

A Certain Justice Study Guide

A Certain Justice by John Lescroart

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Plot Summary

A Certain Justice by John Lescroart is a gripping drama and murder mystery based on real life. It is a story about racial tensions, riots, murders, and political intrigue that offers surprises right up until the very last chapter. Lieutenant Abraham Glitsky heads the homicide detail in San Francisco. An honest and moral mulatto man, Abe has interest only in justice. Unfortunately, there are many pitfalls on the road to justice. They include insufficient or confusing evidence, multiple suspects, back room political agendas, and public pressure to resolve high profile cases. The first of these cases that Glitsky takes on involves the murder of Michael Mullen who was killed strictly for his car. Suspect Jerohm Reese is quickly found and arrested. However since there is not sufficient evidence proving Reese's guilt, District Attorney Chris Locke is forced to set him free. This sets off a chain of events that no one could have anticipated.

During the wake for Michael held at the Cavern Pub by his friend Jamie O'Toole, a car alarm is heard outside. The largely Irish Catholic group goes out to investigate shortly after learning of Jerohm's release on the news. They find Arthur Wade, an African American resident standing outside his BMW, having locked his keys in the ignition accidentally. The group jumps to the conclusion that Wade was breaking in to steal the car. A mob mentality takes over, and before common sense can reassert itself, the hardware store next door has been relieved of a rope, and Arthur is being strung up with it. One man tries to come to his rescue. A young man by the name of Kevin Shea is in the Cavern Pub when the commotion begins. By the time he gets outside, all reason has left the crowd, and Arthur is in a fight for his life. Kevin fights his way to him, holding his legs up with all his strength and handing him a pocket knife to free himself, but he is only one man, and the mob is determined. Kevin gets knocked out. When Kevin awakens, Arthur is dead, lynched in the street, and the mob is gone.

The next day a photograph is aired that shows Kevin with his arms around Arthur's legs, but the caption does not depict him as a hero. Instead, the story has him pegged as the ringleader, hanging onto Arthur's legs to facilitate strangling him. What follows is a manhunt for Kevin that is unrelenting. Riots between races break out in the normally peaceful streets and both sides are screaming for justice. Senator Loretta Wager knows an opportunity when she sees one. She uses the situation to raise her public profile, calling for justice and Kevin Shea's head. Making back room deals with African American leader, Philip Mohandas, she works her way up the political food chain. When touring the area with D.A. Chris Locke, they become embroiled in a riot-stricken area and Locke is assassinated. Loretta is unharmed, and her profile increases.

Glitsky and Wager have a history as a couple many years ago, and rekindle that relationship. It is not too long however before Abe begins to wonder if Loretta is entirely forthcoming. When it begins to appear that Kevin is innocent, and Loretta uses all of her political power to keep that a secret in order to further her own agenda, Abe has to think quickly. He realizes her ambition and that he has to respond fast or he will be swept to the side as she makes her way to the Oval Office ahead of him. In an explosive ending,

Abe realizes Loretta is guilty of Chris Locke's murder, and Loretta's daughter Elaine is actually his child. The book is action-filled and a page turner right to the very end.



Chapters 1 - 5

Chapters 1 - 5 Summary

A Certain Justice by John Lescroart is a gripping drama and murder mystery based on real life. It is a story about racial tensions, riots, murders, and political intrigue that offers surprises right up until the very last chapter. Lieutenant Abraham Glitsky heads the homicide detail in San Francisco. An honest and moral mulatto man, Abe has interest only in justice. Unfortunately, there are many pitfalls on the road to justice. They include insufficient or confusing evidence, multiple suspects, back room political agendas, and public pressure to resolve high profile cases. The first of these cases that Glitsky takes on involves the murder of Michael Mullen who was killed strictly for his car. Suspect Jerohm Reese is quickly found and arrested. However since there is not sufficient evidence proving Reese's guilt, District Attorney Chris Locke is forced to set him free. This sets off a chain of events that no one could have anticipated.

A large crowd including Michael's brother Brandon, and his cousin Peter McKay, gather at the Cavern pub where owner Jamie O'Toole holds a wake for his friend. A young man by the name of Kevin Shea is in the pub with close to sixty other locals when the news announces Jerohm's release without charges. Chaos that almost erupts into riot conditions ensue. Arthur Wade, a young African American man, pulls his BMW into a parking spot in front of the Cavern and gets out to retrieve his dry cleaning from next door. He gets out of his car and closes the door, leaving the keys in the ignition. He locks himself out by accident. Frustrated, he thumps on the roof of the car, setting off the alarm. When the patrons inside the Cavern come out to investigate, they see an African American they assume is trying to break into a BMW. Peter McKay does not wait for an explanation. More men pile out of the Cavern. Jamie breaks the display window of the hardware store near by and returns with a rope. Wade is no match for the sheer number of men who overwhelm him and before he can talk, he has a rope around his neck and is being hung from a streetlight. Kevin emerges from the Cavern, sees what is happening, and tries to help Arthur, but he is beaten back, and he takes a blow to the head hard enough to cause an immediate loss of consciousness.

Photographer Paul Westberg hears the commotion and begins taking pictures. The moment he is spotted however, he flees the scene, rushing back to his apartment nearby. When Kevin regains his senses, he is alone, and tries to undo the knots in the rope that Arthur is hung by. His arm is useless, and he is relieved to see a vehicle approaching. Taken by surprise, Kevin finds himself being yanked into the back of the truck and transported away while three men assure him of the consequences of discussing anything he has seen.



Chapters 1 - 5 Analysis

The death of Michael Mullen sets off a chain of events, which in turn leads to a set of circumstances that would probably not arise otherwise. Consumed by grief and a feeling of betrayal because the District Attorney had failed to keep the gunman in jail, both Michael's brother Brandon and his cousin Peter lose their self-control. A normally law-abiding group of men becomes so incensed by the failure of law enforcement to provide a just outcome that they take matters into their own hands. Sadly, the recipient of their anger is not the gunman who took Michael's life. It is not even the District Attorney who let the gunman go, nor is it any of the witnesses that failed to confidently identify the accused. Instead, the person who bore the brunt of their anger turns out to be an innocent professional man on his way home to his wife and children. Arthur Wade does not commit any crime. All he does is accidentally lock himself out of his own vehicle.

When Arthur's car alarm sounds, the men inside the Cavern Pub, who were there to honor the life of their friend Michael, pour out onto the street. They find Arthur standing in a state of embarrassment in front of his BMW. They immediately leap to the conclusion that Arthur was trying to break into the vehicle because he is African American and standing next to an expensive vehicle. Arthur is prepared to walk away as he instantly realizes the men will not listen to him, but Michael's friends and family are not willing to let him go. They unleash their anger and with a mob-like mentality, they pursue and subdue Arthur. From there, things go very wrong. Jamie breaks the display window of the hardware store and gets a rope, and the crowd wants vengeance. Seething now with a life of its own, the crowd fashions a noose and uses it to hang Arthur from a streetlight. Although one man tries to help, he is not enough to turn the tide back to normal, and is beaten into unconsciousness. By the time Kevin wakes again, the men are gone and Arthur is hanging at the end of the rope. Still, Kevin tries to help him, but the crowd leaves him with a broken arm and he is unable to undo the knots holding Arthur off the ground. When a truck pulls up, Kevin thinks help has arrived, but his relief is short-lived as men from the truck drag him into the back and threaten his life. They warn him to forget what he witnessed or bear the consequences.

A young photographer by the name of Paul Westberg stumbles onto the scene by accident and takes several photos before he fully understands what he is seeing. Shortly after that, he is spotted, and runs for his life. He gets home unscathed, three minutes later.



Chapters 6 - 10

Chapters 6 - 10 Summary

Chris telephones Elaine to tell her Arthur Wade has been lynched and tells her to turn on the television. The still photograph gives the appearance of a white male hanging onto Arthur's legs in an effort to break his neck. Only Arthur and the man hanging from his legs are in focus. Chris asks her to come in. It takes Kevin almost two hours to get home. He pours himself a glass of vodka, and showers, trying to dull the pain and remove the blood before calling the police. Mayor Conrad Aiken meets with Chris, Elaine, and Police Chief Dan Rigby and other officers at three o'clock in the morning, advocating that the police shoot any rioters who have been looting stores. The rest of the group call for a calmer approach, but Aiken is adamant. He asks Lieutenant Abe Glitsky what started the rioting, and Glitsky, looking at Chris Locke, tells him about Jerohm Reese. Witnesses report that the lynching may have been caused by a mob that originated from the Cavern Pub. However when police investigate the claim, O'Toole claims it was a quiet night and denies all allegations, despite the large picture of Michael Mullen hanging on the back wall.

When the phone rings in Kevin's apartment, he wakes up. He rolls over on to his broken arm, but that brings him back quickly and painfully. He hears his ex-girlfriend Melanie on the other end asking him how he could do it. Confused, he asks what he did, and she tells him that the news is reporting him as the instigator of the lynching.

Abe gets home, shaking with fatigue just before dawn. Abe's wife Flo had died of ovarian cancer fifteen months previously. He still missed her so much that it was hard to go home at all. His three sons Isaac, Jacob, and Orel are still in bed when he arrives. Rita is also asleep on her side of the living room that doubles as the room they both sleep in. A screen separate them, but there is still little in the way of privacy. He checks on his sons and noticing Isaac has shoes on in bed, he realizes his son is awake. He asks him to stay home for the next couple of days, but Isaac is resentful, and angry, taking it as punishment instead of the protection that it is intended to be.

Chapters 6 - 10 Analysis

Elaine is shocked when Chris telephones her and tells her that Arthur Wade has been lynched and she is horrified by the photo aired on television. She had gone to Boalt with him. Chris wants her to come down immediately, already focused on finding and crucifying the man he believes is responsible.

Kevin is as shocked as Elaine is and keeps reliving the scene again and again as he goes home. He knows he should be calling the police, but wants to shower first, and get rid of the blood. However Kevin passes out afterward, after drinking vodka. He does not wake up until he rolls onto his injured arm. When Melanie, his ex-girlfriend, calls him



and asks him how he could do what he did, Kevin does not understand what she is talking about. Still angry from their break up, some of her feelings seep into her voice before she can fully think about what she is saying, and before absorbing the fact that it is not in his character. He watches the television broadcast to understand what she is saying.

In the meantime, the Mayor demands a "shoot to kill" order against rioters, and D.A. Locke, Chief Rigby, and Elaine attempt to diffuse the situation before it gets further out of hand. The Mayor is stunned to hear that the event likely stemmed from the release of suspected gunman Jerohm Reese. Witnesses report that the lynching mob originated from the Cavern Pub. However, when the police go there to question bartender O'Toole, the cover up is in full swing. O'Toole claims it was a quiet night, and that the witnesses must have been mistaken, despite the large poster of Reese's victim Michael Mullen hanging on the back wall.

Abraham Glitsky gets home so tired that night that he can hardly stand up, but it is the only way that he can face going home. His wife's absence makes his home very lonely and unappealing to him. Glitsky however will not be alone. He has three sons there waiting for him, and a live-in housekeeper named Rita but it is not the same. Even though they are crammed into a very small space, and he shares the living room with Rita as a sleeping area, he still feels so alone without his wife Flo and struggles to pick up the pieces.

Abe's sons are also experience their own difficulties. Isaac suffers the most and is also angry. He takes out his loss on everyone including his father by acting out, talking back, and being resentful. Abe tries to be patient. Right now, his biggest concern is the racial violence developing on the streets. So he asks Ike to stay home for a few days. Ike is so angry however that he is unable to process that it is for his own good.



Chapters 11 - 15

Chapters 11 - 15 Summary

Kevin realizes that if even Melanie can believe he might be involved, he may be in real trouble, and after watching the event on television, even he is in a cold sweat. Chris goes to Lt. Glitsky's office to press him for more action regarding the whole situation with both the Jerohm Reese acquittal and the Arthur Wade lynching. Kevin feels the best thing he can do is turn himself in, but then another appeal for justice against him is made by the leader of the African Nation Movement, Philip Mohandes, and he changes his mind.

Melanie makes her best friend Cindy promise not to turn Kevin in after she confides in her, and Cindy will only promise that she will try. Soon after, Glitsky learns Kevin's identity and location from an unidentified source, and sends a car along with two more for back up to pick him up. Meanwhile, photographer Paul Westburg is brought in for questioning regarding what he witnessed. Questions by A.D.A. Wager begins but is quickly interrupted and then taken over by Lieutenant Glitsky. He finishes, discovering as he does that the A.D.A. told him to 'stick to his story.' It makes him wonder and although he believes that Kevin is guilty of participation, he does not want any part of the witch hunt that seems to be occurring. Melanie calls Kevin, and offers him a place to stay, telling him that Cindy has told the police who he is and where to find him. He climbs the fire escape to the roof just in time to see the first cruiser arrive, with two more back up cars behind it. Kevin waits until they leave, and hops to the adjoining roof to elude capture.

Chapters 11 - 15 Analysis

Kevin feels betrayed by Melanie at first and while it still looks to him like the televised picture portrays him as trying to help Arthur Wade, he can see how public opinion could get the wrong impression. The idea that anyone thinks he is responsible for participating in the whole ordeal makes him feel sick. Kevin wants to behave like the innocent man that he is, and explain himself to authorities, but more and more respectable people are calling for his head and he loses his nerve. Melanie is still hurt from her breakup with Kevin and some of her attitude seeps out when she talks to him on the phone, but she regrets it afterward.

Abe Glitsky does not like the meddling that occurs and sees himself as a champion for the victims rather than a policy maker or enforcer.

Paul Westburg, having studied the Rodney King events, sells his photo to KPIX studios for \$2500 but retains the world rights. He has always fantasized about this kind of opportunity and how he would handle it. He then sells licenses to air the photo to CNN, Fox, and major networks, quickly grossing \$24,000 in 16 hours. Now, in custody,



he has lost some of his euphoria and is experiencing some fear. Interviewed first by A.D.A. Wager and then by Lieutenant Glitsky, Paul cannot help but feel that Wager had been caught doing something wrong, but he isn't sure what.

Melanie calls Kevin and confesses she still loves him. She apologizes to him for their earlier conversation, and then again for talking to Cindy who has by now turned him in. Kevin had mistakenly spent one night with Cindy before getting involved with Melanie, and has regretted it ever since.



Chapters 16 - 20

Chapters 16 - 20 Summary

Abe has the impression that Elaine affected Paul's witness statement. Though he is not sure of Kevin's guilt or innocence, he wants to avoid a witch hunt. Loretta calls after she finds out that Abe is working the case but the conversation is brief. The Mayor arranges for Loretta to have a temporary office at City Hall.

Kevin calls his friend Wes who does not seem to have seen the news yet. They make small talk instead. Loretta joins Elaine in her office and they sit down to a brown bag meal Elaine had packed. Loretta cannot quite read her daughters' face, but alone in the office after everyone else has gone home, Elaine confesses to her mother that she and her boss Chris had made love in the office the evening before. Elaine still had not gone home. Bowing to political pressure from everyone including Senator Loretta Wager, District Attorney Chris Locke, and the Mayor, the grand jury meets in a special session. After deliberating for only three hours, they issue an indictment against Kevin Shea. Now Glitsky's team has to find out the identities of the remainder of the mob. Ridley Banks interviews Brandon Mullen, observing his cracked lips and the sling on his arm. Investigators interview Jamie O'Toole and Peter McKay as well so that they can compare notes afterward.

Aware that the homicide count has risen from two to four and climbing, Glitsky calls home and tells Rita that his boys are to be kept in. Kevin arranges to meet with Wes at Saint Ignatius Church on the University Campus. Wes would take him to his home from there to figure out a strategy. What Kevin does not count on is the posters with his name and photograph, the reward offered, and the phrase dead or alive underneath. A police car cruises past him and then comes back again. He ducks into a recessed doorway to hide in the shadows and a woman opens her door a crack, recognizing his face. She begs him to go away, telling him she does not want any trouble.

Chapters 16 - 20 Analysis

Abe takes over the interrogation of the photojournalist Paul, and learns to his dismay that Elaine has likely tainted his statement by either feeding him the data she wants to hear him repeat, or by casually suggesting the outcome she is looking for. It makes his job more difficult. When Loretta calls, they do not exactly tell each other the truth and the conversation is truncated. Abe thinks that she is calling to gain information regarding her daughter by using his face. He does not realize that her reason for calling is just to say hello. He regrets brushing her off. Loretta has designs to be the President one day.

Loretta sits down with her daughter, knowing something is troubling her, but she is still surprised when Elaine confesses to having slept with her married boss the night before. Elaine begs her not to be angry with her, but Loretta's anger is directed more towards



Chris Locke than it is to her daughter. Elaine makes excuses for her lapse in judgment, trying to justify her behavior, but Loretta makes it clear to her that her boss has absolutely nothing to lose from this encounter. Elaine feels guilty and confused by the whole encounter, but insists that Chris forced nothing on her. Loretta believes her but is afraid her daughter will get hurt.

Switching subjects, she asks Elaine about Kevin Shea, still intent on pursuing an angle that will gain her more black political favor. Political might sways the grand jury into indicting Kevin Shea and Glitsky's team focuses on interviewing some of the men who had been at the cavern the night before. Glitsky lets his team do the interviews, content to play the bad cop himself, as he still is not completely sure of Kevin's guilt or innocence. He takes in the injuries to Brandon Mullen and listens to his excuse for them allowing his disbelief to show. The riots are continuing. Fires burn in several areas and two more people have been killed with a fifth one in critical condition. Glitsky calls home to ensure his sons stay indoors regardless of how they feel about it. Glitsky asks Brandon if he knows Kevin, and he admits to knowing him in passing. Brandon claims to have left the Cavern at somewhere between seven and seven thirty.

Kevin makes his way painfully to Saint Ignatius Church on the University Campus. He is hungry and weak. Kevin tries to concentrate on just moving forward, but after seeing a patrol car pass and slow down, and then noticing a wanted poster with his name, photograph, and reward posted, he gets scared. Kevin hides in a doorway, and manages to terrify the homeowner when she realizes who he is.



Chapters 21 - 25

Chapters 21 - 25 Summary

Philip Mohandas bases his operations in a converted store front in Bayview near Hunter's Point. He is just about to close his eyes after a night on the barricades when Senator Wager arrives. His assistant Allicey assures him Wager had not called first as he hastily pulls himself together, wondering what she is doing there. Philip welcomes her warmly in front of the crowd in his outer office, and Loretta announces that she is there to help in any way she can.

Kevin realizes he is not going to make his rendezvous with Wes. Police cars are everywhere. He goes to the front of an apartment building and pushes buttons until someone buzzes him in. He sees one mailbox stuffed full and uses a credit card to pick the lock and let himself in. He tries to call Wes but there is no answer. A neighbor hears him and knocks on the door, but Kevin stays silent and he eventually goes away. He tries Wes again, and then calls Melanie, trying to get her to pick him up. The neighbor returns, knocking at the door, obviously responsible for watching the place. Kevin waits quietly until he leaves again, but before he can finish making arrangements with Mel, the man is staring at him through the patio doors. Kevin runs and the man chases him for blocks before he finally gives up. He calls Melanie again and she agrees to meet him at Saint Ignatius. She picks him up and offers to drive him out of town, but he is innocent and wants to prove it.

Glitsky meets with his three inspectors - Griffin, Banks, and Lanier. They all agree that despite Mullen, McKay, and O'Toole claiming to have had nothing to do with the lynching, they are likely lying, but what really concerns them is that none of them seem to really know Shea. Glitsky suggests they have a closer look at McKay's alibi and find at least a few of the accessories. Later, Elaine comes to Glitsky and tries to talk to him about the case, and Glitsky tells her to do it by the book and those responsible will be brought to justice, and that his door is always open.

Chapters 21 - 25 Analysis

Loretta arrives at Philip Mohandas' base of operations and publicly offers her assistance to him. Once they are out of the way of the cameras and public eye, Philip asks her what she really wants, but she assures him that her offer is sincere. Calling her bluff, he asks her for funding to further the cause of the African Nation platform.

Kevin is in trouble. Everywhere he goes, someone recognizes him and responds with fear or chasing him. Kevin misses his rendezvous with Wes, and calls Melanie who agrees to come and get him. He is amazed at how calm and collected she is, and it is obvious to him now that she believes him when he tells her he is innocent. He does not realize how important that is to him until it happens. He cannot understand why he ever



let her go, except that before she had seemed different and more uptight to him. Now, all he can think of is that if he manages to get himself out of the mess he is in, he would like to try again with her. In the interest of full disclosure, he risks everything and tells her about Cindy and how he briefly dated her before. She is angry at first but he explains that he is only telling her now because he wants to start again and she agrees to think about it.

Glitsky meets with his inspectors, and all seem to agree that the men that they have interviewed have a couple of things in common. First, they all tacitly deny having anything to do with the lynching of Arthur Wade. Except for one man who claims to have nodded at Kevin, all the rest of the men say that they do not know Kevin. Somehow, it rings false. Even Elaine cannot seem to find her way on board with the program as her boss Chris is laying it out. She goes to Glitsky afterward and asks him his opinion, but the only help he will give her is advice to run the whole investigation by the numbers so that no one gets away with murder. She obviously has second thoughts about the agenda that Chris has, and is hoping that Glitsky will offer his opinion as to whether or not Kevin is guilty. Glitsky does not ease her conscience any.



Chapters 26 - 29

Chapters 26 - 29 Summary

Abe finally gets home and sleeps. Rita wakes him up for dinner. After dinner, a family meeting is called. The older boys do not want to go on a camping trip that was previously planned and instead they want to join other friends who are going elsewhere. Left behind, Orel does not want to go if it is just him and his father either. A vote is taken, and despite making prior reservations, Abe loses. He falls into bed exhausted. He is shaken awake a few hours later by Isaac who tells him that there is a phone emergency. Abe picks it up to discover that District Attorney Chris Locke has been shot and killed in his car. Senator Wager, in the car with him, is in shock but unharmed. Abe has to go, and would prefer that his three boys stay in, but knows they are old enough to defy him now if they choose to. Glitsky dismisses the patrolmen watching Senator Wager and asks her what happened. She sits down with him and goes over it one more time, and when she is finished, he apologizes for his earlier reaction to her call. She asks him about his wife, and then she asks him to drive her home. The intimacy shared earlier is lost on the ride back.

Wes is in the Shamrock bar when he hears about Chris Locke's death. The streets are becoming increasingly violent and Moses decides to close up the bar and go home to his family. He takes the car keys from Wes, offering to call him a cab, but the taxi drivers refuse to take Wes home because of the area of town they have to go through, so Moses tells him to come and sleep it off on his couch instead. Melanie and Kevin finally give up on Wes coming back and instead Mel takes him home to her place. She is about to park the car when a policeman shines a light in the window. Kevin tells her to floor it and without thinking, she does. They manage to elude the police and Melanie checks them into a motel. She calls Cindy and tells her what she thinks about Cindy informing the police.

Chapters 26 - 29 Analysis

Abe is so tired that every time he gets near a bed, he falls into a state of unconsciousness. He is disappointed that the kids have canceled the weekend camping plans they had. He does not even hear the phone ring. His office calls to inform him that Chris Locke has been shot and killed. Senator Wager had been in the car with him at the time, and though in shock, she is okay and asking for him personally. There is no way to avoid going back to work and when Isaac realizes his father is going back out, he is angry. He storms out. Abe understands but cannot help the situation. He asks Rita to keep them in, but Rita is powerless over the older two. Abe agrees to talk to them himself, fearing they will disobey him as well, but he is still hopeful they will not go out. The riots are frightening and he fears for their safety. The thought of anything happening to any of them is more than he can cope with now.



Wes gives up waiting for Kevin and falls back on an activity he is comfortable with. Eight drinks later, and after hearing the news of Chris Locke's death, bartender Moses McGuire takes his keys and tells him and the rest of his customers that under the circumstances, he is closing for the night. Wes tries to take a cab home, but nervous, the drivers refuse to go into his area so Moses gallantly puts him up for the night, making it impossible for Kevin and Melanie to reach him. Melanie takes Kevin to her apartment instead, but the police are waiting for them there, and she makes a daring and uncharacteristic escape. She checks into a motel with Kevin, and he confesses that he is guilt ridden over the entire incident, playing it over and over again in his mind. She tries to ease his conscience, but understands it, and tries to ease his conscience.

Glitsky goes to the station to see Loretta. Though the circumstances are not what he would have liked, she looks good, although as exhausted as he is. He listens to her version of what happened again, and she explains how their dinner with Philip Mohandas was her effort to make him see that they were trying. They drive afterwards to Dolores Park where a guy was attempting to segregate the people. They are only two blocks from where Mullen was shot and a mob of white people descend on their car. Loretta tries to get them out of there, but is not quick enough, and her distress is obvious as she recalls the whole situation. When her statement is finished, they are both silent for a while before she recognizes that his wife's death has been a burden that he has carried all by himself to date. He tells her briefly about it. The pain is evident on his face and in his voice as he takes her home and the intimacy of the moment is lost.



Chapters 30 - 34

Chapters 30 - 34 Summary

Loretta and Abe sit in the car and discuss the past. Loretta invites Abe in for a drink and he accepts, allowing his feelings for her to come to the surface. Jerohm's live-in girlfriend Carrie does not want him to out so soon after his release, but he is confident that it will be an easy night. Jerohm is right. The curfew has residents inside their homes and the National Guard has been moved out to more active locations. He helps himself to everything from low end electronics to liquor, and even some food, clothing, and toys for Carrie's son, Damian. Most of the stores already have been broken into, so he is in and out without seeing a soul. When Elaine wakes up the next morning feeling optimistic, she opens the paper and her world goes into a tailspin. Chris Locke is dead. She plugs in the phone to hear his message that he loves her, knowing it is likely the last call he ever made. The next message is from her mother at the police station. Somehow, she gets to work on auto pilot to find that Jerohm Reese is in custody, arrested with a car load of looted goods. Upstairs, Art Drysdale, Chief Asst. District Attorney, chastises Elaine for the arrest of Jerohm Reese when all others who committed similar crimes were being ticketed and released. It is a public relations nightmare he does not need. He tells her that she is in charge of the Arthur Wade case and sends her out.

Wes finally gets home the next morning and takes his boxer Bart, for a walk. He sees a wanted poster with Kevin's name and photo on it, and realizes that his friend might really be in trouble. At the same time, Mayor Aiken stands looking out his window and feeling as though the entire city has fallen apart in a matter of hours. Even the photos of the great quake in 1906 had the citizens of San Francisco looking more hopeful. His adviser suggests they offer half a million dollars as reward for Kevin Shea. When Conrad leaves to deliver the discussed agenda, his adviser Donald dials a number and leaves the message that the Mayor will go ahead as they discussed. Senator Wager will be there for him in the future as a result.

Chapters 30 - 34 Analysis

Abe takes Loretta home, mildly resentful that she lives so much more elegantly than he does. He comments on her choice of partners when they were younger, allowing some of the old bitterness to seep through. Loretta is a bit defensive, citing that at the time she had given him a choice, and would have stayed with him had he been able to commit to her, but at the time they were both so young, and Abe had been unable to reassure her that they had a future together. Instead, she had accepted the proposal of a older and financially secure partner. He had unfortunately died just like Abe's wife. Both Abe and Loretta are single again, and they find out that they still have considerable feelings for each other. Abe accepts her invitation to go in for a drink where those feelings are further explored.



Jerohm is ready to go out again, but Carrie wants him to be more cautious. She does not want him to draw attention to himself, having just been released, and his release is so much a part of the riots now in progress. Jerohm sees this as an opportunity for the easy score. He easily uses this opportunity to his advantage, going into damaged store fronts, and loading his car with everything he can think of to either use or resell.

Wes is still in his shorts and a t-shirt when he gets home the next morning. His boxer Bart has been alone for many hours. While at first he resented having to keep the dog when he and his ex-wife Lydia separated, he now finds to his surprise that he enjoys the dog's company. He takes Bart for a walk and is surprised to find posters of his friend Kevin including his photo and a reward attached. For the first time, he realizes the depth of trouble his friend might be in. A part of him would rather not hear from Kevin at all, though he does not question either his guilt or innocence at this stage. Wes felt as though life had mostly passed him by. After twenty-seven years of marriage, and the betrayal of his best friend Mark Dooher, Wes subscribed to had a passion for only alcohol.

Conrad Aiken had put off dealing with the crisis in the hopes that it would resolve itself, but the assassination of Chris Locke and the new surge of riots changed all of that. His most trusted adviser suggests that he go into the meeting of supervisors and admit neglecting the state of racial tension in the city. Hence they too are culpable in the deaths of Arthur Wade and Chris Locke. He has no idea that his adviser is feeding him the outcome that Senator Loretta Wager is concocting. Adviser Donald is playing both sides of the fence now, and though nervous about it, he tells himself that the ends justify the means.

Elaine wakes up after a night's sleep, having unplugged her phone, and discovers the assassination of Chris Locke on the front page of the newspaper. The rest is a blur. His message on her machine telling her he loves her is the ultimate blow as she realizes she will never hear his voice again. The next message is from her mother, begging her to do nothing until they have had a chance to speak. Elaine is in a fog. She cannot believe any of it is happening. She dresses and takes a cab to work, and finds Jerohm Reese in custody, having been picked up for looting. All of her anger and emotion comes to the surface as she approaches the officer who has him in cuffs and announces that she is his worst nightmare. When she gets upstairs, she takes considerable recriminations from Assistant D.A. Art Drysdale who is upset that Reese is held while everyone else committing the same crimes are released. He knows that when the public gets wind of this, he will be facing a public relations nightmare. The only saving grace is the upcoming fourth of July weekend which may allow him some time.



Chapters 35 - 40

Chapters 35 - 40 Summary

Abe's father Nat comes to his office to relay that a member of his synagogue has likely witnessed the lynching of Arthur Wade. Abe almost forgets that he is supposed to be in court as a witness in a murder trial. While in court, Investigator Ridley Banks tells him that an interview with McKay revealed that his alibi is a lie and that they might have a witness. Then Ridley quietly tells him a story about Loretta where she may have been involved in everything from money laundering to the theft of a great deal of money in her days before becoming a senator. Ridley warns him subtly that Senator Wager is on their radar.

Abe meets with Philip Mohandas and his two advisers who strongly suggest that he appoint African American deputy state attorney Alan Reston to the position of D.A. in Chris Locke's place. Abe agrees to talk to Reston. Despite veiled warnings earlier, he finds he cannot stay away from Loretta. He goes to her home and for an hour they lose themselves in each other. Then the real world intrudes again. Nat calls Abe to tell him that the witness, Rachel, will talk to him, and he leaves to meet with her. Abe goes, but before meeting Rachel, he discovers that his father has picked up the boys and taken them out. Abe argues with him, insisting it is not safe, but Nat disagrees and tells him that he cannot protect them from everything. Ridley and Marcel go back to Peter McKay's and question him about the window but he insists they were truthful. McKay says that the window that was broken was Brandon's. They go to Brandon to find a brand new window, and a properly dated receipt, while knowing it is all a set up. Calling doctors in the area, they discover a doctor called Colin Devlin whose who offers questionable treatment for a patient with a severe Achilles tendon slash.

Kevin finally catches Wes at home who tells him that the reward money has gone up to three hundred thousand for his arrest. Melanie calls her parents and becomes defensive when her father does not believe in Kevin's innocence. Kevin is incensed when he realizes that his friend Wes also does not believe him. He wants to turn himself in against the advice of both Wes and Melanie. They convince him to stay and rest and while he sleeps, Wes tells Melanie the story about how he got his best friend Mark off for murdering his wife and how he later admitted his guilt to Wes.

Chapters 35 - 40 Analysis

Abe's day is full of surprises. First his father comes to him with a likely witness to the lynching of Arthur Wade. In court, he discovers that the alibi given by Michael Mullen's cousin and his brother is a falsehood. The good comes with the bad however. Inspector Ridley also tells him a story about money laundering and ties it all to Loretta in such a way that there can be little doubt that she is deeply involved, if not even directly culpable. He tries not to respond too much for fear that he gives away the fact that they



are more than acquaintances. He thinks about the ramifications and is not sure what scares him more. He could be involved with a woman who was busy into illegal activities up to her neck, or the possibility that her behavior might cost him their new relationship. She has already called him at home and tipped his son to the fact that she is more than business somehow. Isaac is definitely resentful and feeling that it is way too soon after his mother's death for his father to get involved with anyone.

Kevin and Melanie wind up in Wes's apartment and his refusal to concede Kevin's innocence almost has them leaving right away again. Wes however convinces them to stay and rest for a while. After giving Kevin enough painkillers to help him sleep, he sits down with Melanie and for the first time tells someone the story of Mark Dooher. It is a story of friendship, hardship, and betrayal that eventually has Melanie understanding the depths of reservations Wes has in trusting anyone.

Abe meets with Mohandas and is wrangled into considering the appointment to District Attorney of African American Alan Reston. Against all better judgment, he drives to Loretta and they spend the next hour in each other's arms in spite of the warnings Ridley gave him. Somehow, it all seems worth the risk. Then his father calls, telling him that Rachel is prepared to talk. He goes to his father's house and before meeting Rachel, Abe finds out that Nat has picked up the three boys and taken them out. For the first time in his life, Abe swears at his father as he tries to convince him that the streets are not safe and that he cannot live with the loss of another family member. Nat sets him straight, offering to take the boys for a little bit to get them out.

Inspectors return to recheck the alibis of Mullen and McKay, and find that they have managed to fudge the facts to suit themselves, covering their earlier lies. Backtracking through local doctor's records they find one young man treated for an Achilles heel slash which has a questionable explanation. They prepare to question Colin Devlin.



Chapters 41 - 45

Chapters 41 - 45 Summary

Elaine goes down to hear the results from Arthur Wade's autopsy, and learns little news. Back in her office, she finds the photographer from the lynching sent her another photo. This one shows the knife in the victim's hand. Going down to the media room, she makes a speech about how Kevin must be brought in to face charges. When a reporter corners Abe, he can only say that they are gathering evidence and when asked about the photo, that it is open to interpretation. Wes makes the decision to help Kevin, but warns him that if he is guilty, he will hunt him down and kill him.

Glitsky goes over a note from investigator Carl Griffin, who has gone down to interview a possible knife wound victim. Rachel also mentions a knife. His best friend Dismas Hardy calls from his weekend getaway offering to come back if Abe needs him. Chief Rigby meets with the new D.A. Alan Reston to bring him up to date, and calls Glitsky in. Reston chastises him for speaking to the reporters. Abe goes down to the autopsy room. He asks for Chris Locke's details and if Wade had any knife wounds. Abe gets a call from Wes, and agrees to meet him with the hopes that Kevin will turn himself in.

Abe calls Loretta to assure her he will have Kevin in custody soon. Abe meets Wes, and Wes tells him Kevin's story and how Kevin Shea tried to save Wade. Abe discusses it with Elaine, who takes it to Alan, but he tells her that unless refuting evidence is presented, the indictment stands as her mother wants it. After she leaves, he calls Chief Rigby to tell him that Abe does not appear to have gotten their message. Griffin goes to interview Colin Devlin and he waits with his parents and a lawyer. His parents request consideration for their son's cooperation. Griffin politely suggests they get a criminal lawyer. Lanier and Banks question O'Toole again, and tell him they are looking for his prints in the hardware store next door. O'Toole tries to stick to his story, but the investigators smell lies.

Drysdale decides Elaine is unpredictable, and too close to this investigation to be helpful. He goes to her office where Abe shows up and when he mentions the new D.A. being Alan Reston, Elaine lets it slip that he is one of her mother's people. Abe apologizes for the reporter interview, and tells her that Wade's cause of death is officially asphyxiation. Everyone realizes at the same time that if Kevin had been pulling down on Wade as suggested, his neck would have broken. He also tells them that Rachel is convinced Kevin was trying to life Wade. Drysdale thinks he should bring Reston into the picture, but Elaine assures him it will not help. He will be following her mother's agenda.



Chapters 41 - 45 Analysis

All Elaine can think about is the fact that Kevin started everything, including all the events that set into motion the assassination of Chris Locke. She makes up her mind to do whatever she could to make Kevin pay. Elaine decides to use the media to inflame the hunt for Kevin Shea. A reporter tries to interview Abe, but Abe is not willing to commit to Kevin's guilt yet. This is the interview on film that convinces Wes to help his friend Kevin, but his help comes with a warning. If Kevin is in any way involved, making him an unwitting accomplice in his escape from justice, Wes will track Kevin down himself and punish him. Kevin assures him that he is not in any way guilty of anything other than trying to help Wade.

Glitsky is not satisfied. He keeps digging into the lynching and looking for the truth. Even the assassination of Chris Locke does not feel right, but he cannot really put a finger on why. He just has a nagging feeling that he does not know the whole story in either case. The new D.A. Alan Reston is not happy with his recent comments to the reporter, and makes it clear that he needs to 'get on board.' However the coroner Stout, advises that for his own peace of mind, he should continue to dig further.

Wes calls Abe and tells him that he is in contact with Kevin who wants to turn himself in, but needs assurances that his side of the story will be heard. Abe can tell that Wes has been drinking, but is still willing to meet him anywhere he chooses, telling him only to drive carefully. Abe knows better than to tell anyone else about this meeting. The reward is powerful motive for anyone, and he knows that his superiors would be just as happy if Kevin was arrested feet first. He calls Loretta to let her know about his meeting and she asks him to stop by her office at City Hall before going home. She tells him she needs him. After everyone leaves, it registers on Elaine that Abe passed on a personal message from her mother. She calls her, and asks her about her relationship to Abe, and Loretta will only admit that they dated in school and are friends now. Then she reminds Elaine not to tell anyone the truth about her and Chris, promising her she will find someone better for her.

Drysdale knows Elaine is in a vulnerable state and is worried that she will begin making even larger mistakes. He goes to her office to find her sitting in the corner on the floor, with tear-stained cheeks. He talks to her quietly until Abe shows up. They both apologize for their earlier behavior with the press, and then Abe tells them both about his new theory regarding Kevin Shea. Abe suspects that Kevin was not part of the lynching, but instead was attempting to rescue Wade. Drysdale believes that the next logical step is to take this information to their new D.A. Reston. However Elaine assures him that this is a mistake, believing that Alan is her mother's puppet and is acting solely on her agenda.

Investigator Griffin is surprised to find a lawyer present when he goes to interview the possible stabbing victim, who claimsto have been injured by a shovel. Colin Devlin has obviously already told his parents the truth, and they bring in a business lawyer to attempt to negotiate some quid pro quo for their son's cooperation. Griffin assures them



that while he has no authority to make any deals, he believes that Colin will be treated fairly if he turns himself in and is honest about the level of his participation and those were present during the lynching. He does strongly suggest that they involve a criminal lawyer before doing so however. At the same time, the other two investigators, Lanier and Banks are once again talking to O'Toole. They bluff him with a story about prints being lifted from the hardware store and can see that he is starting to perspire despite the cold. His guilt and involvement grows more evident with each interview.

Abe talks to Wes, and comes away from their meeting believing the truth. The photo is looked at in a new light, and now many inconsistencies appear. For instance, Wade's shirt is not tight like it would be if someone were pulling down. It is loose as though it were being pushed up. The order of the two photos also makes it clear that the knife came from Kevin and was given to Arthur. Still, Reston will not be swayed despite the new information and supporting statements made by Wes that Kevin's ex-girlfriend helped to crucify him as a result of a grudge stemming from a one-night stand. His concern lies with the game plan in motion, whether it is correct or not. It is the indictment they filed, and Reston is more concerned with the effect a reversal will have than he is with what the truth may be. Kevin is the sacrificial lamb.



Chapters 46 - 50

Chapters 46 - 50 Summary

After Wes leaves, Melanie decides that the safest course of action would be for them to leave. She cautions Kevin not to open the door, and goes down to the parking garage to exchange license plates with another car. While she is down there, a tenant returns, parks and goes inside. He doesn't see her, but he closes her only access back into the apartment. She goes outside and spends what feels like a long time buzzing the suite before Kevin finally lets her in. They leave Wes a note explaining that they will call, and go down to the car, but another vehicle blocks their exit with an irate woman who claims it is her parking space. She calls the manager, and insists she won't pay for the month. Kevin offers to pay, but they are let off, and just as they are about to leave, Kevin is recognized by the manager and ordered to stop. Melanie is forced to push him out of the way with the car in order to get out of the garage before the gate closes. They drive to her friend's home, away on holidays, because Melanie has her key. On the way there, they notice the level of street violence is escalating. Wes is surprised to find their note but understands their caution. His buzzer rings and an investigator from the D.A.'s office is downstairs with a warrant to search his apartment on the belief that he may be harboring a fugitive.

Abe sits in his office, mistakenly convinced that the new D.A. will care about the truth of the Kevin Shea events. His mind wanders, reliving his earlier times with Loretta and then his wife Flo. When he returns to the present, Banks is in the office and he tells Abe about O'Toole and his ever increasing memory of the night of Wade's lynching, predicting that he will 'remember' more any time now. Abe tells him that there is likely more truth to Kevin's innocence than they originally even suspected, and Banks immediately understands the many layered ramifications. He is on the verge of telling Abe more about Loretta and the 1978 money laundering and smuggling, but thinks better of it when he sees Abe's expression for the time being. When Abe later takes Loretta out for dinner, she tells him some of the 'money laundering' story, justifying and explaining it, but without admitting to the money she took from the plane.

Kevin calls Wes and Wes hangs up on him. He is about to call back, but Melanie realizes that the police are there and manages to get a message to Wes that they'll call him later by pretending to be his mother. Melanie uses Ann's tripod and camera to videotape an account of Arthur Wade's lynching by Kevin and then Melanie takes it to the public television station, KQED. Kevin calls Wes back and tells him what Melanie is doing, but Wes assures him that his only possible route to freedom is through a trial, providing they don't kill him first.

Philip Mohandas gets a wake up speech from his adviser, Allicey Tobain who tells him that he has sold out to Loretta Wager for money, and that he has turned into her errand boy. Thinking about it, he has to agree, and announces to the press that he is calling for



a peaceful solidarity march on the following Saturday morning to present demands to the city that Reese be freed and Shea arrested.

Chapters 46 - 50 Analysis

Melanie remembers that Ann, a friend is out of town, and she has her keys so that she can water her plants. She decides it would be safer if she and Kevin go there. She changes license plates, and almost gets stuck outside, but Kevin finally lets her in. They go down to the garage, but are stopped by another tenant returning home from work and finding them in her parking space. It is not the first time, and the woman is irate. She has already called the manager, and is blocking their exit, and making a scene. The manager arrives, and all three try to diffuse the woman but she is adamant that she won't pay for the spot that month even suggesting the police be called. Finally Kevin offers to pay, but the manager decides to let them go. He opens the garage door for them, but as they are leaving, he realizes who Kevin is, and tries to stop them. He reverses the garage door and stands in their way. Melanie slows, unwilling to hit him, but he leaves her no options. She keeps going, and the manager actually rolls off her hood as she drives through him to get out before the door is all the way down and they are trapped. Melanie and Kevin are both stunned that she did so, and hardly speak a word for blocks. Melanie has long decided that Kevin is worth the risks she is taking, and that she cares enough about him to put herself on the line as well. He can hardly believe her strength and continued support, knowing he would likely be in custody if not for her. Shortly after they leave, an investigator shows up at Wes's apartment with a warrant to search the place. The manager had obviously called the police, and Wes is glad that Kevin and Melanie are already gone. When they check in with him from Ann's apartment, the police are still there, and he hangs up on Kevin the first time. Kevin thinks it's a joke, but Melanie understands right away that Wes can't talk. She calls him back, and talking him through the conversation by pretending to be his mother, she establishes she is right, and agrees to call him back later.

Abe believes that as the new D.A., Alan will care about the mounting evidence that supports Kevin's innocence, but he is wrong. Instead, the D.A. is talking to the Chief and telling him that Abe is not on board with their game plan. Abe is having trouble reconciling his past and his present. He thinks about his wife, and how much he misses her, and he remembers the intensity of his feelings for Loretta when they were dating. Despite knowing that he may be getting himself in over his head, he can't seem to get her out of his mind, and wants to see her and be near her regardless of the consequences. Investigator Banks returns and Abe fills him in on the recent events. Banks immediately understands the complexity of the situation.

Philip Mohandas talks to his closest adviser, Allicey, who is unhappy with the back room deals that he is making. It seems to her that Philip has fallen off the track, and has become more concerned with the money he has been promised, and the property that has been dangled in front of them to see what is happening. Allicey believes that Loretta is using him for her own agenda, and she is right. She manages to convince him that so far, all he has been given is promises, and in return Loretta has him behaving like her



puppet. He calls the press together in an effort to get things back on track, and announces that they are going to hold a rally taking them to city hall to present their concerns that a black man, Reese is still in custody, while a white man, Shea is out on the loose.



Chapters 51 - 55

Chapters 51 - 55 Summary

After having dinner with Loretta, they take a walk on the beach and though she invites him in, Abe knows they both have responsibilities they should be attending to. She goes home and he returns to the office to find it is a mad house. A riot breaks out on the ground floor and for a while, it is mayhem. Small fires are started inside, and many of the rioters being detained escape in the melee. Abe goes in the back, and is told that some people feel he is not spending enough time and resources investigating the killing of one of their own, Chris Locke. He realizes it is the truth, and in his office he gets Locke's file and goes home. Since the boys are gone, Abe gives Rita the weekend off. He goes through the forensics hoping to find anything that will help him, but there is nothing. He calls Elaine, but she has nothing good to tell him. Alan Reston won't give Kevin any assurances whatsoever. Elaine explains that Alan hinted it would be better if Shea never got to tell his side of the story at all, such as if something happened to him to prevent that. Abe tells Elaine he is coming to her, and she agrees. Talking to her in person, it seems that Reston is most concerned with Loretta's agenda then he is with the legal course of action that would be correct. He goes back to the office, and tries to talk to Chief Rigby, but instead of having a chance to talk to him, Rigby immediately dresses him down for going outside his job description, and is told to either tow the line, or hand in his badge.

Melanie thought that she could just take the tape of Kevin to the station, they would play it, and Kevin would be miraculously exonerated in the process, but when she gets there, the station is closed. She tries to impress on the guard that the tape is important, but the guard appears less than enthusiastic about it.

At the funeral for Locke and Wade, Loretta sidesteps reporters, goes inside and speaks to both widows briefly before sitting down. So far, everything was going according to plan, and if Kevin remained at large for a little while longer, she'd have everything she wanted. Abe is so angry that he avoids his office. He sets up a meeting with Supervisor Wrightson, hoping he will be of some help, but instead he has his own agenda, and spends most of their meeting time discussing racial compliance issues and telling Abe about how more manpower will equal more funding eventually. Abe thinks it's all a pile of crap and says so, sorry he wasted more time. Then, back at City Hall, Griffin approaches him and tells him that they were all set to bring in Colin Devlin who would be able to identify other participants in the lynching in return for immunity, but Reston puts an end to it by announcing no deals, period. He isn't ready for the truth to see the light of day yet. Abe sends Griffin out to work the Chris Locke shooting site instead, and decides to call Wes and make something happen himself.



Chapters 51 - 55 Analysis

Abe spends the evening with Loretta. Realizing that no one is at home waiting for him since the boys are with his father, he decides to go back to the office instead. He still cannot decide if his feelings for Loretta are a good thing, or dynamite. Either way, he cannot stop thinking about her. He finds himself telling her details about the investigation which normally he would never disclose while it is in progress. He goes home, able to work quietly on the files since the boys are still with Nat. He has even given Rita the weekend off.

Abe goes over Chris Locke's file, hoping there is some evidence he can use to work the file, but nothing jumps out. He considers sending an investigator to the site of the shooting, but it is unlikely there would be much evidence left even if he could find someone who was not already jammed up. He calls Elaine as soon as it is a respectable time of the morning, and she tells him that Alan will not give Kevin any leeway to turn himself in. Elaine explains her feelings that Alan seemed to prefer that Kevin never made it in to tell his side of things at all. She believes that Alan would even prefer if Kevin was shot and killed while resisting arrest or something along those lines. It would make closing the file so much easier. Abe can hardly believe what he is hearing, and wants to talk to Elaine face to face. He asks if he can come to her home before she leaves for the joint funerals of Chris Locke and Arthur Wade, and she agrees.

When Abe gets there, they talk more about Alan, and her feeling that Alan would rather not betray her mother, even if it meant sacrificing the truth. If Shea is not alive to refute the charges, no one can be said to have made a mistake. Abe sees a photo of Chris on Elaine's bedside table and she admits to their tryst. He leaves, telling her that the whole thing between her, her mother, and him will stay private. He goes to his office to talk to the chief and instead of getting a chance to plead his case, he is reprimanded for what Rigby terms insubordination.

Melanie feels like she has failed Kevin when she cannot get the tape into the hands of someone who might be able to help. She had a hard time even finding the station, and knows that with the length of time she's been gone, he'll already be worried, so she doesn't want to try to take it somewhere else.

Loretta pays her respects at the funeral to both widows, but her mind is on her own political aspirations and position. She hopes that Kevin remains at large, knowing that if he turns out to be innocent, and the truth comes out before the Hunter's Point deal closes, she will not come in a good position, and she has no intention of allowing that to happen.

Abe's day just keeps getting worse. He set up a meeting with Supervisor Wrightson in response to two messages left for him, but Wrightson is no help. He is a politician through and through. His only interest is in the appearance of propriety. He wants Glitsky to give him a rundown of his staff, and their racial background. He asks about the minority count, whether there are any women in his office or members who are gay



and based on Abe's responses he happily announces that their office likely qualifies for five more investigators. This does not Abe's mood. He asks about funding for lab time on weekends and for paid time for the investigators he has to complete reports and for lab help, but none of that is considered worthy of funding. Frustrated, he leaves that meeting and back at the office he runs in Griffin. Griffin had been ready to bring Colin Devlin in, and had a tentative deal in place where Colin would name the participants in the lynching if he was given immunity. Reston squashes the deal, saying that he will not make any deals. Translated, this can only mean that they are not ready for the truth to see the light of day yet. Abe sends Griffin out to work on the site where Chris Locke was killed, and sitting in his office, he decides to call Wes. Abe is ready to bring this out into the open if necessary.



Chapters 56 - 59

Chapters 56 - 59 Summary

Wes decides that he misread Glitsky, and that he will be no help after all. There is still no sign of the tape Melanie dropped off at the news station. He is almost afraid to leave the house for fear that he will miss Kevin's call. When they finally do talk, Wes asks Kevin what his plans are. Kevin keeps hoping that his tape will air and that another witness will come forward as a result. Wes offers to call the station for him, and see if he can track down whether or not the tape made it into the right hands to begin with. He tells Kevin to keep the faith alive. Oddly, Wes is beginning to remember how good it makes him feel to help others, and just starting to feel the smallest amount of faith in someone again.

The Arthur Wade case has come to the attention of the FBI, and Special Agent Margot Simms is assigned to handle the case. She is especially eager and focused on the profile that labels Kevin as armed and dangerous, even though Abe knows this description was likely started by Elaine in her impromptu press announcement after Chris Locke's death. Abe is unable to reach Wes and he knows Loretta is at the funerals, so he gives up the idea of working and goes home.

Abe is in the middle of making chili when Dismas Hardy shows up at his door, having cut his camping trip with the family short and citing the upheavals in the city as his reason. They banter back and forth before Dismas leaves Abe to his lunch. As Abe turns on the television, he is just in time to hear Kevin's explanation of Arthur Wade's lynching and his attempts to help. Hardy is immediately skeptical, but Abe contradicts him. Abe wonders about the cryptic note Ridley left him and decides to follow up by going to the Kit Kat Klub. He talks to Mo-Mo, who confirms that money laundering was part of the financial income that the Pacific Moon enjoyed, having taken more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of dirty money. Eighty to ninety percent of it was invested in the Kit Kat Klub, but Mo-Mo could not confirm or deny Loretta had any direct part or knowledge of it. Afterward, Abe tries to contact Wes, but after being hung up on more than once, he asks Dismas to approach him to find out what is going on. Abe learns from Griffin that there might be more to the Chris Locke shooting than at first suspected.

Jerohm's lawyer Gina Roake meets with him in jail, but questions her job where clients like him are concerned. She recommends that he think hard on his suggestion that racial bias be used as his defense.

Chapters 56 - 59 Analysis

Wes lays off the alcohol in an attempt to have a sharper mind, and hopefully be a better judge of character as a result. He is disappointed in Glitsky. Wes is sure that Glitsky is the one who turned Kevin in and arranged to have his apartment raided. The discovery



makes him question his decision-making. When he finally talks to Kevin, he finds himself encouraging him not to give up hope, and offering to mediate with the station regarding airplay of the tape Kevin and Melanie made. Just helping Kevin helps him as well. He starts to feel more self-worth as a byproduct of helping Kevin, and he had forgotten how good that felt. Having his best friend lie to him had almost completely wiped out his faith in humanity, but Kevin's honesty slowly brings it back from under the alcoholic fog it was buried in.

Abe meets the young FBI agent Margot Simms assigned to the Arthur Wade lynching. However, just like everyone else involved in this case, she seems to prefer the idea that Kevin is guilty. In fact, she is not at all interested in the facts that refute it. Just like Reston, she seems bent on using this case to further her career. Reston's attitude Abe can understand. Alan just believes he is being loyal to Loretta who is responsible for his recent promotion. He is careful in the way he phrases his information for the agent, giving her cause to act with force when confronting Kevin when he tells her that he has had military training, and may or may not be armed. He also adds that in his multiple close calls, he is surely getting more desperate and as a result more likely to respond with violence when cornered. It is everything that Simms wants to hear, and Reston can tell that she might be the answer he is looking for where Shea is concerned.

Abe really wants to talk to Loretta. Despite breaking all the rules, he wants her to know about the mounting evidence of Kevin's innocence. He has not yet told her about the witness statement from Rebecca which contains her impression that Kevin was lifting Arthur, and not pulling him down. There are also the knife wounds of spectators that can only be explained by Kevin's version of events. Add to that the fact that Arthur's neck was not broken, as it surely would have been had he been pulled down on, and the fact that both O'Toole and Devlin starting to weaken in their versions of event, Abe is convinced that with all of the evidence, Loretta is his best hope for obtaining leverage on Kevin's behalf, preferably before someone jumps the gun and shoots him.

Dismas appears at Abe's doorstep, and sits with Abe while Abe eats. He turns on the television and sees the tape that Kevin made being aired. To Abe, who knows all the facts, it is believable, but Dismas is skeptical.

Ridley leaves a message on Abe's desk that leads him to the Kit Kat Klub where he learns without a doubt that the Pacific Moon was laundering money. Abe however cannot specifically tie Loretta to it or clear her of involvement. He goes back to work, and tries to reach Wes who believes that Abe had him followed home after their last meeting. Wes hangs up on Abe several times. Finally, Abe asks his friend Dismas to attempt to talk to Wes on his behalf since he mentioned knowing the lawyer earlier. Dismas is unsure that he will be more successful, but agrees to try. Then Abe talks to Griffin who canvassed the area where Chris Locke was shot, and learns about several inconsistencies. It seems that the shooting took place on a dead end street, and the riot had never reached the area where the shooting took place. No evidence is left behind, and Abe knows he has to pursue this further.



Chapters 61 - 64

Chapters 61 - 64 Summary

Melanie and Kevin wait to hear from Wes. Kevin is impatient, but Melanie reminds him that there is some good coming out of this such as their ability to reunite. Wes gets a call from Dismas and meets him at the Little Shamrock. They talk about Kevin and Dismas assures Wes that Abe would not have sent a D.A.'s investigator to search his home, so Wes agrees to talk to him again. Simms reports to Reston, telling him about the meeting, and making the presumption that it is merely two colleagues talking. Abe talks to Art Drysdale, bringing him up to date on the newest information surrounding Chris Locke's death. Art reminisces and misses Locke. Abe asks him about the Pacific Moon case, and he confirms that it was dismissed because evidence was inconclusive.

Loretta gets the word that the President has approved the transfer of Hunter's Point to the Federal Parks Program with the provision that it be used for underprivileged youth as per Loretta's idea. She makes notes for a press conference, and looks up to find Abe watching her. They finally have a chance to catch up, and Abe tells her about the developments in the Shea case, and his feeling that Reston is willing to ignore the facts on her behalf. Stunned, she is reluctant to believe it, but he tells her about Simms and how it appears that the two of them would be willing to advance their careers by shooting Kevin in an effort to apprehend him and mostly to protect her. She tries to reach Reston to sort it out, leaving messages for him. Abe gets a call from Dismas and agrees to meet him.

Kevin and Melanie try to get some food delivered but because of the riots, no one will come. They decide to go out despite the risk. Kevin calls Wes, who fills them in on his conversation with Dismas and tells them to stay put. The surveillance van picks up the call identifying where they are, and heads there with Simms now in hot pursuit. Before they arrive, Kevin sees two policemen enter and asks for the check. It is not until then that they realize they left all of their money on a table at Ann's. Melanie is so afraid to draw attention that she quickly covers by saying her cat died. They sneak out the back door as Simms pulls up to the front. Simms looks for Kevin, asking the police if they have seen him. They check the bathroom for him but Melanie and Kevin are long gone.

Abe has dinner with Dismas and his wife Frannie, and they talk a little before he manages to reach Wes. They assure him that he does not believe Kevin committed a crime and is willing to go on record as such. He also tells Wes that he has talked to Senator Wager who will be appealing to Reston on Kevin's behalf. They agree to talk again the following morning. He goes home, talks to his boys, and listens to a nasty message from the Chief. The Chief relieves him of duty and puts him on suspension for reasons that could only have come from a tap on Wes's phone. He goes out to a phone booth and warns Wes not to call Kevin or let him call in. Abe is beginning to wonder if Loretta is playing straight with him or if she is behind all of this.



Chapters 61 - 64 Analysis

Melanie and Kevin finally have time to hash out the way their relationship ended the first time, and Kevin is honest with her. She accepts her part in the break up as well, and they admit that they both still love each other now. They enjoy their time together despite the horrible circumstances. Melanie tells Kevin that his attempt to help Arthur is largely what reminded her of who he really is, and how she respects and admires that person.

Abe talks to Drysdale, reassuring him that he is working Chris Locke's case, and tries to extract information about Loretta and the money laundering past. He learns nothing new. Loretta gets word that the approval for the Hunter's Point land transfer into the Federal Parks Program has come through. The news is tempered by her discovery that the district attorney is acting out of some misguided loyalty to her and may get an innocent man killed as a result. Despite the fact that her daughter heavily endorsed Shea as the killer, Loretta knows she has to do what is right, and tries to reach Reston to fix things.

Ridley goes to see his girlfriend Jacqueline who is a secretary for a high power lawyer. He thinks about how she might be the woman that he will marry soon, though they haven't talked about it. She is tense and tells him she has been asked to work the Fourth of July weekend, and he understands, but her tension is not because of work. It is because she told her boss she is unavailable since she will be marching with Mohandas against City Hall. Ridley questions whether it is worth her job, and she accuses him of having gone white on her, accepting the establishment and forgetting who he is. She is so angry that she finally tells him to stay away from her and leave her alone because he will not join the march with her. He sees the other side of things, having investigated this case and knowing that there is more to the issue than just Kevin Shea whether he is guilty or not.

Wes is more energized and feels more alive than he has in a long time. He owes it all to the fact that he has an honest man for a client with a good likelihood. He knows he can win the case if it goes to trial. He sits outside with Bart and makes notes, coming up with ideas, discarding some, and expanding on others. He thinks ahead to strategies that could be used in court, and remembers all of the things he used to love about being an attorney. When he gets home, he gets a call from Kevin who is still at the restaurant with Melanie. Wes thinks it is an insane risk, but Kevin is calm. Wes tells him that Dismas met with him and assures him that Abe would not have turned on them they way they thought. In fact, he gives Wes his assurance that it is not possible, so Wes conveys the renewed hope to Kevin, telling him to sit tight at Ann's until they hear from Abe again.

Simms gets word from the surveillance van that they have Kevin's location, and she hurries back to it from the coffee shop she'd been sitting in. They race to the restaurant, but before they can get there, Kevin sees two policemen enter, and asking for the check, he realizes they left the money in the apartment. Melanie is so frightened she is



afraid that she will throw up, and her comment "Oh, God!" is heard by the police now seated at the next table. They ask if everything is okay, and Melanie quickly covers. Kevin convinces her that they have to skip out on the bill, and they go out the back door just before Simms arrives at the front., managing to just elude capture again.

Abe has dinner at the Hardy's and is just a little bit jealous over the domestic bliss that emanates from them. He misses Flo so much sometimes. He has a conversation with Wes, promising that Kevin will be given assurances of safety, and admitting that he believes in Kevin's innocence. In the time it takes him to get home, this information has gone to the Chief, and the message left on his phone informs him that he is suspended. Abe hurries to a phone booth to warn Wes that his phone is tapped, and wonders how the district attorney's office knew Kevin had been over at Wes' residence. He begins to suspect that Loretta is playing both sides of the fence, and does not like it.



Chapters 65 - 69

Chapters 65 - 69 Summary

The next morning Abe wakes and goes to see Elaine to find out how much Loretta has told her. He tells her everything, including his feeling that Loretta is behind the leak of information, making her the enemy in his mind. He leaves Elaine to make up her own mind. He tells her about the Hunter's Point issue that he heard about that morning on the news, and reminds her that it all disappears if Kevin is innocent. He asks Elaine to help him bring Kevin in safely, so that he is not killed in the process and the whole situation sanitized for the public after the fact, and she agrees.

Abe is right about Loretta, but wrong about the timing of her interference. She is not responsible for having Wes followed home from his meeting with him, but after he talks to her, she stops taking his calls and is determined not to let him ruin everything she has done. He calls her twice and she ignores the messages. Elaine calls her mother and confronts her, but of course Loretta plays the same cards she had with Abe, telling her she only wants justice. Elaine tells Abe she cannot take Kevin out of the county, leaving Abe only one card to play. He goes to Loretta's. She is practiced in deceit and plays the only card she can to take Abe off his game. She tells him Elaine is his daughter. It works. Abe is beaten and undone in that instant.

Mohandas looks out to see the size of the crowd gathering, and the answering police force. He cannot quite stop the little voice inside from talking that warns him that this might be the end. The Chief talks to the Mayor about the Mohandas gathering, and neither is pleased. Loretta interferes here as well, suggesting to the Mayor that since Mohandas was going ahead, it would look better if they issued him a last minute permit, and that she would be happy to deliver it for him. The Mayor actually thanks her.

Melanie and Kevin can see the crowd gathering, and know that they are the primary reason. They get ready to call Wes that morning, and Simms is ready too. The surveillance van picks up the tap warning from Abe, but Simms is still hopeful, and keeps a sharp shooter on standby with her.

Griffin spends the night interviewing potential witnesses to Chris Locke's death again, and cannot find anyone who heard more than one shot, which is what he tells Abe in the morning. Abe asks him as a personal favor if he or Ridley can escort Elaine when she comes in with Shea to guarantee their safety. Griffin agrees and Ridley takes the phone. As Griffin scans the note Abe hands him, he reads the announcement that all homicide questions should be referred to the assistant chief Frank Batiste as Abe is on administrative leave. Ridley tells Abe that with some pressure, O'Toole is about ready to cave. Neither investigator can believe the note.



Chapters 65 - 69 Analysis

Abe has few options now, and is not sure who to trust. He goes to Elaine, and explains the entire situation to her, including all of the new information he has regarding Kevin. He is brutally honest with her, spelling out the fact that he is beginning to believe that her mother could be behind the betrayals that cost him his current administrative leave. Elaine is resistant at first, not wanting to believe that her mother is capable of the things Abe is saying, but when she calms down a bit, she realizes that it is indeed possible. The only way to justice is for her to take the hit it will cost her by bringing Kevin in safely first and letting the chips fall where they may. She has enough integrity to agree to this solution, knowing what it could cost her and her mother in the long run, and Abe calls in a favor or two at the office to ensure that one of his guys will be there to ensure her safety and Kevin's as well. It is the best that he can do under the circumstances.

As it turns out, Loretta is every bit the double dealer he thinks she is. He just has the timing a little off. After talking to him, she stops taking his calls and waits to hear from Reston, determined not to let Abe ruin everything she has worked so hard for. He does try to reach her, but she ignores his calls. Her only call had been to involve the Chief in Abe's ongoing deceptions and interference, which of course she planned to deny when Abe asked her again. She is thinking about how one day maybe she will be able to tell him the whole truth, and wondering if he will forgive her. Deep down, she still admires his integrity, even if she has lost her own.

Elaine calls her, needing to hear for herself the truth, and expecting her mother to be honest with her. Loretta assures her that justice is her only concern and despite the fallout, she only wants the truth. It is all a wonderful lie, but Elaine buys it. Loretta is shocked by Abe's continuing pressure. She asks Elaine to keep her informed, knowing her daughter will. Elaine calls Abe at Wes Farrell's and tells him she has talked to her mother who denied her involvement. She continues, influenced by Loretta now, to tell Abe that she does not think it's necessary that Kevin be taken out of the county, and that he will be perfectly safe in jail in their jurisdiction. The only card Abe has left to play is to call Loretta herself and ask her to help him bring Kevin in. He gives his pager to Wes and tells him when Kevin calls to get to him before the Feds and then get out, and fast. He tells Wes he will page him when he has Loretta on board, if he can get her. He goes to her house, and she plays him just right. When she realizes that he is not going to back down, and will not allow Kevin to be the scapegoat for the whole mess regardless of guilt or innocence, she tells him that she is doing all of this to save 'their daughter.' Finding out that Elaine is his child takes the fight out of Abe immediately.

Mohandas tries to get a rally permit from the Mayor and is refused. The Mayor figured that as long as he did not issue the permit, Mohandas might change his mind, but it has gone way past that already. Even if Mohandas did back out, the people are going to gather regardless. Mohandas realizes that it is better if he is there to at least attempt to keep some semblance of control. The Chief talks to the Mayor as people begin to gather, and both are unhappy, knowing how bad things can get if the situation escalates. It already has that potential after Kevin's tape is aired, as there are white people now



who are convinced of his innocence. The first brave soul already could be seen at the rally point with his own sign proclaiming the injustice of their portrayal of Kevin. The whole thing has the potential to be explosive.

Griffin spends the night interviewing the potential witnesses in the area of the Locke shooting, but still cannot find anyone who heard more than one shot. He is not sure what that means, but passes it on when Abe calls to ask if one of them will help to escort Elaine and Kevin in safely. He and Ridley see the note left for them announcing Abe's administrative leave, and both know that it is political. Neither one is about to let it stop them from helping Abe if he asks for it, regardless of the consequences.



Chapters 70 - 75

Chapters 70 - 75 Summary

Abe has few options now, and is not sure who to trust. He goes to Elaine, and explains the entire situation to her, including all of the new information he has regarding Kevin. He is brutally honest with her, spelling out the fact that he is beginning to believe that her mother could be behind the betrayals that cost him his current administrative leave. Elaine is resistant at first, not wanting to believe that her mother is capable of the things Abe is saying, but when she calms down a bit, she realizes that it is indeed possible. The only way to justice is for her to take the hit it will cost her by bringing Kevin in safely first and letting the chips fall where they may. She has enough integrity to agree to this solution, knowing what it could cost her and her mother in the long run, and Abe calls in a favor or two at the office to ensure that one of his guys will be there to ensure her safety and Kevin's as well. It is the best that he can do under the circumstances.

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keep some semblance of control. The Chief talks to the Mayor as people begin to gather, and both are unhappy, knowing how bad things can get if the situation escalates. It already has that potential after Kevin's tape is aired, as there are white people now who are convinced of his innocence. The first brave soul already could be seen at the rally point with his own sign proclaiming the injustice of their portrayal of Kevin. The whole thing has the potential to be explosive.

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Chapters 70 - 75 Analysis

Wes is mad at himself for not thinking of giving Kevin Abe's pager number and telling him to get out right away. He gets the address instead, and leaves, but Simms is already on the way.

Abe confronts Loretta. He gives her several chances to just do what is right, but the more she refuses, the firmer his resolve becomes. He plays the card that he has held back, telling her he is placing her under arrest for Locke's murder. The evidence did not fit was the bullet holes. For the shots to occur the way Loretta claimed, one bullet would have had to pass right through her. He tells her about the evidence he has. He knows about her relationship with Chris, and their respective skeletons in the closet, but the motive, he says, came when she found out he was sleeping with Elaine, and she had truly lost control of him.

The first admission of guilt begins then and finally comes with the big one. She admits killing Chris, saying she had to in order to save her daughter. Abe turns his back on her, intentionally giving her time to take out her gun and reveal its location as well. Now he has the recording he made in his pocket of her admission of guilt, and the gun she used to kill Locke. He uses both as leverage to go and get Kevin out safely. She finally understands that she has no choice. Using her, he makes his way into the building to get Kevin where Simms, the Chief and dozens of policemen are waiting. It is a scene of chaos. The protesters get wind of the impending arrest and join the fracas, with Mohandas leading the way. Abe has thought this through, and managed to use Loretta in such a way that he is able to get Kevin out safely as promised. On the ride back to City Hall, Kevin actually thanks Loretta for her involvement on his behalf, not knowing how hard she pushed to have him used as a scapegoat for the whole city.

Abe still has no intention of making any deals with Loretta. He does however let her go home, and tells her he will pick her up for dinner at eight. He is giving her a chance to decide how the arrest will play. She looks after some business details, makes reservations at the restaurant, and then takes her own life, unable to face arrest, and

disgrace. She leaves a note asking that Abe report it as an accident for their daughter's sake. He does.

Kevin is released without bail, and goes home to find his apartment cleaned. Melanie arrives with groceries a short time later. Now that it is all over, they reaffirm their desires to make a relationship work. Wes finds his faith in humanity again, and cutting his hair, he cleans up his act, and begins to send resumes out again.

Abe goes on a whale-watching tour with Nat and the boys, and the city returns slowly to normal. Dismas and Moses McGuire hold a fourth of July celebration at the Shamrock and the crowd is pleasingly normal.



Characters

Lieutenant Abraham Glitsky

Abe works for the San Francisco police department. He is a hawk-faced man with a scar that goes through his lips running from top to bottom that goes white when he is stressed. He has a reputation for being a bit of a hardass. His badge number is 1144 and he has been on the job long enough to have a good nose for the truth. Abe lost his wife, Flo, to ovarian cancer 15 months ago and still feels a tremendous guilt and remorse, struggling to just go home. He has three sons: Eleven-year old Orel (O.J.) who is beginning high school in September; Isaac (Ike) who is older, resentful and angry, and stays in a room that is little bigger than a breadbox; and Jacob. All three boys are looked after by a live-in housekeeper named Rita who shares the living room space with Abe.

Abe usually wears his gun even at home and habitually checks his boys before going to sleep. After his wife died, he implemented what he called the rules committee to help his sons deal with her death and give them a sense that they have some control over their lives. Abe is half-black and half-white. His skin is the color of light chocolate, and he has blue eyes that are startling in color. He wears his hair short in a buzz-cut style. He has little patience for excuses and people who break the law.

His college sweetheart was Loretta Wager, and he still thinks about her fondly from time to time, especially on the nights when he has trouble sleeping.

Kevin Shea

Kevin is a graduate student of history at the State University in San Francisco. At twenty-eight years old, he is clean cut and has a fresh-faced look that makes him look much younger. His nearly black hair is thick and his grin is sardonic. He has recently discovered a fondness for alcohol although he still tells himself that soon he will pull it together and finish his thesis to get his Ph.D. His goal is to perhaps get a job teaching after that.

Kevin grew up in suburban Houston, and had originally attended Rice University, and majored in economics. He began his schooling with the intention of taking a management role at his fathers' firm. Kevin's mother is Janine Robitaille or the New Orleans Robitaille's and his father is Daniel Shea and is part-owner of Flexitech. He has a younger brother Joey and a sister name Patty. Both boys enlisted in the army for a three-year hitch during Desert Storm. Kevin did not see any action but Joey was killed in a bunker by an Iraqi scud missile. His mother and sister have never stopped blaming Kevin for his death.

Kevin's girlfriend is Melanie Sinclair. She is a smart and beautiful girl who knows her own mind. She and Kevin had gone their separate ways after Kevin pushed her away



because of his own feelings that he did not really deserve her. She enters his life again when she sees the photo of him on the television and the report that claims he was helping to lynch Arthur Wade. She is the only one who believes in him, risking her life and freedom to ensure he remains safe and realizes in the process that she still loves who he is inside, and he feels the same way for her. Their rekindled relationship is one of the few good things to have come out of the whole unfortunate misunderstanding of events. The second is Kevin's renewed friendship with Wes and Wes' personal recovery. Kevin's best friend is Wes Farrell. He is a defense lawyer who lost his faith in humanity when he defended a friend accused of murder, won and had the friend confess afterward that he had committed the crime. Wes regains his faith when he takes on Kevin's case.

Jerohm Reese

At twenty years old, Jerohm is already considered a career criminal. He is known to be violent, and self-involved, assembling a considerable juvenile record which includes theft, and minor violence using his fists, a metal pipe, and even a rock as his weapons. Before turning eighteen, the young black man robbed the Portola Liquor Store, this time using a gun although he later claims it was only a toy. He is given a year in county jail of which he serves just under six months due to overcrowding in the jail. A year and a half later, he is arrested when his finger print is discovered in Michael Mullen's blood on the steering wheel of his abandoned car.

He lives with eighteen-year old Carryl Joyner and her son Damien who is two years old. He is arrested for the murder of Michael Mullen when his print is found in the car, and incriminating evidence in his apartment, but without enough evidence to convict him, District Attorney Chris Locke is forced to let him go. Cocky and self-assured, Jerohm feels untouchable. He is so sure of himself that when his release sparks riots in the street, he uses the situation to go out and loot anything of value he can find from the local merchants.

He is caught with a car load of stolen goods. Unlike everywhere else who is freed that night for the same crimes, he remains imprisoned. Melanie Wager sees him as she enters her office shortly after being told that Chris Locke had been killed. She focuses her pain and anger in his direction, making sure he is not released. Jerohm is held in lockup and when his lawyer arrives, he is still sure that he can wrangle a release. His lawyer sees him for what and who he is, and begins questioning her own career choices having to defend low life of his caliber. She refuses to take his claim of racial bias seriously as it was a black district attorney responsible for his arrest.

Senator Loretta Wager

Loretta Wager married Dana Wager, a wealthy older man shortly out of school. She had her first and only child Elaine in the first year of their marriage, and stayed with Dana until he left her a widow many years later. A US Senator, Loretta is the first woman and



the first African American to be elected to that position in California. Loretta met Abe Glitsky in college. At the age of twenty-two, she had perfect form and a forward demeanor. She worked as recruiter for the Black Student Union, and was already manipulative in those early days, using her sexuality to get what she wanted from men. It was a character flaw that she took into adulthood with her and honed to her advantage at every opportunity. Senator Wager had flown in from Washington the day after the lynching of Arthur Wade, seeing an opportunity to put herself in the public eye. She was quick to address the media, telling them that apprehending Wade's murderers had to be the city's first priority.

Loretta is the first one to offer up Kevin Shea as a symbol of racism, convincing the mayor that if they focus their attention on bringing Kevin in, they can use his arrest to restore racial harmony. This crisis came at a perfect time for her.

She has a deep and throaty laugh that still makes Abe weak in the knees. At forty-seven, she is still young in appearance and has aspirations of making it into the oval office. She conducted polls and knew she needed the perception that she was connected to her community. She sees Kevin Shea as a way to do that. She uses Abe, Elaine, Philip Mohandas, the mayor, and the chief all to her best advantage to position herself politically, and does not care about the truth or justice along the way. As long as the end is the way she wants it. She manages to rekindle feelings in Abe that make him confide in her when he should not where details of Kevin Shea's case are concerned. Much too late, he discovers that she has lied to him from the beginning. In fact, one of his investigators had been warning him from the start that she is likely involved in money laundering and smuggling money into the country. Not wanting to believe any of it, Abe forges ahead with her, until he realizes that she is also guilty of murder. He manages to get her to confess to him when confronted with the evidence, but his feelings for her enable her to avoid arrest. Instead, knowing when Abe is coming for her, she takes her own life, preserving her image to the end.

Melanie Sinclair

Melanie is Kevin Shea's ex girlfriend. She is a neat and straight A student who is a happy and habitual asset to any organization that she joins. At twenty-one years old, she loves her parents, brothers and sisters. Kevin is the only wrinkle in her life. She has auburn hair and has legs that are nicely shaped and good breasts. Kevin was her first boyfriend, and her best friend is Cindy Taylor. She is obsessively neat, well groomed, with a quick and easy smile. Melanie is a believer in virtue and old-time values. Kevin Shea was her first boyfriend, and she believed from the start that they would be together forever. When he dropped her with little more than an apology, she was stunned. It deeply hurt her. Kevin was the only one who got away with calling her Mel.

Melanie talks to her friend Cindy when she first sees the broadcast, unaware that Kevin had slept with her once before they had begun seeing each other. Still bitter, Cindy uses this to get back at Kevin by reporting his identity and location to the police. Mortified, Melanie calls Kevin to warn him, and feeling responsible for the situation, offers him a



place to hide out. Even before she picks him up, she knows he is innocent. She is the only one who believes in him, and helps him escape from certain custody and public recognition over and over again, risking her personal safety and freedom in the process. Thankfully, her judge of his character is correct, and the crisis they face together brings them back together in a meaningful and lasting way, just as she had hoped for from the very beginning.

Jamie O'Toole

Owner of the Cavern Pub where Michael's wake is held, Jamie is a generous Irishman who believes in the sanctity of tradition. He is a friend to Michael Mullen, who did his accounts for him, and the wake for Michael is held in his pub. He is a good Irishman, who gets caught up in the mob mentality that gets ugly and is a major participant in the lynching of Arthur Wade.

Covering it up afterward, he claims his establishment saw little business that day, and denies having anything to do with what happened or any knowledge of it. Investigators from the homicide division make him believe that his fingerprints are being sought and will likely be found. He gives himself away in response by the look on his face.

Elaine Wager

Elaine is a twenty-five-year old African American woman who works under District Attorney Christopher Locke. She is a competent attorney and her mother is Loretta Wager, the first African American US Senator to hold the office in California. Elaine has mocha-colored skin that is reminiscent of fine Italian marble. She has long and shapely legs with a waistline that is thin. Her face is Assyrian and she is tenacious in her job as prosecutor. She lives in a one-bedroom apartment on the twelfth floor which is located on Franklin, just to the north of Geary Street near Lafayette Park. She attended Boalt with Arthur Wade and is stunned by his murder.

Her life is even more complicated when she sleeps with her boss, Chris Locke, falling in love with him in the process. Unknown to her, he has also slept with her mother, and when Loretta learns that her daughter is now in his clutches, she puts the wheels in motion to remove him from her life. Chris Locke's assassination is a blow to Elaine, and she never learns the truth about who killed him. Her mother takes her own life before she can be arrested for the crime, but in a style typical to Loretta, she convinces Abe in a note left behind not to disclose it as a suicide, but rather an accident. He does, and Elaine never loses her faith or puritan image of her mother. She also never learns the truth that Abe is actually her natural father which is another secret that only Abe knows.

Michael Mullen

A thirty-nine year old husband and father of three children, Michael is killed by a gunman while he is stopped at an intersection on his way home. The young black male



gave no warning of his intentions when he approached Michael in his Honda Prelude, and witnesses are stunned when the gunman pulls Michael out of the car and leaves him on the side of the road, and steals his car hitting one witness as he speeds away. Michael would have been forty years old on June 28th. His wife Paula will be devastated without him.

Peter McKay

Cousin and best friend to Michael Mullen, Peter is between jobs and also takes Michael's death hard. Peter has a deep and resonant voice that carries an air of authority. He has no trouble lending his voice to the impassioned cry for justice that Michael's brother Brandon begins when news of Jerohm's release is revealed.

Arthur Wade

Arthur is a four-year associate attorney at Rand & Jackman. Though both Rand and Jackman are also African American, Arthur is still expected to give at least a hundred and fifty percent effort at all times. He and his wife Karin have twins and as such, he does his best to help her whenever he can. He drives a BMW, and considers himself fortunate any time he can get away from work before eight.

Christopher Locke

District Attorney Locke is a big man who is professional and presents himself well. He is usually fashionably dressed and business-like in demeanor. Locke is assassinated while touring the riot area with Loretta Wager, while she is untouched behind the wheel. A womanizer at heart, he has slept his way through many of the beautiful women who come through his life, and leaves them behind like a train wreck when he tires of them. Loretta is one of those women. When Loretta learns from her daughter Elaine that he has seduced her as well, she arranges a situation that puts her alone with him in a car near where the riots are occurring. She uses the unrest to kill him in cold blood, blaming it on the street riots and a random assassination. Chris Locke dies, after having made the mistake of falling in love with her daughter Elaine.

Paul Westburg

Paul is a freelance photojournalist. He is a Caucasian male who happened upon the lynching of Arthur Wade, capturing the only photos of the event. He was born on March 4th in 1971, and spent a great deal of his time as a journalist, wishing that he could get in on the ground floor of an event that rivaled the Rodney King incident. When he came upon Arthur Wade's lynching, his first thought was not to lend aid or attempt to disrupt the events, but instead to capture the event and get out of the area with his windfall photos.



Conrad Aiken

Conrad is the Mayor. He is five foot seven, slight of build, and is almost bald. He has a port wine stain that runs from under his left eye across the bridge of his aquiline nose which sports a bump in the middle. He is already sixty two years old, but he appears to be closer to a decade younger, and still walks with a spring in his step. He has piercing eyes that are gray blue in color, and his teeth are straight and white.

The Mayor has strength of character and a strong moral sense that is appealing to his constituents.

Wes Farrell

Wes is fifty-three years old and one of the only friends that Kevin has. He drinks to slight excess most evenings and with little provocation. He wears his hair long, having begun to grow it out after his marriage of twenty-seven years to Lydia had disintegrated along with the betrayal of his best friend at the time, Mark Dooher. He is most comfortable in khaki shorts and his best friend now is the boxer he got when his marriage ended named Bart.

His furniture is typical of the remains of a marriage. He has canvas director chairs in front of a footlocker that doubles as a coffee table. A lime green bath mat doubles as a throw rug, and his couch is a futon on a plywood base.

Moses McGuire

Moses McGuire is the bartender at the Little Shamrock pub.

Art Drysdale

Chief Assistant District Attorney normally entertains a carefree style and approach to his job, but when Chris Locke is killed, he is all business.

Art was a major league baseball player in his youth, and often had a baseball in his hands as he discussed everything from policy to plea bargains.

Marcel Lanier

Marcel Lanier is the inspector on the case of Chris Locke's assassination.



Nat Glitsky

Father to Abe Glitsky, Nat is seventy-six years old, and wears a yarmulke. He has white hair, and wears hiking boots over paint stained khakis. He comes into the city infrequently, but his love for his son is enough to lure him. He is six inches shorter than Abe, and always greets him with a kiss on the jaw.

Alan Reston

Appointed the new D.A. after Chris Locke's assassination, Alan is the son of one of Loretta Wade's largest campaign contributors, Tyrone "Duke" Reston. Alan had campaigned for her, and in return she supported his bid for Deputy D.A. As a result, Alan has a hidden agenda in line with Senator Wager's, to the degree that he is not interested in right or wrong if it doesn't fit in with Loretta's vision.

John Strout

Coroner and straight shooter, John lacks a political conscience. He is honest and good at his job. Usually laconic, he is observant and attentive to details.

Mo-Mo House

Owner and operator of the Kit Kat Klub, Mo-Mo is a large man who has trouble moving his bulk even from one end of the bar to the other behind the counter. An African American, Mo-Mo has a high forehead and gray dreadlocks. His voice is one that has had better days, and is raw and reminiscent of years of the blues.

He runs his business with one foot just outside the law, doing what many before him have done by watering down expensive liquor to increase his bottom line at his customer's expense. His club is a blues club that he established after laundering a hundred and fifty thousand dollars through the Pacific Moon, turning it into a fifteen year long source of semi legal income. Now, he minds his own business, occasionally supplying information to investigators like Ridley Banks in return for his peace and quiet.

Dismas Hardy

Defense attorney and best friend of Abe Glitsky, Dismas is an intelligent man who enjoys joking around. Dismas is married to Moses McGuire's sister Frannie. He and Moses co owned the Little Shamrock club.



Carl Griffin

One of several investigators working for Abe Glitsky in the homicide division, Carl has a junk food diet and pulls long hours. He looks into the Chris Locke shooting for Abe and discovers disturbing inconsistencies.

Ridley Banks

Ridley is the investigator for Abe Glitsky's homicide division who tries to warn him about Loretta and her past. Ridley's girlfriend Jacqueline works as a legal secretary. They come to the separation point when she expects him to go with her to Mohandas' rally, and he refuses. She sees it as a betrayal to his race, but he knows they are well on their way to clearing Kevin and won't participate in a rally that will only inflame the situation further.

Margot Simms

Margot is the Special Agent of the FBI assigned to the Arthur Wade case. She is young and intelligent. She has blonde hair and good legs but is accustomed to impressing those around her with more than her looks. She has a good eye for detail, and a hungry demeanor, ready to make a name for herself. Margot is not overly concerned with the true facts of the case if they do not fit her view of how they can help her to make the case she wants.

Margot is looking to fast track her career and is willing to bend the law to the breaking point to do it, as long as she has the ability to plausibly deny consequences. She hates the cold and damp of San Francisco, and the attitudes of the people as well. She can hardly wait to leave it all behind her. Her home in DC was warm and she misses it.



Objects/Places

Noe Valley

This is the district in San Francisco where Michael Mullen is shot dead on the way home in his car.

Cavern Pub

This is the location where Michael's wake is held.

African Nation movement

This is the embodiment of the African American separatist movement.

Saint Ignatius Church

This is the place located on the campus of San Francisco University where Kevin tries unsuccessfully to meet his friend Wes.

Little Shamrock

This is the location that Wes finds himself in when he is unable to connect with Kevin at Saint Ignatius.

Civic Center Park

This is the site of one of many tent cities that have been set up in San Francisco.

Beth Israel

This is the synagogue located at the corner of Clement and Arguello, just around the corner from the site where Arthur Wade was lynched.

Pacific Moon

This is the restaurant rumored to have been the place where Dana and Loretta Wager laundered up to three million dollars.



Hunter's Point Naval Reservation

This is the large flat, windswept location that is three times the size of Candlestick Park where the ground is poisoned by toxic waste. It is also the tract of land Loretta Wager promises to Mohandas if he supports and pushes through the candidacy of Alan Reston as new D.A. after Chris Locke's death.

Kit Kat Klub

Owned and operated by Mo-Mo House, this is the club in operation for just over fifteen years to date.

Fred

This is the drink created by Kevin for himself and Melanie out of the liquor he can find at Ann's apartment while they are holed up and waiting for Wes to hopefully help.

La Pantera

This is the restaurant where Loretta and Abe talk about her involvement with the Pacific Moon restaurant.

Saint Mary's Cathedral

This is the location chosen for the double funerals of both Chris Locke and Arthur Wade.

KQED

This is the television station that Melanie takes the tape of Kevin's side of the story to.

Monterey

This is the location Nat takes his grandchildren (Abe's sons) for vacation till the riots calm down. Abe joins them on the fourth of July.



Themes

Racial equality vs Racial reality

African Americans have been fighting for equality since the days of slavery and segregation. While there have been many positive steps taken in this direction, the racial reality is that it can take very little to undermine all the progress made. One such incident in our recent history is the Rodney King affair. Another is depicted in this story. Jerohm Reese is a career criminal who happens to be African American. During a car jacking, Reese kills Michael Mullen and leaves in his car. He is arrested not long afterward when a fingerprint of his is identified, but the District Attorney is forced to release him as a result of a lack of evidence. This creates the catalyst for a racial upheaval that the D.A., Chris Locke never foresaw. Word of Jerohm's release reaches the media. Soon it reaches those who are mourning Michael's passing in an Irish pub. Anger and frustration mixes with alcohol to create chaos.

Michael's brother Brandon, and cousin and best friend Peter McKay are in the Cavern Pub when Arthur Wade locks himself out of his car. In frustration, he slams a hand down on the roof of his car, and sets off the alarm, bringing half the members of Michael's wake outside. Arthur, a well dressed and educated African American, tries to explain his situation, but no one in the group is listening. They see a black man trying to get in to a BMW, and leap to the conclusion that he must be breaking in. Anger and frustration mount and compound, and before Arthur knows what is happening, he is being fitted with a noose and hung from a street lamp. Only one man in the bar sees the reality. Sadly, Kevin Shea is unable to help Arthur, despite his best efforts, and Arthur is killed. The division of color is complete and extends to riots in the streets, fires, looting, and random killings related strictly to color.

Political ambition vs Political manipulation

Loretta wants to make the world a better place. She has aspirations to make her way into the oval office eventually. For now, she has learned that to succeed, you need to take the negatives you find and turn them until they work to your advantage. That is the way she sees politics at work. A prime example of that is Alan Reston, the man she aids in his bid to replace the District Attorney, Chris Locke after his assassination. Alan's father, Tyrone Reston is her largest campaign contributor and his son Alan had even worked on Loretta's campaign. Loretta needed an African American figure head to take the position of D.A. and Alan was the perfect choice. Unfortunately, Alan is known to be a crime-busting prosecutor and is not exactly on board with the whole African Nation movement. This made it difficult since she positioned Philip Mohandas to be the voice of African American outrage. Mohandas had a strong moral compass, but Loretta wins him over by offering him the real estate known as Hunter's Point Naval Reservation. Though it is a veritable toxic wasteland, and will cost over 30 million dollars to clean up, Loretta does not share this information with Mohandas. Instead, she pitches an idea to her



senatorial colleagues and to the president's chief of staff that the area be put in the hands of a trustee who would pledge to use the land as a camp site for underprivileged youth. She then tells Phillip that he could be entitled to funding close to twelve million a year, appealing to his sense of greed. It is a perfect plan that makes her look good.

Her history as a senator is ripe with inconsistencies with the image she is currently trying to portray. The Pacific Moon restaurant is the site of much interest by investigators. They believe that Loretta and her husband Dana used this restaurant to launder millions of dollars in undeclared income, some of it coming from a suitcase that Loretta took possession of after a plane crash left her as the sole survivor. She denies all laundering accusations, instead telling Glisky that the money came from rolling the restaurant's profits into the Moscone Center or San Francisco's convention center showcase that is worth multimillions. The city bought the land back at a tidy profit that neither wanted to see the light of day. The reality of her politics is based in theft, money laundering, lies and back room deals while she positions herself to look good and climb the political ladder of success.

Justice versus Career Advancement

In *A Certain Justice*, there are several characters who exemplify how facts can be twisted to advantage, and their counterparts who are willing to sacrifice their careers in order that the truth be heard and recognized. On the side of justice is Abe Glitsky, Melanie Sinclair, and Wes Farrell. Despite repeated warnings from Chief Rigby, and new District Attorney Alan Reston, Abe Glitsky will not allow Kevin Shea to be railroaded and used as a scapegoat to stop gap the rioting because it is convenient for the rest. Melanie Sinclair is Kevin's former girlfriend who puts her own life on hold and sacrifices her safety, risking jail for harboring a fugitive. Wes Farrell, the defense attorney and friend to Kevin, stops drinking to find faith in humanity again and agrees to help Kevin, giving him safe haven and almost getting caught.

Loretta Wagner, Alan Reston, Margot Simms, and Chief Rigby are characters who seek personal advantage and career advancement at any cost. Loretta Wager is the Senator who sees an opportunity to use Kevin Shea's 'guilt' as a wedge to pry a section of land out of the government and make a name for herself, hoping to advance her political career in the process. Alan Reston is the district attorney who steps in after Chris Locke is killed and will not listen to the evidence that suggests Kevin is innocent because it is not what Loretta wants and he owes her his appointment. Agent Margot Simms of the FBI sees a chance to advance her career by using a high profile case like Arthur Wade's if she can catch the man that Reston has assured her is guilty. Chief Rigby wants to arrest Kevin so that the riots will abate and his city will go back to normal.

Style

Point of View

Wild Justice is written with an omniscient narrative. Writer John Lescroart confidently weaves a tale around several main characters, during which he adeptly manages to disclose their emotional states, their goals, and their motivations. Abe Glitsky is an honest man in a difficult job. He is in the middle of a city that is rioting over racial turmoil and he is the only one who seems willing to fight for the truth and for justice. Everyone else seems content to railroad the first suspect they have, even if it turns out he has nothing to do with the murder.

Kevin Shea is a man hunted for a crime he did not commit. He is close to capture several times, but each time manages to escape. His surrender is a matter of delicacy as it appears that there are several people involved politically that would prefer he never have a chance to tell his side. Melanie Sinclair, Kevin's former girlfriend is the only one who steadfastly believes in his innocence and strength of character.

Loretta Wager is a US Senator who is on a mission to advance her political career. She is willing to do whatever is necessary including killing District Attorney Chris Locke. She seduces Abe Glitsky, enabling her to gain access to information about the ongoing investigation, and use it to stymie him at every turn. It is not in her best interest politically if Kevin has a chance to tell his story. Her daughter Elaine who works in the D.A.'s office is assigned to the case. She is devastated when her boss and new love interest Chris Locke is gunned down and killed. She never knows her mother is responsible.

Wes Farrell is a lawyer who has lost his faith in humanity. He defended a client and a friend who was accused of murder and after affecting his freedom, Wes discovers his friend lied to him and had indeed committed the crime. He wrestles with the implications of Kevin's case and almost does not take it on. In the end, it becomes the case that is his salvation, bringing him back into the world of fighting for the innocent.

Setting

Set entirely in San Francisco, A Certain Justice is a story of racial upheaval and political ambition. Most of the story revolves around City Hall, and the varying places where Kevin Shea is forced to hide while he waits for Wes to negotiate his surrender. The story begins with a murder and car heist. The release of the man responsible leads directly to the lynching of Arthur Wade outside the Cavern Pub where the wake for Michael Mullen was being held. Kevin Shea is the only patron in the pub who keeps his head, and tries to save Arthur, but is unsuccessful.

When an old girlfriend turns him in, he runs to his old friend Wes Farrell, but the city is in such upheaval that he is unable to make their rendezvous site at Saint Ignatius. Then



Kevin and his girlfriend desperate attempt to hide until Kevin can secure a reasonable degree of safety for his surrender.

Senator Wager flies in from DC to advance her political standing, and an FBI agent named Simms also has similar motives. All of this comes to a head near City Hall where a protest march is held on the day that Kevin is finally brought in.

Language and Meaning

John Lescroart writes *A Certain Justice* in a very informal and friendly manner, despite the hot subject matter. Color is given to the many characters involved, and perspective can be easily gleaned from the dialogue. Criminal element Jerohm Reese is an obvious black man who uses black slang with everyone including his lawyer, and expects racial considerations despite his guilt. Abe Glitsky is a mulatto Jew who is torn between several worlds and fits into none of them completely. He is well educated and intelligent, and a law-abiding man. Loretta Wager is an African American Senator who is convinced that if she plays her cards right, she will make her way in to the oval office. She is intelligent and manipulative, using her race when it is convenient for her and enables her to further her career.

There are many twists and turns as politicians jostle for position, and even black leader Philip Mohandas is seduced by the lure of financial gain overriding his motives of racial equality. In a city filled with racial tension, riots, lynching, and murder, Lescroart paints a vivid picture that is easy to see. He shows how quickly an entire city can divide and devolve. A frightening look at the flaws the lurk just under the surface of normal and law-abiding citizens subjected to abnormal conditions.

Structure

Just under five hundred and thirty pages long, *A Certain Justice* spans a period of time beginning June 19th and ending on the 4th of July. The novel is divided into sections, each covering a specific time period. The first section deals with the period from June 19th to June 28th and is twenty-seven pages in length. It covers the initial murder of Michael Mullen, and the subsequent lynching of Arthur Wade in response to the release of Mullen's killer, Jerohm Reese using the first five chapters. The second section covers June 29th. It is a hundred and twenty-two pages in length and contains chapters six through twenty nine. This section deals with the beginning of the investigation into Arthur Wade's death, the betrayal of Kevin's ex girlfriend which puts him on the run, and the dynamics of the District Attorney office and the homicide division.

The third section covers June 30th. It is one hundred and seventy-three pages in length and contains chapters thirty to fifty-two. This section deals with the investigation, the political maneuvering, and Kevin's fear of capture versus his desire to surrender and have his story told. The next section is July 1st. It covers a hundred and ten pages, and chapters fifty-three to sixty-four. More details emerge as Kevin's innocence is brought to light by some and hidden by others. Two separate agendas are evident. The next



section covers July 2nd. Sixty-seven pages in length, it covers chapters sixty-five to seventy-four. In this section, Loretta Wager's true character emerges. FBI agent Simms reveals her motives and incentives and Wes Farrell comes to Kevin's aid. The final section covers July 4th, and the city's return to normal. It is ten pages long and a single chapter in length. It is the wrap up, which explains the direction the city will move forward in.



Quotes

"You tell anybody anything, you're dead meat." Ch 5, Pg 26

Message given to Kevin after several men return to the site of the lynching to take Kevin away from the area. He understands the threat.

"I'm in favor of shooting to kill." Ch 8, Pg 37

Mayor Conrad Aiken to Chief Rigby and others at a 3am meeting to discuss containment of rioting and looting.

"You're telling me that this mob happened because of the release of this Jerohm Reese?" Ch 8, Pg 40

District Attorney Chris Aiken to Lieutenant Abraham Glitsky in situation briefing.

"I thought letting Jerohm go, after we went through the trouble of finding him, then arresting him and booking him all, seemed a little, well, precipitous." Ch 12, Pg 57

Lieutenant Abe Glitsky to Chris Locke the morning after the lynching of Arthur Wade.

"Your boss, Mister Locke, he ain't got a damn thing to lose." Ch 18, Pg 87

Senator Loretta Wager to her daughter Elaine after Elaine confesses she slept with her married boss the night before in the office.

"But there really was no getting out - I mean, all at once the mob was in front of us, blocking the street, the people behind starting to try to bounce our car, so I put it into reverse and decided to try to get out that way." Ch 29, Pg 149

Loretta describing the events to Abe that led to Chris Locke's death.

"We have been negligent - ignoring the truth that inequality still exists here, that there is justified rage out there in the streets among the regular citizens, especially among the black community." Ch 33, Pg 176

Advice given by Donald to Mayor Conrad Aiken as the topic of his address to the Supervisors followed by the offering of an award of half a million dollars for the arrest of Kevin Shea.

"I don't care what happened to you - there's no excuse to explain somebody turning out the way you have." Ch 36, Pg 204

Melanie to Wes after his refusal to help Kevin or even simply to believe in his friend's innocence.

"This office is proceeding on the assumption that he is dangerous... and I urge any citizen who thinks they have seen Mr. Shea to get in touch with the police or the District Attorney's office immediately." Ch 41, Pg 236

Elaine's impromptu press conference comments meant to incite the public to find and turn Kevin in.



"Look, Elaine, no one's saying we're not going to give Shea a fair trial, but you don't about-face from rabid abuse of a suspect on television to letting him go because his own defense attorney for Christ's sake comes up with some reason that might, and I repeat might, explain some facts differently." Ch 45, Pg 274

Alan Reston explaining to Elaine some of the reasons why he won't make the same mistake with Shea as he believes Chris Locke made with Reese.

"Wes thinks they might even prove it with the picture, public opinion, me being white and Arthur Wade being black, all that." Ch 52, Pg 327

Kevin telling Melanie why Wes believes a charge of murder might stick to him.

"I thought it was lack of funds hampering our ability to perform." Ch 55, Pg 350

Abe to Supervisor Wrightson as they have differing opinions as to what his homicide division needs to perform better.

"Because you are probably the one person I have ever known who thinks it's important to stay here and get the truth out, even if no one wants to hear it." Ch 60, Pg 391

Melanie explaining to Kevin the value she sees in his character that makes it possible for her to love him.

"And you think standing up there with Philip Mohandas and a few hundred brothers is going to change something?" Ch 62, Pg 415

Ridley to Jacqueline as they have opposite views as to what will help the city.

"It all goes away if Kevin Shea is innocent, if there's even a serious perception that he's innocent." Ch 65, Pg 452

Abe to Elaine when he tells her that her mother has been working against him and against the interests of justice from the very beginning.

"It gives me an excuse to say a few words in public, and you know how I just live for those moments." Ch 67, Pg 468

Elaine to the Mayor after promising him she'd take his limo to City Hall to deliver the permit to march to him personally.

"I'm here for no money because I believe Kevin Shea is as innocent as you or me." Ch 68, Pg 470

Wes to Abe as they try to figure out how to bring him in without getting him killed.

"Even if this boy himself didn't do it - don't you see? - he represents what happened." Ch 69, Pg 476

Loretta to Abe trying to justify her reasons for being willing to crucify Kevin - right or wrong.

"You're charged with murder and it can't be undone - or I take you out to Kezar Pavilion, where you might do a little good." Ch 71, Pg 491

Abe to Loretta as he delivers her final ultimatum, having told her he knows she killed Chris Locke.



Topics for Discussion

In what way is the lynching of Arthur Wade directly related to the killing of Michael Mullen? Who tried to prevent the lynching?

What is Loretta Wager's agenda? How does her vision affect Kevin Shea?

What are the main reasons that Alan Reston is given the job of District Attorney? Who orchestrates his appointment and why?

How did race have effect on what happened to Arthur Wade? Discuss how the same situation might have played out had he not been African American.

What stops Kevin Shea from immediately turning himself in? How does his freedom compound his problems?

Which characters come to Kevin's aid? How do they help him and what is their motivation for doing so?

Why are the funerals of Chris Locke and Arthur Wade performed together? Whose idea is it?

Why didn't Wes want to help Kevin? What part of his past ruined his faith in people and why?

Why is Loretta so determined to make Kevin guilty? What does she stand to gain or lose?

How does Abe figure out that Loretta is the one who killed Chris Locke? What clues give her away?

How does Abe use the information he has to get Kevin safely to City Hall?

How many different groups show up at the same time to deal with Kevin? What are each of their motivations?

What bombshell does Loretta use to devastate Abe as he is talking to her about Chris Locke's death?

How does Loretta cope with her impending arrest? What is Abe's final kindness to her?

What are the facts that are kept from Elaine and why?

What impact does Kevin's innocence have on Wes, Melanie, and Abe's career?