

The Black Ice Study Guide

The Black Ice by Michael Connelly

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Plot Summary

The Black Ice is the second Michael Connelly novel that features Detective Harry Bosch. Harry is the detective on call on Christmas night when a body is found in a local motel. When Harry is not called to the scene, as he should have been, he becomes curious and goes to the scene anyway. Harry learns the body is suspected to be that of Calexico Moore, a cop who went missing the week before. Harry makes the next of kin notification and finds himself drawn to Moore's widow. This attraction mixed with Harry's feeling of being passed over causes more than a passing interest in the Moore case. When one of Harry's own cases appears to be related to the Moore case, he finds himself following the evidence into places even his superiors do not want him to go. The Black Ice is a well written, gritty detective novel whose protagonist is as sympathetic as he is formidable.

Harry Bosch spends Christmas night alone in his house, listening to the police band radio. Harry is on call, but so far nothing has come up to pull him away from his dinner. However, Harry hears a call related to a dead body found in a motel. Immediately Harry knows something is up because he has not been called to the scene, but he should have been. Harry calls the sergeant on duty at the station and learns that the Robbery-Homicide Division was called immediately because the body is suspected to be that of Calexico Moore, a cop who disappeared the week before. Harry goes to the scene and finds a typical suicide setting except for the absence of a note. Harry speaks to the deputy chief and is immediately told he is not to be a part of the case. While they are talking a note is found. Harry talks the crime scene investigator into showing him the note, which turns out to be a simple sentence typed on a sheet of paper.

Harry is given the unpleasant task of informing Moore's estranged wife. Harry is drawn to Sylvia Moore, seeing in her a quiet strength that he admires. While speaking to her, Harry learns that Moore was under investigation by the IAD detectives and that the IAD has a letter they believe Sylvia wrote. Sylvia denies writing this letter. The next morning, Harry is again told to stay off the Moore case. Instead, Harry is given a stack of cases that another detective left behind when he decided to put in for stress-related leave. Harry is told to pick one of the cases and clear it before the New Year in order to improve the division's statistics. When Harry reviews the cases, he discovers that the most recent case, the beating death of a Juan Doe, involves Moore. As Harry begins to investigate this case, he receives a call from Moore's co-workers, telling him they found a case file in Moore's squad car that has a note requesting Harry receive it.

Moore reviews this file, discovering that Moore was putting together a file on Black Ice, a street drug originally from Hawaii that is now being sold by Mexicans. Harry knows this file is intended to answer some questions Harry had about a case of his involving the death of a Hawaiian drug dealer. Moore and Harry met shortly before Moore's death to discuss this case. In the file, there is reference to the arrest of a local drug dealer whose arrest was precipitated by a tip. Harry learns the source of the tip was his victim, suggesting the murder was in retaliation. It appears the Mexicans and Hawaiians are battling over the right to sell Black Ice.



Harry receives the autopsy report on Juan Doe from his on again, off again lover, Teresa Corazon. Teresa tells Harry that they found two different types of fruit flies on Juan Doe's body, suggesting that he was working at a place where the fruit flies are dyed and irradiated. Harry then asks Teresa about the autopsy on Moore, knowing as acting medical examiner that she performed it. Teresa confesses that she feels Moore was murdered based on evidence of a blow to the back of his head, but that deputy chief Irving is reluctant to allow her to call the death a homicide. Teresa asks Harry to keep this information to himself, but Harry calls a friend at the newspaper and leaks the information.

Harry begins investigating the fruit fly industry, discovering that fruit flies are transporter over the border from Mexico in special containers that are not searched at the border because of their sensitive nature. Harry begins to wonder if these containers might not be used to transport drugs over the border given the fact that a major drug lord operates out of Mexicali, the same town where one of these fruit fly companies is located. Harry's suspicions grow when he discovers his Juan Doe fits the description of a day laborer missing from Mexicali. Harry decides to visit Mexicali, but first he stops by Moore's apartment. Moore's widow told Harry that Moore grew up in Calexico and Mexicali and that he was obsessed with some things that happened in his childhood. Moore's widow also mentioned some photos of the past that Moore had. Harry finds these photos and takes a look at them, but finds nothing of relevance at this point.

When Harry arrives in Mexicali, he meets the cop who reported the Juan Doe missing and goes to the home of the Juan Doe to make an identification. The widow identifies the man as her husband. Harry then searches the man's home and finds paystubs from EnviroBreed, the fruit fly business Harry suspects plays a role in the Black Ice sales in Los Angeles. Harry then goes to EnviroBreed, but does not find any cooperation. At his hotel that night, someone takes a shot at Harry, telling him that he is getting close to finding a killer. Harry then breaks into EnviroBreed and finds a tunnel that appears to connect the business to a ranch belonging to drug lord Zorrillo across the street.

Harry sees a picture of Zorrillo and realizes that he is the same child he saw in some of Moore's pictures, making him suspect that he is Moore's half brother. Harry also visits the childhood home of Moore and learns that he obsessed over the house and was often seen watching it. Later, Harry is involved in a raid of Zorrillo's ranch. Harry goes into a tunnel to track a man who got away, a man Harry suspects is Zorrillo. The man gets away, but Harry sees a boot print that tells him that Zorrillo is dead, but Moore is still alive. Harry tracks Moore to his father's house and learns that Moore went to Zorrillo to ask for the money to buy his childhood home. In exchange, Moore was to turn a blind eye on his brother's drug trade in Los Angeles. Moore was not happy with the arrangement, however, so he killed Zorrillo to make it appear that he had killed himself so that he could escape the country. Moore then pulls a gun on Harry and forces him to shoot. Harry leaves the body in the abandoned house, hoping it will not be found until it is decomposed enough to hide Moore's identity, that way no one will ever know what Moore did and his widow will get his full pension.



Chapters 1-4

Chapters 1-4 Summary

The Black Ice is about Harry Bosch, a detective with the LAPD. Harry becomes involved in the case of a murdered cop when two of his own cases appear to overlap the cop's case. Harry is warned several times to back off, but Harry follows the evidence and his instincts without concern to the toes he might step on.

Harry is listening to the police band radio because he is the detective on call Christmas night. When a call comes across the radio discussing a murder in his jurisdiction, Harry calls the station to find out why he was not called. The sergeant tells him that they suspect the body is that of Calexico Moore, a cop who has been missing for a week. A decision was made in the field to call in the Robbery-Homicide Division, since the nature of the case would have required their involvement eventually. Harry decides to go to the scene anyway. At the scene, Harry sees the body in what looks like a clear case of suicide. Harry talks to the crime scene investigator but is asked to leave when deputy chief Irving arrives. Before he does, however, a suicide note is found. Harry hangs around, hoping to get a look at it. Noticing him again, Irving sends Harry to make kin notification. Before he goes, Harry manages to see the suicide note, which contains only one line.

Harry takes his time getting to Moore's estranged wife's house. When Harry arrives, he sees a television van leaving. Mrs. Moore is reluctant to let Harry in until she realizes who he is. Harry tells Mrs. Moore what they have found and asks a few questions about Moore. Mrs. Moore tells Harry that her husband was obsessed with the past. Mrs. Moore talks about some pictures her husband would look at for hours at a time and how he told her he grew up in a castle in Calexico before moving to Mexicali. Mrs. Moore also talks about an IAD agent who came to her house and claimed she wrote a letter accusing her husband of being corrupt. Harry already knows most of this. Harry met Moore once a few weeks before his disappearance when he met to ask him some questions related to a case he was working. The case involves a Hawaiian drug dealer and Harry learned from Moore that the Hawaiians began selling a new drug called ice, but that the Mexicans perfected the recipe and began selling it under the name black ice. Moore suspected that the Hawaiian was killed by a rival Mexican drug dealer.

Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Harry Bosch, the main character of the novel, is introduced in the opening chapters of the novel. Harry is a single man who has no family or no family he is close to, since he is alone on Christmas. Harry is on call for the day but does not get the call when a body is found in a Hollywood motel. Most detectives would probably be relieved not to be called, but Harry is immediately suspicious that something inappropriate is going on. Harry calls the station and demands to know what the situation is only to learn the body



found possibly is Calexico Moore, a cop who went missing over a week before. Harry immediately jumps in his car and goes to the crime scene. By doing this, Harry shows the reader that he is a good cop and an honest man who wants to be involved in a case that other detectives might avoid because of the volatile circumstances.

Calexico Moore is also introduced in these chapters. Moore is a cop who has been separated from his wife for a few months and seems to have a drinking problem. Beyond the stress of his marital problems, Moore also appears to be obsessed with his past, a theme of the novel, and is under investigation by the Internal Affairs Division. This investigation implies to the reader that Moore is not an honest cop, or is the subject of a witch hunt. Either way, it seems suicide is not a surprise in Moore's life. Therefore, when Harry arrives at the scene and sees what looks like a suicide, he does not doubt it.

Harry meets Mrs. Moore and instantly feels a connection to her. Mrs. Moore has a quiet strength that Harry likes. This connection between Harry and Mrs. Moore suggests that Mrs. Moore will play an important role in the developing plot, but what that role will be is not clear because the reader is unclear if Mrs. Moore will be a romantic interest for Harry, or if it will be proved that she knew something about her husband's alleged criminal activities and wrote the letter IAD has. This letter could prove to be significant as the novel progresses. Also of interest are the pictures Mrs. Moore mentions her husband had. The reader also suspects that these pictures will play a pivotal role within the novel.



Chapters 5-7

Chapters 5-7 Summary

The next morning, Harry is called into his boss's office shortly after arriving at work. Harry's boss tells him to stay away from the Moore case. The boss then tells Harry that one of his fellow detectives is applying for stress-related leave. Harry is assigned the other detective's cases and told to solve one of them by the following week in order to improve the squad's statistics. Harry calls the other detective, Lucius Porter, and asks him which case would be the easiest to solve by the end of the week, but Porter is a drinker and already drunk and is little help. Harry then takes the files to a quiet room and studies them all, focusing on a case of an unidentified Hispanic male who was found by an off-duty police officer behind a local diner. When Harry realizes the off-duty cop who found the body was Moore, he decides that is the case he wants to work. Harry then calls the medical examiner's office to get the autopsy report on the Juan Doe. Teresa Corazon, the acting chief, arranges to meet Harry later in the day to go over the report with him.

Harry gets a call from one of the members of the BANG squad, the narcotics squad in which Moore worked. When Harry meets the remaining members of the squad at a local diner, they give him a file they found in their squad car marked with a note from Moore instructing the file to be given to Harry. Harry goes to his car and reads through the file. The file contains case notes on a drug bust that was thrown out for insufficient evidence. The arrest was the result of a tip and makes Harry wonder if the tip came from his victim, Jimmy Kapps, the murdered Hawaiian. Also included is a report from a DEA agent named Corvo that gives a run down on the black ice operation of a Mexican national named Humberto Zorrillo. Zorrillo lives in Mexicali and owns a large ranch where he employs a large number of people from the local barrios, making him something of a folk hero in the area. Although the DEA is aware that Zorrillo is importing black ice into the United States, they do not have the evidence or cooperation of the local cops they need to stop him. The entire file appears to be a collection of information Moore thought would help Harry with his case. Harry takes the file back into the restaurant and asks the BANG guys a few questions, establishing that Jimmy Kapps was their informant, suggesting this is why he was killed. Harry then gives the file back and tells the guys they should hand it over to RHD before they learn of its existence.

Chapters 5-7 Analysis

Harry is told to stay away from the Moore case. This order gives the reader the impression that the man giving the order knows Harry will continue looking into the case no matter what he says, touching on the theme of defying authority. The order also shows a side of Harry the reader has already glimpsed. Harry is determined that the truth will come out about Moore's death. This determination is evident in Harry's growing obsession with the case and the connection he seems to feel with Moore, as well as



with another fellow cop, Lucius Porter. Porter is planning on asking for stress-related leave after a long battle with alcohol. Harry stands up for this man when he speaks to his boss and later attempts to soothe the man's feelings when he speaks to him about his cases. Porter is a peripheral character, but the reader can already sense he will have an impact on the plot based on the fact that it is his cases Harry is taking on and that Harry feels some empathy for him.

Harry chooses a case to work on based on the fact that it involves Moore, bringing him back into the Moore investigation. While Harry is searching out information on the case, that of the beating death of a Juan Doe, Harry learns that his friend in the ME's office is about to do Moore's autopsy. Harry arranges to meet this woman after work, foreshadowing a meeting that might reveal more than just information on Juan Doe. Harry is then called to meet with members of Moore's elite narcotics squad and discovers that Moore was gathering information in a file for Harry. This information gives Harry a suspect in the murder of Jimmy Kapps, a case Harry was working before Moore's death and on which Harry requested Moore's assistance. This file also introduces Harry to Humberto Zorrillo, a drug dealer working out of Mexicali, Mexico. The fact that Moore left this information for Harry suggests to the reader that it will have an impact on the cases he is working, but it is unclear at this point what kind of impact that will be.



Chapters 8-10

Chapters 8-10 Summary

Harry leaves the BANG members and goes to Parker Center where he has a conversation with the crime scene tech who processed the Moore scene. Harry has to sweet talk the man into giving him information because he is not technically on the case, but the guy likes Harry and jumps on the fact that two of Harry's other cases might be relevant to the Moore case. The man tells Harry that Moore's fingerprints were found on the gun, his badge, and a newspaper found in the room. However, the rest of the room was wiped clean and other areas of the gun where one might expect to find a fingerprint do not have any. This is suspicious to Harry, but the detectives working the case are reluctant to see clear signs of homicide. Harry then goes to meet Teresa Corazon to discuss Juan Doe's autopsy. Teresa tells Harry how her team found fruit flies during autopsy, one in the victim's stomach and one in his nose. The one in the stomach was full grown and dyed pink. The other was also dyed pink, but was in the larva stage. Unlike the full grown fly, the larva was not sterile. This suggests to Teresa that near the time of his death the man was at a breeding facility where they sterilize the flies. One of these plants is located in Mexicali, Mexico, connecting Juan Doe with Zorrillo and Jimmy Kapps, as well as Moore.

Harry takes Teresa to his home where they have dinner and try not to talk about work. Harry and Teresa have been on again, off again lovers for several months; therefore, Harry knows something is bothering Teresa. Teresa finally admits that she found evidence during Moore's autopsy that he was murdered. There was very little brain tissue left, but what could be found had evidence of a severe blow to the head. However, when Teresa suggested she might write homicide as a cause of death, deputy chief Irving threatened to make sure she was not offered the chief position permanently. Now Teresa is struggling with what to do. Without her knowledge, Harry takes the decision out of her hands by contacting a friend of his at the Times and leaking the information.

Chapters 8-10 Analysis

Harry finds out that the motel room where Moore supposedly committed suicide had no fingerprints other than Moore's in a few, isolated places. This screams to Harry murder because it is unlikely a motel like the Hideaway would clean their rooms so thoroughly that they would eradicate all fingerprints. The room should have been covered in thousands of fingerprints from hundreds of different people, but it was not. People do not usually wipe away fingerprints before they commit suicide, therefore the only logical conclusion would be murder. This theory is confirmed when Harry talks to Teresa Corazon, the acting chief medical examiner, and finds out that there was evidence of a blow to the head during Moore's autopsy. Now Harry believes Moore was murdered. Harry wants to make sure Irving is not able to cover up this fact, so he makes the news



public, even though it means breaking his promise to Teresa. This move again gives the reader a peek into Harry's character, suggesting that finding the truth matters more to him than just about anything else, including his relationship with Teresa Corazon.

Harry also learns that his Juan Doe had fruit flies in his body, each at a stage of sterility that suggests Juan Doe was at or near a facility where this process takes place. One of these facilities is in Mexicali, putting Juan Doe in the same town as the drug dealer, Zorrillo. Now Harry has a connection between Juan Doe, Jimmy Kapps, Zorrillo, and Moore. This connection gives Harry an excuse to continue following the Moore case despite the warning from his superior to stay away.



Chapters 11-13

Chapters 11-13 Summary

Harry cannot sleep so decides to go looking for Porter. Harry starts at Porter's trailer but finds it empty. Harry then decides to start checking all-night bottle clubs. As Harry is moving from place to place, he gets a call from one of the BANG guys. This cop, Rickard, is watching a drug dealer he knows is connected to the dealer, Dance, who was arrested based on the tip from Kapps. Rickard suggests Harry come by and help him make a bust; then they can question the guy to find out where Dance is. Harry joins Rickard and watches as Rickard tricks the kid into admitting a coke can full of liquid PCP is his. Harry helps with the arrest and then loads the kid into his car for the trip downtown. On the way, Rickard tries to pressure the kid into telling them where Dance is, but the kid refuses to tell. Rickard threatens to send the kid to county lockup where he might have to share a cell with an angry criminal. Still the kid refuses, so Harry and Rickard are forced to book him for the night.

Harry leaves Rickard and continues his search for Porter. Finally, near morning, Harry finds Porter in a rundown private drinking club. Harry roughs Porter up a little, demanding to know why he hid Moore's involvement in the Juan Doe case. While waiting for an answer, Harry sees a guy walk into the club with tears tattooed on his face but thinks nothing of it. After a few minutes, Porter confesses that Moore asked him to go slow in identifying Juan Doe. Then, when Moore turned up dead, Porter panicked, afraid his life might be in danger, too. Harry promises to protect Porter and then goes out to get some coffee for him and Porter before he takes Porter to his house. Harry returns to the bathroom, but Porter is gone. From there Harry goes to missing-persons to see if he can find a report that will identify his Juan Doe. The detective shows him several reports, none of which match, and then some telexes sent to the consulate from Mexico. One of these, a telex sent from a Detective Carlos Aquila in Mexicali appears to match the Juan Doe. Harry then goes upstairs to the RHD offices and locates Frank Sheehan, the detective investigating the Moore case. Harry talks Sheehan into sharing information off the record. Sheehan tells Harry about the IAD case, how they received a letter that had to be from someone close to Moore because of certain details, and how the IAD detective, Chastain, thought it was written by Moore's wife. Sheehan believes that Moore had become corrupt and was fronting for Zorrillo.

Chapters 11-13 Analysis

Harry teams up with one of the BANG officers to try and find out where the drug dealer who most likely killed, or had killed, Harry's victim, Jimmy Kapps, but the kid refuses to talk. This is significant because this kid will be revisited later in the novel in another attempt to find Harry's suspect, Dance. Harry then goes in search of Porter and finds him at an all-night drinking club, the kind of place where the patrons bring their own bottle and pay to rent bar space. Porter tells Harry that Moore asked him to delay the



identification of Juan Doe, suggesting that his identity might be related to, or cause trouble, for Moore. Porter then disappears. Harry believes that Porter simply took off on him, but when the reader takes in to account the fact that Porter is afraid for his safety, it seems there are several possibilities to explain his disappearance.

It is looking more and more like Cal Moore was a bad cop. Harry has learned that Moore encouraged another cop to take his time solving a crime and then finds out that IAD was looking hard at Moore for being a front in Zorrillo's black ice operation. Harry still does not believe that Sylvia Moore wrote the letter that started the IAD investigation, but he cannot prove it since he is basing his belief on her word. The reader can see that Sylvia really had no motive to turn her husband in to IAD, and she might not have even known if Moore was bad because they had been estranged. This seems to support Harry's instincts. Finally, Harry might have an identification on his Juan Doe that connects the man directly with Mexicali, as Harry has suspected since learning about the fruit flies. It now seems more evident than before that all three of these cases are related somehow.



Chapters 14-16

Chapters 14-16 Summary

Harry goes to speak to a representative at the Medfly Eradication Project Center. Harry learns mostly what he already knew, about how the fruit flies were dyed and then irradiated to make them sterile so that when they were released in Southern California they would eventually cause a decline in the native fruit fly population. However, Harry also is able to see how the flies are transported from Mexico to California. The flies are packed in sausage like casings and then placed in containers large enough to hide a body. The containers are not opened after they leave the facility because they are packed under the watchful eye of an USDA inspector.

Harry gets a call to meet Rickard at the Hall of Justice after he visits Teresa and finds her extremely upset with him, aware that he released the information regarding Moore's autopsy. At the Hall of Justice, Harry finds out that Rickard had the kid placed with the maximum security criminals. When the kid comes into the visitor's room to talk to them, it is clear he has been abused by his fellow inmates. Rickard starts in on the kid, making threats in an attempt to get him to tell them where Dance is. Harry has enough and insists that Rickard let the kid go, making a few threats of his own. Rickard agrees and Harry gives the kid a ride back to Hollywood. Harry even gets a room for the kid at the Hideaway when he learns that he has nowhere to go. In exchange, the kid tells Harry that Dance has left the country. Based on this information and the other information Harry has gathered, Harry decides to go to Mexico. Harry returns to the office and calls the number on the telex and speaks to Aquila's captain. The man tells Harry that the missing man in the telex was a day laborer, but that it is unlikely he ever worked at EnviroBreed, the facility where the fruit flies are irradiated in Mexicali. Harry then fills his superior in on what he knows so far, minus his decision to go to Mexico, and then heads home.

Chapters 14-16 Analysis

Harry goes to The Medfly Eradication Project Center and learns that fruit flies are sterilized at facilities in various places, including one in Mexicali, and then transported to the Medfly Eradication Project Center to be released into the wild. Harry already knew this, but what he does not know is that the flies coming from Mexico are so sensitive that they are not inspected once they are packed in the containers in which they travel. This suggests to Harry, as well as the reader, that it would be possible for someone to sneak something illegal across the border in these containers without the border patrol knowing about it. It could also explain how Juan Doe's body got from Mexicali to Los Angeles without the border patrol knowing about it.

Harry once again shows the reader his deep character, as well as touching on some experiences in childhood, when he returns to the jail to once again interrogate the kid he



helped arrest the night before. The kid has clearly been abused and Harry feels sorry for him, and Harry puts his own safety at risk when he threatens Rickard to let the kid go. Harry will defy authority, a theme of the novel, but he will not leave that kid in a bad situation where he is sure to be hurt again. Harry does not rescue the kid because he thinks being nice will get him the information he wants but is rewarded with this information just the same. The kid finally tells Harry what he has wanted to know, that his suspect, Dance, has left the country. Now Harry knows he must go to Mexico, something he has been thinking about all day.



Chapters 17-19

Chapters 17-19 Summary

On his way home, Harry meets Corvo, the DEA agent who was working with Moore. Harry tells Corvo he plans to go to Mexico. Corvo believes that is a big mistake, warning Harry that he should not trust the local cops. Harry tells Corvo everything he has, including the theory that Zorrillo is using EnviroBreed to transport drugs into the States. Corvo tells Harry that EnviroBreed is directly across the street from Zorrillo's ranch. Corvo also says that Zorrillo, who is usually very visible, has not been seen at the ranch for more than a week. Zorrillo likes to be around the bulls he raises for the local bull fights, so he can usually be seen near their pens, but that has not been the case lately. Corvo also says that Zorrillo is something of a folk hero in Mexicali which is why the DEA has not been able to move on him. Finally, Corvo tells Harry to hook up with an agent in Mexico named Ramos. Corvo also agrees to keep Harry involved should there be any developments against Zorrillo.

Harry decides to stop by the apartment Moore rented when he separated from his wife. Harry breaks in and searches the apartment room by room, finding very little of interest until he stumbles on an envelope full of photos. The photos date back many years, some of a child with a young Hispanic woman and the same child with a man who appears to be his father. Harry recognizes the castle Sylvia Moore told him about in the background, so he knows the child is Calexico Moore. There are other pictures, mostly of the young boy a little older with an older boy who could be a brother. As Harry finishes with the pictures, he hears someone unlocking the front door. Harry hides, but it turns out to be Mrs. Moore. Harry tells her why he is there and shows her the pictures. Sylvia continues to deny she wrote the letter to IAD. Sylvia tells Harry that Irving told her if she wants Moore's pension, she should drop the matter. Harry and Sylvia talk a little longer and then find themselves drawn to each other. Harry and Sylvia make love in Moore's bed.

The next morning, Harry leaves for Mexico. Harry thinks about Moore and his father and it reminds him of his own situation. Harry never knew his father. His mother was unstable and Harry spent most of his childhood in foster care and group homes. Harry's mother died when he was nine. After a tour of duty in Vietnam, Harry decided he wanted to find his father. Harry researched some of his old custody files and discovered that his mother was represented many times over the years by a famous criminal attorney who she most likely could not afford. This convinced Harry that the lawyer was his father. Harry went to see him and found him dying of cancer. The old man admitted to being his father and tried to explain the situation, but Harry did not need him to. Harry forgave the old man because he needed to in order to move on with his own life.



Chapters 17-19 Analysis

Harry meets with DEA agent Corvo and learns a few more things about Zorrillo. The DEA knows Zorrillo is the power behind black ice and that the local police are unwilling to do anything because Zorrillo is something of a hero in Mexicali. Zorrillo takes people out of the barrios and gives them money beyond their wildest dreams. Zorrillo also has cops and politicians on his payroll; therefore, he runs the town. Corvo also agrees that Zorrillo could very well be using EnviroBreed to transport his drugs into the country, but there is little the DEA can do without definitive proof. Harry hopes to get that proof for them because Harry believes Zorrillo is the connection among all three of his cases. Again Harry shows his character in the fact that he is willing to go to Mexico and take on Zorrillo alone if that is what it takes to solve his cases.

Harry goes to Moore's apartment and finds the pictures with which Sylvia Moore told him Moore was obsessed. Harry finds nothing unusual about them, just some pictures of Moore as a child with his parents and a boy who might be his brother. The pictures seem to the reader that they should be more significant because Moore was so fascinated with them, but at this point Bosch does not see anything important about them. The reader suspects something happened to Moore when he was a child that left him scarred and troubled, and that the pictures will prove important when Bosch is able to make a connection between them and whatever is missing from the current puzzle. On his way to Mexico, Bosch recalls his own father and how he found him as the father was about to die. This story is relevant only in that it appears that Moore, too, had a difficult relationship with his father and Bosch empathizes with Moore. Perhaps it is this shared experience that has made Bosch focus so narrowly on Moore.



Chapters 20-21

Chapters 20-21 Summary

Bosch arrives in Calexico and takes a spare gun to the local cops to sign in to protect himself should he need his gun while in Mexico. From there, Bosch goes to the hotel he plans to stay, planning to check in and then go on to Mexicali. However, Bosch finds a list of messages waiting for him from his superior and Irving. Bosch calls one of the detectives on the desk and asks what the situation is. Bosch is told that Porter's body was found at a landfill. It appears that Porter was killed at a bottle club and dumped inside a Dumpster before landing at the landfill. Bosch realizes that Porter must have been killed while he was getting them coffee. Bosch also realizes that when the police interview the bartender, the man will remember him because of the scene he and Porter created. Bosch will be the prime suspect. Bosch goes back to the clerk and pays him to forget he ever arrived or received his messages.

Bosch goes into Mexicali and stops at the local police station. Bosch is directed to the detective's office where he has a discussion with Captain Grena before being allowed to meet with the widow of his Juan Doe. Captain Grena tells Bosch that he has already spoken with the people at EnviroBreed and has been assured that the Juan Doe never worked there. The way in which Grena says this tells Bosch that he is to stay away from EnviroBreed. Bosch then goes with Aguila, the cop who sent the telex to the consulate in Los Angeles, to meet the widow. The woman lives in a barrio that is little more than a group of shacks piled haphazardly together. After the woman makes a positive identification, Bosch insists on gathering fingerprints to be sure. While doing this, Aguila points out several coffee cans on a shelf, suggesting that they might not all hold coffee. Bosch looks in them and finds several paycheck stubs from EnviroBreed.

Chapters 20-21 Analysis

Porter is dead, most likely killed while Bosch was getting him coffee the morning he found him in the bottle club. Bosch is shocked to discover that the man he swore to protect was murdered under his nose and he did not even suspect. Bosch is also certain that the detectives investigating the case will learn that Bosch was there and suspect him. However, Porter's death also gives Harry a suspect in the murders. Bosch spotted a man with tattoos of tear drops on his face the morning Porter was killed, leading him to suspect this person was the killer. This give Bosch a better lead than he has had thus far.

Bosch goes to Mexicali and meets both the cop who sent the telex and his captain. The captain is clearly corrupt because he is trying to scare Bosch off his prime target in Mexicali, EnviroBreed. Aguila, on the other hand, appears to be a rare honest cop because he points Bosch to some evidence that proves Juan Doe worked at EnviroBreed around the time of his disappearance. This is important because it makes

a definitive connection between Juan Doe and EnviroBreed, a connection Bosch needs to prove his theories.



Chapters 22-25

Chapters 22-25 Summary

Bosch drives out to EnviroBreed and finds it is directly across the street from Zorrillo's ranch and next to a furniture making business. Bosch goes inside and talks to the manager, only to find him less than willing to cooperate. Bosch is told to leave, but instead slips into the office of the USDA agent who is supposed to oversee the packing of the containers scheduled to cross the border. Bosch asks the USDA man if he does witness the packing of all the boxes and he insists he does, but Bosch does not believe him. Bosch attempts to check out the rest of the facility, but the manager catches him and sends him away. Bosch checks into a hotel and calls Teresa to find out how Porter died. Porter died from strangulation with a homemade garrote, just like Jimmy Kapps, suggesting the same killer killed both men. Bosch then calls Irving and is told to go directly back to Los Angeles. Harry respectfully refuses. Ramos, Corvo's agent, arrives a few minutes later. Harry and Ramos talk about Zorrillo, and Ramos tells Harry that he is trying to get a warrant to raid Zorrillo's ranch based on Harry's tip about EnviroBreed, but that it might take a few days for it to come through. Harry makes Ramos promise to bring him in on the raid, so Ramos gives him a pager.

After Ramos leaves, Harry is standing in the window when a bullet flies through the glass. Harry pinpoints the room where the shot was fired but only finds a casing. Harry calls Aguila to warn him his life might be in danger, and also calls Ramos to let him know what is going on before leaving the hotel. Harry goes to EnviroBreed and watches until the manager leaves. Harry then drugs the watchdogs and sneaks inside, searching the offices for any evidence that might help nail Zorrillo. In the lab where they irradiate the flies, Harry finds a trapdoor that leads to an underground tunnel. Harry believes this is how Zorrillo moves the drugs from his ranch to EnviroBreed without being seen. Harry also believes his Juan Doe stumbled on the tunnel by accident and this is why he was killed.

The following morning, after having spent a sleepless night on Aguila's couch, Harry meets Ramos to look at mug shots with the hopes of finding a picture of the man with three tears tattooed to his face. Harry spots a picture of Zorrillo and realizes that he is the same man who was featured in so many pictures with Moore, only older. Harry wonders if Zorrillo might not be Moore's half brother. Harry also finds a picture of the man with the tears on his face and is told he is Osvaldo Arpis Rafaelillo, a known assassin who works for Zorrillo. Harry also learns that Rafaelillo came from the same barrio as Zorrillo and Moore, Saints and Sinners. In the barrio there is a saying, who are you, referring to the name of the barrio. Often when Rafaelillo and his associates would kill a man, they would leave a note on his body that said, he found out who he was. This brings to Harry's mind the note found on Moore's body after his suicide.



Chapters 22-25 Analysis

Harry visits EnviroBreed and discovers that it is very close to Zorrillo's ranch. Harry wants to search the place, but he had no power in Mexico and is reminded of this by the uncooperative manager. Harry speaks to the USDA inspector but is not satisfied by his insistence that nothing gets inside the containers but fruit flies. Harry returns late that night to do a more thorough investigation and finds a hidden tunnel, suggesting his theory about the drug transportation is correct. The DEA has already decided to get a warrant to run a raid on Zorrillo's ranch based on Harry's earlier suspicions, so this should only help.

Harry learns that Porter was killed with a homemade garrote, suggesting he was killed by the same man who killed Jimmy Kapps, since it appears to be the same type of weapon. This further connects the Jimmy Kapps murder to the Juan Doe murder. Now all Harry needs is a suspect, and he gets this when he looks at photos of known associates of Zorrillo. Harry also gets a look at a photo of Zorrillo for the first time and realizes he is the same man that is pictured with Moore as a child in Moore's collection of photos. Now Harry has reason to suspect that Moore and Zorrillo are related, most likely half brothers. This suspicion deepens when Harry learns that Zorrillo and several of his men grew up in the same barrio as Moore—Saints and Sinners. Even the suicide note Moore left behind seems to tie him to Zorrillo, further confirming Harry's suspicions that Zorrillo was involved in Moore's murder.



Chapters 26-30

Chapters 26-30 Summary

Harry returns to Calexico to see if he can find the castle of which Moore talked to his wife. Harry finds it through the historical society and takes a drive out to look at it. A neighbor woman turns out to be the ex-owner's sister-in-law. This woman tells Harry that the owner died the year before, and the house was sold, but no one ever moved in. The woman also tells Harry how the owner, Cecil Moore, had a son with his Hispanic maid, but that he threw the woman and her son out after he learned she had a husband and child in Mexico. The woman continues by saying that Calexico Moore often returned to the house just to sit and stare at it from the street for hours at a time. Harry thanks the woman and then leaves, returning to Mexicali to join Aguila at the bull fights. Harry hopes to catch sight of Zorrillo because he knows Zorrillo rarely misses the bull fights since many of the bulls are his own. However, only Grena shows up, warning Harry to go home.

Harry gets a page from Ramos informing him the warrant has come through. Harry meets Ramos and Corvo at the airport, with Aguila despite Corvo and Ramos' reservations about trusting a local cop. Harry and Aguila are to fly in the lead helicopter with Corvo to watch the action while Ramos is to lead a team on the ground. The plan is to arrest Zorrillo and then sneak him into the United States so he can face charges there. However, when the plan begins to unfold, there is more firepower than expected and things become chaotic for a time. Eventually the federal agents are able to subdue Zorrillo's men, but Zorrillo himself gets away. After searching the house, Corvo discovers that Grena and Rafaellilo have been killed in the study, apparently by Zorrillo, and Dance has been killed as well. Harry insists on going after Zorrillo. Corvo reluctantly agrees, sending him with Ramos in a helicopter. After the helicopter lands in a field near the jeep Zorrillo used to escape, the helicopter is rammed by a bull. Ramos attempts to stop the bull with a handgun and is charged, breaking his neck. Harry and Aguila go after Zorrillo, tracing his path into the bull barn where they find another trap door. Harry and Aguila follow the tunnel, expecting it to come out at EnviroBreed, but instead it comes out at Mexitec, the furniture shop next door. It appears Zorrillo had two tunnels. Zorrillo has escaped. However, Aguila points out a boot print in the sawdust on the floor that suggests to Harry where he might find Zorrillo.

Chapters 26-30 Analysis

Harry returns to Calexico and learns the story of Moore's childhood. Now Harry and the reader alike understand why Moore is obsessed with pictures and the house that looks like a castle. It also seems to bring together Moore's story with Harry's, giving them a connection that explains Harry's determination to find Moore's killer, beyond his affection for Moore's widow. Back in Mexico, Harry is warned away by Grena, the corrupt police captain. Not long after, Harry is informed that the warrant has come



through to raid Zorrillo's ranch. The raid does not appear to be going well at first, but the DEA gets the upper hand eventually. Inside the house, Corvo shows Harry the dead bodies of Grena, Rafaellilo, and Dance, bringing a conclusion to the deaths of Juan Doe and Jimmy Kapps.

Zorrillo has gotten away and Harry is determined to find him. Harry, Ramos, and Aguila go after Zorrillo but run into a bull. The bull appears to be symbolic of the corruption that has stymied Harry's investigation since the beginning of the novel. This time, however, Harry wins out. Ramos is killed, but Harry and Aguila manage to bring down the bull so that they can finish their search for Zorrillo. However, the search ends up a dead end, except for a boot print that Harry seems to find significant, although the reader is unclear why at this point.



Chapters 31-34

Chapters 31-34 Summary

Harry returns to Calexico and places a call to Teresa. Harry asks how Moore's body was identified and learns it was through the fingerprints in his personnel file. Harry asks Teresa to compare those fingerprints with the ones on file with the state, feeling sure they will not match. Harry suspects Moore changed the fingerprint cards in his personnel file when he filed a change of address card. Harry then drives out to the castle and finds Moore there. Moore tells Harry how he wanted to buy his father's house after his death but did not have the money. Moore went to his half brother, Zorrillo, and asked for the money. Zorrillo put conditions on the money, forcing Moore to work for him in the drug trade. Moore wanted out, so he devised a plan. Moore wrote the letter to the IAD himself to set up a motive for suicide and then traded the fingerprint cards in his file. Moore lured Zorrillo to the Hideaway, killed him, then took his place in Mexicali. Zorrillo's men went along with it because Moore paid them off. However, Moore never planned on Harry being so thorough in his investigation. Moore then pulls a gun on Harry, forcing Harry to shoot him in the face with a shotgun. Harry leaves the body where it lies, hoping no one will find it until identification is impossible. If Moore's body is never identified, then no one can prove he did not die in a motel room in Los Angeles, an honest, if depressed, cop. That way Sylvia gets Moore's pension and the Los Angeles Police Department remains unblemished.

Chapters 31-34 Analysis

Harry has discovered that Moore is still alive based on the type of boots he liked to wear. Harry traces Moore to the castle, the home where Moore grew up his early years and from where he was banished. Moore was never able to overcome his childhood, a theme of the novel, and it is this obsession that brought his downfall. Harry and Moore are a lot alike. The only difference is that Harry was able to let go of his anger toward his father and move on with his life. Moore never did let go and it caused his downfall.

Harry ties up all the loose ends and makes sure that nothing will interfere with Sylvia Moore getting her husband's pension. Harry really cares about Sylvia, suggesting to the reader that she might appear in another Harry Bosch novel. Romance would be good for Harry, who describes himself as living with an emptiness inside. Perhaps the next novel will find Harry more content with his life, though hopefully still the hard nosed, eager detective he has been in this novel.



Characters

Harry Bosch

Harry Bosch is a detective with the LAPD. Bosch once worked with the elite Robbery-Homicide Division, but has been moved to the detective's desk at the Hollywood station because of some accusations that caused him to come under investigation by Internal Affairs. Bosch is a good detective, however, and he enjoys his work. Therefore, when a body is discovered while he is the on call detective and he does not get the call, Bosch is upset. Bosch goes to the scene of the death and demands to know why he was not called. It turns out that the body discovered in a Hollywood motel is that of Calexico Moore, a cop who has been missing for just over a week. It is because of this possible identity that the Robbery-Homicide Division was called in instead of Bosch; however, this does not keep Bosch from becoming involved.

Bosch met Moore once and feels a connection to his widow. Bosch wants to find out what happened to Moore for this reason and also because it seems Moore was obsessed with the past. Bosch understands Moore's inability to let go of the father who abandoned him because he, too, once had to deal with an absentee father. Bosch is warned off the case and given a handful of other cases to begin investigating. When one of these cases has a connection to Moore, Bosch jumps on it. Bosch investigates Moore's death in connection with his own case and is not happy when he begins to believe that Moore was a bad cop. Bosch does not want Moore's reputation to be spoiled because he does not want Moore's widow to miss out on her husband's pension.

Bosch follows the leads into Mexico where Bosch's case began and where he hopes to find the truth behind Moore's death. Bosch becomes involved in a DEA drug bust on the farm of a drug czar to whom Bosch believes Moore is related. The bust fails to produce the drug czar, but evidence points Bosch in a new direction. Without informing anyone, which has always been his style, Bosch follows up this lead and finds Moore alive and well. Moore and Bosch speak for a time, filling all the holes in the case. Then Moore pulls a gun on Bosch, forcing him to fire his weapon. Bosch leaves Moore's body in the empty house, hoping that it will be well decomposed before anyone finds it in order to insure Moore's widow gets the full pension.

Calexico Moore

Calexico Moore is an LAPD detective who works with the BANG unit, tracking and busting drug dealers in Hollywood. Moore is a good cop who has always set a moral example for his fellow officers. However, Moore has a drinking habit that has gotten worse since he separated from his wife some weeks before. Moore is also under investigation by IAD, the Internal Affairs Division, although no one has ever found any evidence that Moore is a bad cop. On top of all this, Moore has an obsession with his



past, but has never told anyone, even his wife, what it is about his past that occupies so much of his time.

A week before Christmas, Moore goes missing. On Christmas night, a body is found in a motel room in Hollywood. Due to the fact that the body is dressed like Moore and one of Moore's undercover aliases was used to rent the room, the police believe the victim is Moore even though he was shot through the face and a visual identification is impossible. The following day, the body's fingerprints are checked against those on file in Moore's personnel file and a match is made. It seems that Moore has committed suicide.

Bosch, however, comes to believe that Moore was murdered based on a finding in the autopsy. Bosch, who is not supposed to be investigating the Moore case, begins to put together evidence that seems to point toward a connection between Moore and a drug dealer in Mexico. Moore grew up in the same town where the drug dealer lives and Moore has pictures of the drug dealer when Moore is a child. Eventually Bosch begins to believe that Moore and the drug dealer are half brothers. Due to this belief, Bosch becomes involved on a raid on the drug dealer's ranch. After the raid, Bosch finds evidence that Moore is still alive.

When Bosch finds Moore, it turns out that he got involved with his half brother's business because he wanted the money to buy his childhood home. Moore regretted his actions and wanted out from under his brother's thumb, but was unable to find a way. Instead, Moore schemed to kill his brother and make it look like he had committed suicide himself. Then Moore intended to take some of his brother's money and leave the country. Unfortunately, Bosch found him and spoiled his plans.

Sylvia Moore

Sylvia Moore is a school teacher and is married to Calexico Moore. Sylvia knows little about her husband's past, only that he has a group of pictures he looks at often and that he once lived in a castle with his father. Sylvia tells Bosch early in the novel how Moore would often look at his pictures and become depressed, drinking and refusing to talk. Sylvia believes it is Moore's past that haunts him and caused the down turn in their marriage. Sylvia and Moore are separated at the time of Moore's disappearance. Before Moore's body is found, Sylvia gets a visit from an IAD detective accusing her of writing a letter to the police department outlining Moore's illegal activities. Sylvia swears she did not write the letter and Bosch believes her.

Sylvia is entitled to Moore's pension should it be proven that he was a good cop. However, if evidence surfaces that proves Moore is corrupt, Sylvia will not receive any money. One of the deputy chiefs uses this fact against Sylvia, encouraging her not to push her suspicions that Moore did not die by his own hand. Bosch also sees this as a possibility and does all he can to make sure that Moore's illegal activities stay quiet so that Sylvia will receive the pension. Bosch does this because he feels a connection to Sylvia and wants to protect her.



Lucius Porter

Lucius Porter is another detective with the Hollywood Division. Porter is a heavy drinker who has had a difficult time since witnessing the shooting death of a partner. Porter decides to ask for a medical discharge, allowing him to receive a full pension before his retirement date. At first it appears that Porter is doing this because of his drinking and emotional scars, but when Bosch is assigned Porter's old cases, he begins to wonder if the timing of Porter's request does not have something to do with a case he was working. Among Porter's case is one in which the body of an unidentified Hispanic male was found by Calexico Moore.

When Bosch begins to investigate this Juan Doe case of Porter's, he learns that Moore asked Porter to delay the identification of the victim. After Moore is found dead, Porter begins to worry about his own safety. Porter does not go home and spends his days and nights in bars, hoping to avoid a potential assassin. Bosch finds him and forces Porter to tell him everything he knows about Moore. Porter does, but when Bosch leaves the room for a moment and returns, he finds Porter gone. Bosch assumes Porter ran off out of fear, but later learns that Porter was murdered and dumped in a Dumpster outside the club. Later Bosch identifies Porter's killer as a man working for the drug czar, Zorrillo.

Teresa Corazon

Teresa Corazon is the acting chief medical examiner of Los Angeles. Teresa is a good doctor who has strong political aspirations. Teresa would like nothing more than to be appointed permanent chief. Teresa Corazon is married, but her husband does not like what she does for a living; therefore, they are separated. Teresa and Bosch have an on again, off again relationship that is mostly physical. When Teresa tells Bosch about Moore's autopsy, telling him in confidence that she believes Moore was murdered, but the deputy chief is unwilling to concede the possibility, Bosch finds himself in a position where he has to break her trust. Bosch needs Moore's autopsy to read homicide to support his investigation; therefore, he calls a friend with one of the local papers and leaks the information.

Teresa is so angry with Bosch that she ends the relationship. However, Bosch works it out so that Teresa comes out smelling like a rose and is almost guaranteed to get the appointment to chief. Teresa is still unwilling to forgive even after she agrees to help Bosch prove Moore is not the man who died in that hotel room. Bosch understands her anger and does not mind the end of the affair. Bosch has already turned his attention to Sylvia Moore.

Carlos Aguila

Carlos Aguila is a cop in Mexicali, Mexico. Aguila is the cop who sends a notice to the Los Angeles consulate informing them of a missing man in Mexicali that leads Bosch to



the identity of his Juan Doe. If not for Aguila's report, Bosch could not have definitively connected Juan Doe with Mexicali and ultimately solved the case. When Bosch arrives in Mexicali, he finds Aguila to be a smart, conscientious cop among corruption and greed. Bosch likes Aguila and works closely with him in Mexicali despite warnings not to do so. In fact, Bosch insists on bringing Aguila along on a raid of Zorrillo's ranch in order to help bring Zorrillo down. If Aguila had not been at the raid, he would not have pointed out a boot print that enables Bosch to solve the entire case for him; therefore, Aguila is an important character to the novel.

Humberto Zorrillo aka The Pope

Humberto Zorrillo is known as The Pope in Mexicali because he uses the money he makes selling drugs to offer work and better living conditions to the people of the slums. Zorrillo is also the half brother of Calexico Moore, a cop from Los Angeles who is a member of the elite drug squad, BANG. When Moore needs money to buy the house where he grew up, he makes a deal with Zorrillo. Zorrillo will give Moore the money, but Moore will have to turn the other way when Zorrillo's men begins selling black ice in Los Angeles. For a while Moore goes along, but he decides he does not want to be a corrupt cop. Moore hatches a plan that will get him out from under Zorrillo's thumb and allow him to live a long, healthy life somewhere else. However, the plan goes wrong when Bosch figures it out and catches Moore before he can leave the country.

Corvo and Ramos

Corvo is an agent with the DEA. Corvo is Moore's contact within the DEA, providing Moore with information on the various drug lords at work in Los Angeles. Bosch is given a file that includes a report from Corvo regarding black ice. Therefore, when Bosch decides to go to Mexico, he contacts Corvo for information he might need. Corvo agrees to help Bosch, hooking him up with an agent in Mexico, Ramos. Ramos is a high strung man who lives for the danger associated with his job. Bosch dislikes Ramos, but he plays along with his schemes in the hope that he will be present when Zorrillo is taken down so he can learn the truth about Moore's death. Ramos and Corvo organize a raid on Zorrillo's ranch where they find several key characters dead, but Zorrillo appears to get away. Bosch and Aguila go after him, but instead of finding Zorrillo, Bosch finds evidence that Moore is still alive.

Jimmy Kapps

Jimmy Kapps is an Hawaiian drug dealer. Jimmy Kapps sets up a rival drug dealer to be arrested, hoping to get the other drug dealer out of the way. As soon as the other man is arrested, Jimmy flies to Hawaii and picks up a load of drugs. However, while he is gone the other drug dealer is released from jail. When Jimmy gets off the plane, he is murdered. Bosch takes the case and immediately figures out Jimmy's occupation by the drugs in his stomach. Bosch goes to Moore about the case because he needs more



information on black ice, the drugs found inside Jimmy, and a few possibilities for the murderer. Moore gives Bosch little information, but later, after Moore is found in a motel room, Bosch begins to investigate his murder and discovers that it ties in with Jimmy's death.

Juan Doe or Fernal Gutierrez-Llosa

Fernal Gutierrez-Llosa is a day laborer who lives in Mexicali, Mexico. One day Fernal goes out on a job and never comes home. Fernal's wife convinces Aguila to search for her husband, insisting that it is not like him to just disappear without her. When Bosch sees the paperwork Aguila sent to Los Angeles about Fernal, he realizes the Juan Doe in one of Porter's cases is Fernal. Bosch goes to Mexicali to get a positive identification of his Juan Doe. When he does, he discovers that Fernal worked for EnviroBreed, a company that Bosch has come to believe is a cover for sneaking drugs into California. The Juan Doe case is the catalyst that helps Bosch not only remain on the edge of the Moore case, but to solve the case.



Objects/Places

Letter to IAD

The IAD, or Internal Affairs Division, receives a letter regarding Calexico Moore that accuses him of criminal activities. It first appears this letter came from Moore's estranged wife, but later Harry comes to believe Moore wrote it himself.

Black Ice

Black Ice is a street drug first manufactured in Hawaii and then Mexico that is a combination of cocaine, heroin, and PCP.

Shotgun

A shotgun is found with Moore's body with his fingerprints on the barrel, suggesting Moore committed suicide as the scene suggests.

Pictures

Moore kept an envelope full of old photos from his childhood. From these pictures, Harry is able to establish that Zorrillo is Moore's half brother and to find the home Moore grew up in in Calexico, California.

Boots

Moore likes to wear a brand of boots with a snake on the heel. Harry is able to establish that Moore is still alive when he finds a boot print with this snake on the heel in the workshop at Mexitec.

Fingerprints

Moore's body is initially identified using the fingerprint cards in his personnel file. However, Harry later proves these cards were switched with fingerprints taken from Zorrillo.

EnviroBreed Paystubs

Harry finds paystubs from EnviroBreed in the home of his Juan Doe, confirming his belief that the Juan Doe was killed because he saw something he should not have while working at EnviroBreed.



BANG

BANG, or Boulevard Anti-Narcotics Group, is an elite narcotics squad of which Moore was a part. This squad tracks the drug trade in Los Angeles and makes arrests of those who participate in it. When Bosch has a drug related homicide, he contacts Moore for information.

Hideaway Motel

Moore's body is found in a room at the Hideaway Motel that he rented for a full month, perhaps hoping the body would decompose before it was found.

Castle

Moore spent the first few years of his life living in the home of his father, which was built to resemble a castle. However, when Calexico's father found out his mother was married to a man in Mexico, he sent them back to Mexico. At the end of the book, Harry finds Moore at the Castle preparing to leave the country.

Bull Fights

Harry attends the bull fights in Mexicali with the hopes of catching sight of Zorrillo, who raises bulls and is a big fan of bull fighting. However, Harry only runs into a corrupt cop who warns him to leave Mexico.

EnviroBreed

EnviroBreed is a company in Mexico that dyes and then sterilizes fruit flies to be shipped to California where they are released into the wild in hopes they will eventually wipe out the natural fruit flies. Harry believes this company is using their unique shipping protocols to sneak Black Ice into the States for Zorrillo.

Mexitec

Mexitec is a furniture business located next to EnviroBreed. Harry discovers belatedly that Mexitec is also a cover for Zorrillo with a tunnel leading from Zorrillo's bull barn directly to Mexitec's workshop. It is here that Harry finds evidence that Moore is still alive.

Mexicali

Mexicali is a town in Mexico just over the border with the United States. Moore grew up in Mexico with his half brother, Zorrillo. It is also here that Zorrillo has built his empire and where Harry traces the identity of his Juan Doe.

Calexico

Calexico is a city in California just over the border with Mexico. Both Calexico and Mexicali were created by a business seeking to find cheap labor. Moore is born in Calexico, the son of one of the rich business men, but is raised in Mexicali.



Themes

Haunted by the Past

Calexico Moore was born in Calexico, California to a Mexican woman and a rich businessman. Calexico spends his first few years of life living in a huge house that is designed to look like a castle. Calexico is happy in this home, happy to have his mother and father. However, when Calexico is still a young boy, his father learns that his mother is married to a man in Mexico. Outraged by her lies, Calexico's father sends his mother back to Mexico, forbidding her to return. The father also sends Calexico away, refusing to acknowledge him as his son. Calexico grows up in Mexico unhappy, often making the trip across the border to stand outside his father's house and watch for any signs of forgiveness. Even as a young adult, Calexico comes to the castle, sitting in his car for hours watching the house. Calexico's father never comes outside, never speaks to him.

When Calexico is an adult, he and his mother move to Los Angeles. Calexico becomes a cop and marries a beautiful woman. However, the past continues to haunt Calexico. Calexico would often become depressed and spend hours looking at photos of his past. When Calexico learns that his father has died, he makes a deal with his half brother to get the money to buy the castle. However, in order to get this money, Calexico has to compromise his morals as a cop and turn a blind eye to his brother's drug trade. Calexico immediately regrets his decision and begins to search for ways to get out of the deal with his brother. However, the only way out is to kill or be killed. Calexico launches a plan to kill his brother and to take his place long enough to get the money he needs to escape the country. Calexico's plan should have worked perfectly, but Harry Bosch became involved, pursuing the case despite warnings from his bosses to back off.

The past has a strong hold on Calexico. Calexico feels as though his father abandoned him and he attempts to recapture the good times before his father's rejection. This desire to go back to the way things were causes Calexico to do things he should not do, such as making a pact with his brother that compromises his morals as a police officer. Calexico tries to find a way out, but his plan only makes the situation worse. In the end, Calexico dies in the place where he was the happiest as a child. The past has reclaimed him.

Criminal Behavior

Harry Bosch, the hero of this novel, is a cop. One of his cases involves a man who was murdered after coming off a plane from Hawaii with a belly full of drugs. This case causes Harry to seek out Calexico Moore, the leader of an elite group of drug enforcement officers. From Moore, Harry learns about the drug found in his victim's belly, black ice, and about the rivalry that has exploded between the Hawaiians and the Mexicans over this drug. When Moore is found dead a few months later, Harry is



curious about the case because it should have been his and because he knew Moore. The following day, after being told not to follow up on the case, Harry takes on another case that seems to be involved in the trafficking of black ice, thus connecting it to Calexico Moore.

Harry follows leads in his cases that take him to Mexico where he is told about a drug lord who has built his empire by taking people out of the slums and giving them jobs that pay more than most of these people have ever seen. The people actually praise this man for his actions, pleased that he has not forgotten from where he came. However, Harry cannot forget that everything this man has given his people comes from the sale of illegal drugs in Mexico and America that lead to the deaths every year of hundreds of young people, not to mention the addiction that ruins lives. Harry is determined to take this man down and to prove his connection to the murder of Calexico Moore.

Harry's case takes him in many different directions, but it all comes down to criminal behavior. Zorrillo is a bad man, making his living off of drugs. Zorrillo has also paid off most of the local cops in Mexico, including the captain of the local police to whom Harry finds himself reporting when he first comes to Mexicali. Criminal behavior is rampant in Mexico, due to the poor conditions of the cities and the job market there. Harry is determined to make waves, however, placing his own life on the line in an attempt to clear the name of a fellow cop, if only to allow his wife to receive a pension.

Defying Authority

Harry Bosch is a unique cop. Harry made a large amount of money when a movie was made of one of his cases, allowing him to buy a house in a unique section of Los Angeles. This situation has not made Harry many friends in the LAPD. To add to this tension, Harry was also accused by IAD of criminal activity, resulting in his reassignment from the elite Robbery-Homicide Division to the detective's desk at the Hollywood Division. Not many cops respect Harry anymore and most of Harry's superiors are wary of him; therefore, it is no surprise that when the body of Calexico Moore is found, the Robbery Homicide guys go around protocol and exclude Harry from the case. Harry goes to the scene anyway and is given the unhappy task of informing the widow. However, that is as far as Harry's involvement is meant to go.

Harry is given a group of cases that another cop has left behind and is told to solve at least one in a week. Harry discovers among these cases a murder that might involve Moore. Harry jumps on this case and uses it as an excuse to investigate the Moore case. Harry is warned over and over to step back, to stay away from the Moore case, but Harry is determined to follow the evidence wherever it leads. Harry ends up in Mexico attempting to take down a big-time drug dealer with the belief that this drug dealer had Moore killed.

Harry is ordered back to Los Angeles when another cop turns up dead. It appears that Harry is involved in this cop's murder, creating even more trouble for Harry. Typical of Harry, however, he refuses to return until he has overturned every piece of evidence in



Mexico. Harry eventually finds his man and solves every murder that is involved in the Moore case, but is unable to go public with the truth because of who it might hurt. However, Harry is able to come forward with enough evidence to clear his name and return to the lowly detective's table in Hollywood.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. The author uses only one point of view character throughout the novel, even though it is possible for authors to use more than one narrating character when utilizing this point of view. In this novel, Harry Bosch is the sole narrating character. Due to the omniscient nature of the point of view, the reader is allowed to not only see the actions of the plot through Harry's eyes, but is also privy to his thoughts and emotions, allowing the reader to witness Harry's analysis of the clues and follow his thoughts through to the solution to the crimes that drive the plot.

The point of view of this novel works because it does not muddy up the narration by switching from character to character, allowing the reader to build a more intimate relationship with Harry Bosch. This intimate relationship causes the reader to feel concern for Harry, rooting him on as he comes closer to the conclusion of the case. The point of view also allows the reader unique access to Harry's mind, as though the reader were attempting to solve the case with him. This connection makes the plot more exciting as the reader rushes to solve the crime before Harry.

Setting

The novel has two primary settings. The first is Los Angeles, California. Harry is a cop in Los Angeles, a town he both loves and hates. The reader rides along with Harry as he tours the poorer sections of town while on duty and then later when he drives into the hills toward the more prosperous side of town after work. Los Angeles is a gritty, dark place and Harry allows the reader to see both sides of its unique nature. The second setting is the border towns of Calexico, California and Mexicali, Mexico. These towns are mirror images of one another. However, Calexico is clearly the more prosperous, full of old, large homes where the founders of the town once lived. Mexicali is less prosperous, pockmarked with slums filled with desperate citizens willing to work for drug dealers if it will feed their families.

The settings of this novel are important because they help set a tone for the plot. Los Angeles is a huge, gritty place that contains both the darker side of humanity and the brighter side. Harry Bosch lives in both these worlds, working the dark streets for his job, but retiring to his expensive, hilltop home at night. This setting shows both sides of humanity as well as both sides of the main character, Harry Bosch. The border town settings are also important to the plot because they also highlight the inequalities of reality and the resilience of the human condition. The settings in this novel are strong background to the plot, providing an appropriate contrast to the world most of the book's readers live in and allowing the possibility of the darkness that takes place in the novel's plot.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel consists mostly of simple English. Harry Bosch is a cop, therefore some of the dialogue includes slang and cop lingo that is easily explained within the text. The novel also includes a trip to Mexico, and there are a few words in Spanish. These words are quickly explained within the text because the narrator, Harry, does not speak much Spanish; therefore, he is almost as clueless as most readers.

The language of the novel is consistent with the plot of the novel, including slang and foreign words that a reader would expect to find in a novel of this type. The language that the reader might not understand on first reading is often explained within the text, allowing the reader to comprehend the meaning of each word or phrase without having to put the novel down and look them up in a dictionary. For this reason, the language of the novel works well and is easy for all readers to understand, even the youngest.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty four chapters. Each chapter is of varying size, some as large as twenty pages, others as short as three or four pages. The novel is told in both exposition and dialogue, including the internal dialogue Harry Bosch often indulges in while attempting to put together the various clues he finds to his cases. The dialogue often includes slang and foreign words, but these words are usually explained and do not pose a hindrance to the reader.

The novel includes one main plot and a few subplots. The main plot follows Harry as he unofficially investigates the murder of Calexico Moore, a fellow police officer. Harry is supposed to be solving a case that belonged to a fellow police officer who has decided to opt for an early retirement, but Harry has discovered the case is connected to Moore's case. Harry follows the leads to Mexico, determined to learn the truth of Moore's murder, if only to protect Moore's widow, for whom Harry had developed an affection. In the end, Harry discovers Moore is still alive, but finds himself in a position where he is forced to kill Moore.



Quotes

"As he ate and drank he opened the cards, studied them briefly and thought of their senders. This was the ritual of a man who was alone, he knew, but it didn't bother him. He'd spent many Christmases alone." Chapter 1, pg. 4

"Bosch drove down out of the hills into Hollywood, traveling mostly on deserted streets until he reached the Boulevard. On the sidewalks there were the usually groupings of runaways and transients. There were strolling prostitutes—he saw one with a red Santa hat on. Business is business, even on Christmas night." Chapter 2, pg. 8

"Bosch wished he had a fedora like the ones the detectives in the old movies had always had; that way he could hold it in his hands and fiddle with it and let his fingers trace its brim, give him something to do." Chapter 4, pg. 30

"Calexico Moore had apparently answered a question that all people carry deep within themselves—that Harry Bosch, too, had longed to answer. I found out who I was." Chapter 4, pg. 37

"The restaurant's sign had been changed since the last time he had been there. It was now the All-American Egg and I, which meant it had probably been sold to foreigners." Chapter 7, pg. 57

"There was a random feel to the dark, the quiriness of chance played out in the blue neon night. So many ways to live. And to die. You could be riding in the back of a studio's black limo, or just as easily the back of the coroner's blue van. The sound of applause was the same as the buzz of a bullet spinning past your ear in the dark. That randomness. That was L.A." Chapter 11, pg. 97

"The Hall of Justice took up an entire block across from the criminal courts building. The first six floors housed the sheriff's department and the top four the county jail. Anyone could tell this from the outside. Not just because of the bars behind the windows, but because the top four floors looked like an abandoned, burned-out shell. As if all the hate and anger held in those un-air-conditioned cells had turned to fire and smoke and stained the windows and concrete balustrades forever black." Chapter 15, pg. 133

"All his life he believed he was slumming toward something good. That there was meaning. In the youth shelter, the foster homes, the Army and Vietnam, and now the department, he always carried the feeling that he was struggling toward some kind of resolution and knowledge of purpose. That there was something good in him or about him. It was the waiting that was so hard. The waiting often left a hollow feeling in his



soul. And he believed people could see this, that they knew when they looked at him that he was empty." Chapter 19, pg. 178

"Bosch's mind touched his memory of his brief meeting with his own father. A sick man on his death bed. Bosch had forgiven him for every second he had been robbed of having a father in his life. He knew he had to or he would face the rest of his life wasting his pain on it." Chapter 26, pg. 255

"It was a problem every cop in southern California had come up against. Mexico refused to extradite its citizens to the United States for crimes committed there. But it would prosecute them at home. The problem was that it was well known that the country's biggest drug dealers turned penitentiary stays into hotel visits. Women, drugs, alcohol, and other comforts could be had as long as the money was paid." Chapter 28, pg. 267

"The morning sun was up now and beginning to burn the ground fog off the park. People were moving around over there. He thought he heard a woman laughing. But at the moment he felt very much alone in the world." Chapter 31, pg. 299

"Bosch leaned back against the tree and watched the driver open the door for her. Then he lit a cigarette and watched as the sleek black machine carried her out through the gate and left him alone with the dead." Chapter 34, pg. 322



Topics for Discussion

Discuss Callexico Moore. Why is it suspected that Moore killed himself? Was Moore a bad cop? What proof is there that Moore switched to the other side? Why does Harry think Moore was trying to switch back? Was he? Why or why not?

Who is Sylvia Moore? What impact does she have on the case? What impact does she have on Harry? Is Sylvia part of the reason Harry is so determined to solve Moore's case? Why? If it is proven that Moore was a bad cop, how will that affect Sylvia? Is this why Harry wants to solve Moore's case?

Who is the Pope? Why is he called that? How is he related to Moore? How does Harry discover this connection? Would Moore have gotten into trouble if not for the Pope? Why or why not? Why does Moore become involved with the Pope? Would you have done the same thing in his place? Why or why not?

What is the castle? Why is Moore obsessed with it? What does it mean to Moore? Who lived there? Why did Moore get sent away? Why was Moore punished for his mother's actions? Why does Moore continuously watch the house? What is he hoping to get out of it? Does Moore ever get what he wants?

Why does Harry feel as though the Moore case should have been his? Why is Harry not called on the case? What does IAD have to do with the case? Who were they investigating? Why? What is significant about the letter IAD showed Sylvia? Who wrote it? Why?

What makes Harry focus on EnviroBreed? Why does Harry believe the business is involved in Zorrillo's drug trafficking? Is he right? How is EnviroBreed connected to the death of Juan Doe? Why is Juan Doe killed? Why is his body hidden in Los Angeles? What does his killer hope to prove by moving the body? Would Harry have found Moore if not for the EnviroBreed connection?

Why does Harry kill Moore in the end? Why does Harry not report the shooting? Was it an illegal shooting? Why or why not? What does Harry hope will happen by leaving the body? What would have happened had the body been found right away? How would this affect Harry's investigation? How would it affect Sylvia Moore?