

# **Cathedral Study Guide**

## **Cathedral by Nelson DeMille**

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## Plot Summary

The book opens with Sheila Malone, George Sullivan and Liam Coogan in a cottage with two British soldiers that they have been holding. Sheila has been ordered to kill them so they walk them out to the ravine and shoot them. Sheila could not bear to get close enough for a head shot so Liam had to deliver the final bullets. Afterward, Liam made his own way back to Belfast, while Sheila and George met the others in the car and drove to Belfast. On the way, she throws the pistol out the window.

The above sets the scene for this exciting novel by Nelson DeMille. On September 17, St. Patrick's Day, all of New York is getting ready for the big parade, and the Irish population and others celebrate the holiday well into the wee hours of the morning. This day is different. Police Intelligence Officer Patrick Burke expects trouble. Maureen Malone is in town and is supposed to take part in the festivities and will be in the reviewing stand at the Cathedral. She is on a Belfast IRA death list for deserting the organization. He also has word from his informers about a group called the Fenians, a radical break off group of the IRA.

As the festivities get under way, the Cathedral is taken along with four hostages: Maureen Malone, statesman Sir Harold Baxter, the Cardinal, and Father Murphy who was saying mass at the Cathedral. The group holding them is called the Fenians and their leader is Finn MacCumail whose real name is Brian Flynn. They have a well planned operation, from jamming the police communications to the list of names of people held under the British Special Powers Act that they want released by sunrise. They have the Cathedral rigged with bombs to explode at 6:03 am.

Against this backdrop, the police have to do what they can to rescue the hostages and save the Cathedral. None of the governments will give in to their demands and release the prisoners held in England and Ireland. Given this situation, there is a traitor in the police department who basically sells out the police attack force because his daughter is being held by the Fenians. There is a shady British Military Intelligence officer who is too involved in the whole plot from beginning to end. There is John Hickey, who staged his own death and funeral and is the one that wants to die in the Cathedral explosion. There are city and state officials that are more interested in public relations than they are in the danger to lives.

Cathedral by Nelson DeMille is a very exciting book that is hard to put down once the reader begins reading it. The reader will sit on the edge of seat from the time s/he begins the book until s/he reaches the final page. It is recommended reading for any lover of suspense novels.



# Book 1, Chapters 1-4

## Book 1, Chapters 1-4 Summary

The book opens with Sheila Malone, George Sullivan and Liam Coogan in a cottage with two British soldiers that they have been holding. Sheila has been ordered to kill them, so they walk them out to the ravine and shoot them. Sheila could not bear to get close enough for a head shot, so Liam had to deliver the final bullets. Afterward, Liam made his own way back to Belfast, while Sheila and George met the others in the car and drove to Belfast. On the way, she throws the pistol out the window.

Sheila is arrested under the Specials Powers Act in the middle of the night and loaded into the back of a truck which contained a dozen other prisoners. The British soldiers drive them to Long Kesh, which the Irish Catholics call Dachau. After being abused and beaten by a group of soldiers, she is questioned by Major Bartholomew Martin who tells that they found a gun and explosives in her home. She says that there was no such thing and Martin tells her that it doesn't matter if there was or not. It's what's in the report that is important and Liam Coogan has turned Queen's evidence.

Martin tells her that since she is an IRA member, they will try to convict her for treason. He also tells her that Liam said that Maureen, her sister, and Brian Flynn, Maureen's lover, were involved. He talks to her about hanging them even though his real goal is to capture and interrogate Brian Flynn. Martin then tells her what the deal is. She has to name Flynn as an IRA member and the murderer. Then she will be an accessory and released in several years. Her sister will have to leave Ulster. She says she doesn't know where Flynn is, before being taken to her bed.

Maureen and Brian meet Tommy Fitzgerald and Rory Devane, who picks them up in a Belfast Gas Works truck. Sheila is being moved from Long Kesh to Crumlin Road Jail. The IRA is planning to try to free her. They and a group from another car surround the armored vehicle. When the door opens, they find the van full of British troops who open fire. Maureen and Brian are both injured in the ensuing gunfire but she and Brian run. They board a bus and an old woman tells them about a nearby abbey, Whitehorn, where they can be safe. As they are walking there, Maureen says she won't return to Belfast and suggests they go to America.

The priest, Father Donnelly, at the abbey hides them in the crypt under a tomb. Brian and the priest talk while Maureen sleeps and asks the priest to call a number and tell the people that Brian and Maureen need help. The priest calls and tells them that they are to remain there for several days. Their friends are devising a plan for them. Brian finds an old ring in the ruins and the priest tells him to keep it. Maureen tells Brian that she is going to Dublin and doesn't want to be a part of the IRA. She feels that Sheila is a lost cause but Brian tells her that the answers are in America.



After a month with Maureen gone to Dublin, Brian returns to the abbey. He found it locked and the locals told him that no one had been there for years.

## Book 1, Chapters 1-4 Analysis

Sheila Malone and her group killed two British soldiers. On the drive back to Belfast, she throws the gun out of the window. When she is arrested, Major Martin tells her that a gun and explosives were found in her room in her aunt's house. She says it isn't true and that she didn't have anything like that in her room. She knows that she is being set up and then finds out that Liam Coogan has turned Queen's evidence against her and has lied and said her sister Maureen and her lover, Brian Flynn were involved. Martin knows that Maureen is innocent, but Major Martin is using Maureen as a lever. He wants Brian Flynn so he can question him about the Provisional IRA. Martin is openly admitting his plans to Sheila. Martin wants a deal because it is Flynn he really wants. Sheila knows she is being used as bait to draw out Flynn.

When Brian, Maureen and other IRA people try to free Sheila as she is being moved, they find that they have been set up. The van is full of British troops and some of the IRA people are killed, with Brian and Maureen being injured. They follow the advice of a woman on a bus and go to the Abbey for help and as they are walking, Maureen says she won't return to Belfast. She tries to talk Brian into going to America but Brian is too dedicated to the cause in Northern Ireland.

Father Donnelly hides Brian and Maureen at the abbey. He says he offers sanctuary to anyone and is not involved in the politics of their struggle. Maureen follows through with her plans of leaving the area and after a month, Brian drives to the monastery and finds it locked. The locals tell him that it has been deserted for years. Who was Father Donnelly?



## Book 2, Chapters 5-9

### Book 2, Chapters 5-9 Summary

Book 2 opens with Brian Flynn dressed in priest's garments at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. It is four years since he left Whitethorn and has seen Maureen. Father Murphy, who is from Ireland, is preparing to say the St. Patrick's Day mass and notices Brian, and says hello to the man that he thinks is a priest. Brian makes his way upstairs to the choir loft and then climbs to the bell tower, taking with him the package that he carried. The package contained a black metal box with a timer. Flynn wires it in the bell tower and sets the timer for 5 pm. He comments to himself that it is the last time he will ever see Maureen.

Maureen is on the forty-second floor of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. She had given a speech to members of Amnesty International. She wants the people held under the Special Powers Act in Northern Ireland to be released. She is soon to appear at St. Patrick's Cathedral with the British Counsel, Sir Harold Baxter. She looks out the window at the Cathedral and feels that Brian Flynn is in the area.

Terri O'Neal wakes up with the man with whom she spent the night. He says his name is Dan Morgan. He pulls a gun on her and says she is to remain quiet and that he will be staying for a while.

Detective Lieutenant Patrick Burke is meeting with one of his police intelligence contacts. He is worried about the parade even though there have never been any incidents in the past. Maureen Malone's presence is the cause of his worry. He talked to her after her speech about the possibility of an attempt on her life. She says that she always receives threats. His contact, Jack Ferguson, arrives. Ferguson, an officer in the IRA in New York, tells him about the Fenians riding in the parade. They are a group from Ulster and are violent. Ferguson thinks they have an act of violence planned and their leader is called Finn MacCumail.

Burke checks with his office at police intelligence. They know they have a renegade IRA group poking around in New York and Boston and that the group has something planned, but they don't know what or where, but the St. Patrick's Day parade is a good guess. Burke says he try to find out what he can by visiting bars. At the first bar he meets Major Martin of British Intelligence. They go to the offices of the British Information Services to talk. They make arrangements for future exchanges of information and Martin tells Burke that he can always reach him by calling the British Information Services office and asking for Mr. James. Martin tells Burke that Maureen has been condemned to death by the IRA, but she is probably not the target of the Fenians. That target is probably some British property.



## Book 2, Chapters 5-9 Analysis

Flynn is now in New York and at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It is St. Patrick's Day. He wires a box in the bell tower. He knows that Maureen is to appear later that day with the British Counsel, Sir Harold Baxter. Maureen can't envision how the day will end. She remembers the slogan, "once in, never out" and feels that Brian Flynn is somewhere in the area; she is not wrong since she receives a bouquet of green carnations with a card. The card, signed by Finn MacCumail, uses the same terminology as the time when she was in hiding and received a bouquet of flowers from British Military Intelligence.

Detective Lieutenant Patrick Burke, an officer in police intelligence, receives information from an IRA informant, Jack Ferguson, of a group known as the Fenians, who are a violent segment from Northern Ireland. Their leader is called Finn MacCumail, and Ferguson hopes to have more information about him later that day. Burke begins to think that this St. Patrick's Day will be different than the others.

Maureen antagonizes the British Counsel at the breakfast she had with the people from Amnesty International. Before leaving for the parade, she receives a bouquet of green carnations. Before she finishes reading the card, she knows it is from Flynn.

Major Martin is in New York and meets Burke. They talk about the Fenians and Burke says that he thinks that Maureen is the target. Martin disagrees. She has been condemned to death by the IRA, but they won't kill her in New York. He thinks the target is some British property in New York.



## Book 3, Chapters 10-14

### Book 3, Chapters 10-14 Summary

Preparations for the beginning of the parade are still in progress. The parade mascots are from the Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment and one of them comments that he has the feeling that something is not right, as he had in Vietnam. Maureen is standing on the steps of the Cathedral with Sir Harold, the Cardinal and others. Maureen tells Baxter that she thinks an assassin will try to kill her today and he says there are probably a few that would like to kill him also.

Burke learns from Jack Ferguson that the Fenians recruited some members of the Boston IRA and that the man calling himself MacCumail wear a big ring. He also tells Burke that the man was once captured by British Intelligence. They will meet at the zoo at four thirty as planned and Jack will call if he has more information. Burke is concerned about there being trouble at the reviewing stands. He didn't think that anyone who was Irish would attack the Cathedral. While he is thinking this, Terri O'Neal is still being held by Dan Morgan, who receives a call from Finn MacCumail.

Burke continues barhopping, looking for anyone that he knows to obtain information. At every bar, he made sure he told the bartender where he was going next. He checks in with his office and finds the FBI has uncovered an arms sale in New Jersey and that the buyers had Irish accents. Burke meets with Ferguson and learns that Finn MacCumail is Brian Flynn who used to be Maureen's lover. Ferguson thinks that Flynn will try to kill Maureen at St. Patrick's.

After a phone call, Dan Morgan hangs a green shamrock flag out the window. Brendan O'Connor, in the crowd, sees the signal and drops two CS gas grenades and walks away. James Sweeney cuts the wires to the police mobile van and walks away with the crowd fleeing the gas canisters. At five pm when the bells at the cathedral chime, the wired box is activated and transmits static over the entire spectrum, jamming all radios in the midtown area.

Burke tries to notify the mobile van units that the attack will be at the cathedral, but all radio channels are jammed. At the cathedral, Maureen notices the parade slow and tells Sir Harold that something is wrong. He tells her to remain alert.

The people from the reviewing stand, including Baxter and Maureen, and taken inside the Cathedral for safety. As they are, some armed police stop the security people. Inside, Fr. Murphy is still saying mass as the Cardinal and the group walks toward the altar. Brian Flynn, who is disguised as a priest and standing at the side of the altar, draws a gun, and Maureen recognizes Brian Flynn. He announces that there is a small fire in the basement and tells the people to leave and they exited into the riot taking place on the street.





Flynn walks up to Maureen and tells her he is in America on his terms. She says he won't get away with it but he says he will. He tells Baxter he would like to kill him and Baxter says his kind would like to kill anyone. Flynn asks Maureen if she knew he was there and she said yes. After the mass attendees have exited the Cathedral, Burke makes it to the door and finds a sign taped to the door saying that the cathedral is under the control of Finn MacCumail and his Fenian army.

## **Book 3, Chapters 10-14 Analysis**

In the tension and anticipation before the parade, Maureen tells the British Counsel that she thinks an assassin will try to kill her during the day. He says jokingly that there are probably several out there that would like to kill him also. She later is confronted by Flynn in the cathedral and is afraid.

Burke doesn't like the way the situation is developing. Ferguson's information about MacCumail is that he was once captured by British Intelligence. Who did he meet with earlier but Major Martin. Burke sees a situation developing with British Intelligence in town and he isn't wrong. The well planned action of the Fenians begins with a phone call to Dan Morgan, who hangs a flag out of the window. This is the signal for the release of CS gas and the cutting of the wires in the police mobile command center. This starts the whole situation which is being watched by Martin and an American named Kruger. Martin tells Kruger that he steered Flynn to American after catching him several months earlier. Burke wasn't wrong in saying that if there was an Irish conspiracy, there was also a British conspiracy.



## Book 4, Chapters 15-20

### Book 4, Chapters 15-20 Summary

Burke pushes the Cathedral door, trying to open it. A voice from inside tells him that they are placing mines on the doors and to stay away. Inside, Brian is talking to John Hickey saying they bought themselves some time because the police are busy with the mob. They look at the blueprints for the structure and wonder if they can hold it and for how long. They look for ways that the police can enter the cathedral.

Megan is positioning people around the Cathedral, making sure they know what their orders are. She orders the men to chop wood and put it around the votive candles in case they have to burn the cathedral. Outside, Burke is positioning police officers at each of the cathedral's entrances.

The police pointed a spotlight at the tower and Mullins, one of the IRA, shot it out. The IRA people are in contact with one another through mobile field phones. Megan can see that the police are making progress in clearing the area around the cathedral and are on the roof of the Saks store.

While Hickey and Flynn are going over the plans of the Cathedral, they find a tower that seems to have no purpose. Eamon Farrell is sent to explore it and finds a trap door, a means of escape if he needs one. With their people in position, Hickey, Flynn and Megan moved around the cathedral as Maureen sat there and watched. She knew Gallagher and Devane from her days in the IRA and she knew Tommy, the brother of Megan and Pedar.

Maureen tells Baxter that they should make a break for it, with the Cardinal and Father Murphy. She will be able to disarm the mines on the doors. Neither she nor Baxter has a chance of surviving. She tells him that the IRA's way is to kneecap people several hours before killing them. Baxter finally agrees to help in the escape.

Megan talks to her brother Pedar. They decide that if Brian falters in any way, then they will take over. As Megan is talking with Flynn and Hickey, the church phone rings and Flynn answers it. The call is from Police Sergeant Tazik who is in the rectory. Flynn tells him they will kill the four hostages if the police enter the cathedral and to have someone with rank in the police department call him.

After the phone discussion, Flynn, Hickey and Megan decide who will kill which hostage. Megan then goes with Hickey to place the bombs, which are in suitcases. Hickey finds what he thinks is a structural weak point and plants the explosives with the time set for twelve hours.



## Book 4, Chapters 15-20 Analysis

Everyone has said that John Hickey was dead. Burke found out that Ferguson recognized him right before the Cathedral was taken. Hickey and Flynn study the plans of the Cathedral trying to figure out the best way to defend their position. They don't have enough people to guard all of the openings. They are prepared to destroy the Cathedral if their demands are not met.

Megan seems to be the most determined of the terrorists. She moves around giving orders to everyone, making sure they are properly positioned. She tells her brother, Pedar, that if Brian hesitates or can't go through with their plan, then they will take over. Their brother Tommy is in prison for life and there is the possibility that they could go to an American prison or be killed.

Maureen's former training and skills take over and she tells Baxter that they must try to escape. She can disarm the mines at the church door. The cardinal and Father Murphy will probably live, but she and Baxter are dead no matter what if they don't escape. Baxter agrees to help.



## Book 4, Chapters 21-25

### Book 4, Chapters 21-25 Summary

Father Murphy goes to talk to the cardinal while Maureen and Baxter continue to have their own discussion. As they are talking, Maureen jumps up and starts to make a break for it. Farrell and Leary both fire at her and miss. She is yanked back into the pew by Baxter. Megan walks up and draws a gun and aims it at Maureen. Both the Cardinal and Father Murphy come running while Baxter blocks Maureen with his body.

Murphy grabs Megan and throws her to the floor and she aims the gun at the priest. Flynn runs over shouting no at Megan. Hickey leads Megan away. Flynn tells them that if one of them escapes, one of the others dies. Pedar tells Flynn to watch out for Megan and Flynn says they all have to watch out for Megan.

While Burke and Tezik are in the middle of their confrontation, they are told of the shots being fired in the cathedral. Just then the phone rings and Tezik grabs it. It is MacCumail who tells them that shots were fired but no one is hurt. They will have until sunrise for the demands he is going to make and they better find someone of rank that he can talk to.

Burke manages to get a call to go through to headquarters and finds out that there is almost no communications. There is a radio jammer in the Cathedral. He tells them that they need someone with rank to be brought in to handle the discussions with MacCumail and they need emergency phone lines installed. They also need an emergency team there, complete with snipers.

Burke goes to talk to MacCumail and pauses in the corridor to collect himself. Inside the Cathedral, Baxter, Fr. Murphy and the cardinal are trying to talk to Maureen, who tells them to leave her alone. They walk away to talk among themselves. Baxter says they have an obligation to try to escape. The Cardinal disagrees and says in his church they listen to him. Fr. Murphy eventually agrees with the cardinal that they should do nothing to provoke the terrorists.

Burke moves to the stairway where he is greeted by Pedar. He tells the man that he wants to talk to MacCumail. Burke finds that MacCumail knows that he is from the Intelligence division and also that MacCumail refuses to allow him to speak to the hostages. He asks for his demands and says he will pass them to the proper authorities. MacCumail gives him a list of names of people held by the British that he wants released by sunrise the next morning and flown to Dublin. They have to be given amnesty by the British. If his demands aren't met, he will throw first Baxter, then the Cardinal, Murphy and finally Maureen from the bell tower and then will blow the Cathedral. He also demands amnesty for the Fenians.



Captain Bert Schroeder receives the call for him to negotiate with MacCumail and the terrorists at the Cathedral. The Mayor and others are in the rectory when he arrives. Schroeder announces the names of the people who will stay in their command room. Martin and Kruger are among those who remain. The group discusses what they know about Flynn and the Fenians.

After the meeting, the governor and the mayor talk. The governor wants to impose a curfew and bring in the National Guard and the State Police. The mayor says they can't cancel St. Patrick's Day. After discussing the situation, they agree to a deal. The governor will bring in the National Guard and assign the State Police to the boroughs so the city police can handle the midtown situation. The governor will also pay all of the bills as well as the cost of clean-up and damages. When the Sixty-ninth Regiment receives the call to report in full riot gear, they are in the middle of a St. Patrick's Day party at the Armory. Most are in various states of intoxication.

Schroeder has the speaker system turned on and begins to talk to MacCumail. He tells MacCumail that representatives of the city, state, federal, Irish and British governments are all there and will speak through him. MacCumail says not to call again until he can tell them that all of the governments have agreed to his demands. He wants all the keys to the cathedral or he will burn the altar. He also wants corned beef and cabbage dinners sent in and specifies from where. Schroeder cannot obtain an extension of the deadline and knows that their first discussion did not go well.

## **Book 4, Chapters 21-25 Analysis**

Maureen causes some excitement when she jumps up to run, but is pulled back by Baxter, after several shots are fired. Megan walks up with her gun drawn ready to shoot Maureen but is called off by Flynn and led away by Hickey. Flynn tells them that if one of them did manage to escape, then another hostage will be killed. When he walks away from them, Pedar warns him about Megan. It is obvious that Megan is looking for an excuse to kill Maureen.

Burke and Tazik are at odds over how to handle the situation, when shots ring out from inside the cathedral. MacCumail then calls them to tell them that no one is hurt and that the demands he will give them must be met by sunrise.

Baxter and the two clerics talk about the possibility of escape. The clerics are against it and feel that they shouldn't provoke the terrorists. Maureen walks up and tells them that the real evil force is Brian Flynn.

Schroeder isn't happy that Burke began negotiations without him. He says that he needs to know the government's position before he opens any dialogue. The representatives from state and federal government don't have any answers yet on the issue of immunity but the representative from the city says they will enforce the laws against the terrorists, no matter what deals the other governments negotiate. Monsignor Downes brings up

the subject of the hostages and the cathedral. Schroeder tells him to watch how hostage negotiations are handled.

Schroeder's first discussion with Flynn does not go well. Flynn isn't really open to negotiations and tells him not to call him again until he can tell him that their demands have been met. He will not agree to any extensions of time. Schroeder knows that the discussion did not go well and reminds himself that he has never lost a building or a hostage. It is obvious that Schroeder is having his doubts.

The situation at the Cathedral is not above politics. The governor's people say the state needs a presence and the mayor says it is the city's problem. They shake on a deal where the National Guard will be called in, the State Police will fill-in in the boroughs and the state will pay the bill for the whole situation.



## Book 4, Chapters 26-30

### Book 4, Chapters 26-30 Summary

Burke delivers the keys, at Flynn's request. Flynn goes on to say that Martin is one of those people who helps manufacture crises to define a purpose for himself. Flynn also thinks that Martin had help in the United States from the CIA or FBI. When Burke asks what Martin's purpose would be, Flynn tells him that he wants the terrorists and hostages dead so the Irish can be portrayed as savages. If Burke can handle Martin, he will handle the Fenians and the hostages and the Fenians will live. He also tells Burke to tell Jack Ferguson to leave the area before he is killed. They know he is a police informer.

Father Murphy talks Maureen into making her confession and Hickey allows them to enter the confessional. Once inside, Murphy tells her to push the button and they can hear them in the rectory. She then begins to tap out Morse Code, telling them the positions of the terrorists, and what she has observed of their weapons and mines.

The men in the command center read the message sent by Maureen. They now have code readers standing by for any future communications from the confessional. From the number of people, they figure there should be at least three more messages. Bellini, who is in charge of the sniper unit, does not like the kinds of weapons that the terrorists have. Schroeder tells Langley, who works in Intelligence with Burke, that he wants information on Megan. The CIA and FBI have nothing in their files, but Major Martin does and will have the information sent by telex. He also wants copies of what they have on Hinkley.

Flynn, who has the keys and is going to explore the crypt, is talking to Maureen. She tells him that she never informed. He says if he thought she had, he would have killed her long ago. He says he will unlock the door and let her leave but she says she won't leave without the others. She tells him to get as far away from Megan as possible if he survives the cathedral seizure. Maureen also finds that he was captured by Major Martin and made a deal with him. If Maureen condones his deal, he will add Sheila's name to the list of people they want released. Just then Burke arrives with the food.

While Burke is there, Maureen tries to talk, giving Flynn's real name and saying that he has only twelve men. Flynn puts his gun to her neck and Burke tells her not to talk. Flynn sends Maureen away and invites Burke to eat with them. When he finds that Martin is involved in the group of decision-makers, he tells Burke to get Martin out. In all the double-dealing that is taking place, the only ones without ulterior motives are the New York police, according to Flynn. Things will begin to happen automatically at sunrise and no one will die if Burke works with him.

When Burke arrives back at the office, he tells them that Flynn says that the cathedral will destruct automatically at sunrise. He tells Schroeder not to plan on any extensions



in time. Martin cuts in and says that Flynn is bluffing. Burke says he wants to talk to a few of the people alone, so the others leave. Burke says that he wants some explanations from the CIA and FBI men. The operation is too sophisticated for the IRA and that Martin had to have help from them in order to orchestrate it. Hogan, from FBI, admits that Flynn worked with British Intelligence. Burke goes on to say that it is obvious that Martin doesn't want a negotiated settlement and that he wants bloodshed. Burke wants Martin excluded from the decision making process. The others agree.

## **Book 4, Chapters 26-30 Analysis**

Flynn trusts Burke enough to talk to him. Flynn knows that he has been used as a pawn by British Military Intelligence. They want him and the hostages dead so they can tell the world how bad the Irish are. He tells Burke to be careful in dealing with Martin, the CIA and the FBI. If he does that, the hostages and the Fenians will live. He also tells Burke that they know Jack Ferguson is a police informer and to tell him to leave town or he will be killed. Flynn is basically telling Burke that the problem for both of them is Martin and his American help. When Burke brings in the food he again talks with Flynn, who wants Martin excluded from the decision making process. If Burke works with Flynn, then no one will die.

Maureen's Morse Code message is studied by the men in the command center. The FBI and CIA have information on Hinkley and the British have information on Megan and Brian. They exchange their information. Schroeder talks to Hinkley when he calls to tell them that Burke is bringing in their food. In response to their discussion, Burke says that they won't have to shoot their way into the Cathedral and Martin responds that he wonders about that. It is beginning to look like Flynn was correct in what he told Burke about Martin.

Maureen talks with Flynn and tells him she never informed. He tells her he was captured by Major Martin and made a deal with him. If she condones his deal, he will add Sheila's name on the list of people they want released. Apparently, it is still important to Flynn to have Maureen's approval.

After another talk with Flynn, Burke confronts Hogan of the FBI and Kruger of the CIA. The operation is too sophisticated for the IRA. They had to have had help. Hogan admits that Flynn made a deal with British Intelligence. Burke says that it obvious that something went wrong in their deal and that Martin won't allow a negotiated settlement. Burke wants Martin kept out of the decision making process. Burke is seeing Flynn's points of view. Martin needs for there to be bloodshed and death in order to make the Irish look bad.





## Book 4, Chapter 30-35

### Book 4, Chapter 30-35 Summary

Flynn conveys some more demands to Schroeder. He basically doesn't want the police to try anything. He wants a television and continuous news coverage during the night. He also wants to hold a press conference at 10 pm that night. Schroeder says that he can't make any promises. Schroeder comes away from the conversation feeling that Flynn is beginning to trust him. He thinks that he is correct in believing that Flynn has no intention of killing anyone or of being killed. Burke doesn't agree. Schroeder tell him to stay out of his job and to let him handle Flynn.

Father Murphy tells the Cardinal that he wants to say confession. They walk to the confessional without asking which causes a commotion. Once in the confessional, as Father Murphy begins to send the Morse Coded message, Hickey opens the curtain and grabs his wrist. Hickey says that he will finish the message, and sends a bunch of disinformation contradicting much of what Maureen had sent. Hickey figures that based on his information the police will try to take the cathedral and the result would be disastrous. The bombs would detonate when the fighting was taking place.

The message is being studied in the command center. Bellini says he needs a few hours to devise a plan to enter the cathedral. Langley tells them not to believe either message. Roberta Spiegel from the Mayor's office, says that the message justifies a preemptive attack and tells Bellini to be ready on very short notice.

Maureen and Baxter walk and talk. He shows her the space where he saw Megan and Hickey come from. They had dirt on their hands. He thinks that if they can get into the space, they can get lost in the area under the cathedral. They tell Father Murphy and the Cardinal who say they will help them but won't go with them.

Burke is sent to talk to Gordon Stillway, the cathedral architect. They are looking for a set of blueprints. Since the city is still crowded, he decides to go by helicopter. Stillway isn't home so he climbs up the fire escape and breaks a window to enter. He looks in the files and finds there is a space where the St. Patrick's Cathedral should be. He relays the information to Langley, who thinks that Flynn took the blueprints and possibly Stillway. Burke says there are wet clothes in the closet and a current newspaper. Stillway came home and went out again.

Burke also calls Jack Ferguson. Burke already had his office call to tell Ferguson he was marked. Now Burke wants to know of his dealings with Martin. Ferguson says Martin thought he could avert the Fenians strike. Ferguson tells him that a girl named Terri O'Neal is missing and he thinks it has something to do with the cathedral. When he hangs up on Ferguson, Burke calls and asks for Ferguson to be taken into protective custody.



Schroeder, Langley and Roberta Spiegel talk about the situation. She tells Schroeder that it is basically up to him to save the situation. She doesn't think the British or Washington will agree to the demands and she says the governor is no help. Schroeder says he doesn't think that they will kill the terrorists at dawn as they claim they will. He also doesn't think that there is any automatic destruct mechanism as they claim. She tells him to get with it: if the Fenians say dawn, they mean dawn. The only one who can deliver a miracle is Bellini.

## Book 4, Chapter 30-35 Analysis

Schroeder has a conversation with Flynn who gives him a list of things that he wants. He tells Schroeder that he wants to talk to him continually during the night and Schroeder believes that Flynn is beginning to relate to him. He doesn't think that Flynn plans to kill anybody. Burke disagrees with him and tells him that maybe he shouldn't have written his autobiography until after he was retired. Flynn knows his whole technique. Schroeder feels that Burke is interfering in his job and Burke feels that Schroeder doesn't fully grasp the situation. The two men have been bickering on and off since the beginning.

Hickey catches Father Murphy sending Morse Code in the confessional. He takes over the code sending and sends a great deal of misinformation leading the police to believe that Baxter will be killed before dawn. Hickey is sure the police will storm the cathedral before then and while the fighting is taking place, the bombs will explode. Hickey is not incorrect. Bellini is order to prepare an attack plan and be ready to move on short notice. Burke is sent to the Cathedral architect's home to see if they can find any blueprints to the Cathedral. Neither the architect or the blueprints are there.

Hickey is sitting in the Cathedral calling the different positions for a status reports. There are snipers on the rooftops of various buildings, which they expected. Schroeder talks with Roberta Spiegel, who believes that an assault on the cathedral is the only hope. She doesn't believe that Schroeder is accurately assessing the situation since he doesn't really believe the dawn deadline. He still thinks that he will obtain an extension.



## Book 4, Chapter 36-40

### Book 4, Chapter 36-40 Summary

Flynn and Hickey played the organ and the others sang. This lessened the tension inside the Cathedral. Baxter nods to Maureen that they are ready for the escape. The Cardinal opens the gate in the communion rail. Flynn watching all of this, alerts Megan and Leary. Flynn tells the Cardinal to stop walking just as Father Murphy pulls the switches on the circuit-breakers, plunging the sanctuary into darkness. Baxter lifts the brass floor plate, and Maureen drops into the space. Baxter is hit by one or more bullets and can't follow.

As Megan, Pedar, Flynn and the others gather around the opening, Baxter is told he was just grazed by the bullet. Flynn is yelling into the hole asking Maureen if she is okay. If she doesn't come back, he says, he will kill Baxter. She tells Flynn that they are all dead anyway. A shot is fired and he tells her that Murphy is next. Hickey and Megan enter the hole, each with flashlights.

Schroeder is trying to contact Flynn but the group in the Cathedral doesn't answer. Bellini has orders to go in if there is no answer. Finally, they hear Flynn's voice telling them of the attempt to escape. Schroeder says they will send in a doctor and Flynn says no. The Cardinal tells Schroeder that Baxter and Murphy are injured, but not badly. He says that Maureen is alive. Schroeder asks to speak to Maureen and Flynn, who took the phone from the Cardinal, tells him later. Schroeder tells him to keep Hickey off the phone because he tells them something different than Flynn does. Flynn breaks the connection.

Maureen is in the underground area hiding by a column not more than fifteen feet from Megan and Hickey. Maureen takes off her panty hose and twists them into a rope to make a garrote. She sees Frank Gallagher drop into the hole. She moves to hide behind another column. She wants to kill Gallagher but remembers Flynn saying that whenever there was doubt, the answer was to run, not to fight. As she moves around, she finds the column with the explosives.

When Gallagher's light finds her, she hits him in the head with a brick and wraps the garrote around his neck but she doesn't strangle him all the way. Megan and Hickey are approaching and find Gallagher. Since she didn't kill Gallagher, Hickey says they won't kill her, the old rules of the IRA.

Hickey is still trying to talk Maureen out of her hiding spot. Maureen tells them that she has Gallagher's gun and their flashlights are quickly turned off. She keeps crawling, trying to find a way out. The flashlights are turned on again and they tell her they found the gun. She finds a door that leads to the corridor but the opening is covered by a wire mesh grill. Hickey reaches her before she can break the grill and escape. He says he



wants her to see Flynn die or Flynn to see her die. Megan wants to kill her but Hickey won't allow it.

Burke returns to the group in the office and asks Langley if he knows who Terri O'Neil and Dan Morgan are. He doesn't. Burke calls Jack Ferguson, who is still in protective custody and tells him that Martin double crossed everyone and wants to make the Irish look bad. Martin is now trying to cover himself. Ferguson understands that he is now on three hit lists but he won't give Burke his sources. After Burke talks to him, they decide to meet at one, if Ferguson doesn't call first.

## **Book 4, Chapter 36-40 Analysis**

The escape plan that the four hostages worked out didn't go off as planned. Maureen made it into the hole but Baxter was hit by a bullet. Flynn had picked up on the activity and alerted the others. When Maureen wouldn't come out of the hole, a shot was fired and he told her that they shot Baxter and that the priest was next. Instead, Hickey and Megan came down into the hole. Maureen is in the area where the explosives are planted, but she doesn't know that yet. She can disarm them if she finds them, which is why Hickey and Megan came after her.

There is tension in the command office when they can't get the terrorists to answer the phone. When Flynn appears on the line, they learn of the escape attempts and the non-serious injuries to Baxter and Murphy. They can't find out much information about Maureen except that she is alive. After Flynn disconnects, Schroeder realizes that they are playing good guy-bad guy with him.

Maureen does find one of the bombs and tries to pull the detonator from the putty. She almost kills Gallagher, but leaves him alive and Hickey says they won't kill her for that. Those are the rules and she knows them too. Maureen is mad at them for underestimating her, for forgetting that she was once one of them and had the same kind of training. She is caught trying to break through the wire mesh. Hickey won't allow Megan to kill her and tells her that he wants her to be there for the end, when the cathedral comes crashing down on the. Maureen tells them that that was the plan all along. Hickey doesn't want anyone to escape.



# Book 4, Chapter 41-45

## Book 4, Chapter 41-45 Summary

Schroeder returns to the rectory office and tells Burke that he has to carry a television set to Flynn. Burke points out that Flynn didn't ask for a television right at the beginning. He is keeping the Fenians isolated so he is their only reality, is pointed out by Langley.

They call Flynn who tells them about Maureen being captured in the crawl space and that they are mining the entrance that she found so they can forget about using it. After talking to Flynn, Burke receives a call from police headquarters with information about Dan Morgan.

Maureen goes out and visits with Baxter and Murphy. Baxter says when everything settles down, they will try to escape again. The Cardinal still believes there will be a negotiated settlement but Maureen says that Hickey means to see them all dead and to destroy the church. She shows them the piece of plastic explosive she pulled from the column. There were two suitcases and she doesn't know where the other one is.

Flynn interrupts them and says he wants to talk to Maureen. He wants her to promise that she won't try to escape again because they will kill her the next time. He asks if Maureen will come with him after they leave the Cathedral. He still believes that he will walk out a free man. He tells her that he will retire. She says that they won't let them retire, she is still wanted by the Belfast IRA. He says that there are places where they could go but she tells him of the danger. Every time one of them went to the store, they would wonder if they would ever see each other again. If she went with him, she would always worry about him. He says the important thing is that she would want to come with him, so he will add Shelia's name to the list of people they want released.

When Flynn walks back out to the sacristy, he finds Burke there with the television set. He tells Burke that he can't give up because there are too many things that are automatic that have been set in place that he can't control. The Cathedral will destruct at 6:03 am. He tells Burke to be in the rectory when dawn approaches.

It is time for the news conference. Hickey defuses the mine at the elevator door and tells Flynn that he should knock three times when he returns. Hickey will defuse the mine then to admit him to the Cathedral. Flynn sends Hickey to do the news conference in his place and he and the others watch on the television. Maureen comments that he is expressing the frustrations of millions of Irish.

On the walk to the elevator, Langley tells Hickey that the British will begin a slow release of the prisons at different time intervals if they end the hostage situation. The U.S. and New York government agreed to their release and low bond terms, which Langley says means they can skip out. Hickey says the Fenians are sticking to their original demands.



When Hickey returns to the cathedral, he tells Flynn that Langley offered them low bond but says there is nothing from the British. Baxter and the others listening to the interchange, decide they will try their next escape attempt in thirty minutes. Murphy and the Cardinal still will not join them. They are not aware that Flynn and Leary are aware of their plans. Flynn says if they don't respond to warning shots, then the shooters should aim for their legs.

Flynn activated the bells to play Johnny Boy. Rory Devane fired flares into the air. The scene was captured by the television crews. While Devane fired the flares, Donald Mullins knocked out glass in the lower sections of the tower to use as observations posts. The noise was covered by the chimes.

## **Book 4, Chapter 41-45 Analysis**

Schroeder and Burke are still criticizing each other over the handling of the Cathedral hostage situation. Schroeder doesn't like the way that Burke talks to Flynn on the phone and wants to know what they talk about when Flynn goes into the Cathedral. Burke makes a sarcastic remark about Schroeder not gaining the release of the Cardinal when he had a chance to. The tension between the two is increasing as time goes on.

Maureen talks to Jean Kearney, one of the terrorists, while she is cleaning up after coming out of the crawl space. They still talk about her and her exploits in the IRA. When Brian walks in, he says he wants to talk to her out in the Cathedral, kisses her, and walks out. The Cardinal has apparently correctly assessed the situation. Brian won't hurt Maureen if she shows that she cares about him and says that they should all act as if they care about him as a person.

Flynn talks to Burke about how there are so many automatic mechanisms in place that he can't control it. Flynn is beginning to make sense. If the Fenians receive everything they demand, there is no way that Hickey and probably Martin can see their own objectives being obtained. That would be the only way to beat Martin's plan. Viewed from this perspective, Flynn and the others are trapped by the situation.



## Book 4, Chapter 46-50

### Book 4, Chapter 46-50 Summary

Baxter feels it is time for their escape attempt. Maureen makes it down the stairs by the altar before anyone notices. Baxter fights with Fitzgerald for the machine gun, as did Father Murphy. Maureen poked Fitzgerald in the eyes and he let go of the gun, which Baxter hits him with. Maureen shoots the lock off the doors but Baxter and Murphy can't open them because they are locked. Maureen is out of ammunition.

Maureen, Baxter and Murphy are brought back to the pew area. Hickey hits Baxter in the head with a blackjack. Gallagher handcuffs Maureen to Baxter and Murphy to the Cardinal. The police are chased out of the sacristy area. John Hickey answers the phone call from an excited Schroeder. Hickey says they don't need a doctor for the hostages or the injured Fitzgerald, but he needs ice and a tracheal tube.

Megan takes Baxter's belt and starts hitting him. Maureen covers Baxter's body with her own and sustains a beating from Megan while the bells continue to play Irish songs. Hickey calls around to the different positions for a status report. Schroeder calls and Hickey answers the phone. Hickey wants a status report, more than what was on television, which showed scenes of the White House, number 10 Downing Street and the Vatican. He tells Schroeder there are no deals: they want all of their demands met. There will be no more calls from Schroeder, Hickey says, unless it is to tell them that all of their demands have been met. Hickey will call every hour.

Bellini has the press corps move out of the Cathedral's press room and moves his ESD force of sixty in. They go over their plans for the assault. If they keep firing at the terrorists' positions, they won't be able to fire back. When they take a break, Langley and Burke come in and sit with Bellini. Burke receives a call from Ferguson who wants to meet with him. Bellini wants to know where the blueprints and architect are and Langley tells him they are working on it and that Burke may be able to come up with something.

As Burke is walking to his meeting with Ferguson, he hears the Cathedral bells playing. He finds Ferguson dead in the icy water of a park. Ferguson had been kneecapped. Major Martin appears. He recognizes the body of Ferguson. Martin says he followed Burke but Burke is sure that he wasn't followed. Burke asks where Stillway is and Martin says he doesn't know.

Martin says he needs a lasting symbol of Irish terrorism, not just Flynn's death. He needs for the Cathedral to be destroyed. Burke tells him that Flynn may talk to the press about the English involvement in the operation that Martin called Operation Phoenix. Burke, with his gun at Martin's temple, says if the Cathedral is destroyed, Martin is dead. Martin will deliver Stillway if the assault is launched before Flynn can negotiate a compromise.





Flynn wanders around the Cathedral at 3 am. He pauses by Maureen and apologizes for not being able to help her. Their conversation turns to John Hickey and Maureen says that Hickey will somehow make sure that they all die. He tells Maureen to follow him and they go to the locked gate. Flynn unlocks it and tells her to go. She says she won't go without him. She goes back and lies down next to Baxter.

When the phone rings, it is Schroeder who became anxious when the sleeping Hickey didn't call. Flynn has not responded to the government's offer. After mentioning to Hickey that there were too many things he hadn't told Flynn, he notices that Fitzgerald is dead. Hickey tells Flynn to tell Schroeder that his daughter is a dead bitch.

Flynn tells Schroeder that he wants him to try hard to get the governments to meet his demands. Flynn tells him that Terri Schroeder O'Neal wants her father to try harder. Flynn gives Schroeder a hand-written note from Terri who says she is being held by the Fenians. She will be okay if everything goes well at the Cathedral. Flynn tells Schroeder he has to find a way to have Bellini call off the assault and for the governments to release the prisoners. Schroeder says he won't do it. Flynn tells him to think about it.

## Book 4, Chapter 46-50 Analysis

The second escape attempt is also botched when they can't open the locks on the door and the gun they wrestled from Fitzgerald runs out of ammunition. Fitzgerald is seriously injured by Baxter but Hickey refuses the offer of medical aid. Megan decides she wants to keep her brother with her instead of sending him to a hospital.

Bellini takes over the Cathedral press room. From his discussion with Langley and Burke, it is obvious that he is not optimistic about the situation. They don't have any blueprints and the police can't find the architect. Bellini is showing the effects of the pressure.

When Burke finds Ferguson kneecapped body, Martin appears. Martin finally confesses to his role in the Cathedral hostage situation, that he named Operation Phoenix. Burke tells him that he is dead if the Cathedral is destroyed. Burke needs Stillway and Martin knows it. They make a deal that Martin will deliver Stillway if the assault on the Cathedral is launched before Flynn can negotiate a compromise. Martin confirmed everything that Burke had thought about him and his involvement.

Flynn finds out that the governments made an offer from Schroeder. Flynn hasn't responded to it because Flynn didn't know about it. Hickey never told him. Flynn tells Hickey that he has had it with Hickey's not telling him things and telling things to the Fenians that he, Flynn does not know about.

Flynn meets with Schroeder and learns about the government's offer. It is not acceptable since Flynn wants all of their demands met. He tells Schroeder that he wants him to start to really try. When Schroeder starts giving him the usual line, Flynn tells him they are holding Terri Schroeder O'Neal and they will kill her if they don't get what they want. He tells Schroeder to find a way to prevent Bellini from attacking and to



pressure the government into granting their demands. Schroeder refuses. Schroeder, who published his memoirs before he retired, apparently included information about his family in his book. Flynn tells Schroeder to think about it and not to kill himself.



# Book 4, Chapter 51-55

## Book 4, Chapter 51-55 Summary

The governor is under pressure to have the police storm the Cathedral. He meets with the people, including Martin, in New York. Monsignor Downes reports that the Pope will personally appeal to the Fenians to release the hostages and not damage the Cathedral. He offers the Vatican as a meeting place for negotiations with the Fenians. Most of the others oppose this idea. Roberta Spiegel says they won't allow them to leave the city so any negotiations have to take place at the Cathedral. She says they should talk about when the attack will begin. The governor says they want a hard-line approach and believe it is a local matter.

Martin says that it is time to talk about a rescue operation. The mayor tells Monsignor Downes that he won't order an assault without the approval of a ranking member of the Catholic Church. They also need to be able to say that the Fenians have made new demands. Martin says that Burke will soon have the architect and blueprints for the Cathedral. The governor says he wants at least one squad of National Guard involved in the assault. Martin says they should attack before dawn.

When Bellini, Schroeder and the others are told, Bellini brings up the subject that the Fenians aren't criminals. They are terrorists and well trained. They could have flame-throwers and other weapons. Bellini is upset and being told that he has to sign a document before the assault. He says he will wait until he sees the blueprints before deciding if he will sign any paper. The Mayor mentions the word resignations and then tells them that there will be promotions for all involved. Schroeder is told he has to sign a paper saying that he recommends the end of negotiations and that Flynn made more demands. Schroeder refuses. Roberta tells him that if he doesn't do it their way, he will be brought up on charges. Schroeder then begins to talk about the numbers the terrorist have and flame throwers.

Langley tells Burke what happened with Schroeder and that he, Burke, will be the temporary negotiator until they decide what to do. Martin told them that Burke would soon have Stillway and the blueprints. Burke says that he is sure that Martin killed Ferguson. Langley rambles on about promotions if they sign the paper they will be given.

Burke goes up on the rectory roof with Spiegel and Martin. As Burke listens to them, he wonders about Martin and Schroeder and begins to remember Schroeder's daughter from a party several years earlier. Spiegel wants Burke to provide the information they need to formulate a third assault plan.

Schroeder goes to the gate to talk to Flynn. He tells him of the attack plans. They will use carriers to hit the doors of the Cathedral and cut the electricity. Others will enter through the windows. They will pump gas through the vents and there will be helicopters



and snipers. He will be with Bellini entering through the sacristy and will go for the hostages. Flynn tells him the hostages will be dead by then. There is nothing that Schroeder can do to stop the attack. He asks if Flynn will release his daughter and Flynn says not until he knows if Schroeder's details are accurate.

Martin appears with Gordon Stillway, the architect. Martin says they still have fifteen minutes before the attack is to begin. At first Stillway refuses to have any part in an attack on the Cathedral, but then after listening to Burke, decides he will cooperate.

When Schroeder appears in the room where Bellini and the others are, Burke says they are reformulating the attack plans, and Schroeder starts screaming no. Burke tells Bellini to take Schroeder's gun. Bellini punches Schroeder and says he tried to kill him. After Schroeder is removed, Bellini goes back to talking with his men.

Flynn finds Gallagher saying confession and gives him the part of the attack plan for the sacristy. He and Hickey walk around talking to the others saying if they stop they attack, their relatives will be free from prison at dawn. Murphy, walking around with Flynn, sees all the explosives and mines at the doors. Flynn talks to each of the Fenians and goes over their orders while Father Murphy hears their very brief confessions. When they reach Megan, she asks if Pedar is dead and Flynn tells her yes. She tells Flynn that they won't allow for any compromises or surrender.

After talking to all the Fenians, Flynn handcuffs Murphy to a ladder, puts his pistol on the floor, then climbs down the ladder, leaving Murphy alone. Flynn finds Hickey and asks if Schroeder has called and finds that he hasn't. They don't know if there is a change of plans or not. Flynn takes off his ring and gives it to Hickey. Hickey tells Flynn that he views him as the perpetrator of the problem into the next generation. Flynn says he sees his point, that it is his fault that Hickey is there and he is charged with seeing that Hickey does no further harm. Flynn wasn't strong enough to stand up to Hickey.

When Flynn tells the Cardinal of the coming attack, he tells him to spend time with Maureen. Flynn removes the cuffs from Baxter and Maureen and tells them of the attack plans. When the attack begins, they should hide in between the pews. Maureen again tries to get him to give up. Flynn tells Baxter that Martin needed a dead Englishman in the Cathedral and Baxter agrees that Martin is sick. Just then Flynn is told that Burke is at the gate to see him.

Both men say there is nothing personal in their differences. Flynn releases Burke from his promise to fight next to Bellini. Burke tells Flynn that Schroeder killed himself. Flynn demands to see the body but Burke says it isn't possible.

## **Book 4, Chapter 51-55 Analysis**

A meeting is taking place with the governor, who is under political pressure to storm the Cathedral. They talk about what they need to cover themselves in ordering the assault, even if it means falsifying facts. The mayor is told by the governor that he wants at least one squad of National Guard involved in the assault. They all seem more interested in



making themselves look good politically than they are in the situation at the Cathedral. Since they don't know of Martin's involvement in Operation Phoenix, they listen to his pushing for an attack.

Most of the people like Langley and Bellini are basically pressured into the attack. Langley thinks that it is politically motivated. He knows it is the only way but the politicians are doing it for the wrong reasons, especially when the mayor uses the words resignations and promotions together in reference to agreeing with them. Schroeder at first refuses to go along and sign the document. When he is threatened with being brought up on department charges, he starts to talk about all of the people and flamethrowers the terrorists have.

Langley tells the news of the meeting to Burke. He is pretty unglued at the end of their conversation and rambling about having to sign papers about the politicians being right. Burke tells him that he thinks Martin killed Ferguson. Burke talks with Martin and Spiegel on the rectory roof. He is obviously distrustful of Martin and is rather sarcastic to Spiegel.

When the mayor approves the attack plan, Schroeder gives it to Flynn. He is trying to save his daughter. He tells Flynn that there is nothing he could do to avert the attack and that he has done everything that he could do. He is sickened when Flynn tells him he will signal for Terri's release only if Schroeder's facts check out. Martin waits for Schroeder's meeting with Flynn before bringing Stillway to Burke. They want Flynn to have misinformation about the attack which is what Schroeder gave him.

Flynn is talking with each of the Fenians and giving them their orders. He is somewhat overwhelmed by the fact that they are willing to follow him to death. Hickey says that it is Flynn's fault that Hickey is there. Flynn wasn't strong enough to stand up to Hickey and stop him. Flynn tells him that he will see that Hickey doesn't leave alive.



## Book 4, Chapter 56-57

### Book 4, Chapter 56-57 Summary

Bellini and his squad leaders are studying the blueprints with Stillway explaining the details to them. Burke and Langley are talking at the back of the room. Schroeder is being treated by a police doctor for exhaustion even though Burke told Flynn that Schroeder was dead. Martin has diplomatic immunity and has booked himself on a flight to Bermuda. Langley said that their contacts with the federal government don't want Burke involved with Martin and that they will handle it.

Stillway shows Bellini where the most effective placement of bombs would be. He marks the columns on either side of the sacristy and says that it is public information that even the IRA could find out about. Bellini is still very angry at Schroeder who could have caused many of his men to be killed, when Langley shows them pictures of Dan Morgan and Terri O'Neal. They want Bellini to advance the time of the attack but he says he can't.

Roberta Spiegel, who doesn't know about Terri, calls and tells Langley that Schroeder must appear at a press conference in Rockefeller Plaza. He is now going to be the hero of the operation, not the fall guy as they had originally planned. She tells Langley that he will be the fall guy but they will see that he comes out okay. Langley is ordered to be with Spiegel during the attack. Burke is still going with Bellini.

In the Cathedral, Flynn orders the lights to be turned off. They left one light on because when it went out, it would signal the beginning of the attack because they knew the police would cut the power. They lit every candle they could find trying to negate the advantage of the infra-red goggles the police would be using. They also have phosphorous flares burning for the same purpose. At 5:14 am, Flynn spoke to them using the microphone and told them to stay alert and that they would all meet again.

Hickey handcuffs the Cardinal to the gate by the sacristy and compares it to Christ on the cross. The Cardinal tells him the Church has survived thousands like him and will be made stronger because of people like him. Hickey tells Maureen and Baxter that the bombs will go off at 6:03 am and that the floor will bounce a little and then the columns and ceiling will come down on them.

As the time passes on, the tension inside the Cathedral increases as they wait for the attack to begin. At 5:35 am, Gallagher begins to play Amazing Grace on his bagpipes, which lessens the tension a little.

### Book 4, Chapter 56-57 Analysis

Langley tells Bellini about Terri O'Neal being held by Dan Morgan. They want him to advance the attack and not wait until 5:35 am. Schroeder had told Flynn that the attack



would begin at 5:15 am and they want it to be as close to that time as possible, for Terri's sake. They don't want Flynn to think that there has been a change in plans.

Spiegel's conversation with Langley indicates that they politicians are more interested in how they will look after the Cathedral hostage situation is ended. Schroeder was first going to be the fall guy; now he is going to be the hero. They aren't interested in any of the facts of the situation, only the public relations of the situation and Roberta Spiegel tells this to Langley.

Inside the Cathedral the final preparations are made in anticipation of the attack. They turn out all but one light and light the interior with candles. They have lit every candle they can find plus phosphorous flare to try to negate the advantage of the infra-red vision that the police will have. The time passes beyond 5:15 am and the tension increases. At 5:35 am, Gallagher begins to play the bagpipes which lessen the tension. They are all prepared and waiting. Flynn did not suspect that Schroeder's information was incorrect.



# Book 5

## Book 5 Summary

Bellini and his men are making their preparations for entering the interior of the Cathedral. Burke is with them. They are going through the elevator shaft to the Archbishop's sacristy. Bellini makes a comment about wondering if the doors are mined. They climb up the ladder dropped by an ESD man who went up first. Outside the door they hear footsteps and notice the lights going out. Bellini is then advised that the Fenians lit candles and flares inside.

They enter an opening to a small attic next to the triforium and move to their assigned spot. The Second Assault Squad is climbing through the chimney. They move into position ready to cross the roof when they can. The Third Assault Squad followed the second through the chimney but stopped at a lower level. They reach their position by a door and report that they don't know if it is mined or not.

At 5:35 am, Bellini signaled they would move in sixty seconds. Fourteen snipers moved into place around the Cathedral. A row of windows opened in Rockefeller Center and strobe light began flashing. Rory Devane was the first to be hit by the sniper fire before he could answer the field phone. Donald Mullins in the bell room was hit next and Father Murphy watches him fall from the bell room to where he is handcuffed to the ladder. Mullins runs around in pain and crashes through the glass, falling to a roof three stories below.

With the towers clear, the Second Assault Squad rappels down to the roof. Nulty spots them and fires one shot before he is hit. When they are clear, the Third Assault Squad opens the door, wondering if it is mined. Nulty spots the men on the roof and fires one shot before he is hit. He falls back inside near Kearney who throws a lantern into the chopped wood. Even though she is hit, she crawls and starts more fires, while shooting her gun. She hits two men.

Eamon Farrell is in the northeast triforium and hears the commotion. He enters the escape hatch he found earlier in the day and runs into the Third Assault Squad and is killed.

Flynn, using the pulpit microphone, announces that the assault has begun, and that they should all watch the doors and windows. Bellini and the First Assault Squad, listening to Flynn's words, enter the triforium. Bellini finds his infra-red scope useless and uses a day scope to look around and see where the Fenians are positioned. Bellini begins to send information on their positions when he hears that the attic is on fire and three ESD men have been hit. Bellini tells them to extinguish the fire and kill the Fenian, who is Kearney, who is still shooting.



Flynn, who is in the pulpit, figures out that the police found Stillway. He knows the assault is underway, yet it is too quiet. Schroeder's information was incorrect. The police were not entering through the doors and windows, as he had said they would. Hickey is positioned in the crawl space waiting for the bomb squad. He alerts his people using the microphone.

The Fourth Assault Squad is crawling through the ducts and has reached the foundation and reports this to Bellini. When they find the crawl space, the bomb squad will enter. Their time of withdrawal is 6 am.

Helicopters have arrived to fight the fire in the attic and Kearney is taken by the ESD. She kills herself with one of their pistols. At the same time, Brian calls Megan and tells her to watch the choir loft and gives her orders to relay to Leary. He hangs up on her.

Bellini still hasn't located any of the hostages or Hickey, who he thinks may be in the crawl space. The Fifth Squad leader cuts in and reports that the Cardinal is handcuffed to the sacristy gate. They also report that they are in the crawl space and Bellini tells them to watch for Hickey. Bellini signals the bomb team to move in.

Logan, of the National Guard, rams the front doors of the Cathedral with an armored carrier. It was safely inside when the delayed mines exploded. The men take up their positions and the interior of the Cathedral is flooded with gunfire. Bellini shoots Flynn, but Burke stops him from killing him. The Fifth Squad leader shoots Gallagher, at the feet of the Cardinal. They cut his handcuffs and lead him to his residence.

Maureen and Baxter talk about running for it before 6 am. Maureen says they will be shot by Leary and Megan who are in the choir loft. If they stay, there are the bombs. They decide to move toward the Lady Chapel when they hear the voice of the Fifth Squad leader. He wants them to run but they won't with the snipers in the choir loft.

In the crawl space, the bomb squad has defused one of the bombs and they report the news to Bellini. Bellini tells him they think Hickey is in the crawl space. They begin to look for the other bomb, not knowing that Hickey is positioned next to it. He hears the dogs and the men breathing, as they approach the column. He begins firing.

In the Cathedral, the First and Third squads are shooting at the choir loft. Bellini is killed by Leary and Father Murphy is shot by the ESD who thought he was a Fenian. The Second Squad splits with three of them moving to the choir loft with the other two remaining to shoot into the choir loft. The three men are killed by Megan who tells Leary to keep Baxter and Malone pinned down until the bombs explode in fourteen minutes.

The Sixth Assault Squad entered the Cathedral from helicopters. At the same time, the men of the Sixty-Ninth National Guard unit are located under the choir loft and are supposed to try to rescue the hostages. They decide to send ten men to the choir loft. When they enter, they meet the gunfire of Megan and Leary. After five minutes, the police open fire on the loft again and use gas but firing keeps coming from the loft. An ESD man says most of it is aimed at Baxter and Maureen.





Maureen makes it to Brian in the pulpit. She tells them that they only ones remaining are Megan, Leary and Hickey. She tries to talk him into telling the three to quit but he says he can't control them. She gives him an injection of morphine from a first aid kit.

A situation report indicates that there is no answer from the crawl space. Burke orders all but two or three men to evacuate since it is close to the time for the bombs to go off. He tells them to send more men into the crawl space. Burke and the ESD men discuss their options for knocking out the choir loft when they receive a report from the crawl space. The only chance they have of reaching Hickey and the bomb in through the brass plate. They vacate the crawl space.

Wendy Peterson, the bomb squad leader, gets a concussion grenade and measures the distance to the brass plate. The ESD men tell her there is no way she can make it.

In the choir loft, Leary kills Megan so she isn't taken alive. Just after this, Burke reaches the choir loft. He is stunned from a blow to the spine through his flak jacket and is pinned down under the pews. Leary is also injured from the darts fired by Burke's grenade launcher. Martin appears and says that Leary is an agent of his. The police appear as Martin learns that Baxter and Malone aren't dead.

Martin is there as Jack Leary surrenders. He says that Leary is an agent of his. He begins to taunt Burke about the Cathedral collapsing soon. Burke tells him that ballistics will show that Leary's gun did not kill Megan.

Wendy rushes toward the brass plate and Maureen and Baxter are told to run. They go to get Brian and Baxter carries him over his shoulder. Wendy drops the concussion grenade into the crawl space. After the explosion, she drops into the crawl space. Wendy reaches Hickey and finds him dead. She finds the bomb, and the alarm goes off at 6:03 am, but it doesn't explode. She gives the all clear. A few minutes later, she is telling Burke about it. In the Cathedral, there is a loud shriek, as a man falls from the choir loft. It is Martin.

## Book 5 Analysis

As the assault gets under way, Burke is with Bellini and others, climbing up the elevator shaft to the Archbishop's sacristy. Bellini wonders if the doors are mined or guarded. They should have thought about this earlier. Flynn told them that all the doors were mined.

On Bellini's signal, the well planned rescue mission begins. Bellini and the men in the ESD don't know what they are walking into. They know about the positions in the towers, and they are the first taken out. Beyond that, they don't know where they will find mined doors or where the Fenians are positioned or exactly what kind of weapons strength they have. The battle is a long and hard one with the police and the National Guard taking a lot of casualties. Bellini is among the dead and Burke takes over as the leader.



The big problem is the choir loft where Jack Leary and Megan are. At the end of the battle, after Megan is dead, Martin appears and says that Leary works for him. Martin has pretty much planned the whole operation because he needed Irish terrorism in America to turn sentiment against the Irish. Martin apparently lost track of the difference between right and wrong many years earlier. He taunts Burke about the explosions that are to take place. When they didn't take place, Martin dies, when he falls from the choir loft. It is assumed that he jumped when his plan's failure was obvious.

Wendy Peterson can't understand why the bomb didn't go off. She was late and the alarm went off. She doesn't know that when Maureen was in the crawl space, she tried to disarm the bomb by pulling out the detonator.

Maureen and Baxter remained cool during the assault. They were pinned down under the pews by the gunfire. They didn't panic and set a time for an escape before the bombs went off. Maureen did manage to crawl to Brian and tried to ease his pain by injecting him with morphine from a first aid kit. They both still apparently have feelings for each other and she and Baxter carry him from the pulpit when it is safe.



# Book 6

## Book 6 Summary

Patrick Burke walks out of the front doors of the Cathedral, looking at the damages and destruction. The Cardinal, leading a procession of clergy, was circling the Church. He is performing a cleansing ritual for the defiled Cathedral. Inside, he orders various people to assist the police. He says they will say mass when the police have finished and the cleansing ritual is concluded.

Bert Schroeder enters the Cathedral with two police officers. He is escorted to the news reporters where Mayor Kline answers most of the questions following the stories they had formulated before the onset of the assault. The Mayor makes Schroeder and Bellini into the heroes of the operation. Schroeder, not feeling well, breaks away from the crowd and runs out of the Cathedral.

Dan Morgan and Terri O'Neal are watching the events on television. Morgan says Schroeder didn't do what he was supposed, but he doesn't kill Terri. He walks out of the apartment.

Burke, sitting outside in the sun, sees the mayor and governor talking to the press and sees Schroeder run out. Burke grabs him and tells him that he knows about Terri and he knows what Schroeder did. He tells him to stay cool and sends him back into the Cathedral. Langley walks up and tells him he is in trouble for pushing Martin out of the choir loft. Burke says he fell and Langley said Burke will be arrested for murder. Burke tells him and Spiegel to make sure that he isn't and that he receives a commendation and promotion. If not, he will talk and Schroeder will confirm anything he says. Spiegel says she will do what she can.

Burke finds out that they haven't moved Flynn to a hospital. He tells them to do it. They are murdering him if they don't. Flynn asks to see Maureen and Roberta goes to get her. She tries to talk him into seeing a priest. She tells Brian what she knows about what happened in the Cathedral. She also tells him that she still loves him. He dies a few minutes later.

When Maureen and Baxter leave the Cathedral, they are swamped by the press. They enter separate cars and Maureen is told by the FBI that they are taking her to a private hospital.

## Book 6 Analysis

As Burke leaves the Cathedral, he thinks that no one would believe what had happened if they hadn't been there. He sees the Cardinal leading a procession of clergy, first circling the Cathedral and then entered it. He is leading a cleansing ceremony of the defiled Cathedral.



The politicians stuck to the stories they formulated before the attack began. The mayor is portraying Schroeder and Bellini as heroes. As Roberta Spiegel said earlier, it was only public relations that mattered and that is all that the mayor and governor are interested in.

Schroeder, who is brought to the Cathedral for the press conference doesn't stay. He is worried about his daughter Terri. He doesn't know if she has been killed or not or that Terri and Dan Morgan are watching the events on television. Morgan decides that Schroeder didn't do what he was supposed to do but says there has been enough death. He walks out of Terri's apartment.

Burke catches Schroeder and tells him that he knows about Terri and what Schroeder did. He tells Schroeder that no one wants to hear his confession. The Cathedral is full of bodies. Burke tells him to stay cool and shut up. Burke is obviously very upset with Schroeder and feels very bitter towards him. He sends him back into the Cathedral. When Langley tells him he will be arrested for the murder of Martin, Burke tells him and Spiegel to make sure that he isn't and that he receives a commendation and promotion. Schroeder will confirm anything that Burke says to the public. In the end, Burke joined the politicians and played their game and got what he wanted.

When Baxter and Maureen leave the Cathedral they go in separate cars. The FBI tells Maureen that they are taking her to a private hospital.



# Characters

## Patrick Burke

Patrick Burke is a Detective Lieutenant on the New York City police in the Intelligence. He has been in police intelligence work for twenty years and is concerned about security for the parade. Nothing has ever happened during the parade, but he is concerned because Maureen Malone is there. He arrives at the cathedral as it is being seized and is the first to talk to MacCumail. He gains the trust of MacCumail who tells him to be wary of Major Martin. Burke is not supposed to engage in any negotiations with MacCumail. Even though he brought in the hostage negotiator, Flynn keeps trying to work with Burke, who is the only one who they allow inside the cathedral.

Burke finally sees Flynn's point that British Intelligence was somehow involved with the situation at the cathedral and tells his colleagues that he wants Martin kept out of the decision making process. Burke wants a peaceful settlement and he knows that Martin doesn't. Burke talks Jack Ferguson into not leaving town and staying to help out with Terri O'Neal and Dan Morgan. Burke needs information and the only place he can obtain it from is Ferguson. Langley asks Burke if it is worth Jack Ferguson's life.

Burke figures out that Terri O'Neal is Schroeder's daughter and works with Bellini on the rescue plans. When Bellini is killed in the assault, Burke assumes the role of leader. He is in the choir loft when Martin appears and says that Leary is one of his men. Martin falls from the choir loft and it is said that Burke pushed him. Burke tells Langley and Spiegel that they won't arrest him for Martin's murder and that they will see that he receives a commendation and promotion. In the end, he plays the game that the politician's play to get what he wants. He did what he thought was right.

## Brian Flynn

Brian Flynn is an IRA member and is the lover of Maureen Malone. He is wanted by Major Martin. After the foiled attempt to free Sheila, Brian and Maureen hide in the Whitethorn Abbey where Brian finds a ring that the priest tells him to keep. He takes the code name Finn MacCumail. Four years after he and Maureen separate, Brian is in New York City.

Brian broke with the IRA and formed the radical Fenian Army and now has Megan Fitzgerald as his lover. Flynn is basically being used as a pawn by Major Martin, who would like Flynn, the terrorists and the hostages killed to prove how awful the Irish are. He tells this to Burke several times and tells him that if he can handle Martin, the hostages and Fenians will live.

Brian still has feelings for Maureen and he lets them show. He offers to let her escape twice, but she won't go without the other hostages the first time and without him the second time. Brian knows that he is trapped more or less by Major Martin and the only



way for it to end safely for everyone is if all of their demands are met. He also finds out that John Hickey has done some things behind his back, like not telling him about the governments' offers.

Flynn is shot by Bellini during the assault on the Cathedral but he doesn't die. When Baxter and Maureen get free, they carry him from the pulpit to the medics. He dies with Maureen at his side.

## John Hickey

John Hickey is an experienced IRA veteran who was recruited to work with the Fenians. He was born in 1905 in County Cork. He is thought to have been dead, having had a funeral, etc., but then Jack Ferguson recognized him and so did Maureen. He is second in command to Flynn in the cathedral operation. Hickey is quite radical and not interested in negotiation. When he catches Father Murphy sending a Morse Coded message through the confessional, he takes over the sending and fills the message with disinformation, leading the government to believe they will kill Sir Harold Baxter before dawn. This causes the police to prepare plans to attack before that time, which Hickey knows.

Hickey, who hasn't lived in Ireland for over forty years, lost his father as a child. His father had been shot by the British and this seems to have fueled Hickey's revolutionary fervor. The cathedral is to be his final mission. He lets it be known when he captures Maureen in the crawl space, that he wants her to see the end when the cathedral comes crashing down around them.

Hickey doesn't tell Flynn about the governments' offers and about all of the other things that are going on. Flynn isn't happy when he finds out. Hickey seems to want to die.

## Maureen Malone

Maureen Malone is the sister of Sheila Malone and is also active in IRA activities. Her lover is Brian Flynn. Maureen, Brian and other IRA members unsuccessfully try to free Sheila. After the foiled attempt, Maureen and Brian hide out at Whitethorn Abbey. Maureen wants to leave the area and the IRA, even though Brian tells her it is impossible. They separate when they leave the monastery.

Maureen is in New York and gives a speech to Amnesty International about freeing the prisons held by the British under the Specials Power Act. She is on an IRA death list having left the organization and she is taking part in the St. Patrick's Day activities. She is taken hostage at the cathedral and immediately recognizes Flynn and some of the others. When Maureen and Flynn talk, she tells him that she never informed. She finds that he made a deal with Major Martin when he was captured and he wants her approval for that.



Maureen is still trained from her experience in the IRA and she uses this training when she escapes in the space below the cathedral floor. She doesn't make it to safety and is returned to the cathedral area with the others. Their second escape attempt also fails. When Flynn offers to free her, she refuses to go unless he comes with her. She stays by Baxter's side until the end. Megan wants them both dead and they are pinned down by the gunfire until the choir loft is clear. She is at Brian's side when he dies and she walks out of the Cathedral with Baxter.

## Jack Ferguson

Jack Ferguson was a Marxist looking for a revolution to occur. He was also an officer of the Provisional IRA in New York City. Ferguson became involved with Major Martin, who told him that he was trying to stop the Fenians. Jack receives Flynn's message that he will be killed if he does not leave New York. It is Jack who first recognized John Hickey, who everyone thought was dead. He also comes up with the name of Terri O'Neal who he believes has something to do with the Cathedral. When Burke has him placed in protective custody, he is livid and demands his release. Burke needs information from him about Terri O'Neil and Dan Morgan and Ferguson won't reveal his sources. He agrees to stay in the area to help Burke since Burke says the police will make it clear that the Provos weren't involved in the cathedral hostage situation. Burke finds Jack's body in a park lake. He had been kneecapped.

## Megan Fitzgerald

Megan Fitzgerald is twenty-one years of age and a member of the IRA and one of the Fenian terrorists at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Her brother Tommy was captured when trying to free Sheila Malone. Megan, like the others, grew up with the violence in Belfast. She is third in command of the operation at the cathedral. It is obvious that she doesn't like Maureen, possibly because she is Brian's current lover and Maureen was his former lover. Her brother Pedar dies from the injuries he received from Baxter. She is assigned to the choir loft area with Jack Leary, who kills her before the bombs are set to go off.

## Bert Schroeder

Captain Bert Schroeder is the police department Hostage Negotiator. He is the one who is supposed to officially handle the negotiations with the hostage holders. He does things by the book and is rather inflexible. He has cross words with Burke throughout the hostage standoff and he keeps telling Burke to stay out of it. When his communications with Hickey break down, he figures it is over. There is nothing now but Bellini's assault. He bends the rules and meets with Flynn and finds out the Fenians are holding his daughter Terri. He wrote and published his memoirs before he retires and mentions his family in the book. Of course, the Fenians have read the book. The politicians make him into one of the heroes of the operation.



## **Joe Bellini**

Captain Joe Bellini is with the police department. He is a part of the decision making force at the cathedral and has his specially trained team with snipers ready to assault the cathedral, if necessary. He becomes increasingly more tense and nervous about the operation as time goes on. He must sign a paper for the city saying that the attack is in the best interests of the hostages and says he will think about it. Bellini develops a good plan for the assault based on the blue prints of Stillway. He is killed by sniper fire from Leary.

## **Inspector Langley**

Langley is a colleague of Patrick Burke's in the police Intelligence unit. He is in the command center at the rectory during the hostage crisis. Langley delivers the governments' offer to Hickey and is told that it is refused. When told of the politicians' decision to order the attack, he questions their motives. An assault is necessary but not for political reasons.

## **Roberta Spiegel**

Roberta Spiegel is in the command center in the rectory as a representative of the mayor's office. She tells Bellini to prepare to move into the cathedral when they receive the second Morse Coded message. She is there at the end and tells Burke she will be sure he receives his commendation and promotion. Roberta was the one who said that all that mattered was public relations.

## **Rory Devane**

Rory Devane is an IRA member. He drove the car after the shooting of Hardy and Shelby and is also involved in the taking of the cathedral. When the assault on the Cathedral begins, he is the first one hit by sniper fire. He is eventually rescued by a fire department helicopter.

## **Eamon Farrell**

Eamon Farrell is the oldest of the Fenians. He is middle aged and has a son in Long Kesh. After first taking the Cathedral, Farrell found an escape hatch which he figured he would escape through if he needed to. When the assault on the Cathedral began, he entered the escape hatch, running into the Third Assault Squad and was killed.





## **Father Murphy**

Father Murphy is an Irish priest who is an assistant to the Cardinal. He is saying the St. Patrick's Day mass when the Cathedral is taken and he is one of the four hostages. Even though he helps Maureen and Baxter, he is loyal to his Cardinal and refuses to try to escape without the Cardinal. He is handcuffed to a ladder in the upper areas of the Cathedral during the attack and shot by the ESD who thought he was a Fenian.

## **Jack Leary**

Jack Leary is a member of the Fenians and is assigned to the choir loft area with Megan Fitzgerald. He is an expert sniper and has taken out a lot of the police assault force, including Bellini. His orders from Flynn were to be sure of Megan and Hickey. He kills Megan.

## **The Cardinal**

The Cardinal of New York was on the reviewing stand and taken inside the Cathedral when it was taken. He is one of the four hostages. Even though he agrees to help Maureen and Baxter try to escape, he refuses to leave the Cathedral.

## **Pedar Fitzgerald**

Pedar Fitzgerald is the brother of Tommy and Megan. He is one of the Fenians involved in the cathedral hostage situation. He is seriously injured by Sir Harold Baxter during the second hostage escape attempt and dies during the middle of the night.

## **Donald Mullins**

Donald Mullins was a member of the Fenians who was positioned in the bell room of the Cathedral. He was the second Fenian hit by sniper fire when the assault on the Cathedral began.

## **Jean Kearney**

Jean Kearney is a member of the Fenians and is positioned with her lover, Arthur Nulty, in the dormered hatchways on either side of the roof. When she is captured by the ESD, she kills herself with one of their guns.



## **Frank Gallagher**

Frank Gallagher is one of the Fenians and is positioned next to the Cardinal when the assault begins. When the mines at the front door are set off, he drops his gun and runs to the Cardinal crying. He is shot by the Fifth Squad leader.

## **Tommy Fitzgerald**

Tommy Fitzgerald is also a member of the IRA. He was with the group that killed the two British soldiers. He was also involved and captured in the attempt to free Sheila.

## **Sheila Malone**

Sheila Malone is an Irish Catholic IRA terrorist who lives in Belfast. She is arrested for killing two British soldiers.

## **Liam Coogan**

Liam Coogan is from Belfast and involved with Sheila Malone in the shooting of the two British soldiers.

## **Thomas Shelby**

Thomas Shelby was a sergeant in the British Army and was killed by Sheila Malone and Liam Coogan.

## **Alan Harding**

Alan Harding was a private in the British Army and was killed by Sheila Malone and Liam Coogan.

## **Terri O'Neal**

Terri O'Neal is held captive by Dan Morgan, one of the Fenians. She is Schroeder's daughter and is released at the end.

## **Abby Boland**

Abby Bland is a member of the Fenians involved in the taking of the Cathedral and is positioned in the triforium attic. She is killed by gunfire during the assault.



## **Arthur Nulty**

Arthur Nulty is a member of the Fenians and is positioned in the dormered hatchways with his lover, Jean Kearney. Nulty is on the north side of the roof.

## **George Sullivan**

George Sullivan is a Fenian and is positioned near Abby Boland in the triforium attic. He is hot during the assault.

## **Flynn**

Flynn is a member of the Fenians.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Belfast**

Belfast is a city in Northern Ireland that is riddled by strife between Catholics and Protestants.

### **Whitethorn Abbey**

Whitethorn Abbey is located outside Belfast and is the place where Brian and Maureen hide.

### **Shelia's Aunts House**

Shelia's aunt's house is in Belfast and is where Shelia lives. It is where she was arrested by the British.

### **Long Kesh**

Long Kesh is a prison in Belfast where many IRA people are held under the Special Powers Act.

### **St. Patrick's Cathedral**

St. Patrick's Cathedral is located in New York City.

### **Rectory Office**

The cathedral rectory is where the police set up their command center.

### **Crawl Space**

The crawl space is the area under the Cathedral floor where the bombs are planted.

### **Choir Loft**

The choir loft is the area of the Cathedral where Megan and Leary are positioned. It was the last area that the police took.



## **Terri's Apartment**

Terri's apartment in New York is where Dan Morgan is holding Terri hostage.

## **Stillway's Apartment**

The apartment of Gordon Stillway in New York City is where Burke went to try to find the architect and the blueprints for the Cathedral.



# Themes

## Dedication to a Cause

One of the most prevalent themes of the book is the dedication to the cause of the Irish prisoners. The Irish in Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland grew up with violence and fighting and many of the Irish Catholics join the provisional Irish Republican Army, as Maureen, Brian and many others did. They commit acts of violence to try to obtain their goals. Maureen broke away from the IRA which is why she is on a Belfast death list. The others did not.

Brian Flynn took the name of Finn MacCumail and formed a radical splinter group called the Fenians. His people remained loyal to him and their mission throughout the Cathedral ordeal and this is one of the things that impresses him. Many of them have family members being interned by the British and Irish government under the Special Powers Act. They want them released and that is their major demand. They are willing to die for their beliefs and their cause. The only one to try to desert is Eamon Farrell who found a hidden passage that he thought he would use when the attack began.

Maureen, while not dedicated to the IRA, is still dedicated to the Irish cause. She believes in working for it in a peaceful way and she tries to talk the Fenians into giving up many times. She is still dedicated to trying to find a peaceful solution to the Irish problem at the end of the book.

## Deceit

Deceit is another underlying theme of the book. There is Major Bartholomew Martin who concocted the whole plan that he named Project Phoenix. He is a British Military Intelligence officer who wanted an Irish terrorist attack in America to make the Irish look bad and turn American sentiment against them. He also wanted Flynn killed and he needed a British government official killed so he wrangled an invitation for Sir Harold Baxter to be on the parade reviewing stand. Martin's involvement in the plot becomes obvious as time goes on. He wants the Cathedral to be destroyed. Burke concludes that Martin is involved because the plot is too intricate for the IRA.

Another example of deceit comes from the city and state government officials. They are more concerned with public relations and how things will look to the public. The governor wants the National Guard to be involved for political reasons. He makes a deal with the mayor to pay all of the bills associated with the Cathedral hostage situation if the mayor will allow the National Guard troops to be a part of it. Before the assault, they do some dishonest things, like manufacturing stories and forcing the involved police people to sign statements saying that the situation is the way they portray it, like the Fenians making additional demands. The mayor's aide even said outright that the outcome wasn't important and that it was all about public relations.



## Clash of Ideas

The clash of ideas is also an underlying theme of the book. There is a lot of disagreement over how to handle the situation both inside and outside the Cathedral. Schroeder, the Hostage Negotiator, and Burke, of police Intelligence, have clashes throughout the book. Burke talked to Flynn before Schroeder appeared on the scene. Schroeder handles his negotiation pretty much by the book and is rather inflexible until the end, when he finds out the Fenians are holding his daughter. Then he basically betrays the police by giving Flynn their attack plan. Many times he and Burke had sharp words over how the negotiations were being handled and many times he told Burke to stay out of his business.

The other clash of ideas is between Maureen and the Fenians. They both want the prisoners freed from prison but they differ over how to go about it. The Fenians and the IRA do it through acts of violence, while Maureen believes that has to be a peaceful way to achieve the goal. She was speaking to Amnesty International about the situation trying to enlist their support. Throughout the siege, she talks to the different Fenians and tries to get them to give up and try to achieve their goal peacefully. She is still committed to a peaceful solution after the siege ends.



# Style

## Point of View

The book is written in the third person point of view with the narrator being the author. It is the author telling the story. There is plenty of dialogue throughout the book. In fact, most of the book consists of dialogue between the different characters. There are times when the author fills in with background information about the setting or the facts.

A first person point of view would exclude the reader from much of the action of the novel. The knowledge of the reader would be confined to the events that took place in the presence of the storyteller. This problem is avoided by the use of the third person. The reader can learn the facts from the characters and the narrator.

The author does a good job of explaining the positions of the different people and groups in the novel. He makes clear the position of the intelligence groups and the deceit of Martin who wants the British to look good and the Irish to look bad. He explains the difference in the positions of Maureen and the Fenians even though they both have the same goal of release of the prisoners. He also does a good job of presenting the position of the politicians and their interest in public relations.

## Setting

The action of the novel takes place in Ireland and in New York City. The book opens in Northern Ireland where Sheila and her IRA cronies kill two British soldiers. She is arrested and imprisoned in Long Kesh where she meets Major Martin. Her sister Maureen, Brian and others try to rescue her when she is being moved. Some IRA people, like Timothy Fitzgerald, Megan's brother are killed, others are wounded. Maureen and Brian escape and Maureen makes her decision to leave the IRA while they are at Whitethorn Abbey.

Then the action shifts to New York City and the St. Patrick's Day parade. Maureen is in New York to talk to an Amnesty International convention and to take part in the St. Patrick's Day festivities. She is taken hostage at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The various areas of the Cathedral are the setting for the remainder of the novel. There are the bell towers where the radio jammer is located. The crawl space under the floor of the Cathedral is where the bombs are hidden. The choir loft is the area where the Fenians snipers are that keep the police pinned down. The rectory office is where the police command group positions itself.

There are some other locations in New York City. Terri O'Neal is being held hostage in her apartment. Burke goes to Gordon Stillway's apartment to try to obtain the blue prints for the Cathedral. Burke meets Ferguson at the zoo and finds his body in a park pond.





## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is clear and simple with no hidden meanings. There are no complex terms and no brogue. The English is easy to understand and read without out any long sentence for the reader to get lost in. There are few words that the reader will have to look up since the book is, for the most part, written in everyday English. The author is good about explaining what the various weapons are so the reader does not wonder what he is talking about.

The writing style of DeMille is conducive to fast reading. In a book of this type, with all of the action and suspense, the reader does not want a writing style or terminology, or anything else to slow him down. He wants to know what happens on the next page and doesn't want to waste time getting there.

## Structure

The structure of the book is a little complex. The novel is divided into six books. The first four books contain chapters that vary in length. The last two books do not contain chapters. The first book sets the scene for the action of the novel and takes place in Ireland. It explains how people become interned under the Special Powers Act and how they are treated. It also describes the plight of those, like Maureen and Brian, who aren't interned and shows the paths that they chose.

The remaining five books of the novel take place in New York. The longest of the books is book four which covers the siege of the Cathedral. Book five covers the assault on the Cathedral and the last book is the aftermath of the assault.

This structure works well for the novel with the different locations and events grouped into different books. There are two illustrations at the beginning of the book that show the layout of the Cathedral. This help the reader follow the action by knowing the different areas of the Cathedral.

## Quotes

"Sheila Malone had no doubt that a good number of them were guilty of some kind of anti-British or antigovernment activity. A few were actually IRA. A smaller number might even be arsonists or bombers ... or murderers like herself. There was a fifty-fifty chance of getting out of internment within ninety days if you didn't crack and confess to something. But if they had something on you - something as serious as murder ..." (Book 1, Chapter 1, pg. 19)

"Inside the Cathedral, Flynn kneeled at the communion rail. The raised marble area, the altar sanctuary, was decked with fields of green carnations, and he studied the festive decorations. It had been four years since he had left Whitehorn Abbey; four years since he had seen her. Today he would see her again, for the last time." (Book 2, Chapter 5, pg. 51)

"Major Martin moved toward the door. 'I planned nothing, Kruger. I only provided the opportunity and the wherewithal. Most of this is as much a surprise to me as it is to you and the police.' Martin looked at his watch. 'My consulate will be looking for me, and your people will be looking for you. Remember, Kruger, the first requirement of a successful liar is a good memory. Don't forget what you're not supposed to know, and please remember the things you are supposed to know.' He pulled on his gloves as he left." (Book 4, Chapter 16, pg. 134)

"She pointed to the two clerics. 'It may that you don't understand real evil, only abstract evil, but you've got Satan in the sanctuary right now.' She moved her out-stretched hand and pointed to Brian Flynn, who was mounting the steps into the sanctuary." (Book 4, Chapter 22, pg. 182)

"Flynn pressed his face to the bars. 'But you could do worse than dealing with me. If anything happened to me, you would have to deal with Hickey and the woman we call Grania, so don't you or Schroeder or anyone out there try to under mine me. Work with me and no one will die.'" (Book 4, Chapter 29, pg.236)

"'We should have killed him, but we didn't. He's either in a hospital or drunk somewhere, or your good friend Martin has murdered him. Stillway is the key man for a successful assault, of course. The blueprints by themselves are not enough. Did you find a copy in the rectory? Well, don't tell me, then. Are you still there, Schroeder?'" (Book 4, Chapter 34, pg. 272)

"Save it for your May Day speech. Listen, Martin has double-crossed all of us. He was the force behind the Fenians. This whole thing is a play to make the Irish look bad - to turn American public opinion against the Irish struggle." (Book 4, Chapter 40, pg. 309)



"Good. And you can assume that every other entrance you find will also be mined. And you can assume the entire crawl space is seeded with mines. You can also suspect that I'm lying or bluffing, but really, it's not smart to call my bluff. Tell that to your ESD people." (Book 4, Chapter 41, pg. 317)

"She understood clearly that there would be no victory, no amnesty for them, or for the people in Northern Ireland, and that soon she and everyone in the Cathedral would be dead. She looked at her brother's blue-white face. 'I want him here with me.'" (Book 4, Chapter 46, pg. 369)

"So far, Major, you've had it all your way. You got your Irish terrorism in America. We've had it pushed in our face. The point is made and well taken. So we don't need a burned-out Cathedral and a stack of corpses." (Book 4, Chapter 49, pg. 390)

"Langley lit a cigarette and noticed his hands were unsteady. Kline and Doyle, he was convinced, were doing the right things in attacking the Cathedral. But with the sure instincts of the politician, they were doing it for the wrong reasons, in the wrong way, and going about it in a slimy manner. But so what? That was how half the right things got done." (Part 4, Chapter 51, pg. 422)

"John Hickey stood below the pulpit and threw a rocket tube, rifle, and gas mask to Flynn. Hickey called out in a voice with no trace of fear, 'Brian, I'm afraid this is good-bye, lad. It's been a pleasure, and I'm sure we'll meet again in a place of incredible light, not to mention heat.' He laughed and moved off into the half-shadows of the sanctuary." (Book 4, Chapter 57, pg. 472)

"She drew the Syrette back and looked at him. He had not opened his eyes once in the last several minutes, and she did not understand how he knew ... unless it was that he just knew her too well. She held his hand tightly and felt the large ring pressing into her palm. She said, 'Brian ... can I take this ...? If I leave here ... I want to return it ... to bring it home...'" (Book 5, pg. 533)

"Someone lowered the window closest to her, and she heard the bells of distant churches, recognizing the distinctive bells of St. Patrick's playing 'Danny Boy,' and she sat back and listened to them. She thought briefly of the journey home, of Sheila and Brian, and she recalled a time in her life, not so long ago, when everyone she knew was alive - parents, girl friends and boyfriends, relatives and neighbors - but now her life was filled with the dead, the missing, and the wounded, and she thought that most likely she would join those ranks. She tried to imaging a future for herself and her country but couldn't. Yet she wasn't afraid and looked forward to working, in her own way, to accomplish the Fenian goal of emptying the jails of Ulster." (Book 6, pg. 575)



## Topics for Discussion

Why does Maureen separate from Brian? What is the problem with leaving the IRA?

Who are the Fenians and why are they in New York City?

Why does Flynn try to get Burke to work with him? Why doesn't he work with Schroeder?

What causes the command group to tell Bellini to prepare for an attack on the cathedral? Who authorized the attack?

Why is the goal of John Hickey different than that of the other Fenians? Or is it?

Why is Jack Ferguson killed?

How does politics and public relations enter into the outcome?

What is the role of Major Martin in the cathedral takeover? What is Project Phoenix?