

Cat and Mouse Study Guide

Cat and Mouse by James Patterson

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Plot Summary

Cat and Mouse is another novel by James Patterson, featuring his popular character of Alex Cross. In this novel, Gary Soneji, the criminal mastermind from *Along Came a Spider* returns. Soneji blames Cross for the time he has spent in jail for his crimes and wants to punish him. First, however, Soneji wants to commit crimes he knows will make him famous long after he dies. While Cross tries to find Soneji and stop his crime spree, he finds himself pulled into another case, the case of Mr. Smith, a cruel and ruthless serial killer. *Cat and Mouse* is an exciting novel of mystery and crime that will please even new readers to the Cross series.

Alex Cross is called to Union Station where someone is shooting people sniper style. Before arriving, Cross gets a phone call from Gary Soneji. Soneji was a suspect in a previous case Cross worked. After his conviction, Soneji broke out of jail with the intention of killing Cross. Now Cross is not only concerned about what Soneji might do to innocent people, but also what he might do to him and his own family.

Cross investigates the shooting at Union Station where he and his partner, Sampson, find a rifle on a timing device. During the investigation, Cross learns that Soneji has stolen some blood Cross donated and spilled it at the crime scene. Before Cross can figure out what this means, Soneji attacks several commuters at Penn Station in New York City. Cross goes to New York City and meets the detective in charge. A few days later, this detective is found dead in his bed.

Cross goes to Lorton Prison to interview a cell mate of Soneji's, hoping to gain insight into Soneji's actions. This prisoner tells Cross that Soneji was infected with the AIDS virus while in prison. Soneji blames Cross for this infection. Now Cross understands why his blood was found at the crime scene and believes he knows why Soneji is in New York City. Cross believes Soneji is after the man who gave him the infection. Cross tracks the man down, but the man is killed in the process of arresting him. Cross arranges for the newspapers to falsely report that the man is still alive, however, hoping to bring Soneji out into the open.

Cross waits for Soneji in a hospital room hoping he will come to try to kill the man who gave him AIDS. Soneji appears, but he has a firebomb that he uses to get away. Cross manages to follow Soneji into the tunnels under the city. Soneji and Cross face each other in a dark tunnel and Soneji is killed. Cross and his family are relieved by Soneji's death and have a party that night to celebrate.

During this time, Cross has been following another case. This case is a serial murder case in which a man is killing people in America and throughout Europe. The FBI wants Cross to help track down this killer, named Mr. Smith in the press, but Cross continuously says he cannot. However, the night after Soneji is killed, Cross and his family are attacked in their home. The lead detective on the Mr. Smith case is brought in to help solve the case.



Through the course of this investigator, Thomas Pierce, attempting to catch the man who attacked Cross, Cross and the FBI come to the conclusion that Pierce is not who he appears to be. Pierce, the boyfriend of Mr. Smith's first victim, turns out to be Mr. Smith. Cross and Sampson gather evidence against Pierce while Pierce believes that Cross is on his death bed. When Pierce discovers the man behind the Cross attacks, he loses control over Mr. Smith and kills the suspect. Cross and Sampson attempt to arrest him, but Pierce escapes. Cross, Sampson, and the FBI follow Pierce throughout New England, finally ending up back where the crimes began. Pierce, who is filled with remorse over the murder of his girlfriend, has chosen Mr. Smith as his final victim. Pierce kills himself in the same bed where his girlfriend died.



Prologue: Catch a Spider, Chapters 1-2

Prologue: Catch a Spider, Chapters 1-2 Summary

Cat and Mouse is another novel by James Patterson, featuring his popular character of Alex Cross. In this novel, Gary Soneji, the criminal mastermind from Along Came a Spider returns. Soneji blames Cross for the time he has spent in jail for his crimes and wants to punish him. First, however, Soneji wants to commit crimes he knows will make him famous long after he dies. While Cross tries to find Soneji and stop his crime spree, he finds himself pulled into another case, the case of Mr. Smith, a cruel and ruthless serial killer. Cat and Mouse is an exciting novel of mystery and crime that will please even new readers to the Cross series.

Gary Soneji stands across the street from Alex Cross's home. Soneji studies the outside of the house, noting the evidence of the children who live inside and the silhouette of the old woman who also lives inside. Carefully Soneji slips inside the house and enters the basement, basking in his own success and the ease with which he penetrated the great detective's home. Soneji looks through the family's belongings in this basement and revels in the idea that they will all soon be dead.

Mr. Smith is currently in London. Mr. Smith is a brutal killer who has amassed a large number of victims in the United States and Europe, beginning with a young woman named Isabella Calais. There does not appear to be a pattern to the victims, at least the police do not see one. However, the killer knows the secret pattern and is amused no one has figured it out. Mr. Smith's latest victim is the chief inspector who has been hunting him in London. As Mr. Smith watches him die, he thinks of the press coverage of the case and how they call him an alien. Mr. Smith finds this amusing.

Prologue: Catch a Spider, Chapters 1-2 Analysis

Gary Soneji is a name most fans of the Cross novels will recognize right away. For those who do not, the short chapter will get the danger of this name across. Soneji means to harm Cross. Soneji watches the house with criminal glee. Soneji then breaks in, thinking how easy it would be to walk up the stairs and kill Cross's entire family. Soneji did this once before. In a previous book, Soneji broke into Cross's house and attacked the family in the middle of the night. That time Cross woke up and was able to chase Soneji out of the house where he and Sampson followed him until he could be stopped. This time the reader is left feeling the vulnerability of Cross and his family, afraid that Soneji will be more successful this time.

Another killer is loose. Mr. Smith is terrorizing London. Mr. Smith is a serial killer who has struck in America as well as Europe. Mr. Smith is such a monstrous killer that the English press has dubbed him an alien. Mr. Smith finds this amusing. Mr. Smith is an intelligent killer who believes the police chasing him are dumb. There is a pattern to the



selection of Mr. Smith's victims, but the police have yet to figure out what it is. Mr. Smith scoffs at this ineptness, believing that he will never be caught until the police wise up. In fact, Mr. Smith is so confident that his current victim is the lead detective on his case.



Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 3-5

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 3-5 Summary

Cross takes his children to school. When he arrives, Cross can see their principal out front, welcoming the children to another day of classes. Cross knows the principal well. Cross and Christine Johnson met during the investigation of a murdered little girl and later Cross worked the murder of Ms. Johnson's husband. That was six months ago. Cross has wanted to ask Christine out for a long time and has finally gotten her to agree to a date that very night. Cross is looking forward to it because for the first time since the death of his wife, Cross believes he might be falling in love.

Soneji is sitting across the street from the school watching Cross with his children through the telescopic sight of his rifle. Soneji wants to kill Cross, but he needs to wait. Soneji has some important work to do first. After Soneji drives away and Cross goes on to work, Christine is walking the now quiet halls of her school. Christine stops in each of the Cross children's classrooms, unable to get their father out of her mind. Christine looks forward to dinner tonight, but she is afraid, too.

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 3-5 Analysis

Cross takes his children to school just as any other father might do. Outside he sees the principal, and unlike most parents, feels emotions that are beyond the teacher-parent relationship. Cross is in love. Christine, however, is a new widow whose husband was murdered barely six months before. While Cross is there speaking to her, Christine seems happy and comfortable with their relationship. However, later Christine feels fear at the idea of the date she is to have with Cross that night. Christine does not explain her fear, but the reader might believe it has to do with the death of her husband and Cross's connection to it.

Soneji is watching as Cross drops off his children. Again this suggests how easy it is for Soneji to get at Cross. Not only this, but Soneji makes his intentions clear, first by looking at Cross through the sights of a gun and second by thinking how badly he would like to kill Cross right then. However, Soneji has other plans. Soneji does not say what these plans are, but the reader can guess from his past behaviors that it is not something good.



Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 6-12

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 6-12 Summary

Soneji walks into Union Station with the confidence of a man who knows exactly what he is about to do. Soneji revels in the crowded station as he walks toward the balcony area. Soneji lets himself into a little room that looks out over the lobby, all the while singing under his breath. In the little room, Soneji unpacks his gear. Soneji has a tripod, a rifle, and an electronic trigger he customized himself. As Soneji prepares his equipment, he thinks about the crimes of the century he has been fascinated with his entire life. One of these crimes includes those of Charles Whitman. Charles Whitman climbed a tower at the University of Texas and shot the students as they made their way to class. This is what Soneji plans to do now in Union Station.

Soneji stares down at the people rushing through the lobby and tries to pick his first victim. Soneji wants to make a statement with this first victim, so he takes a long time choosing. Finally Soneji settles on a man with his teenage son, thinking that these victims will get Cross's attention. Across town, moments later, Cross gets the call. Someone is shooting people inside Union Station. The call came from Soneji. Cross and Sampson arrive as people are running, screaming, from the station. Cross does not understand why Soneji called him, effectively trapping himself inside the station.

Cross makes his way inside, trying to keep under cover while trying to see where the shots are coming from. Everything is quiet at first, but soon there is a burst of rifle fire. Cross and Sampson follow the sound and find the little room where Soneji set up his equipment. The door has been left open. Even while they are standing outside, Cross and Sampson can hear the gun firing. Six rounds. Every time it is only six rounds. Cross and Sampson enter the room, but Soneji is not there. Cross and Sampson search the entire room and the rooms around it, but still cannot locate Soneji. All they find is the rifle, which has been on a timer.

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 6-12 Analysis

Soneji walks into Union Station in a great mood. This should give the reader the impression that something is up with him, since Soneji is not the type of person to be happy. Soneji quickly confirms the reader's thoughts when he takes himself into a little room and begins setting up a sniper rifle while thinking about the sniper shootings at the University of Texas. The reader now knows exactly what Soneji has planned. This is again confirmed when Soneji begins picking out victims. When Soneji picks a father with



his son, thinking it will get Cross's attention, it is clear what his intention is. Soneji is warning Cross that he is to be next.

Cross gets the word about the shootings not through the police, but from Soneji himself. Soneji clearly wants Cross on this case. Cross rushes to the station, wondering why Soneji would call him and put himself in a position where he cannot get away. Cross quickly gets the answer to this quandary. When Cross gets to the station, he immediately notices something odd about the shootings. The rifle fires randomly, six rounds, and quits. This seems odd to Cross, making him wonder what the number six might mean to Soneji. When Cross and Sampson find the room where the fire is coming from, they discover Soneji has left it open for them. Again, Cross finds this suspicious.

Cross and Sampson enter the room and find the rifle, but no Soneji. They search the room and the surrounding rooms, but still no Soneji. Cross fears he might have gotten away. The reader wonders too where he might have gone. Now the trigger Soneji mentioned makes more sense, however. Soneji has clearly set up an electronic trigger set to go off every few minutes and shoot randomly six times. This number confuses Cross and makes him wonder, but it is explained now. Soneji simply used the timer to give himself time to get away.



Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 13-19

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 13-19 Summary

Soneji sits on a train and watches as the police search the passengers. Soneji calmly talks to the woman across the aisle from him, telling her honestly that he is headed to Wilmington. Wilmington is where Soneji lived before his arrest for kidnapping and where his ex-wife still lives. Soneji can see Cross walking on the platform, looking in the windows of his train. Soneji and Cross even met eyes, staring at each other through the milky pane. However, Cross does not recognize him. Soneji is in disguise and suddenly feeling unstoppable.

Cross stays at Union Station until late that night. Kyle Craig from the FBI calls. Craig is running the Mr. Smith case and wants Cross to come onto the case with him. However, with Soneji on the loose again, Cross feels he does not have time for another case. Finally, Cross hangs up his detective's hat and goes home to get ready for his date with Christine.

Cross takes Christine to a popular restaurant where he is well known by the owner and staff. Cross and Christine spend the meal speaking about everything and anything, finding themselves losing track of time and talking late into the night. Finally Cross walks Christine to her car. When Cross attempts to kiss Christine, she backs away and tells him she had a good time, but she can never see him again.

Soneji goes to Wilmington and breaks into the house he once shared with his wife and child. Soneji has a weapon and clearly means to harm these ladies. The next morning, Cross is at police headquarters investigating the case. The police have gathered everything they know about Soneji, but have not discovered anything they did not already know.

Part One: Train Station Murders, Chapters 13-19 Analysis

Soneji is on a train, waiting patiently to leave the station. The police are all over the place, searching all the trains for Soneji. Soneji even speaks to one officer and sees Cross outside the train. However, no one recognizes him because Soneji is in disguise. Soneji watches this futile search and begins to think he is unstoppable. No one will find him until he has the chance he needs to kill Cross.

Cross works on the case until late in the evening. Cross fields phone calls and coordinates the search, but to no avail. One of the phone calls Cross receives is from



Kyle Craig, an FBI agent who is working on the Mr. Smith case. Craig wants Cross's help on this case, but Cross turns him down. Cross would rather concentrate on finding Soneji right now. This is important because Craig will come back to Cross again, determined to get Cross to help on the Mr. Smith case.

When Cross returns home, he prepares for his date with Christine. Cross has looked forward to this date for a long time and it turns out to be better than he imagined. Cross and Christine talk late into the night, enjoying each other greatly. It seems that everything is going well. However, when Cross walks Christine to her car and attempts to kiss her, Christine pulls away. Christine tells Cross she cannot see him again. There is no explanation, leaving the reader wondering how much this has to do with the death of Christine's husband.

Soneji goes to Wilmington to kill his ex-wife and possibly his child. At the same time, Cross is investigating the case, going over old information with the hope of finding something new. However, the only thing Cross knows now is that Soneji has been using disguises to escape the police nets. This is something Soneji did once before, but he does not use the same disguise twice, so it proves to be of little help.



Part Two: Monsters Hunt, Chapters 20-27

Part Two: Monsters Hunt, Chapters 20-27 Summary

Soneji walks into Penn Station with the same confidence he showed when he entered Union Station. Soneji has already put things in motion and has begun the next step in his plan. Soneji walks boldly up to a man and stabs him before turning and stabbing another. Soneji stabs them in such a way as to produce the most blood possible. Back in Washington D.C., Cross has tracked down Christine at the school. Cross demands to know why she will not see him again. Christine confesses that the danger of his job scares her. Cross tries to assure her. They share a kiss, but it is interrupted by Cross's beeper.

The New York City police arrive at Penn Station. The investigation is to be run by Detective Manning Goldman. Goldman is not an overly friendly person, but he is an excellent investigator. Immediately Goldman notices that there is too much blood on the scene. Goldman also sees similarities between this case and the Union Station case. Goldman calls Washington. Cross answers his beeper and ends up working until late on the case from his office in Washington. When Cross arrives home, he wakes Nana Mama and talks to her about Christine. Nana recognizes that Cross is in love and advises him not to give up on Christine.

In the morning Cross and Sampson take a train to Penn Station. Right away, they notice how unfriendly Goldman is when he refuses to speak directly to Sampson. However, they put up with his attitude because they see how smart he is. Goldman puts out several things that make him believe that Soneji is responsible for these murders. The trains running through the station at the time of the murders run through several places where Soneji has connections, one being the town where he was raised. The trains also run in tunnels. Cross believes this is important to Soneji because he was punished as a child by being locked in the cellar. Goldman then takes Cross and Sampson around the station, showing them everything he believes would be pertinent to the case. Cross and Sampson thank Goldman before leaving.

Part Two: Monsters Hunt, Chapters 20-27 Analysis

Soneji walks into Penn Station and begins stabbing people. Soneji thinks this is funny, another way to get at Cross. Soneji is not only trying to make himself famous, but he is also goading Cross, trying to pull him out of his comfort zone. The reader is not sure this will work, but he is interfering in Cross's love life. Cross is in the middle of trying to convince Christine not to break up with him when he gets the call about the Penn Station murders. Cross has to leave her to go back to work. However, Christine remains on his mind. When Cross goes home, he wakes his grandmother to ask her opinion on Christine. Nana advises him to not give up and to ask Christine to marry him.



The next morning, Cross and Sampson go to New York. Goldman, the investigator in charge of the Penn Station case, meets them. Goldman is not a nice man and he disrespects Sampson, but he is a brilliant investigator and has done a good job on this case. Goldman believes Soneji has committed this crime. There are many reasons why he believes this, including the destinations of the trains running at the time of the murders. Cross agrees. Cross believes that Soneji has chosen the train station because of the tunnels where they run. Cross believes in Soneji's mind there is a connection between these tunnels and the cellar where Soneji was locked as a child as punishment by his stepmother.



Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 28-33

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 28-33 Summary

Soneji has taken a room in the Plaza Hotel in New York to fulfill a childhood dream. Soneji lays on the bed thinking about his heroes, killers who made themselves famous with their crimes. Soneji knows that he should not be at the Plaza since Cross is more than likely in town looking for him, but figures he has little to lose by playing out his fantasies. However, Cross is back home having dinner with his children. Cross gets to looking at the cat the family adopted a while ago and remembers a phone call Soneji made warning him that he had left a package at the Cross home. Since the cat was found abandoned on the Cross doorstep, Cross begins to wonder if Soneji did something to the cat that might hurt his family and then left it for them to find. Cross decides to take the cat to the labs at the FBI headquarters at Quantico.

While Cross is waiting for the lab to do tests on the cat, he goes to talk with Kyle Craig. Craig still wants Cross to work on the Mr. Smith case and he spends more than four hours sharing his information with Cross. Cross is intrigued, but again is forced to turn Craig down until he can find Soneji. When Cross returns to check on Rosie the cat, he learns she is just fine.

In London, Mr. Smith has left his latest victim in a duffel bag among the crowds of Piccadilly Circus. Mr. Smith then calls the police and tells them where to find the body. Sondra Greenburg of Interpol arrives on the scene and is quickly followed by Thomas Pierce of the FBI. They discuss the case and Pierce makes some comments on how deranged the killer clearly is. Pierce believes perhaps this killer might actually be an alien.

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 28-33 Analysis

Soneji is staying at the Plaza Hotel, enjoying a luxury that most killers might not allow themselves due to the danger of getting caught. Soneji does not seem worried. In fact, Soneji seems to be a man who feels as though he has little to lose. Soneji's lack of concern should make the reader wonder why he is not concerned. Surely, Soneji does not want to go back to jail. However, Soneji does not seem worried.

Cross is at home with his family, trying hard to have a normal evening with his children, touching on the theme of family. However, as Cross watches the family cat he begins to wonder if the cat was not planted on his family by Soneji in some scheme to hurt them. Cross decides to take the cat to be tested. The tests come back negative. While doing this, Cross speaks with Kyle Craig again and hears his theories on the Mr. Smith case. However, Cross again refuses to join this case despite the fact that his interest has been piqued. The reader might expect this subject to come up again later in the narration.



In London, Mr. Smith leaves the body of the lead detective on his case in Piccadilly Circus. This makes a statement to the police, but they are still unclear what this statement might be. When the police arrive, both an Interpol agent and an FBI agent, they joke about how Mr. Smith might in fact be an alien as the press has been reporting. The reader is not sure this is the case, but it is clear that Mr. Smith is someone who is deeply disturbed, but in control now.



Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 34-41

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 34-41 Summary

Cross and Sampson drive out to Wilmington, Delaware to speak with Soneji's ex-wife. When they arrive, they receive no answer to their knock. Sampson walks around the back of the house to check the back door. Sampson finds something grotesque in the doghouse and calls Cross back to look. When Cross sees Soneji's ex-wife's head in the doghouse, he immediately thinks of the couple's little girl. Cross breaks into the house and begins to storm through the rooms searching for the child. Sampson and Cross find nothing in the house, not even the body of Soneji's ex-wife. However, they do find the child alive and well in the basement.

The next day Cross goes to Lorton Prison to talk with an inmate who knew Soneji. Cross learns that Soneji had wanted Cross to speak to this man and that he has a message for Cross. Cross finds out that Soneji was infected with the AIDS virus while in prison here. This explains a great deal to Cross, including why Soneji spilled Cross's own blood, stolen from a blood bank, at one of the crime scenes. Soneji blames Cross for his disease.

That night Cross takes Christine out to dinner again. This time is like the last, with the endless conversation and comfortable silences. Afterward Christine does not push Cross away when he goes in for the goodbye kiss. At the same time, Soneji is in New York City. Soneji has broken into the cellar of Detective Goldman's house. Soneji sneaks up the stairs and brutally kills the detective in his sleep.

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 34-41 Analysis

Sampson and Cross go to the home Soneji once shared with his wife and daughter in order to interview them about Soneji's whereabouts. The house appears occupied, but there is no answer when they knock. Sampson goes around the side of the house and finds the wife's head in the doghouse. Soneji has clearly made a point about his feelings for his ex-wife who abandoned him after his conviction in the kidnapping case. However, their daughter is nowhere to be found. Cross searches the house frantically. Cases involving children always touch a personal chord with Cross due to his own small children. Finally, they find her safe in the basement. Cross had known they would find her alive because Soneji once told him his daughter was the best thing he had ever done.

Cross then goes to the prison and interviews a man who served time with Soneji. From this man Cross learns that Soneji has AIDS and that he blames Cross for the disease. Soneji contracted the disease from another inmate who has since been released. Now Cross not only has a motivation for Soneji's crimes, but he also knows that Soneji has



little to lose now. Cross also has an idea why Soneji might be in New York City. The man who exposed Soneji to AIDS lives there now.

At the same time Cross is decompressing with Christine, Soneji is in New York City. However, instead of going after the man he blames for his disease, Soneji is in the home of the detective in charge of the Penn Station case. Soneji sneaks into the man's cellar and from there makes his way into the man's bedroom and bludgeons him to death.



Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 42-53

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 42-53 Summary

Once again, Cross is in New York City. Cross is flown to the city by the FBI and then driven to Goldman's house by the dead detective's partner. Once there, Cross looks at the crime scene. On a desk in the bedroom is a computer. Cross guesses that Soneji used the computer to look up the case files on Shareef Thomas, the man who infected Soneji with AIDS. Cross is required to spend the weekend in the city to continue investigating this case. Cross's children are not happy about the situation, but Christine agrees to come spend the weekend with him. At the same time Soneji is in a bar trying to pick up a lonely woman. Soneji targets several women but finally settles on a lawyer who lives alone. Soneji goes home with the woman, killing her in order to give himself somewhere to lie low for a while.

The next morning, Cross and Goldman's partner stake out the shooting gallery where they believe Thomas is staying. The two men wait in the car for hours hoping to catch sight of either Thomas or Soneji, but nothing happens. Finally Cross decides to go in. Cross takes off his shirt to make himself look like any other drug addict and joins the other addicts in the abandoned building. Cross sees Thomas and settles in to watch him. However, Goldman's partner jumps the gun and raids the place with two uniform cops. A fire fight breaks out. Thomas is killed when he pulls a shot gun on Cross. So is one of the uniform cops. Cross and Goldman's partner decide not to make it public that Thomas is dead. In fact, they release a statement to the press saying that Thomas is in a local hospital. Soneji sees these reports and begins to formulate a plan, all the while believing he has Cross running around in circles.

Christine arrives in New York that night. Cross takes her out dancing at the Rainbow Room. They share a romantic evening, staying until the restaurant closes. When Cross goes to take Christine back to their separate rooms at the hotel, Christine tells him she would like to stay in his room with him. That night, they share a deeply romantic night, sharing a bed for the first time. Afterward, Cross hears Christine whisper that he is the one.

Part Two: Monster Hunt, Chapters 42-53 Analysis

Cross arrives in New York City the morning Detective Goldman's body is found. Cross takes one look at the room in which Soneji murdered the detective and guesses why. There is a computer that Soneji could have used to access records on Shareef Thomas, the man who infected Soneji with AIDS. Soneji is looking to get revenge, touching on the theme of revenge. Cross is required to stay in the city to help with the investigation into the detective's death. Cross's children are not happy with this situation, causing Cross some remorse, but he manages to make amends. Cross is particularly happy when Christine agrees to come stay with him in the city. Christine's arrival in town marks



a change in their relationship. After spending a romantic night dancing at the fabled Rainbow Room, Christine and Cross spend their first night in bed together. Cross hears Christine saying he is the one, proving to him that Christine is as in love with him as he is with her. The reader might see this and wonder what might lay in the future for these lovers.

Soneji picks up a woman at a bar, but instead of taking her home for romantic reasons, Soneji killed the woman so he can use her home for his own personal use. At the same time, Cross and Goldman's partner stake out Thomas in hopes of catching Soneji as he comes to exact his revenge. However, the stake out goes wrong with Goldman's partner jumps the gun and raids the crack house where he is hiding out. A cop is killed as well as Thomas. However, Cross and Goldman's partner come up with a plan to release a false police statement saying that Thomas is still alive and well in a local hospital. This report is generated with the hopes of smoking out Soneji, leaving the reader anxious to see if he will fall for the bait.



Part Three: The Cellar of Cellars, Chapters 54-67

Part Three: The Cellar of Cellars, Chapters 54-67 Summary

Mr. Smith is in France where he kidnaps a doctor by the name of Abel Sante. At the same time, Soneji is sneaking into Bellevue Hospital in New York City, hoping to get into Thomas's room and kill him. Soneji is able to make it to the patient's room without being noticed thanks to an expert disguise. However, when Soneji reaches the room he finds Cross and Goldman's partner instead of Thomas. Before Cross can react, Soneji throws a bomb into the room and runs. The bomb is a fire bomb of some sort and Cross quickly finds himself on fire. Cross pats out the fire and rushes out of the room, chasing Soneji. Cross briefly loses Soneji when they get to the street, but picks him up again a few minutes later. Soneji has boarded a city bus.

Soneji uses another fire bomb to hold the people on the bus hostage. Soneji has also gotten a hold of someone's baby, using it as a shield so the police will not shoot him. Cross gets into a car and follows the bus, trying to speak to Soneji through the windows at one point when the two vehicles come up beside one another. Soneji does not want to talk. Soon Cross notices where the bus is headed. Soneji is hoping to disappear into Grand Central Station. Cross and Goldman's partner arrive at Grand Central Station behind the bus. They run into the station and catch sight of Soneji running toward the tunnels with the baby still in his arms.

Cross follows Soneji into the tunnels of Grand Central Station, calling to him, asking what he wants. Soneji tells Cross he wants him, he wants to kill Cross. Soneji then throws the baby at the cops behind him and disappears into a dark, abandoned tunnel. Cross follows with some caution. In the tunnels Soneji comes directly at Cross. Cross fires, shooting Soneji in the head after several chest shots do not stop him. Cross watches Soneji die when he falls on one of his own fire bombs.

Cross goes home afterward, spending some time in his office tying up the loose ends. When Cross gets home, he finds that his friends and family have gathered to throw him a surprise party. Soneji is dead and this is cause for the Cross family to celebrate. Christine comes to the party and Cross spends a great deal of time dancing with her. Later, Sampson tells Cross how happy he is seeing him in love again. Late that night Cross goes to bed. During the night Cross is awakened when someone attacks him, beating him with something heavy.



Part Three: The Cellar of Cellars, Chapters 54-67 Analysis

Soneji sneaks into Bellevue Hospital in order to kill Thomas, unaware that Thomas is already dead. Soneji instead finds Cross waiting for him. Soneji sets off a fire bomb and runs away in the confusion that results. Cross follows, but is not quick enough to keep Soneji from boarding a bus. Soneji uses a bomb to force the driver to divert the bus to Grand Central Station. Soneji also uses a baby as a shield to keep the police from firing on him. Obviously, Soneji's emotional attachment to his own child does not extend to other people's children.

Cross stays on Soneji's tail, following him everywhere he goes, determined to end this now. Soneji has nothing to lose, making him more dangerous than most common criminals. Cross stays close and finally finds himself following Soneji into a dark tunnel. The tunnel reminds Cross of the cellar where Soneji was often punished as a child, wondering if the tunnel reminded Soneji of the same thing, convinced it must. Soneji's life seems to have come full circle.

In the dark of the tunnel, Soneji attacks Cross. Cross manages to get the better of Soneji and fires his weapon, shooting Soneji in the jaw. Soneji falls and one of his firebombs goes off. Soneji dies in front of Cross. Cross is relieved by this, but not near as relieved as his family and friends. Cross's closest friends and family throw a party for him that night celebrating the death of Soneji. It is a relaxing affair that leaves Cross feeling more at ease than he has in years. However, during the night while Cross is in bed sleeping, someone breaks in and beats him in his bed, just as Soneji always promised he would. The reader is left wondering if maybe Soneji might still be alive or someone has been working with him and is seeking revenge.



Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapter 68-79

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapter 68-79 Summary

A bus driver finds Nana Mama in the street in front of the Cross home. Soon the street is flooded with police and emergency vehicles. Sampson arrives and runs frantically into the home, shocked to find the children bruised and battered. Nana Mama and the children were beaten in their beds, but their injuries are superficial. The biggest concern is Alex Cross. Cross has been shot twice. When Sampson arrives at Cross's bedroom door, he finds that Kyle Craig is already there and running the investigation. Craig has decided to bring in Thomas Pierce to investigate the attack.

Pierce arrives via helicopter, rushed to the scene from Quantico where he was making a report on the Mr. Smith case. Pierce, who is a medical doctor, has been informed of Cross's injuries and expects that he will not survive. However, Pierce understands the importance of appearing hopeful to the press and Cross's loved ones. Immediately upon arriving Pierce gives a statement to the press, managing to appear arrogant and charming all at the same time. Pierce is then taken to Cross's bedroom, the crime scene, where he begins to formulate a scenario of the attack. Pierce believes the attacker did not have the heart to inflict much damage on the children and the old woman. Pierce also believes that Cross was the main target. Many believe that Soneji is somehow behind the attack and Pierce is charged with trying to find out how.

Craig wants to go to the hospital to check Cross's condition. Pierce insists on going along. When they arrive, Pierce wonders off on his own and learns that Cross has gone into cardiac arrest due to blood loss. Pierce knows that Cross's chances of survival are very small. When Pierce joins up with Craig again, they go to visit Nana Mama in order to ask her questions about the attack. When Pierce enters the room, Nana Mama insists that someone tell her the truth about Cross's condition. Pierce lays out the facts for her, telling her that Cross will most likely die. Nana Mama thanks him for his candor.

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapter 68-79 Analysis

Someone has attacked the Cross family as they slept in their beds. The reader who has read previous Cross novels will feel this is familiar and immediately suspect Soneji. However, Cross saw Soneji die. The reader is now left with the quandary of figuring out who could have attacked Cross and his family in the same manner as Soneji has done with other victims and attempted to do to the Cross family once before, if not Soneji himself. The reader now wonders if maybe Soneji has a partner. The police are wondering the same thing, the reader quickly learns, when they bring in Thomas Pierce with the FBI and pose the same question to him.

This is only the second time the reader sees the much talked about Pierce in this novel. Pierce is supposed to be a brilliant investigator and even Cross mentions earlier in the



narration how impressed he is with Pierce's successes. The reader assumes then that Pierce is brought in because he is the best and the best is what is needed right now. Pierce is certainly arrogant enough. The way Pierce handles the press is a clear show of his confidence and arrogance. Later, when Pierce walks into the hospital and begins throwing around his medical knowledge, going so far as telling Nana Mama that Cross is most likely going to die, also showcases his arrogance. However, this conversation with Nana Mama always shows something of a disregard for human emotions. Pierce does nothing to try to soften the blow for Nana. The reader might believe this is because Nana has asked him to be honest, but the reader might also remember that honesty can be cushioned with compassion should the teller desire.



Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 79-87

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 79-87 Summary

In Paris, the police are investigating the disappearance of a local doctor aware they have little time before Mr. Smith calls to tell them where they can find the body. That same night, Pierce goes to visit Cross, who surprisingly made it through surgery. Cross is not fully conscious, however, and Pierce is unable to get any information out of him. However Pierce does read Cross's medical chart and continues to believe Cross will be dead within a few days. Therefore, Pierce is not surprised when he is told later that night that Cross has fallen into a coma. Pierce cannot stop thinking about the Mr. Smith case even as he is researching Soneji in order to find the man who attacked the Crosses. Pierce returns to the Cross home in order to search it more thoroughly now that the other investigators have gone. In the basement, Pierce finds Cross's police badge burned in an old stove. This tells Pierce that whoever did this to the Cross family scorned Cross's career choice.

In Paris, the missing doctor is trapped inside a dumb waiter, waiting for the killer to return. The doctor knows he will die. He has seen the killer and knows more about his identity than anyone else still living. The doctor is frightened. In Washington, Sampson questions Pierce's take on the attacks in Cross's house. Pierce believes that Soneji had something to do with the attacks and that he made a mistake that will make him easy to catch. Sampson is skeptical. Sampson and Pierce fly to Princeton, New Jersey where they interview Soneji's grandfather, his only living relative. Pierce immediately senses that Soneji's grandfather is as psychotic as his grandson is and that he is hiding something. When Pierce asks about a train set that Soneji supposedly stole from his stepbrother as a child, the grandfather's reaction leads Pierce to believe it is significant.

Pierce insists that he and Sampson dig on the grandfather's property. Pierce has picked a place to dig based on the notes Cross took during interviews of Soneji at Lorton Prison. Soon they dig up not only the missing train set, but some bones too. Most of the bones appear to be animal bones, but there also appears to be pieces of a small human skeleton.

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 79-87 Analysis

Pierce believes Cross to be in terrible shape. Pierce reads Cross's charts in the hospital and calls the hospital frequently to check up on him. This behavior is somewhat curious, but the reader assumes Pierce is interested because he is investigating the case that put Cross in the hospital. Pierce assumes from everything he has learned that Cross is going to die. When Pierce is told Cross is in a coma, this seems to confirm that fact.



Pierce takes up the investigation into the attacks on the Cross family with enthusiasm. Pierce is clearly arrogant and wants to prove that he is a good detective, perhaps even better than Cross. Sampson is put off by Pierce and his arrogance, but slowly comes to accept that Pierce has only good intentions at heart. Pierce and Sampson go to Princeton to further investigate Soneji's past, using Cross's notes from the kidnapping case as a jumping off point. While speaking to Soneji's grandfather, Pierce believes he learns where Soneji hid his first few victims. This hunch proves to be correct when Pierce and Sampson dig up what appears to be Soneji's first victim.

The doctor kidnapped by Smith in a previous chapter is still missing in Paris. The police are investigating his kidnapping, but are sure they will soon get a phone call from Mr. Smith telling them where the body can be found, as has occurred with all of Mr. Smith's previous victims. The victim appears to be stuck in some sort of dumb waiter, alone, awaiting Mr. Smith's return. The victim is frightened as he knows who Mr. Smith is, and has seen his face. The victim knows he will die. The reader is left wondering if the victim will die and who he believes the killer to be. Another question bothering the reader at this point is also why Mr. Smith has left the victim alone. Where is Mr. Smith?



Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 88-94

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 88-94 Summary

Christine Johnson has returned to work in order to keep her mind occupied. Christine is not sure she can handle the normality of it all knowing that Cross is in the hospital fighting for his life. To make things worse, when Christine returns to her office after talking to one of the teachers she finds Kyle Craig waiting for her. That same night, in a hotel room in New Jersey, Mr. Smith gets an e-mail from Mr. Smith announcing the kidnapping of the doctor in Paris. Pierce forwards this message to the FBI and then packs to go to Paris. Sampson runs into him in the parking lot and is angry to see Pierce is leaving. Sampson believes Cross's case should be a priority over the Mr. Smith case, but Pierce does not.

Mr. Smith plays music as he begins the autopsy on his living victim. Mr. Smith likes to listen to music when he works, as it soothes his mind. Mr. Smith begins, thinking about the victim's name, Abel Sante. Mr. Smith wonders when the police will finally see the pattern in his choice of victims. Mr. Smith doubts they ever will.

On the flight to Paris, Pierce thinks about Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith has never fit one psychological profile, but has fit all of them at one time or another. Pierce does not let this stop him from trying to figure the killer out, however. Pierce's own girlfriend was Mr. Smith's first victim. Pierce came home from celebrating his medical school graduation with friends to find his girlfriend, Isabella Calais, brutally murdered in their bed. It was a night that Pierce would never forget, and his grief is still incredibly fresh even four years after the fact.

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 88-94 Analysis

Christine Johnson returns to work, but finds she cannot concentrate. Christine has fought the idea of falling in love with Cross, but her reaction to his injuries makes it seem that she is losing this fight. Christine's reaction to Kyle Craig waiting to talk to her further underlines this possibility. Craig's appearance at the school also makes the reader wonder if perhaps Cross has taken a turn for the worse. If so, the reader must wonder why Craig is the one telling her. Perhaps it would be more likely to be Sampson or someone closer to Christine and Cross.

Mr. Smith appears to be in the middle of preparing to kill his latest victim. Mr. Smith writes an e-mail to Pierce to warn him that the victim is about to die in Paris. Pierce immediately packs to go to Paris, causing some friction between him and Sampson. Sampson believes that Cross's case is more important than the Mr. Smith case. Pierce

disagrees. Pierce boards a plan and thinks about the night he found his girlfriend brutally murdered. It was a night that changed his life.



Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 95-101

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 95-101 Summary

Pierce arrives in Paris and immediately calls the hospital to check on Cross. Cross is still in grave condition. Pierce then works alone for most of the day, as he prefers. That night Mr. Smith contacts the local police and informs them where the victim's body can be found. Pierce arrives to find Sondra Greenburg already there. Pierce, Greenburg, and the local police begin searching for the body. Normally when Mr. Smith contacts the police about a victim, it is easily found. That is not the case this time. After searching for hours, Pierce and Greenburg get simultaneous messages from Mr. Smith telling them that he lied and the body is elsewhere. Mr. Smith also warns them not to trust each other.

The body is quickly found exactly where Mr. Smith has said. This time Mr. Smith has been more brutal than before, dissecting the body and leaving it in a park in multiple packages. Pierce is nearly sick when he finds that the head has been sliced in half. The same night, Christine is driven to the delivery entrance of a building after work by FBI agents. Waiting for her inside is Cross, fully awake and pleased to see her. A few days later, Pierce returns to Washington. Pierce's first stop is the Cross home. Pierce is more convinced than ever that the attacker was reluctant to kill and he knows when he answers why that is, he will learn the identity of the killer. Pierce goes downstairs and meets Nana Mama again. Nana is polite, but reserved. Pierce finds himself wondering later why this case felt wrong and wondering if there is anyone he can trust.

Sampson and Pierce return to Princeton. They go to an adult bookstore where Simon Conklin works. Pierce runs the interrogation, asking Conklin questions that have little to do with the case at hand. Pierce seems focused on the train set that Soneji stole from his stepbrother as a child. When Pierce and Sampson leave, Pierce tells Sampson that Conklin is not only the attacker, but also that he has been Soneji's partner all along and that he is the leader, not Soneji. That night Pierce breaks into Conklin's house, intent on forcing the man to confess. Pierce is proud of himself, convinced he is smarter and better than Alex Cross is.

Part Four: Thomas Pierce, Chapters 95-101 Analysis

Pierce arrives in Paris and spends the day alone, working the case without contacting the local police. The reader might find this unusual and come to remember it later in the novel when Mr. Smith's identity is revealed. However, right now it seems normal since Pierce likes to work alone. Later that night, Mr. Smith contacts the police to reveal where the latest victim can be found. It turns out that Mr. Smith is again playing games with the police when he later reveals that he lied and the body is really somewhere else.



Not only this, but Mr. Smith advises both Pierce and Interpol agent Greenburg that they should not trust each other. Mr. Smith has been more brutal this time, doing unspeakable things to the corpse. Pierce believes this means the killer is more in control but a seasoned investigator might believe this shows the opposite.

Pierce goes back to Washington and visits the Cross house once more. Then Pierce interviews Soneji's childhood friend and decides after only a few minutes that this man is not only the attacker, but also the mastermind behind all of Soneji's crimes. The reader might be somewhat confused by these conclusions because the interviewed seems to focus on unrelated things, such as the train set Soneji stole from his stepbrother. Pierce then breaks into Conklin's home, intent on forcing a confession. Pierce now thinks he is a better investigator than Cross ever was and is proud of this. At the same time, Christine is being taken to see Cross by FBI agents. Cross does not appear to be in grave condition during this visit, as Pierce believes him to be. This turn of events causes the reader to believe that someone is lying to Pierce. Now the reader should wonder why someone would want to do that.



Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 102-111

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 102-111 Summary

Cross is the main speaker at a meeting of FBI agents. Cross announces that he and Craig believe that Pierce is Mr. Smith. Cross quickly outlines how he believes Isabella Calais was really murdered. Cross believes Isabella was murdered by Pierce because she was having an affair with another doctor. Cross also believes that Pierce has left clues all along, they simply have not been able to see them. Now that they know Mr. Smith is Pierce, he hopes they will be able to see the clues. Cross also explains that the reports of his near death were exaggerated by Craig in order to place Pierce in charge of the case so that they could watch him while they gathered evidence against him. Now Sampson and Craig believe Pierce is about to kill Conklin as Mr. Smith, giving them the opportunity to catch him.

Agents are following Pierce, but they lose him. Cross and Sampson join the rush to Conklin's house expecting Pierce to show up there. However, they arrive too late. When Cross and the others enter the house Pierce is already gone. Conklin is dead. Pierce has dissected Conklin just like the other Mr. Smith victims while extracting a confession from him. It is important to Pierce to prove that he is correct and that he is better than Cross. In the confession Conklin admits to attacking the Cross family on Soneji's orders.

The next morning Cross agrees to stick with the Mr. Smith case until Pierce is brought in, despite the fact that his family would rather he take some time off to recover from his injuries. Cross spends the next couple of days trying to figure out how Pierce got out of Princeton and what his motivations are for the crime. Cross thinks of Isabella and thinks that perhaps she is the only person Pierce has ever loved. If that is true, however, Cross cannot figure out why he continues to kill. It occurs to Cross however that perhaps this is why Pierce continues to kill. Perhaps each time Pierce kills, he relives the death of Isabella as some sort of punishment. Cross visits Pierce's apartment, which is still filled with Isabella's things, and becomes more convinced of this.

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 102-111 Analysis

Cross reveals that he has been working with the FBI to prove that Thomas Pierce is Mr. Smith. Cross's medical condition was exaggerated for Pierce's benefit in order to play to his need to prove himself better than Cross. Cross also reveals that he believes Pierce killed his first victim, Isabella Calais because she was cheating on him with another doctor. Now Pierce is under surveillance and they believe he is going to kill Simon Conklin.



Pierce does kill Conklin, revealing to the man that he is Mr. Smith, but first gets a confession. Conklin attacked the Cross family because Soneji told him to. Conklin had reason to believe his life would be in danger if he did not. Mr. Smith tapes this confession and then kills Conklin just as he did all his other victims. Mr. Smith then disappears just as the police arrive. Cross is wrapped up in the case now and decides to stick with it despite his family's desire to see him take some time off. Cross begins to go over what he knows about Pierce and try to figure out what drives him. Cross wonders if Pierce is aware of his Mr. Smith personality and is sure that he is. Cross also believes that Pierce is driven by the memory of Isabella's murder. How this will help Cross catch Pierce remains to be seen.



Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 112-124

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 112-124 Summary

Pierce contacts Cross and tells him to come to New Jersey. Mr. Smith has picked a new victim. Cross flies to New Jersey, spending the flight trying to figure out how all of the victims are related. Cross knows there must be something significant about each person, but he cannot figure it out since none of the victims seems to have anything in common. A background check on Pierce's family adds little to Cross's investigation. At the same time, Pierce is delivering his latest victim to the shore where he intends to send the police to find him. Not long after this victim is found, Pierce sends another message to police giving them the name of his next victim. Cross latches on to this name and begins to wonder if this is the connection, if the choice of victims has something to do with their names.

The police think they have Pierce trapped in Atlantic City. Cops are everywhere searching for him among the tourists walking the boardwalk. Suddenly Cross hears an announcement asking people to clear the beach. Another victim is found impossibly lying on the beach. As Cross approaches the body, a plane flies overhead with a banner that tells them Mr. Smith has escaped again. Cross returns home where he spends some much needed time with his family. Christine comes over for dinner and it occurs to Cross that she is exactly what his family needs right now. The way Cross feels about Christine, the deep love he has only recently allowed himself to feel, makes him think of Pierce and Isabella. Pierce loved Isabella and perhaps she was the only person he has ever been able to love.

Cross locks himself in his bedroom and begins to make notes on Pierce. Cross looks at every aspect of the case, turning over his theories again and again. Finally Cross finds the connection between the victims that everyone has missed to this point. The names of the victims, when placed in order, spell I murdered Isabella Calai, the s in Calais unfilled. Cross wonders who s is going to be, if perhaps they can head Mr. Smith off before he finishes his confession. Cross finds the answer in the middle of the night and quickly calls Craig.

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 112-124 Analysis

Pierce begins killing again. Pierce murders a man and leaves him on the New Jersey shore. The next day the police track Pierce to Atlantic City where Pierce claims to have picked another victim. However, before the police can stop him, Pierce kills the woman and escapes. Pierce begins to seem unstoppable. Cross continues to try to puzzle out the case, however, going over everything he knows about Pierce.



Cross believes that Pierce kills out of remorse for killing Isabella Calais. Therefore it is no surprise when Cross finally finds the connection between Pierce's victims. The names spell out a confession and the confession is almost complete. The only letter left is s. At first Cross believes this victim might be Mr. Smith himself, that Pierce might simply stop. Then Cross realizes that the s is someone else and quickly makes the call to Craig with this information. The reader has no idea who it might be, but suspects that Cross is on the right track.

Cross also spends time with Christine during his examination of the Pierce case. Cross has realized that he is in love with Christine in a way he has not allowed himself since his wife died. Cross also sees that Christine is what his family needs right now. Cross's children need a woman in their lives and Christine seems to fill the need. This makes the reader wonder if Cross has plans to deepen his relationship with Christine.



Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 125-129 and Epilogue, Home Again, Home Again, Chapters 130-131

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 125-129 and Epilogue, Home Again, Home Again, Chapters 130-131 Summary

Cross believes that Pierce intends to kill the doctor with whom Isabella was having an affair, Dr. Martin Straw. Cross, Sampson, and the FBI stake out Straw's house, but Pierce fails to show up. Cross believes that Pierce has spotted the police. Suddenly Sampson spots Pierce's car. Cross and Sampson give chase. Cross tries to get Pierce to pull over, even has a chance to kill him should he have chosen, however Pierce manages to elude them.

Cross figures out what Pierce will do next. Cross and Sampson go to Pierce's apartment in Cambridge. Police are already in Pierce's building. Someone called the police and said a man was attempting suicide. When Cross arrives at Pierce's apartment, he goes into the bedroom and discovers Pierce has cut his chest open much the same way he did to Isabella. Pierce has decided to make Mr. Smith the final victim after all. Cross tries to offer first aid, but when Pierce pulls a scalpel on him, Sampson kills him.

Cross goes home and spends a few minutes with his family. Cross reveals in his daughters happiness to see him. Cross realizes what a lucky man he really is. Later, Cross goes over to Christine's house unannounced. Christine is thrilled to see him but a little distressed that she is not dressed better. Cross and Christine talk for a minute. Then Cross asks Christine if she will marry him.

Part Five: Cat and Mouse, Chapters 125-129 and Epilogue, Home Again, Home Again, Chapters 130-131 Analysis

Cross knows where Pierce is going next and proves to be right. Pierce was going to kill the doctor with whom Isabella was having an affair, but is stopped by the police. Pierce gets away, but it does not take Cross long to figure out where he is going. Cross knows that it is important to Pierce to go back to the beginning, so he takes Sampson and goes to Pierce's apartment where Isabella was killed.

Pierce is trying to kill himself. Pierce has opened his own chest the same way he did to Isabella. Mr. Smith is to be the final victim. Cross does not want Pierce to die, however,



and attempts to stop the bleeding. Pierce wants to die. Pierce pulls a scalpel on Cross, forcing Sampson to kill him. Sampson almost lost Cross once, he does not want to risk it again. Pierce is dead and the Mr. Smith case is over.

Cross knows now how lucky he is to have his family and his life. Cross wants to revel in it for a time. However, Cross has something he has to do, something to make his life even better than it was before. Cross asks Christine to marry him. However, the book ends before Christine answers. Now the reader has the next Cross novel to look forward to.



Characters

Alex Cross

Alex Cross is a detective with the Washington D.C. police department. Cross has investigated a great number of crimes in his career. Cross is also a psychologist. During a recent case, Cross interviewed the kidnapper Gary Soneji, trying to establish if Soneji was a criminal mastermind or suffering multiple personality. When the case ended, Soneji attempted to kill Cross. Now Soneji is still focused on Cross and wants to kill him. However, Soneji wants to leave a legacy for himself before he finishes Cross.

Cross spends a great deal of time trying to track down Soneji through the clues Soneji leaves him at his crime scenes. Soneji makes many threats against Cross, promising to kill him and his family. Cross is close to his family so these threats concern him. Cross prefers to keep the world of crime in which he lives stay as far from his family as possible. In fact, Cross has recently fallen in love and he is hoping to make this woman a part of his family, so it is more important than ever to protect his family. Unfortunately, just as Cross believes Soneji is dead and no longer a threat, someone breaks into his house and assaults his entire family.

The attack on Cross is investigated by an FBI agent who has been chasing a serial killer through Europe. This man figures out through Cross's notes on Soneji that the attacker was Soneji's childhood friend, Simon Conklin. When the agent makes this connection, something in his mind snaps and he is no longer able to separate himself from the serial killer he really is. Cross has also figured out the FBI agent's secret and has gathered the evidence needed to track him. Cross and his partner Sampson go after this agent, only to follow him on a path of self-destruction.

John Sampson

John Sampson is Cross's partner. Sampson is a detective who has followed Cross on his many cases. Sampson helps Cross because he is Cross's sounding board. Sampson helps Cross talk out the evidence and figure out what they are missing. Sampson is also Cross's best friend. The two men grew up together in the neighborhood where Cross still lives. Cross thinks of Sampson as a brother and cannot imagine not having Sampson in his life.

When Cross and his family are attacked in their home, Sampson arrives on the scene almost immediately. Sampson joins Craig in scheming against Thomas Pierce. Pierce is brought in to investigate the attacks. Sampson works with him while Cross is in the hospital, going with Pierce to Princeton where they investigate Soneji's surviving family member, a grandfather. Pierce believes that Soneji buried his first victims on his grandfather's farm. Pierce insists that he and Sampson dig a hole on the farm. During the digging of this hole, Pierce believes that he and Sampson make a connection.



However, Sampson knows whom Pierce is and is simply working with him in order to keep an eye on him until the FBI can gather enough evidence to arrest him. Sampson and Cross track Pierce after the evidence is gathered. Unfortunately, Pierce is able to get away. Sampson and Cross come close to stopping Pierce once, but Pierce manages to get away.

Christine Johnson

Christine Johnson is the principal of the Sojourner Truth School where Cross's children attend. Christine's husband died the previous December and Cross worked the case. Cross fell in love with Christine at some point and has now gotten up the courage to ask her out. Christine goes and they have a great time, but Christine refuses to see him again. Christine is afraid of Cross getting killed in the line of duty. However, Cross manages to convince her to give him a second chance.

When Cross and his family are attacked, Christine's fears seem to have come true. At first, it seems she might run away. However, Christine is in love with Cross. When the FBI come to her and tell her their secret investigation and sneak her in to see Cross, she is exhausted by the situation but happy when she is with Cross. When both cases are over, Cross comes to Christine and tells her how much he loves her. Cross proposes, but the novel ends before Christine can give her answer.

Gary Soneji

Gary Soneji is a sociopath who Cross investigated for kidnapping in a previous novel. Soneji kidnapped two children for the money and the prestige he believed the case would bring him. Soneji obsesses over famous criminal cases. These cases once were his solace when he was a small child and his stepmother would lock him in the basement. Now Soneji wants to emulate as many of these cases as he can before he dies of the AIDS virus. Soneji begins by killing people in Union Station sniper style like the shootings at the University of Texas in the sixties.

Soneji leaves messages for Cross at his crime scenes. Soneji wants Cross to know what is going on, to know that Soneji has nothing to lose. Cross follows him closely, finally moving one step ahead of Soneji. Cross catches Soneji as he tries to break into a hospital room and kill the man he blames for giving him the AIDS virus. Cross chases Soneji out of the hospital and into the tunnels under New York City. There, Cross kills Soneji.

Thomas Pierce

Thomas Pierce was once a promising medical student, but is now an FBI agent. When Pierce graduated from medical school, he came home one night after celebrating to find his girlfriend, Isabella Calais murdered in their bed. Pierce was devastated by this and decided then that he wanted to become an FBI agent and track the man who did this



terrible crime. The man who committed the crime has gone on to kill many other people throughout the United States and Europe.

Thomas Pierce is a good detective who has solved many cases, just not the one that matters the most to him. When the Cross family is attacked in their home, Pierce is brought in to investigate. It takes Pierce only a short time to focus on Soneji's childhood friend. Soon Pierce finds evidence of Soneji's earliest crimes and these bring him to Soneji's friend. Pierce comes to believe he is a better investigator than Cross as he has managed to connect this childhood friend to Soneji's final crime.

Kyle Craig

Kyle Craig is a district supervisor in the FBI. Craig is Thomas Pierce's immediate supervisor. Craig calls Cross at the beginning of the novel and invites him to join the Mr. Smith investigation, which is Pierce's biggest case. Cross turns him down because he is busy with the Soneji case. However, Craig is persistent and takes every opportunity he can find to try to talk Cross into joining the investigation. When Cross is attacked in his home, Craig comes in to run the investigation, assigning Pierce to the case. The reader later learns that Cross has brought Pierce onto this case in order to watch Pierce and to develop a case against him. Craig has believed almost since Isabella Calais's death that Pierce is Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith is the name the press has given to a serial killer who has been committing murders in Massachusetts and many places in Europe. Mr. Smith is a gruesome killer who often performs autopsies on his victims before they are dead. The press feels that Mr. Smith is so gruesome that he must be an alien of some sort. No one wants to believe that these killings could be committed by a person with any sort of conscience. Thomas Pierce is one of the investigators on the case through the FBI. Thomas Pierce is also the boyfriend of Mr. Smith's first victim. Pierce was at one time suspected of being the killer, but his grief was so complete that the police did not consider him for very long. However, it turns out later that Pierce is indeed the killer.

Isabella Calais

Isabella Calais is the first victim of Mr. Smith. Isabella is a beautiful woman who had been living with Thomas Pierce for several years before her death. Pierce loved Isabella deeply. However, Isabella Calais was having an affair with another doctor. When Pierce learned of this deceit, he could not control his rage. Pierce killed Isabella as she was sleeping in their bed. Afterward Pierce was so consumed by grief that the police believed he did not commit the murder. However, Pierce did commit the murder and received such pleasure from the act that he reenacts it every time he murders one of his victims.



Nana Mama, Damon, and Jannie

Nana Mama is Cross's grandmother. Nana Mama raised Cross from the time he was a small child. Now Nana Mama takes care of Cross's children when he is working. Nana offers a great deal of love and support to Cross's children, acting as the mother the children no longer have. Nana is also a sounding board for Cross when he needs someone to talk to about the matters of the heart.

Damon and Jannie are Cross's children. The children are school age. They love their dad and like to spend time with him, so they are terribly disappointed whenever his work takes him out of town or keeps him from coming home in the evening. When Cross begins to date Christine, he can see that his children love her and that they need the love a support a woman can provide. Cross thinks about this and wonders if maybe Christine might not make a good mother for his children.

Simon Conklin

Simon Conklin is a childhood friend of Soneji's. In fact, Simon is the only friend Soneji ever had. Simon appears in Cross's notes regarding the kidnapping case. Cross ruled Simon out as Soneji's partner during the investigation of that case, but now Pierce suspects that Simon has been Soneji's partner all along. However, Simon was never Soneji's partner. Simon did commit the attack on Cross and his family. The attack on Cross's family takes place because Soneji threatened Simon. Simon believed if he did not attack Cross's family Soneji would have someone hurt him. When Pierce puts all of this together, he makes Simon one of Mr. Smith's victims.



Objects/Places

Cross Home

Cross and his family are attacked inside his home the night after Gary Soneji is killed.

Piano

The Cross family has a piano on their front porch that Nana taught Alex to play when he was young.

Notes from Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith sends e-mail messages to Pierce after every killing in order to let him know where the body is.

Cross's Notes

Thomas Pierce uses Cross's notes to track down Simon Cronklin, making him a better detective in his mind than Alex.

Cross's Blood

Cross's blood is found at the Union Station crime scene. The blood turns out to be stolen blood from a blood bank where Cross made a donation.

Train Set

As a child, Gary stole his stepbrother's train set and buried it in the yard. Thomas Pierce finds this train set years later in the same grave as some of Soneji's earliest victims.

Sojourner Truth School

The Sojourner Truth School is a school in Washington D.C. where Alex Cross's children attend. It is also the school where Christine Johnson is principal.

Union Station

Union Station is a train station in Washington D.C. where Gary Soneji shot and killed several people in the style of the Texas University shootings.



Penn Station

Penn Station is a train station in New York City where Gary Soneji knifed several men to death during rush hour.

Lorton Prison

Lorton Prison is the prison where Gary spent time before and after his conviction for kidnapping. It is here where Alex Cross learns that Gary has been infected with the AIDS virus.

Cambridge

Cambridge is where the first Mr. Smith victim lived and died. This is also where Thomas Pierce continues to keep an apartment.

London

Mr. Smith is currently on a killing spree in London.

Princeton, New Jersey

Princeton, New Jersey is where Gary Soneji lived as a young man and where he suffered abuse at the hands of his stepmother.



Themes

Revenge

Gary Soneji blames Alex Cross for his impending death. Gary contracted the AIDS virus while in prison. Gary was in prison because Alex Cross caught him after he kidnapped two children from a private Washington D.C. school. During that investigation, Alex came to know Gary well. Alex visited Gary in prison often, attempting to find out if Gary was a split personality or a brilliant criminal mind. As a result, Gary focused on Cross. Gary broke out of jail after his conviction and attempted to kill Cross in his home. Gary promises to do the same this time.

Gary first wants to make a big name for himself. Gary wants to be infamous before he dies. Gary commits several high profile murders, first in Union Station and then at Penn Station. Gary leaves messages for Cross at these crime scenes in the form of blood stains hoping Cross will figure out why Gary has decided he has nothing to lose. Cross figures out the signs and learns the truth about Gary. Alex Cross knows that Gary is more dangerous this time since he has nothing to lose. When Alex confronts Gary face to face he does not attempt to hold back. Gary is killed, removing a danger to Cross and his family.

However, Gary has promised that Cross will still pay for what he has done. The night after Gary has died, the entire Cross family is attacked in their home. Cross is shot twice. Gary, in his conviction that Cross is the cause of all his troubles, has arranged for a friend to break into the Cross home and commit this terrible act. The friend was left with the impression if he did not attack the Cross family someone would come after him. Instead of killing Cross and his entire family, this friend only beats the children and Nana. It is Cross who takes the worse of the attack, but Cross survives his wounds.

Family

Family is highly important to Cross. Cross has two children. Cross and his children live with his grandmother, the woman who raised Cross as a child. Cross does all he can to give his children a normal life. Cross tries to keep his job from his home and gives an effort to being home every night to spend a normal evening with his kids. When his job does interfere with his home life, Cross does all he can to make sure his kids know that he would rather be with them. Therefore, when Gary Soneji wants to hurt Cross, he targets not only Alex himself, but his family as well. Gary arranges for someone to break into Cross's home and instructs him to kill the entire Cross family. The man refuses to kill the children and Cross's grandmother, but shoots Cross twice with the hope of killing him.

Family is important to Gary as well, but in a different way. Family is the reason Gary is as emotionally crippled as he is. When Gary was a small child, he lost his mother too.



However, Gary's father remarried. Gary's stepmother was an unkind woman who often locked the young boy in the basement. Gary hated his stepmother, came back as a young man, and killed her along with his father who allowed the abuse to take place.

As an adult, Gary got married and had a daughter. Gary had no respect for his wife, no love. Gary married her to give the world the impression that he was normal. After Gary's arrest for the kidnappings, his wife divorced him. Now Gary goes back and kills his wife for her disloyalty and simply because he had always disliked her. However, Gary does not harm his daughter. Gary's daughter was always the one person he felt emotion for and the one thing he always thought he had done right.

Remorse

Mr. Smith is a brutal killer. Mr. Smith began his killing spree with the murder of a young woman in Cambridge named Isabella Calais. The rest of Mr. Smith's victims appear to be random. However, Alex Cross eventually begins to see a pattern in the selection of the victims. When Cross puts the first or last initials of each victim together, he discovers that they spell a message: I murdered Isabella Calais. This message speaks of remorse for the original murder and gives Alex Cross proof to the identity of the killer.

Alex Cross realizes that Thomas Pierce, the brilliant FBI agent, is Mr. Smith. All these years Pierce has been hunting Mr. Smith he has actually been committing the murders and sending messages to himself. Cross realizes that the selection of the victims is a cry for help. Thomas Pierce wants to be stopped. When Pierce gets to the s in his message, Cross realizes that it stands for Smith and this is how Pierce has always planned to stop the killer. Cross arrives at the scene of Isabella's murder too late to save Pierce. However, Cross gets a confession from Pierce admitting what he has done and why, relieving him of some of his remorse.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel fluctuates between first person and third person. As with most Cross novels, Alex's narration is first person, giving the reader an intimate connection to the detective and his investigation. Other characters are usually seen through the third person, viewed through the eyes of the narrator but given the distance of the third person pronoun. However, in this novel, Thomas Pierce is also given the intimacy of the first person point of view during his investigation into the attack on the Cross family.

This point of view works not only because the first person gives a sense of intimacy to the reader between them and Cross, but in this novel it also covers up the fact that Thomas Pierce is under investigation by Cross and the FBI in the Mr. Smith case. If Pierce were to be viewed through the third person point of view or the eyes of another character, this fact might have been given away. The third person point of view in these novels also works because it gives some distance between the reader and the criminals that Cross is investigating. By doing this, the writer is able to keep some things a surprise until it is necessary for the reader to see the truth.

Setting

The novel has several settings. The first and most important is Washington D.C. Cross lives in Washington D.C. and this is where his family lives. Cross's enemies come to Washington in order to harm him, including Gary Soneji who is intent on punishing Cross for what he sees as Cross's injury toward him. Also a setting in this novel is London, where Mr. Smith is on a killing spree. Another setting is Princeton, New Jersey where Gary Soneji was born and raised.

The settings in this novel are simply a background to the criminal acts being perpetrated and investigated throughout. The most important setting and the one with the most emotional impact on the story is the Cross home. This is where Cross goes to get away from the darkness of the world and his job. This is where Cross's children live, happily ignorant of the darkness in the world. However, the darkness enters this home one night when a man breaks in and attempts to kill Cross. Cross and his grandmother manage to return the home to the family sanctuary it has always been with their love and respect for the children.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is a mixture of simple English and more precise, educated English. Cross and his partner, Sampson, as well as their closest associates all speak proper English that is tinged with the slang of their culture. Cross does not speak street



slang, but he does speak a more relaxed language. Thomas Pierce, on the other hand, speaks cultured English that comes from his Cambridge education and time spent in England. Pierce seems to be a more sophisticated and talented investigator than Cross because of his language skills, but this is soon proven to be false.

The language in this novel works because it is true to the characters. If Cross were to speak cultured English or street slang, he would lose credibility as an educated man as well as an experienced Washington D.C. detective. If Pierce spoke less cultured English, he would lose credibility as the highly educated man that he is supposed to be. Not only this, but if the writer had chosen to write his novel in a more difficult language, he would have lost his tone of mystery and criminal cruelty that is so important to the story.

Structure

The novel is divided into a prologue, an epilogue, five parts, and one hundred and thirty-one chapters. Each of the parts has a name that describes the story that will unfold within its chapters. The chapters are short, many no more than a page or so in length. This short length of the chapters allows the writer to keep the action quick, adding to the suspense that builds within the narration as Cross chases not one, but two killers.

The novel tells its story in a linear fashion. The story builds off of several previous Cross novels and these back stories are offered to the reader throughout the novel, the information given in small pieces whenever necessary. There is one man story with several sub plots. The main story follows Cross as he attempts to hunt down his old nemesis, Gary Soneji. Cross does this quite easily, leaving him time to solve another series of murders taking place in Europe as well as America. One of the subplots follows Alex Cross through a romance with his children's principal. Another follows the actions of the investigator in charge of the Mr. Smith murders. These stories all interconnect throughout the development of the main plot, moving seamlessly in and out of each story in such a way that the reader is unaware of the transitions.



Quotes

"The killer who was currently terrorizing Europe was named Mr. Smith, no first name. It was given to him by the Boston press, and then the police had obligingly picked it up all over the world. He accepted the name, as children accept the name given by their parents, no matter how gross or disturbing or pedestrian the name might be."
Prologue, *Catch a Spider*, Chapter 2, pg. 6

"Alex Cross is a dead man. Failure isn't an option."
Part One, *Train Station Murders*, Chapter 4, pg. 15

"Then Gary Soneji pulled the trigger a second time. He murdered the father before he had a chance to grieve. He felt absolutely nothing for either of them. Not love, not hate, not pity. He didn't flinch, wince, or even blink." Part One, *Train Station Murders*, Chapter 8, pg. 28

"If you ever began to face all the facts, you probably wouldn't get up in the morning."
Part One, *Train Station Murders*, Chapter 19, pg. 58

"He probably even knows I'm here in New York, I thought. And I'm not completely sure who is tracking whom." Part Two, *Monster Hunt*, Chapter 26, pg. 87

"I had what I needed all right. Gary Soneji was dying. He wanted me to follow him into hell. He was on a rampage with nothing to lose, nothing to fear from anyone."
Part Two, *Monster Hunt*, Chapter 38, pg. 122

"For once Detective Groza didn't answer. He was quiet and unresponsive. I wasn't completely certain myself. Still, I trusted my instincts, especially when it came to Soneji. I was following in his bloody footsteps and I didn't think I was too far behind."
Part Two, *Monster Hunt*, Chapter 43, pg. 135

"No one in the police manhunt would ever guess the beginning, middle, but especially the end. None of them could imagine where this was heading, where it had been going from the first moment inside Union Station." Part Two, *Monster Hunt*, Chapter 49, pg. 151

"I could still feel Christine's body against me, smell her new Donna Karan perfume, hear the special music of her voice. Sometimes you just get lucky in life. Sometimes the universe takes care of you pretty good." Part Three, *Cellar of Cellars*, Chapter 66, pg. 202



"I finally left Cross and Sampson alone. I wondered if I would ever see Alex Cross again. I doubted that I would. I didn't believe in miracles anymore."
Part Four, Thomas Pierce, Chapter 80, pg. 243

"As they say in the Wild, Wild West, you have to get right back on the horse that threw you. I spent two days back in Washington, but it seemed more like a couple of hours. Everybody was mad at me for getting into the hunt. Nana, the kids, Christine. So be it."
Part Five, Cat and Mouse, Chapter 110, pg. 332

"I was trying to live my life differently, but it's hard to change old habits. I had a saying I really liked: heart leads head." Epilogue, Home Again, Home Again, Chapter 131, pg. 397

Topics for Discussion

Why is Gary Soneji focused on Cross? What did Cross do to Gary? Is Gary insane? What makes Gary insane? Is Gary simply evil?

Why does Gary want to be famous? How does Gary plan on becoming famous? Why is Gary fascinated with famous killers? What brought about this fascination? How would Gary be a different person if not for his stepmother? How would he be the same?

Why does Gary steal and leave Cross's blood at Union Station? What is this supposed to tell Cross? Does Cross get the message? Why does Gary blame Cross for his health condition? Is Cross to blame?

Who is Thomas Pierce? Does Pierce know who Mr. Smith is? Why does he send messages to himself? Why does Pierce pick his victims by their names? What purpose does this serve? Does Pierce want to be stopped? Why does he not stop himself?

Who attacks Cross's family? Why does he not kill them? Has he always been Gary's partner? Why did Cross believe Gary never had a partner? Was Cross wrong? Do sociopaths normally have partners? Why did Gary trust this man? Who was he?

Discuss Christine Johnson. What does she have to do with the overall plot? Why is she included in the story even though she takes no active part in the main plot? What is the intended impact of Cross's proposal to Christine Johnson?

Discuss Cross's family. Why are they such a big part of the novel? How do they impact the main plot? How do they affect Cross's motivations? Why is this family attacked by Sonji's partner? How does Cross repair the damage done to his family?