the time since, they have developed a good enough friendship that Terry even felt comfortable confessing the fact that he'd recently met the donors sister. He explains that Graciela asked him to help find her sister's killer, and Bonnie chastises him for even thinking about it, and reminding him of the stress it might cause his still new heart and advises him to tell her no.

That evening, Terry takes his temperature as usual and records the normal reading in his log. He is restless, and wanders the boat looking for a distraction. He looks through the boxes of files from his days at the Bureau, including the two titled "Various Unsubs." He has often contemplated the thought that he may one day put together a book chronicling his many cases. Still, he can't get Graciela Rivers out of his mind. She would never have even found him but for the interview he granted Keisha Russell from the Times. He rereads the article, looking at the photograph used, knowing he'd lost the hard, piercing look he'd once had. He dials the number Graciela gave him and tells her that he will talk to the police on her behalf, but warns her not to get her hopes up. She thanks him, but deep down Terry hopes he can somehow find a way to thank her.

Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

Terry McCaleb is still in recovery from a recent heart transplant. He lives on his boat, and enjoys his privacy. He isn't thrilled to find someone standing on his boat when he returns from his morning jog, but figures that it is just one more in a list of people who



have come to him hoping to enlist his aid for one tragedy or another. He isn't really prepared for the story that Graciela tells him. She is looking for help, and hoping that McCaleb will involve himself and though he is against it at first, when he learns that Graciela and he are connected by blood, his attitude changes.

Graciela is looking for help to find her sister's killer, and knowing that McCaleb is good at his job isn't all that motivates her. Terry has her sister's heart. When her sister died, she donated her organs and her rare blood type was Terry's good fortune and match. When Graciela realized that McCaleb was her sister's heart recipient, she had to see him. She was disappointed that he turned her down, but later when he calls her to tell her he'll look into it, she is relieved and grateful. Terry doesn't want her to get her hopes up, but he feels obligated to help her out. She feels as though he is doing her a favor, but in reality Terry is motivated by the idea that he can somehow repay her family for the gift of life they gave him, despite the bureau having given him a disability retirement.



Chapters 4 - 6

Chapters 4 - 6 Summary

Arrango and Walters are the officers that are responsible for the case involving Graciela's sister and McCaleb knows he is going in naked, without a gun or badge, so he arrives with doughnuts and times his arrival early hoping to catch them both in. He meets Arrango first and senses immediate reluctance to talk to him. Arrango gives Terry ten minutes and ushers him into a room where Terry makes sure to put Arrango on his right in order to engage the cooperative side of the brain. It was a technique taught to him at Quantico, and Terry used it many times. Terry also has the advantage of knowing all of their tricks, including awareness of the tape and camera set up. He asks them for the murder book on Gloria Torres and suggests that with him taking a fresh look at it, she might not call so often. Arrango hardly thinks about it before telling McCaleb that he has the whole think on tape. Even seasoned veteran McCaleb has a difficult time with the level of brutality on the video tape as he watches the murder frame by frame. They watch as the Good Samaritan comes in and tries to save Gloria's life and the detectives confirm that despite media requests, he never came in to talk to them. Arrango and Walters ask Terry for his opinion, and he tells them that it's likely he's killed before. He's calm and polices his brass afterward. There's no hesitation or panic in his actions. The look on their faces tells Terry he's right, but when he asks how many more, they clam up, telling him that they have to talk to their lieutenant first. They promise to contact him.

Terry takes a cab to the store where the murders occurred, and tries to get a feel for why the killer chose this location. He buys a candy bar and gives his condolences to Mrs. Kang who's husband was the second victim. Then he calls Keisha Russell and asks her to look up any stories on her system that involve a robber who shoots people. She finds six that involve a robber with a ski mask and reads them out to him. Terry calls Arrango's boss Lieutenant Buskirk to see if he will give approval for Terry to copy the murder book, but Arrango tells him that he has been denied, and the lieutenant is even unhappy that they showed him the tape.

Chapters 4 - 6 Analysis

Terry knows that there is a great deal of interdepartmental competition where solving a case is concerned, and as a rule detectives are reluctant to share information even with professional colleagues. He approaches the investigating detectives with a box of doughnuts and the understanding that as a retired FBI agent, he will have even more trouble getting them to help him. He is right. Detective Arrango is typical of the kind of bull that Terry has come across again and again throughout his career. Arrango wants recognition and credit for any case assigned him, and he is borderline hostile with McCaleb - even attempting to tape their meeting when Terry tells him what he is looking for. Terry does all he can to overcome this obstacle, and manages to convince Arrango to show him the video tape they have of the murder as it happens. It is brutal and coldly



calculating, and Arrango makes jokes throughout as they watch the killer calmly shoot two people, and then pick up his shell casings afterward. Then the killer turns to the camera and says something, but without audio, no one knows what it is. Terry wants a hard copy of the information they have so far, referred to as the murder book, but Arrango has cooperated as much as he is going to, telling Terry that he will ask his Lieutenant's permission and get back to him.

Terry goes to the store where the murder takes place, and tries to put himself in the murderers place in an effort to understand why this store, and why these victims, but comes up empty. The woman behind the counter is obviously Mrs. Kang - the wife of one victim - and Terry gives her his condolences, remarking on her bravery for continuing to run the store. He calls a reporter who owes him a favor and who he has worked with on other occasions. Keisha Russell is curious, but in response to Terry's request, she looks for any other robberies committed with a ski mask and finds six. She reads them out to him, but gets little in response from Terry as to why he is asking. Terry calls the LAPD again, but Arrango takes pleasure in telling him that his request for the murder book has been denied.



Chapters 7 - 9

Chapters 7 - 9 Summary

Terry calls Graciela at work, and agrees to meet her for an early lunch despite the fact that he has little to offer her. The cab driver on the way asks him if he is a police man, but he tells him that he is no one. Graciela doesn't have much time, but they sit at a window in the cafeteria and she ask him questions about his life. Then he fills her in on his morning meeting and lack of accomplishments. He tells her he will cook for her and Raymond if she will come and tell him more about her sister. Getting back to the boat, Terry is tired and sore. He checks his pressure and temperature, and lies down but is unable to sleep. He reviews the case again, has a bite to eat, and after cleaning up he is finally ready to sleep for a while. He dreams he is a victim in a shooting.

After ten hours of sleep he wakes to the noise of cargo containers being unloaded. Buddy Lockridge from three slips over shows up with a petition regarding the noise, which Terry signs. They are the only two who live aboard their boats in that part of the marina, and Buddy is always interested in McCaleb's old cases. Terry calls Jaye Winston for information about shooting victim, James Cordell. She tells him that Keisha Russell also called and Terry admits that it is likely his fault. Then he asks Jaye for her help and they decide on a time to meet. Then Terry goes to Buddy's boat and enlists his aid as a driver for the next few days as Terry is still banned from driving until nine months after his heart surgery has passed.

Terry had been on a case with Jaye dubbed the Cemetery Man and had been instrumental in identifying him and ensuring his capture. Jaye has not forgotten that she owes Terry. When Buddy begins driving Terry, he pumps him for information, and Terry tells him that if he can't just be a driver, he'll have to make other arrangements. Buddy backs off. Jaye gives Terry everything she has on both crimes, including videos and they discuss the similarities that tie the cases together. Buddy is surprised when Terry comes back so quickly and asks about the material he brings with him. Terry again suggests perhaps he has the wrong man for the job, and once again, Buddy promises to back off, and he drives him back to the marina.

Chapters 7 - 9 Analysis

Buddy Lockridge is the only other stay aboard resident in Terry's area of the marina and they have formed a tenuous friendship based on shared boating interests, blues music, and their combined interest in Terry's unsolved cases. Terry hires Buddy to drive him around as he is prohibited until his chest cavity is completely healed. He regrets the decision almost immediately when Buddy shows up to drive dressed entirely in black, carrying a briefcase, and begins pumping Terry for information about the case he's working. Terry sets him straight, and Buddy backs down, but he is obviously reluctant to do so.



Terry gets information from Jaye that he didn't get from Arrango despite the objections he voiced to Jaye, but Jaye knows that she owes Terry for his help and input on previous cases, and knows that he has insight and talent. She is not at all reluctant to share information which is exactly opposite from Arrango's attitude. She is under the impression that the killer involved in both the Gloria Torres and the James Cordell case are the same man, and because of several factors, she also thinks that the killer has already been convicted twice before. Since there is a new three strikes law that will result in automatic life without parole for the third conviction, this felon is not only policing his brass but he is also killing all witnesses in an effort to go undetected a third time.



Chapters 10 - 12

Chapters 10 - 12 Summary

McCaleb goes through the information chronologically. The first thing he notices is that in the Cordell case, a witness called James Noone called 911 for help and the operator accidentally transposed two numbers causing a delay in their response. It is hard to tell if the delay made a difference to the outcome. Noone also gives description of a vehicle he sees speeding away. Terry watches the video and gets a good look at the shooter who is dressed the same as the shooter in the Torres case was. A minute after the killer leaves, James is seen entering the frame and then afterward, the ambulance as it goes the wrong way, then returns and attends the now dead Cordell. He then watches the crime scene tape and then is surprised to see a recounting by James on the video of the incident. James is complaining about the mixed up address delay. Terry borrows a map book from Buddy and cross references the three strikes suspects and their home, job and theft of AK47 locations of each. One name is geographically relevant. Mikail Bolotov is a likely candidate and he makes notes for Jaye. Then, feeling a headache coming, he goes to lie down.

After a nap, he goes through the tape of Gloria's killing and realizes that the information was never collated into a time line. He makes a pot of coffee, and three cups later he finds conflicts in the time line himself. The Good Samaritan calls in before the shooting actually occurs. A witness, Ellen Taaffe tells Terry she has already talked to detectives, but Terry asks her questions about her call to 911. Then he calls Arrango who is not happy about Terry having the murder book, or about the call he took from Keisha at the Times. He asks Arrango about the timing of the video, but Arrango brushes it off. He claims his partner looked into it, and that by the time they got back to see if the clock was accurate, a power outage had occurred, and the time was altered. Terry wonders if the time is really relevant, and then feels the boat dip as someone boards. He turns to see Graciela and Raymond, having completely forgotten his dinner invitation to them.

Since he hadn't prepared anything, Terry suggests they go to the local restaurant. When Terry meets Raymond, he shakes his hand and suggests that he drop a line over the stern and fish while he's waiting. He offers her a glass of wine, though not allowed to drink himself, and they discuss their personal lives learning about each other. He tells her about his findings during the day, and Graciela wonders if the killer will get away with his crime. They finish dinner, and as it is getting dark, Terry walks them back to the marina. They make tentative plans to go fishing the following Saturday.

Chapters 10 - 12 Analysis

Terry is a good field agent but has always felt that his strength is best at his desk with the case file spread out in front of him. He lays out the information he brought back from Jaye Winston and sorts it all out chronologically before going through it, using a pad and



pen to make notes as he goes along. It isn't long before he begins to see things that bother him. The case files are different on their own merits. The Cordell file, investigated by Jaye, is full of information including video, interviews and follow up information, showing a definite interest and a desire to catch the person who was responsible.

The Torres file by comparison is thin. It has little in the way of follow up, and looks as though the case was just one of many that did little to catch the investigators eyes. It makes him compare the personality and styles of the investigators involved. Next he notices an interview done on video by the camera man who documented the Cordell case. The interview is the first done with the witness/good Samaritan who stopped to help and called 911. He also learns that the witness had to call twice as the first time the operator mixed up the address. He wonders if it would have made a difference. When he looks through the second case, he notices time line discrepancies. It looks as though the call for help came before the shooting occurred, which makes no sense. He follows up with Arrango, but is told that a power outage made getting details about the accuracy of the video time impossible.

Having worked all day, Terry is exhausted, and surprised by the appearance of Graciela and Raymond. He had so immersed himself in what he was doing that he forgot his invitation to them for dinner. He takes them to the restaurant on the beach instead. The dinner is pleasant and walking back, McCaleb realizes that he will miss their company when they've gone home. He impulsively invites them to go fishing the following Saturday and Graciela tells him she'll try to arrange her schedule to accommodate it. She gives him a kiss on the cheek before leaving, and knows how taxing this case is for him. Part of her regrets having asked him for help, knowing that his health is at stake, but another part of her won't rest until her sister's killer is brought to justice.



Chapters 13 - 15

Chapters 13 - 15 Summary

Terry calls an old friend, Vernon Carruthers at Firearms and Toolmarks in D.C., and asks him to look at the ballistics in the two cases, explaining that the firearm has likely been used before. Then he calls Jaye and tells her that her casework was very thorough, but he still had questions. He explains how he cross referenced all 'three strikers' geographically. Jaye is unable to follow up, but doesn't exactly tell Terry not to either. He also brings up the fact that in both videos the killer says something. A lip reader had looked at both, she tells him, but couldn't positively tell what was said. He tells her about the DRUGFIRE program the FBI has, and suggests she use them for the spent casings from the crime scene. Then he suggests that the witness, James Noone be brought in to hypnotize and possibly learn more about the vehicle or the driver that left the scene.

Next Terry gets Buddy to drive him to VGC (Video GraFX Consultants) to see if they can enhance the watch on Mr. Kang's wrist to confirm the time line discrepancy. He leaves a copy of the video with them. At his next stop, Deltona Clocks, Terry straps on his weapon before going in. Buddy questions his expectations, but Terry assures him it is more a prop than anything else. For once, Buddy doesn't bug him about coming in. He questions Bolotov's employer as to whether or not he actually remembers Bolotov working until ten and learns that the alibi is entirely based on the time card's information. He asks to speak to Bolotov, but during the interview, Bolotov decides Terry isn't a policeman. He easily puts Terry on the floor, pinning him there while he takes out Terry's identification, and threatens to pay him a visit. All the while the employer is banging on the locked door. McCaleb watches as Bolotov breaks the glass window and jumps out, leaving the shop. When Terry finally manages to make his way back outside, Buddy is stunned by his appearance. He helps Terry into the car, and then drives him to a phone booth where he calls Jaye. Jaye tells him that James Noone has agreed to being hypnotized

Chapters 13 - 15 Analysis

Terry is an impatient man when it comes to getting things done. The details press on him until he has to act. He talks to his friend in Firearms before even talking to Jaye, although it is her case. Then he talks to her, knowing he can coerce her into agreeing with him and sending at least one shell casing down for comparison and entry into the system. She agrees, and Terry feels relief.

Terry uses his weapon as a prop to get information from people who wouldn't normally talk to him. When they make assumptions about his affiliation with law enforcement agencies, he doesn't correct them. He neglects to take seriously his health in the course of his investigations, justifying it to himself by telling himself that he owes it to both



Graciela and Glory to find Glory's killer because if it weren't for her, he wouldn't be alive. He has an enormous amount of guilt regarding the gift of life from her. In the beginning he has always assumed that the heart was a result of an accident victim who didn't make it, and in that way the gift of life to him could be considered an act of God. Now, knowing that the heart came from a woman who was murdered, and should still be alive, he feels more as if he has stolen the remainder of her life somehow, and feels the need to justify having it. As such, he goes into an interview with a man who he thinks may have been involved in her death, but he does so alone and the suspect, who is much stronger and in good physical health, takes advantage of the situation as soon as Terry starts the accusations and presumptions he has made regarding Bolotov's alibi. Bolotov gets the better of Terry, discovers his identity and easily escapes, making Terry feel foolish as he heads his way back to where Buddy is sitting in the parked car. Buddy sees the shape Terry is in immediately, and is concerned. Despite this, when Jaye tells Terry that James Noone has agreed to being hypnotized, Terry is eager to be a part of it, and has already agreed to conducting the session himself.



Chapters 16 - 18

Chapters 16 - 18 Summary

Terry tells Jaye that he can perform the hypnotism of James Noone which makes getting approval easier. Arrango and his partner Walters, Jaye's captain Al Hitchens, Jaye and Terry are all present but only Terry, James and Jaye are in the room while the others watch through a two way mirror. James is a good study and is soon relaxed. Terry takes him through the sequence of events on the night Cordell was shot at the ATM. James describes coming upon the scene, but is unable to give reliable details. Unfortunately, James has not seen the driver's face because of a baseball cap that was worn, and the license plates on both sides of the truck were covered up so no plates could be gotten either. Arrango waits for Terry in the parking lot, and rubs it in his face in what a waste of effort the session was trying to make Terry back away from the case. Arrango's concern isn't that they are now without a witness so much as it is that Terry might solve the case before him and make him look bad. Terry tells him where his heart came from acknowledging that his involvement is more than peripheral. He intends to work the case until it breaks.

Dr. Bonnie Fox calls and once she has confirmed that Terry is working the case against her medical advice, she tells him she is releasing him as her patient, and that she will put his file together along with a list of other competent cardiologists. Terry is disappointed at her stand but can't change the way he feels about involving himself in this investigation, so they are at a stalemate. Jaye calls Friday morning, angry that she is the last one to know about Terry's reasons for working the case, and even more upset that she had to find it out from Arrango who took pleasure in rubbing her face in the information. Terry goes through the files again and notices something he missed the first time. Glory's personal effects are missing an earring. He checks with Graciela to confirm it wasn't returned to her, as it can plainly be seen on the video of the crime.

Chapters 16 - 18 Analysis

As a rule, police are reluctant to use hypnosis on a witness for two reasons. It signifies that the investigation is at a dead end, and also because a recent ruling decreed that witnesses who had been hypnotized could no longer be called upon to testify in a criminal case. Since many on the force consider hypnosis to be just a small step from voodoo, it is seldom used, and law enforcement officers with the skill are few. Terry believed it was a valuable addition to the arsenal an agent has when assembling information or finding out more about a suspect from a witness who is unable to remember more.

Arrango entered the meeting with much skepticism and takes great pleasure in rubbing the failure in Terry's face. He even waits around afterward, despite comments already made inside, to further push Terry as they are leaving, telling him that all he has

accomplished is the destruction of their only witness in court. Terry loses his temper slightly, provoked by Arrango in his personal space as much as can be, and he tells him that he doesn't care if Arrango likes his involvement. He points to the scar on his chest and tells him that it is Glory Torres who gave him back his life and he plans to be around until they catch the person responsible for her death.



Chapters 19 - 21

Chapters 19 - 21 Summary

Terry shows Jaye the surveillance video again and points out the earring. Then he shows her the police property report without the cross earring on it. He waits until Jaye comes to the conclusion that the shooter took it as a souvenir. He explains the reasons that he thinks that Gloria Torres was targeted and that the shooter actually watched her for days first or even knew her well enough to know that the cross had significance. Jaye thinks Terry is exaggerating but he explains his feeling that this is the kind of evil he knows, and asks if anything was taken from Cordell's truck at the ATM. Jaye isn't enthusiastic about going to Cordell's wife, and Terry tells her he understands she's busy and asks for her blessing to go ahead and look into it, and she relents.

Buddy takes Terry to the Cordell's to talk to Amelia, asking about her husband's routine and searches his truck but discovers nothing. Buddy gets tired of waiting, and opens the passenger door of the truck forcing an introduction from Terry to Amelia. Terry isn't happy that he has insinuated himself, but Buddy notices a space on the dash where something is missing. Amelia has no idea what might have been there, but with a call from Terry to the people James worked her learns what is missing is a photo of his wife and children. Terry doesn't tell Buddy, asking instead to be taken home. He calls Jaye who agrees that Terry might be onto something which leads to a meeting the following Monday. Terry has plans for an overnight visit with Graciela and Raymond, and contemplates canceling them so that he can prepare, but his desire to see them is greater so he stocks the boat with food and buys Raymond a rod and reel of his own. He makes sure Buddy is available to take him to his meeting on Monday. When his company arrives, Terry takes them fishing from the shore line, and while the lines are in Terry finds himself telling Graciela about his childhood and parents. When he looks up again, he sees that Raymond's line is playing out faster than the current, and helps him to bring in a Barracuda.

Chapters 19 - 21 Analysis

McCaleb can smell the evil in this case now. He has that excited feeling that he always got when he was on to something and knows that there is more meaning to this case than just two random robberies. He goes to Jaye with the evidence of the missing earring but she isn't as easily convinced because of the recent hypnosis fiasco. He explains his theory that this wasn't random and that he believes something of a trophy was taken from Cordell's truck as well. Jaye drags her heels, unwilling to jump on board, but Terry anticipated this reaction and tells her that he understands her reluctance. Then he explains that this has nothing to do with him saving face with the Homicide boys. It's all about finding the guy who did this. He asks her if she'll come with him, and when she hesitates, he asks for her permission to go ahead without her instead. That is a compromise she is willing to make.



The trip to visit Cordell's wife Amelia bears out, and after interviewing her, and looking at the truck, Buddy is the one who points out that a photo or something like it is missing from the dash. It bothers McCaleb that Buddy noticed it before he did, and he might have missed it entirely because of the angle he would have had to be looking from had Buddy not been there. When he goes back into the house to call a few of the coworkers James had to see if any of them would know what had been there, he is lucky and gets the information he is looking for, but his irritation with Buddy for his intrusion persists and instead of telling him what he discovered, he tells Buddy that they may never know what had been there. Terry doesn't want to do anything that would encourage Buddy into thinking they were in some kind of partnership.

After Terry tells Jaye what he discovered, Jaye reluctantly agrees that he may be onto something. She calls back shortly afterward to tell Terry that a meeting will be held the following Monday morning with the Captain, Arrango and Walters, and an FBI specialist that Terry knows. He realizes that he will be on the spot during this meeting and should likely spend the weekend preparing for it, but instead he goes ahead with his plans to see Graciela and Raymond, feeling guilty both about his dereliction to his investigation, and his strengthening feelings for a woman who came to him for help. When they arrive, he gives Raymond his rod and reel and Graciela is so touched that she hugs him and thanks him. He holds her, just enjoying the feeling. They go fishing, and Terry tells Graciela more about himself than he has told anyone for some time. He finds her easy to talk to.



Chapters 22 - 24

Chapters 22 - 24 Summary

Raymond catches three fish, and Terry makes them all dinner. Afterward, they settle Raymond into his bunk and Terry and Graciela talk. Graciela asks Terry about his box of cases and the names attached to the files, and Terry tells her about the Code Killer, who's habit was to leave a code behind at each murder. Despite all their efforts, they are unable to crack the numerical sequence and the Code Killer seems to have had a connection with him, sending personal notes and taunts. She asks about the photo above the bunk Raymond sleeps in, and Terry is unable to tell her. Later, unable to sleep, he gets up to check his vitals, and she comes to him. They hold each other, but before anything can happen, she stops him, telling him she wants to take things slow. She asks him again about the photo, and he tells her the horrible story of how an entire family from Ohio is killed, and she cries. The next morning Graciela behaves as though the intimacy never happened. He asks her to make a list of all the places and routines her sister had, telling her the significance of the earring combined with the missing photo.

Terry goes to the meeting on Monday, and is corralled by the Captain who thanks him for his input, but tells him that his involvement is over. When Terry tries to find out what is going on, the Captain gets irritated, and after a stern warning to stay out of their way, Terry leaves. He cruises around the parking lot until he finds the Federal car he knows will be there, and takes note of the gas card number on the visor. He calls the garage FBI uses and discovers that the car belongs to a guy who is very high up. Terry knows that something big has broken as a result of his prodding, likely coming from his expert at ballistics. He calls and learns the bullet matches the murder of an investment mogul Donald Kenyon but Kenyon was killed with different ammunition. The man responsible was never caught, and the millions embezzled by Kenyon is never found. The FBI takes a great deal of heat from the media about how it was handled. Now Terry has to figure out how the murder of Kenyon three months ago ties in to the murders of Torres and Cordell. They head out to the desert again to see Cordell's widow. Amelia gives him a list of the places James has been and he also goes his office and assembles anything he can think of that might help. Amelia is barely responsive and Terry thinks about how one bullet took two lives.

Chapters 22 - 24 Analysis

Terry, Graciela and Raymond have a wonderful day together, and after Raymond is in bed, Terry looks forward to a more intimate and personal evening with Graciela, but it doesn't work out quite the way he plans. Graciela asks him about his old case files, dredging up memories that not only ruin the mood for him, but also make it hard for him to sleep as the memories swim close to the surface again. She comes to him but isn't ready to consummate the intimacy she begins, and tells Terry she wants to take it



slowly. She asks him again about a photo he has that is connected to an old case and he finally understands that she needs to connect with him on a more personal level first. He reluctantly shares the brutal story with her and the horror of it brings her to tears. They spend the rest of the night quietly talking and holding each other, but the next morning she behaves as though it never happened. Terry follows her lead, and instead he tells her about the progress he is making on her sister's case. He is sure that there is more to the cases than just robbery and he promises her that he will find the person who killed Glory. He wants her to trust him; she says she does.

When Terry goes to the meeting on Monday morning, he is given an official brush off and told that there is no longer any need for his help. In fact, he is told by the Captain that he should be careful not to get in their way as they continue to investigate, despite the fact that it was McCaleb's leads that got the investigation going again. Somewhat angry with the attitude he's getting, he leaves, but goes around the parking lot until he finds the federal car in the lot. From that he is able to discern who has been called in and he is surprised by the high level of the agent who is at the meeting. He calls his Firearms expert and gets a report from him that explains the new attitude from everyone. Carruthers tells Terry he owes him a heck of a fishing trip, and Terry agrees. A copy of everything has already been sent to him. He gets Buddy to take him to the Cordell residence where he gathers together as much information as he can for comparison with the other victims. He can't yet figure out how the victim Kenyon is involved with the other two victims.



Chapters 25 - 27

Chapters 25 - 27 Summary

Returning to the marina, Terry finds the package from Carruthers containing the most recent Kenyon summaries. He refreshes himself on the case and most recent updates. He reads the killer's last comment which parrots a line from the Godfather: "Don't forget the cannoli." McCaleb thinks about the the comment and realizes the man who killed Jim Cordell says the same thing. He watches the video again and the words match the lips exactly. He calls Jaye right away and she chastises him for not having checked his machine over the weekend but he cuts her off, absolving her quickly before telling her that he's found a connection. He can't explain why the victims are related, so he tells Jaye to sit on the 'cannoli' thing for now and reads through the entire file, but learns nothing new. He sees the two agents who worked the Kenyon case, Nevins and Uhlig, as they come down the dock and quickly separates the documents, putting half in his briefcase and the other half in the cupboard. The agents ask him for the 'stolen files', and he claims he has none. They aren't happy and warn him to stay out of their way, calling him 'Tin Man' as they leave. Buddy watches the exchange with interest. Terry calls Carruthers and learns that he was put through the ringer as well, but denied furnishing any paperwork to Terry which Terry confirms. He warns Vernon to watch his back. Next, he calls Jaye and tells her that the bureau is going to try to commandeer the case.

Terry goes over the Cordell paperwork and the only thing he can establish for sure is that Jim followed a definite routine, just like Gloria Torres. He is surprised when Graciela shows up without Raymond and with an overnight bag in hand, offering to be his driver for the following day. He tells her about Kenyon, they go out to dinner and then return to the boat where there is no longer any reservations for either of them. He wakes in the middle of the night to the sound of his sliding door opening, and winds up chasing an intruder down the dock naked. He doesn't catch him, but nothing seems to be missing. He goes back and uses a gaff as a wedge to hold the sliding door closed. It isn't until then that he realizes the rug under his feet is wet.

Chapters 25 - 27 Analysis

Terry falls deeper and deeper down the investigation rabbit hole, finding another connection to an earlier unsolved murder of an embezzling banker, Donald Kenyon. The federal authorities had concluded that the killing of Kenyon was a mob hit, based solely on the brazenness of the attack and the killer's comment not to forget the cannoli afterward. The same comment was part of the Godfather movie. Though the FBI is trying harder to push Terry out of the investigation, Terry keeps coming up with connections that no one else realizes. He remembers the line spoken after the Cordell killing and watches the surveillance video again and realizes the killer says the same



thing there. Soon after, the agents in charge of the Kenyon killing pay him a visit, demanding the files from Carruthers be returned, but McCaleb denies having them.

Graciela shows up with an overnight bag in hand, offering to be his driver the following day. She brings him more paperwork, and after having dinner at a restaurant they go back to his boat and finally consummate their relationship. He tells her that he is ready for the kind of relationship that he thinks she can offer. She wants to know if it is possible to get over the kind of things that he has seen. He tells her that he isn't sure, but he does know that he is ready to be part of something better and brighter. He wakes up next to her, and doesn't want to move, but hears someone on his boat. Unsure, he tells her to hide on the other side of the bed. Unable to get to his weapon, he has little more than the element of surprise going for him, and chases the intruder down the dock where he gets into a small red car and drives away. It takes Terry several minutes to calm his heart rate, and he doesn't even realize he is naked until he sees the marina's security guard approaching. They go back to the boat where Terry dresses and establishes nothing was taken. He encourages the guard to just let it go. After he leaves, Terry realizes the carpet under his feet is wet.



Chapters 28 - 30

Chapters 28 - 30 Summary

Terry asks Buddy to dive for him and search the hull of his boat as well as the surrounding piers, and then he lets Graciela drive him to the Times building for a meeting she has with Clint Neff to discuss Gloria. Neff isn't much help, but they walk through the building he stumbles on the connection that binds them all. He leaves, heading for the car and explains his latest epiphany to Graciela. Both victims gave blood and Terry is sure they share a rare blood type. He tells Graciela that the killer learned from Cordell and Kenyon, finally successful with Gloria. Jaye calls to tell him his prediction is correct and the FBI are trying to take over the case. He calls Amelia to find out James' blood type, but she isn't home. Graciela says she can get the information they are looking for at the hospital and times her visit so that she can access the computer's blood bank while the nurse who usually handles it is out to lunch. She is cool and graceful under pressure, typing in the information and showing Terry how the system works. The access code is taped to the monitor, and she quickly manages to connect to the main computer. On the way over, Graciela had coached him on what questions to ask if someone else were near, and to answer the seemingly innocuous question, Graciela has to access the donor's list. When the list of names comes up, she scrolls down, tapping her finger on her sister's name, and on page two she finds both Cordell and Kenyon. All three had a 'd' beside their names, indicating that they are all organ donors. McCaleb asks her to print out the list, and look for who else got her sister's organs.

Next, they go to Dr. Bonnie Fox who is close to hostile when she first sees them, especially when she realizes who Graciela is. Then she listens to the theory Terry has without interrupting while he details the reasons he believes it is all about the blood work. She is reluctant at first, but Graciela reminds her that if a killer is using the system to find donors for his own reasons, all the work Dr. Fox is doing is for nothing. Everything hangs on the integrity of the system.

Chapters 28 - 30 Analysis

Terry is nervous about the coincidence that Buddy was unavailable to help him when he called the night before, and the intruder was wearing a wet suit of some kind. He asks Buddy, but Buddy insists he was on his boat all night and there were no calls. He asks Buddy to examine his hull and the surrounding pier for anything out of the ordinary, and Buddy says he will. Terry still doesn't want to leave anything behind on his boat now, and packs it all up in his briefcase, including his weapon which he loads.

He and Graciela go to the Times where they talk to Gloria's boss and look for other clues as to how the three victims are linked to the killer. At first it seems as though the trip will be a waste of time, but then Terry sees the blood donor chart on the wall and the



pieces fall into place. Suddenly he knows the connection between the victims and the killers is the blood type. He fills Graciela in after they leave the building, and then tries to confirm his theory by calling Amelia and asking about Jim's blood type. When he gets no answer, Graciela comes to the rescue. They go to the hospital and using her nurses' scrubs she is able to access the BOPRA computer system without challenge. She knows the location of the password, and quickly calls up the information they are looking for. It is not a big surprise to Terry that he is right, but seeing it on the screen still makes his breath catch in his throat. The only information they are unable to access is who received the organs from Gloria. They go to Dr. Fox and when she sees Terry at first she is so angry that she lashes out at both of them. She rails at Graciela for being a nurse and still allowing Terry to run himself down to the degree he has. His eyes have circles under them, and his pallor is bad. Dr. Fox doesn't understand how he could waste the gift he was given. They manage to convince Dr. Fox to access the computer program for them by telling her that if she doesn't, the work she is doing is compromised by the fact that the killer is accessing her system for his own motives.



Chapters 31 - 33

Chapters 31 - 33 Summary

Dr. Fox calls the coordinators office and puts the phone on speaker. Glenn Leopold answers, and Bonnie asks him if she can have the names of the surgeons who worked on the transplant case from the file attached to Gloria Torres. She tells him that there was a complication with the heart and that a CMV virus is causing blood work rejection in the latest biopsy. She assures him that no lawyers are involved. Bonnie gets the names of the doctors and the transplant patients while McCaleb writes the information down. It distresses her that she has been deceitful with a colleague. Graciela wants to take Terry back to the boat, but he refuses. The information they just got puts him in a dangerous position and he doesn't want Graciela dragged into it with him. He tells her to go home to Raymond and she argues but finally relents. He kisses her and tells her to be careful, giving her a copy of the names and telling her that if anything happens to him, she should give the list to Jaye Winston. That scares her, but he manages to calm her down.

Terry looks for a cab but finding none, he decides to have a bite to eat, and call Buddy to come and get him. Buddy tells that Terry probably shouldn't return to his boat as there are men all over it including the two who were there the day before in suits. His Cherokee has been uncovered and looks as though it will be towed. He describes Jaye to Buddy who says she is there but is just watching. Terry asks if anything is being taken off the boat, and Buddy admits there is, but tells Terry it is unlikely they'll find what they're looking for, but he won't explain. Terry calls his own number asking Jaye to pick up the phone when the machine kicks in but when she calls him by name, he realizes he is in deep trouble. She tells him there is no arrest warrant but asks why he didn't tell them he had a black Cherokee which matches the description of the suspect vehicle, adding that his involvement led to him hypnotizing and disqualifying the only witness. One of the FBI agents gets on an extension and tells him to turn himself in. Terry calls Buddy back and tells him to make it look like he's leaving to do laundry and to come and get him when they let him leave. Buddy does, and just over an hour later, manages to get to Terry. When Terry asks what Buddy meant on the phone, he tells Terry to look in the bottom of the basket. Under the clothing he finds an HK P7 - the gun used to kill all three victims. Buddy had found it in the search Terry told him to make of his boat's undersides. Terry knows now that he is in deep, deep trouble.

Chapters 31 - 33 Analysis

Terry and Graciela manage to convince Dr. Fox to make a call and get the names of the others involved in the transplants of Gloria's organs. She isn't happy about having to lie to a colleague, but manages to get a list of names for them. For a change, Bonnie is no longer lecturing Terry about his involvement in the case. Instead, she makes him



promise that if he is right about his hunch, he should make sure to get the person responsible, finally endorsing his involvement instead of condemning it.

Graciela is ready to take Terry home, wanting to spend more time with him, but Terry is nervous now, and afraid for her safety. He knows that the more time he spends with her, the more likely it is that she will be tied to him by the killer and thereby be in danger herself. He convinces her to go home to Raymond, telling her that Raymond needs her which is the only card he could play that she might listen to. Her conscience gets the better of her, and after arguing for a brief time, she relents. He makes the mistake of admitting that he might be in danger himself when he gives her a copy of the list, and her fear for his safety almost changes her mind again, but he soothes her fears and sends her home, promising to keep in touch and reminding her that he works for her so she will be kept informed as things develop.

Terry planned to get a cab and go back to the boat, but finding none, he suddenly realizes he hasn't eaten and is on the edge of a migraine so he decides to call Buddy instead and have a bite to eat while he's waiting. It takes Buddy a while to answer, and when he does, he warns Terry not to return to his boat. He tells him about the group of people who are swarming his boat and preparing to tow his Cherokee. When Terry confirms through Buddy that Jaye is one of the agents on his boat, he is relieved, thinking that perhaps he has an ally there, but when he calls his boat and asks her to pick up the phone, the situation goes from bad to worse. She is not oblique in her discussion with him as he'd hoped, and instead begins to list the growing evidence against him. The black Cherokee he owns is a match for the one seen at the ATM when James Cordell was shot; he himself disqualified their only witness by hypnotizing him - and it was his idea to do so; and he has insinuated himself at every opportunity. She suggests he come in, and another agent picks up the extension and echoes her sentiment with much less civility. When Terry calls Buddy back, he suggests that Buddy make it appear as though he is going to do his laundry, taking quarters with him for the machine and hiding his shoes and socks in the laundry basket in case he is stopped, and it turns out to be a good idea. They let him pass, and he manages to get to Terry, but when he arrives the new is even worse. After searching under Terry's boat the way Terry requested the night before, Buddy found the weapon used to kill the three victims. It had been hung in a waterproof bag from the side of his boat, and it is only luck that the agents on his boat don't have that as well. For the first time in his life, Terry is experiencing first hand the fight or flight syndrome that he has always heard of. He doesn't like it.



Chapters 34 - 37

Chapters 34 - 37 Summary

Terry has Buddy take him to Video GraFX again to get the video enhancement and at the last moment, he decides to come clean about no longer works for the FBI but Tony admits he already knew, having called his old office earlier. Tony admits that if Terry is trying to catch the man on the video, he is happy to help. Terry and Buddy go back to Sherman market and meet Kang's son, Steve and Terry explains the discrepancy to him. Steve closes the store, and they drive to the Kang residence where they find out the watch has not been changed. Steve Kang and Terry come to the same conclusion. The killer must have made the 911 call, and could only have done it before he killed Kang and Torres. They go back to the marina, but Buddy goes in first to see if the coast is clear. Terry puts his bag of case material in the laundry on his way in asking Buddy to pick it up if he gets grabbed and thanks him for his help. He grabs clothes and medical supplies to last a few days, and partway through packing up he realizes the galley light is on. He calls out softly to Buddy, but Jaye answers instead, and he asks if she's taking him in, but she tells him the evidence and her gut feelings don't match. He asks what they found in the search of the boat, and she tells him they found the baseball cap described by Noone, and the items missing from the victims, including a cuff link from Kenyon that Terry didn't know about. She lets him retrieve his bag from the laundry, and he shows her the tape of the Sherman Market shooting. When the good Samaritan comes into the frame, Terry tells her he is the shooter and gives her the facts letting her draw her own conclusions.

At this point, Terry explains, it has to be connected to one of the other donor recipients. He hashes out his thinking, from the first killing of Kenyon where he makes the mistake of using a frangible bullet to the Cordell killing where the 911 foul up occurs and finally to the Kang and Torres shooting where he gets it right. Terry asks how they got pointed in his direction and Jaye admits that Nevins got a tip. Jaye takes the list of organ and tissue recipients from Terry and allows him to continue packing after he promises to call her the following day. He borrows Buddy's Taurus, and drives through Topanga Canyon. He thinks about how lucky he is to have Jaye on his side. He pulls over to make sure he isn't being followed, and then drives to Graciela's. He tells her that he is a suspect, but she never wavers in her belief of his innocence and Terry is more than a bit relieved. She asks how she can help, and insists that he stay with her.

Chapters 34 - 37 Analysis

Terry goes back to Video GraFX and gets a copy of the enhanced video showing Mr. Kang's watch and the time on the dial. He decides to play it straight and confesses to Tony that he is no longer with the FBI. To his surprise, Tony already knows that. Tony called the Bureau looking for Terry when he'd finished the enhancement, and was told he hadn't been there for the better part of two years. Terry is amazed that Tony is still



willing to help him, but Tony explains that if Terry is hunting the shooter on the tape, he is happy to help any way that he can. Terry meets with Mr. Kang's son, Steve, who is obviously angry and distrustful. He isn't willing to help Terry in any way until he understands why, and forces Terry to slowly go through it all with him. After he understands Terry's motives, he is much more willing to close the market and take Terry home to his mother where they can check the validity of the watch and it's time. She confirms she hasn't touched it and when the time line is laid out, it doesn't take Steve or Terry long to see the obvious fact that the shooter called 911 before going into the market to commit the crime. They go back to the marina so that Terry can pack a bag and get his medications, and is surprised by Jaye who was waiting for him in the dark. She had been there earlier with the agents who searched his boat, but something about the whole situation doesn't sit well. She saw the evidence they found in their search, and knowing Terry would be back for his many medications, she decided to wait to hear Terry's explanation. Luckily, Terry has ninety percent of the case figured out, and he leads her through it step by step, allowing her to draw her own conclusions just as he had.

Jaye doesn't need much convincing after that. She lets him pack a bag for himself, fully aware that she is sticking her neck and her career out on the line for him, but also aware that if she brings him in now, the focus will be on trying to incarcerate him instead of trying to find the real killer. She makes him promise to stay in contact with her, and he leaves her with a copy of the recipients of organs and tissue from Gloria Torres which she promises to follow up on. He excludes his heart as a reason for the killing, as he is obviously not a suspect. Then he borrows Buddy's car and drives to the only place he can think of where he is safe. Graciela welcomes him, shocked that he is doing his own driving, and he sits her down to explain the fact that he is now the prime suspect in her sister's murder. He doesn't realize how important her reaction is until she unequivocally believes him. Then he is relieved and grateful, having some of the terrible guilt he feels excised. She never wavers, even when he describes the multitude of evidence against him, immediately making the connection between the intruder and the planted evidence. She insists that he stay with her, taking him to bed.



Chapters 38 - 40

Chapters 38 - 40 Summary

In the morning, McCaleb mulls everything over after Raymond and Graciela are gone. By late afternoon, he feels paranoid and isolated again. He tries to call Jaye and by four in the afternoon, five calls to her have not connected. He calls his machine on the boat and finds one message from Buddy and one from a woman looking for Luther Hatch - a suspect in an old case he and Jaye had. Recognizing her code, he calls the number she left. The investigation has been moved to the bureau, she tells him. He gives her Graciela's number, and five minutes later she calls back confirming they are going to seek an indictment for the murder of Gloria Torres the following morning. She goes over the list of names with him and what she found out on each one. None are likely and Jaye has only one more idea. Perhaps it is someone who wants to move up the donor list. She wants to pursue it, but can't unless Terry turns himself in. He tells her he'll think about it and call her back. Trying not to give in to panic, he reviews the hypnosis tape and at the end sees something he missed. He had asked Jaye if there was anything else, and Jaye had responded by shaking her head no. James Noone, still under hypnosis, should have answered but didn't. He puts the Sherman Market tape back in and forwards it to the point where the Good Samaritan enters. Unable to see whether or not it's the same man, he calls Tony and asks for his help again. He loads both tapes and compares faces. Some similarities are obvious, and other changes are possible with makeup or dental appliances. The one thing that can't be changed is hands and feet. They manage to find a question mark shaped scar on the hand in both videos. McCaleb calls Winston and leaves her a message telling her the shooter is James Noone.

McCaleb drives to Noone's address which is little more than a warehouse containing a collection of office furniture and several books on criminal investigative techniques. Terry sits at the computer, which is still on, and takes a look through the file manager. He finds files on the victims that were targeted, and he also finds a document with his name on it. He opens it to discover a letter from the killer that is addressed to him, and giving himself credit for saving Terry's life, claiming Terry owes him every breath he takes. The knowledge confirmed is overwhelming, and Terry can hardly bear the thought that so many died to give him life - even though he had no connection to them other than through a madman.

Chapters 38 - 40 Analysis

Terry stays at Graciela's after she leaves with Raymond, and in the quiet of her home he reviews everything again. This time, Terry is facing things from the other side, having become a suspect while he is chasing one. It unnerves him and makes him feel paranoid and cut off. He is getting a rare look into the looking glass from the other side, and he doesn't like it. He calls Jaye several times, but is repeatedly told she isn't in,



intensifying his feelings even more. Finally, he calls his own machine and finds a message from a woman who is calling on behalf of a man who was the perpetrator in one of their old case files, and he realizes that Jaye is sending him a message. He calls the number that was left, relieved to hear her voice on the other end. She is at the FBI where the case has been moved and can't talk so he asks her questions that she can answer simply. She asks for his telephone number, and though he is reluctant he gives it to her and five minutes later she calls him back from a pay phone in the lobby where she can speak a little more freely. An indictment will be sought the following morning on the murder of Gloria and she strongly suggests that he get himself a lawyer and come in on his own. Terry is rattled and fights the urge to protest his need for a lawyer because of his innocence, but he realizes before he does that he has heard that from almost every suspect he's ever questioned. He tries not to panic, and reviews the remaining evidence instead, coming across the tape of his hypnosis session with James Noone.

Terry then he sees what he missed at the time. He can tell by the lack of response from James to the last question he asked that he was playing with Terry and not really hypnotized. The question had been for Jaye, but if James had really been under, he would have been compelled to answer regardless, but didn't. It is the only mistake he made. Energized again, he looks at the tape from the killings of Torres and Kang, trying to establish if there are any similarities between the Good Samaritan and James Noone who is the 911 caller for Cordell, but he can't be sure. He takes the tape back to Tony Banks at Video GraFX and asks him if it's possible that they are the same man. After looking at facial features and hair lines they still aren't sure, but Tony tells him that he has one more thing to check. Hands and feet are like fingerprints, he explains and after loading both side by side, they can clearly see that the hands are exact matches. Terry calls Jaye and leaves a message revealing to her who the shooter is. Now he feels like law enforcement instead of criminal on the run again.

He drives to the address given by Noone, unable to wait for official back up, or procedure. He does something he has never done in his capacity as an agent - he breaks in to the garage/storage unit that the address matches and finds more surprises. Noone has anticipated his every move. It is eerie to walk around and see the clues left behind on purpose. The computer is on and waiting for him, and going through the files he finds references to each victim and their routines, and then a document with his name on it. Opening it, he finds a message to him personally, telling him that he should be grateful for every breath he takes because James gave him that gift. Terry feels nauseous as he finally understands that all of the deaths are personally linked to him and his heart. He feels unworthy of the fact that he is alive, and his tremendous guilt almost undoes him.



Chapters 41 - 43

Chapters 41 - 43 Summary

Jaye shows up, and Terry shows her everything, explaining that they will never find a 'James Noone' because he is the code killer and is 'no one' just like the code in which he had repeated told them with all the numbers excluding the one. He tells her how the taped session led him to James, and Jaye can hardly process it all. Jaye wants to get a crime scene unit in but Terry knows that they won't find a print here because 'Noone' had never left one before. He sits in Buddy's Taurus, parked at the crime scene in a daze while technicians and law enforcement personnel swarm the building. He can't stop thinking about Graciela and Raymond, and the deaths on his hands. Nevins, Uhlig and Arrango come out to the car to apologize, but Terry doesn't care. They ask him for a statement which he agrees to give Jaye and ask him to explain it all, and as he does the pieces fall into place. He sees how he was manipulated all the way along. He asks how the agents were turned to him as a suspect, and they admit it was an anonymous call to check the blood. They get out of his car, and Terry remembers suddenly that Noone made a mistake. He goes back inside and tells Jaye to check the fluorescent lights in the room they hypnotized him in, and tells Jaye to take credit for the find.

He drives reluctantly to Graciela's knowing that he has to tell her everything, but not knowing how. She has been worried and embraces him immediately but he steels himself, resolved to do what he has to. She cries and he promises he'll catch him before she asks him to leave, needing to be alone with her thoughts, and Terry fights the feeling that he may never see her again as he leaves. He goes back to the boat and after a fitful night, makes breakfast. He calls Jaye to arrange coming in with his statement and to get his vehicle back. He gets Buddy up and asks him for one more ride to drop him off at the station. Buddy questions him on the way in, and Terry fills him in reminding Buddy that he was instrumental in breaking the case which gives Buddy a real sense of pride. They stop at an ATM and Terry gives Buddy \$250 for his time and fuel, and asks him to watch his boat for him while he is away. He borrows a harp from Buddy and says goodbye, taking his duffel bag of clothing out and going into the station to see Jaye. Inside, he finds out that they've identified the Code Killer as Daniel Crimmins. As they talk, more and more pieces fall into place. Finally, he takes his Cherokee, and makes a final call to Graciela. She isn't home, but he leaves her a message telling her he hopes to see her again, and that he's leaving for a while.

Chapters 41 - 43 Analysis

Terry is in a state of shock and remorse. He keeps seeing Gloria's face and can't stop thinking about the pain and suffering that he feels he is directly responsible for. He sits for a long time outside the crime scene, and thinks about life, deciding that he is not going to let anyone cheapen the depth of the gift given him by Gloria. He reaches a new level of determination to find the person responsible for this. Though the agents who



recently were hunting him have now come to apologize, Terry just doesn't care. In the scheme of things, it just isn't important to him. Jaye has done so much for him, especially trusting him and allowing him to continue his search. When Terry realizes that they may have a secure finger print, he goes back inside to Jaye and tells her where it is. He tells her she is welcome to claim it as her find.

He knows he has to face Graciela and tell her the truth. He isn't looking forward to it, knowing that when he tells her, she may not want to have anything to do with him again. The thought is devastating and when she greets him with warmth and tenderness, he almost waffles, but he steels himself to continue. Just as he suspected, after hearing all of the details, she cries and sends him home. This is one time that Terry would have preferred to be wrong, but he understands. He goes home and sleeps poorly, deciding in the morning that he will get away for a while himself. He talks to Jaye about getting his Cherokee back and making a statement, and then gets Buddy to drive him down. He tells Buddy on the way to the station what has happened, and Buddy is excited to have been a part of him.

Jaye finds the only finger print of the Code Killer, and identifies him as Daniel Crimmins. Terry learns more in his conversation with Jaye, now understanding that this killer has targeted him for some time - stalking him, and playing him even having pointed Graciela in his direction. He calls Graciela, wanting to hear her voice, needing to know that everything is okay, but there is no answer and he leaves a message on her machine but doesn't feel that it conveys how he feels.



Chapters 44 - 47

Chapters 44 - 47 Summary

It takes Terry two days to find the place that Noone/Crimmins drew during his hypnosis session. Playa Grande, located between Rosarita beach and Ensenada, is a small village, with a motel, a pottery store, a restaurant, a small market and a Pemex station. A stable rents horses to ride on the beach which is what makes Terry stop. On the beach, he finds the rock enclave that Noone/Crimmins drew. The place is beautiful. Terry checks into the motel. He tries Graciela again, and when he gets her machine, he tells himself that she doesn't want to talk to him. He climbs into bed and sleeps. When he wakes, he looks around his room, and sees Raymond's fishing rod in the corner. Terry goes to the clerk and threatens him, and he tells Terry that he was paid to call a number if he showed up. Terry sees the photo, and recognizes himself, Graciela and Raymond walking on the beach. He goes to a pay phone and dials the number on the back but there is no answer. After twelve rings, he slams it but it misses the cradle and hangs down below, still ringing. Another car is parked in the lot with his Cherokee, and taking a chance, he goes to the beach where Noone confronts him. Terry asks where Raymond is, and Noone tells him he has Graciela as well. Noone wants to go free, and promises to let them go once he's relocated, but Terry knows he is lying and his final act of vengeance would be to kill them. He tries to shoot Terry but the chamber is empty, and Terry shoots him. He gives Noone a chance to confess, but Noone is defiant to the end. Careful not to get blood on himself, Terry grabs the Sig-Sauer, uses his shirt to clean his P7 and puts it down beside him. Terry drives around the village looking for telephone lines, and a dish. He finds a trailer and hears the phone ringing inside. He breaks in, calling their names but remembers Noone told him they were in a black hole. He goes outside, and finds them in a tank covered by cement. When he takes them out, he holds Graciela and promises her it is over and Noone/Crimmins won't hurt anyone ever again.

Terry is home and working on his boat when Jaye shows up. She tells him they've found Crimmins and he killed himself. She comments that it didn't look like it was headed to suicide, but Terry plays dumb. Before she leaves, she mentions that the Cherokee is full of dirt and needs a wash. She holds his eyes for a minute quietly sending him a message, and then leaves. Terry finishes fixing the boat, and as promised he takes Graciela and Raymond out on a fishing trip. He watches them, knowing that this is a test to see if they can overcome the knowledge of their shared experience. Terry watches them and sensing his gaze, she turns to him and smiles, lighting up his heart and he knows in that moment that his faith in her is not misplaced.

Chapters 44 - 47 Analysis

Terry spends two days looking for the place that Noone/Crimmins describes in his 'hypnosis' session. He knows it has to be close because Noone told him he drove there.



When he stumbles onto Playa Grande, it is exactly as it was described. He checks into the only motel, and tries to call Graciela again, wanting to talk to her and to be reassured that they aren't over. When she doesn't answer, he convinces himself that she just doesn't want to talk to him. Discouraged, he goes to sleep and wakes in the morning to find Raymond's fishing rod in the corner of the room. All he can think about is finding him and Graciela. He threatens the desk clerk and gets the information he needs and calls the number that the killer left behind, but there is no answer. While the phone is ringing, he notices that there is only one other vehicle in the parking lot. On a hunch, he goes down to the beach again, only to be confronted by Noone.

After a brief exchange during which Noone admits to holding both Raymond and Graciela, he tells Terry that all he wants is his freedom and enough time to get away and get a fresh start, but Terry knows better. He knows that Noone will enjoy exacting one last bit of torture on McCaleb by killing Graciela and Raymond. Noone/Crimmins takes a shot at Terry but the chamber is empty. Terry uses Crimmin's own gun to shoot him and before he dies on the beach, gives him a chance to redeem himself and reveal where he has hidden his captives, but Crimmins refuses. Careful not to leave any evidence of himself behind, he wipes the prints off the gun and leaves it beside Crimmins. Then he gets in the truck and drives around the small town, concentrating on places where there is both privacy and likelihood of internet access. Whenever he sees a likely spot, he stops the vehicle and listens for the telephone he knows will still be ringing unless someone else arrived in town and hung up the pay phone he left off the hook. Finally, he finds a trailer where the phone can be heard. He breaks in, but there is no sign of them. He goes outside, trying not to panic, and thinks about the last thing Crimmins told him which was that if Terry killed him, his captives would die in a dark, cold place. He looks around and sees a cement tank near the foundation for a new home being built on the property and knows he will find them there, but nothing compares with the relief he feels when he actually does.

The next little while is an adjustment. Terry fixes his boat, and Jaye comes by to tell him that they found their suspect on the beach, dead of an apparent suicide. Jaye obviously doesn't believe that is what happened, but she is willing to play along while Terry plays dumb. He takes Graciela and Raymond out fishing like he promised, knowing that they will have to go slowly to get past the many things that will make a new start difficult for them, but looking at her, he knows that her smile is all he needs. Everything else will come in time, and for once, he finds that he has faith again.



Characters

Terrell (Terry) McCaleb

Terrell, known to everyone as Terry, lives on his boat called The Following Sea which is docked at the San Pedro Cabrillo Marina. He is in his early forties, but still in good enough shape to go jogging daily. He has little patience for people in general, and till his recent heart transplant, worked for the FBI. He is sensitive to the pain that loved ones feel when someone close is taken before their time, but since his surgery he is still unable to work. As an FBI agent, Terry had been the point man for many serial killers, and had a reputation for insuring justice for the victims, becoming so involved in his cases that they felt personal to him. His successes include cases like the Nightstalker and Poet investigations; the Code Killer; the Sunset Strip Strangler; the Cemetery Man and many others. For several years, he had worked in the Quantico base as a profiler, and was often flown to Los Angeles to help police with investigations there. Finally, he was placed in the FBI field office in Westwood.

Terry has gray eyes, flecked with green and the corneas show hairline traces of red. His chest has a thirteen inch light pink scar resulting from his recent heart transplant, and looking in the mirror, he still sometimes has trouble recognizing the beaten down reflection of the body that so badly betrayed him. His rare blood type made finding a donor difficult, and it was incredibly lucky for him that one was found when it was.

Terry grew up in Catalina, living there until he was sixteen, before going to Chicago to live with his mother. The mooring he has there now was left to him by his father. His father had been a ball player who tried out for the Cubs. He and Terry's mother were high school sweethearts. When they separated, Terry stayed with his father on Catalina while his mother returned to Chicago. Terry was married to a woman named Kate but is now divorced.

Graciela Rivers

Graciela is in her early thirties, and is an attractive woman. She has long brown legs and intense, almond shaped eyes that are dark and give the appearance that she is sad. She is strong in character, and wants justice for her sister who died and gave her heart to Terry McCaleb.

Graciela works as a nurse in the emergency ward of the Holy Cross Medical Center located in the portion of the Valley referred to as Mission Hills. She takes custody of her sister Gloria's son, Raymond, after her death and raises him with all the love her sister would have. She is determined, and proud, and willing to go the extra mile for something she believes in.



James Noone / Daniel Crimmins

James is the good Samaritan who comes across the first apparent robbery victim at the ATM and calls 911. He waits with the victim Jim Cordell and watches as the ambulance drives by having been given the wrong address by the 911 operator. He calls again, and it takes much longer for help to arrive than it should have. As a result, Jim Cordell does not survive, and although it isn't clear whether he would have made it if help had arrived immediately, James Noone is still very upset by the confusion and delay. He is hypnotized later by Terry McCaleb, but is unable to recall any helpful details regarding the vehicle he saw speeding away from the scene, its license plate, or a description of the driver.

James Noone is actually a false name, discovered later, and is a play on words by the Code Killer. Noone is a conjunctive of no one, meaning he is no one, and the code he always left behind was made up of every digit but the one. James Noone is actually identified as Daniel Crimmins. He is thirty two years old and is a local who five years previously washed out of the LAPD Academy. Since then, he had worked a number of security jobs, getting them by hacking into systems and then contacting the CEO of the company and offering to make their company secure from people like himself. His hacking skill got him easily into the BOPRA computer files, and he has definite authority complex issues. When he washed out of the academy, he suffered a break of some kind, and has been playing with authorities ever since. He was interviewed once before by Arrango when it was first profiled by McCaleb that the Code Killer could be an academy failure, and Arrango hadn't warranted another look at the time. Once identified, a number of issues are raised that reveal mistakes he made along the way.

Buddy Lockridge

Buddy is a wharf rat who lives on a forty two foot Hunter sailboat called the Double-Down which is three slips down from The Following Sea. He is a surfer who is now past his prime, and lives a low cost and reasonably maintenance free lifestyle on his boat, living mostly off of odd jobs that he manages to pick up including boat sitting and hull scraping. Buddy met Terry a year earlier which was right after he'd moved his boat into the marina. He plays harmonica and is the only other full time live aboard neighbor that Terry has.

Buddy is hired by Terry McCaleb as his driver after Graciela Torres enlists his aid in finding her sister's killer. Buddy likes crime novels and likes to think of himself as Terry's partner in the investigation which is not at all what Terry would like. Buddy is constantly pumping him for information, and petulant when Terry insists that if he isn't able to just mind his own business and drive, he will have to find someone else to chauffeur him until he is able to drive himself. Part of the problem is that Buddy and Terry have often discussed his unsolved case files, and Buddy would love to be more involved.



Eddie Arrango

Eddie Arrango is a homicide detective with what appears to be a major ego at first glance. Unlike most homicide detectives who rarely use their weapons, Eddie's display of his in a shoulder holster instead of a more comfortable gun clip gives the indication that he has a major ego. He is a big man, Latino, and is in his mid forties. He has solid build, and black hair that has gray feathered throughout, and has a large attitude. He is not the kind of detective who readily shares information, even with other law enforcement personnel, seemingly more concerned with who collects headlines than he is with whether or not the case gets solved. He sees things in black and white, and to close a case will take the simplest explanation even if all of the pieces don't exactly fit.

Dennis Walters

Detective and partner to Eddie Arrango, Dennis is not as old as Arrango, is slim and wears his clothes baggy making him appear as though he's just lost considerable weight. He is pale skinned, and wears no holster, which makes McCaleb think he carries his gun in a briefcase until he actually heads out to make an arrest. Walters knows what Arrango does not. The gun doesn't make the man or the detective what he is.

Dennis pays attention to details, recognizing McCaleb from his previous work with the 'Code Killer' and other serial killers that he had been involved in finding and arresting.

Jaye Winston

Jaye is the detective who led the investigation into the shooting / robbery of James Cordell who was killed while withdrawing three hundred dollars from an automatic teller machine shortly after 10 p.m. She is already known to Terry McCaleb, and he believes she will be forthcoming with information if he needs it. Jaye is a few years older than Terry and wears her blond hair cut mid length and straight. She is slim in stature, and professional in nature.

Jaye trusts Terry's instincts, having worked cases with him in the past where he has been instrumental in breaking them, and as such is inclined to extend courtesies to him that she wouldn't to any regular law enforcement personnel. She is the one who pushes for the use of hypnosis when Terry suggests it, despite it's failure, and she goes to bat for Terry against her Captain when Terry is summarily pushed out of the investigation after it becomes common knowledge that the heart transplant he received belongs to one of the victims.



Dr. Bonnie Fox

Bonnie is in her early forties like McCaleb, but is already prematurely gray. She is a small woman and her lab coat hangs almost to her ankles as a result. She is a heart surgeon, and her specialty brings with it an air of confidence and concern for her patients rarely seen.

Bonnie becomes irate when she discovers that Terry is investigating a case, and is even more upset to find out that the case is directly related to his heart transplant. Feeling that it is much too soon for him to be stressing himself in any way, she tries first to discourage him and when he goes ahead anyway, she resigns as his heart specialist, telling him that she will provide him with his file and a list of available specialists to take over his case. Terry is upset by this, but feels such an obligation to Graciela and her sister for the gift of life he was given that he is unable to stop his involvement.

Vernon Carruthers

Vernon is a twelve year friend of Terry McCaleb's. He worked in the Firearms and Toolmarks crime lab in D.C. when Terry worked out of Quantico. They often worked the same cases and whenever Vernon went to Quantico for meetings, he stayed with Terry and his wife at that time, Kate. Married to wife Marie, Vernon returned the favor whenever Terry was in D.C. They had one son, who died of leukemia years earlier. Like Terry, Carruthers shares a strong empathy with the victims of the cases he works on. He has a dedication to his job that is seldom matched.

Donald Kenyon

Donald was a murder victim investigated by the FBI before the Torres/Kang or Cordell killings. He was likely executed by a contract killer, it was believed, and several theories were established but his killer was never caught. Donald was the president of Washington Guaranty which was a savings and loan bank with several branches. Considered to be one of the brightest in his field, he climbed to the presidency at the young age of twenty nine. He had a silver tongue and golden hair and instilled confidence in any who met him. Over a period of three years, he embezzled thirty five million dollars which was never recovered, and Washington Guaranty collapsed as a result. He was convicted of fraud after a four month trial and sentenced to forty eight years in prison, but was allowed time at home with an ankle monitoring bracelet while his attorney's prepared an appeal. During this time, he was shot and killed.

Keisha Russell

A reporter with the Times, Keisha has always been good to McCaleb which is why he allowed her to do the story on him entitled, "Whatever Happened To..." This story is the



one that leads Graciela Torres to Terry in the first place, after a colleague from work points it out to her.

Gloria Torres

One of two shooting victims in Sherman Market, Glory is the person who died and donated her heart to Terry McCaleb giving him life. She has a son named Raymond who goes to live with his aunt after his mother's death. Glory is by all standards a good person, a good mother, and a good friend to all who know her. Her life ending prematurely is a tragedy that Terry finds difficult to live with as it causes him much guilt over the gift of life she gave him.

James Cordell

James, known to all as Jim or Jimmy, is thirty years old and is the victim of an apparent robbery at an ATM while withdrawing cash. A good Samaritan tries to help him, calling 911 almost immediately, but the operator transposes the address and the ambulance takes too long to get there. A single bullet to the head kills him, and it is unknown as to whether immediate help arriving would have been any good to Jim.

Jim, it is discovered during interviews, is well liked by his coworkers, and is an honest and decent family man. He keeps a photo of his wife and children on the dash of his pickup, which is taken by the killer as a trophy.

Amelia Cordell

Wife and widow of James Cordell, Amelia is as helpful as she can be with the investigation. She goes through the first round of law enforcement questions, and then allows Terry to question her on several occasions which include letting Terry search her husband's truck for missing items, and creating a list of his activities that detail his whereabouts for the last several weeks. She also gives Terry access to personal information in Jim's office including credit card statements in an effort to help catch her husband's killer. Terry observes her state of mind and thinks of her as the second person that the single bullet used in Jim's murder killed.

Shel Newbie

Security guard for the marina, he is the first one to show up after McCaleb is startled by an intruder on his boat. He offers to call Pacific Division, but Terry convinces him it is unnecessary.



Tony Banks

Video technician for Video GraFX who helps Terry to enhance the watch face on Mr. Kang's wrist enabling him to establish the discrepancy in the time line of the shooting. Tony has helped Terry in his capacity as an FBI agent in the past, and continues to help him in this case despite discovering that he is no longer with the bureau. When Terry asks him why, Tony admits that after having seen the video, he will happily help anyone working towards putting the shooter in jail.

Agents Nevins and Uhlig

FBI agents who were assigned the Kenyon case and part of the follow up team who believe Terry McCaleb is guilty of all of the robbery/homicides.

Michael Haller Jr.

Lawyer son of legendary legal mind of Mickey Haller whom Jaye recommends Terry hire to turn himself in.



Objects/Places

The Following Sea

Terry McCaleb's boat and current home. Left to him by his father who named it, The Following Sea refers to the kind of wave you have to watch for - the one following you, the rule being that if you are running in following seas, you should be running faster than they are in order to stay ahead of them.

Cabrillo Marina

San Pedro docks where Terry McCaleb's boat is docked.

Cedars-Sinai

Hospital that did and continues to monitor Terry McCaleb's heart transplant.

Hard Tango

Name that homicide detectives give to the process of becoming involved in another law enforcement officer's case, so named because of the territorial and often unreasonable attitude of the lead officer or detective.

Code Killer

Name given to the serial killer who is shooting people without apparent cause and leaving messages directly for Terry McCaleb at the murder scene. His messages always include a series of digits along with a personal invitation for Terry to catch him, or a message meant to taunt him in some way.

Murder Book

Name given to each file prepared after a homicide. It contains all of the information, and investigation done on any case, and is added to as the case develops until it is solved.

Holy Cross Medical Center

Hospital in the Mission Hills district of the Valley where Graciela Rivers works.



Three D

Definitely Done Dancing. A term given to those who do not make it, and until her sister fell into that category after being shot.

DRUGFIRE

An FBI computer program that was designed in the same manner as the computerized fingerprint data storage, but for ballistics. It tracks the unique grooves and characteristics of spent bullets found at crime scenes and matches them to other crimes if possible.

Devil's Keep

One of the few places in the Everglades that is more than three feet deep, and known mostly to the locals only. It is the place where a killer McCaleb chased dumped the bodies of a mother and her two daughters.

Sherman Market

Location where Gloria Torres and Chan Ho Kang were killed.

BOPRA

Blood and Organ Procurement and Request Agency.



Themes

Pride vs Vanity

As a law enforcement officer, it is a matter of pride to solve all of the cases that are put in front of you. It is a symbol of your ability to do your job, and representative of the level of intelligence and effort that you put into your work. When a case is unsolved, or has no resolution, it is difficult not only for the law enforcement personnel involved, but also for the victims of the crime, and their friends and family. As an officer of the law, it is incumbent on you to use all of the considerable resources at your disposal to bring criminals to justice. This is especially true of the detective squads or the federal bureau of investigation because it is the only job that they have. The case load they work is the sum total of their employment requirements unlike a regular police officer who's duties might also include patrolling a neighborhood or peace keeping as well. For these special officers, it is a matter of pride that they have the highest solve rate possible.

It is therefore unsettling to know that there are a number of detectives or agents of law enforcement who are more concerned with their vanity than they are with the solving of a particular case. They allow their personal feelings to get involved, and instead of welcoming any outside aid that is offered, they are resentful and mistrustful, creating roadblocks and withholding information at every opportunity. It is a matter that strictly involved vanity, and they approach each case as though it belongs to them alone. Outside help is not only unwanted, but discouraged, as the officer involved would resent the intrusion instead of welcoming the successful solution to a case. Vanity, in this case, gets in the way of convictions.

Evil vs Angels

McCaleb is an FBI agent who is an excellent profiler, and can read a case better than most. Unfortunately, his talent and skill at his job put him face to face with ultimate evil, so much so that part of him loses faith in the goodness of humanity. When his heart gives out and a transplant is required, he is medically retired, but can't set aside the worst of humanity until he meets his donor's sister, Graciela and her nephew Raymond. She convinces him to work for her, using his investigative skills to find her sister's killer. This investigation, against the better judgment of the transplant surgeon who threatens to quit Terry's case entirely, begins out of a feeling of duty and slowly manages to restore his faith in love and gives his life meaning again.

In a twisted case that takes Terry on a wild ride, he eventually discovers that the heart he now has was supplied to him by the murderer so that he can bring McCaleb back into the fold. The killer, dubbed the Code Killer, missed the interaction and excitement of the chase that Terry supplied, and in an effort to bring him back to work, he hacks into the blood and organ donor program and finds a new heart for him. Of course, it takes several attempts before he manages to secure a donor without complications that



actually becomes a transplant for Terry. By the time Terry finds out that he was the cause of the murders, he has fallen for his donor's sister Graciela, and in her company begins to live again. With her, he finds new faith in angels again, and instead of returning to work as the killer had hoped, he finds new life and wants only to explore and expand the feelings he has for her.

Appearances vs Reality

In *Blood Work* there are several cases where appearances are deceiving. Three seemingly unrelated murders which at first appear to be robberies, turn out to be connected, and have little to do with money or possessions of a financial nature. A prime witness turns out to be the killer and his gift of life to Terry McCaleb is actually an effort to draw him back into a lifestyle and a job that took the life out of him. Evidence mounts against agent Terry McCaleb, and when it appears as though he may be the one responsible for the killings to expedite his own heart transplant, the case takes another turn and the truth is revealed to be much different. In the end, an apparent suicide by the murderer is actually anything but. Instead, an agent takes matters into his own hands, killing the killer before he can do any more damage, and rescuing his most recent captives. Each step forward reveals an undercurrent that leads to another reality in a story that has no lack of surprises. Finally, what appears to be a man who is so damaged by the worst of humanity he has been exposed to for so long finds love in the most unlikely place, and discovers in himself a second chance.



Style

Point of View

Blood Work by Michael Connelly is a work of fiction that is written largely in the first person narrative. The protagonist in this story is Terry McCaleb and the first person narrative is from his perspective. There is also some third person narrative where the actions of the antagonist are described but without the first person knowledge of their intimate feelings. This type of narrative is more observational than participation oriented. The antagonist in this story has more than one role. He is first introduced as a Good Samaritan, trying to save the life of a shooting victim, and then brought in for hypnosis which is unsuccessful as far as further information is concerned. Later, it is revealed that the Good Samaritan is actually also the shooter, and the search for him turns up a personalized note to the protagonist that details their lifelong connection. Michael Connelly tells this story in a way that is cohesive and comprehensive, with enough details to allow the reader to feel as though they are getting a taste of life behind the investigative process. The author also manages to bring into focus the organ donor process and the difficulty not only in finding a donor but in surviving the transplant.

Setting

Blood Work opens on the docks of the Cabrillo Marina at the San Pedro docks. This is where the main character, Terry McCaleb keep his boat *The Following Sea*, and lives year round. He is one of only two people who live all seasons aboard the boat in his area of the marina. The other is Buddy Lockridge. While a great deal of the story revolves around Terry's time on his boat, there is also time spent around the Los Angeles area as Terry attempts to solve the murder of Gloria Torres in a local market. The killing is tied to the murder of two others - James Cordell who was killed in front of an ATM and Donald Kenyon who was killed in his own home while awaiting appeal on embezzling charges. These cases turn out to have a central theme, and Terry must find the man responsible before he is taken into custody himself. His investigation takes him from the desert suburbs of Vasquez Rocks in Antelope Valley to Woodland Hills and the Topanga Canyon area where Graciela Rivers lives. Between points of investigation, Terry pays several visits to Mount Sinai Hospital where he undergoes testing to ensure his transplanted heart is not being rejected and to get help from his transplant Doctor Bonnie Fox to access the BOPRA computer system.

In the end, Terry hunts the killer and finds him on the beach beside a little town called Playa Grande located between Ensenada and La Fonda. It is a remote stretch of coast that even Terry has to admit is as beautiful as the killer describes it to be.



Language and Meaning

Michael Connelly is a gifted writer who knows how to bring the worst of humanity to the surface. He weaves a tangled tale that has the antagonist involved in crimes committed in order to maintain a relationship with the FBI detective who was assigned to the murders he originally committed. They dubbed the criminal the Code Killer for his habit of leaving a calling card with a nine-digit code. When the agent assigned to his case needs a heart transplant and can no longer work, his name is put on the donor list and the Code Killer takes it upon himself to find a new heart for agent Terry McCaleb. The author is adept at describing police procedure, ensuring that even a novice or lay person is able to understand the relationship between police officers and the communities they serve. Connelly has his main character use hypnosis on a witness, describing in detail the process of relaxation and recollection. The investigative process comes to a head when McCaleb realizes the truth behind his new heart, and tries to cope with the fact that several people died in order for him to live.

To finish things, he knows he has to deal with Noone/Crimmins and ensure that his evil is over. Using his skill and instinct, he finds the place where Crimmins spent his time. He also discovers that Crimmins has taken Graciela and Raymond. It is the last straw for McCaleb who finally takes the law into his own hands.

Structure

Blood Work is just under five hundred pages long and broken up into forty seven chapters. While the chapters are reasonably equal in length, each one takes the reader on a new twist or turn in the adventure. What begins as a reluctant retired FBI agent with a heart transplant who is talked into helping to find the murdered of a woman who invites herself onto his boat, quickly turns into an adventure into the mind of a serial killer. Each chapter brings the reader to the brink of another discovery only to throw several roadblocks up again. What begins as an investigation into a robbery quickly multiplies to include several murders and the motive has nothing to do with money. Just when it appears as though the protagonist is about to win the day, he becomes a suspect in his own investigation, and almost finds himself doing time for the crime of receiving a new heart. In an action packed ending, agent Terry McCaleb finds the killer, and puts a cold case in the solved file while saving the serial killers last two victims.



Quotes

"...It means that I'm the benefactor of an act of evil, Doctor, and that's why it's different now." Chp 2, Pg 21

Terry to Doctor Bonnie Fox in an effort to explain why the transplant bothers him now when it didn't before.

"We used to call it the Federal Bureau of Inertia." Chp 6, Pg 64

Terry McCaleb to Detective Arrango said in frustration after he is told that Arrango's boss won't allow him to have a copy of the murder book. It is a shot taken at the bureaucratic bullshit that goes on, making it hard to fathom how any case is ever solved.

"...In all my years in the bureau, most of the cases turned on some little detail, some little thin that was missed or didn't seem important at first." Chp 7, Pg 70

Terry to Graciela as he explains his part in looking into the murder of her sister.

"You get something, you call us before Winston or we're not going to be happy with you." Chp 11, Pg 125

Arrango to McCaleb, showing his continuing attitude regarding Terry's involvement in the case that was assigned to him.

"You federal guys always have questions, always have suggestions, always have new leads." Chp 13, Pg 147

Jaye Winston to Terry when he first call her about the Torres case.

"Just making the point that your little session in there cost us a witness, a suspect who probably should have never been a suspect, and didn't get us squat." Chp 17, Pg 203

Arrango to Terry after the failed hypnosis session on James Noone.

"It's not always the obvious wackos who carve their names in people's skin." Chp 19, Pg 227

Terry to Jaye as he tries to convince her of his theory that there is more to the two killings than random robbery.

"You see, the victim and who they were didn't matter. They were only objects by which he could exercise power and stick it in the face of authority." Chp 22, Pg 258

Terry as he explains the motivations behind the Code Killer who was never caught to Graciela.

"Don't forget the cannoli." Chp 25, Pg 298

The last words spoken by the unknown killer in the shooting death of Donald Kenyon, and the reason that mob connections are presumed because of the same line used in the Godfather movie.



"The bureau's in the process of taking over the case and the last thing we need is some tin man amateur without a badge of his own heart fucking things up for us." Chp 25, Pg 306

Agents Uhlig and Nevins when McCaleb refuses them access to his boat to search for the documents they believe he received from Carruthers.

"We have to assume that if this person has the connections and ability to hire a contract killer, then he or she could get into the BOPRA computer." Chp 30, Pg 355

Terry to Dr. Fox as he tries to convince her that the donor registry system has been compromised.

"You can hook me up now and bring me in and get the bust, but it's wrong and it won't fit." Chp 35, Pg 395

Terry to Jaye when she catches him on his boat after the evidence is found by the bureau earlier in the day.

"Most of all, what I wanted was a place in your heart, Agent McCaleb." Chp 40, Pg 444
Part of the note found on James Noone's computer addressed to McCaleb along with all of the evidence he needs to free himself.

"Arrango, the fact is, you treated it as an everyday stop-and-rob with the addition of shots fired, nothing more and nothing less." Chp 41, Pg 453

Terry McCaleb to Arrango, as he rubs in the fact that Arrango was asleep on the job with this case.

"You're wrong.... I traded you for me. I saved myself." Chp 44, Pg 484

Terry to Noone/Crimmins after he shoots him on the beach.



Topics for Discussion

Why does McCaleb have his retirement status? What makes him change his mind about helping Graciela?

Why does McCaleb need a driver to get around? In how many other ways is his life restricted or monitored and why does Graciela think that McCaleb will help her?

Why is there a time discrepancy with the Gloria Torres killing? How is this significant?

What are the factors that link Gloria Torres, James Cordell and Donald Kenyon? How are they important and what mistakes were made that required so many attempts?

Who is the hypnotist that works with witness James Noone? What indicators are there that he is receptive to hypnosis and what relaxation techniques are used? How is this session important to the solving of the killer's identity?

What factors make Dr. Bonnie Fox drop Terry as a patient? What changes her mind later and how does she help despite her initial reservations?

What evidence is used to frame Terry McCaleb and where is it located?

Why does Jaye let Terry go despite all of the evidence against him? What factors make it unlikely that Terry is a viable suspect? How does Terry convince her that he is being framed?

What is the primary reason that Terry returns to his boat, and how does Jaye know that he will? Where does he go when he is released by her and why?

What motivates the killer in this story, and what does he hope to gain from the multiple murders?

What evidence does Terry find that makes him realize who the shooter is beyond any doubt? What is the clue that he stumbles on that leads him to this evidence?

What is the significance of the code that the code killer leaves behind at his crimes?

In more than one instance, former agent Terry McCaleb completely ignores the law as he deals with James Noone. What are they and why does Terry use the approach of lawlessness in each case?

Several times James Noone involves himself in the investigation. Where? How? When? Why?

What does James Noone call his gift to Terry? What special day is associated with it?