

Coyote Blue Study Guide

Coyote Blue by Christopher Moore

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Plot Summary

"Coyote Blue" by Christopher Moore is an entertaining novel about a Crow Indian. After killing a police officer, Sam flees to Santa Barbara and becomes a successful insurance salesman. Coyote, his spirit helper, arrives and creates chaos in Sam's mundane life, ultimately concluding with Sam's happy return to his home and heritage. "Coyote Blue" is an interesting combination of Crow legends and chaos.

In Santa Barbara, Sam meets Calliope and a young Indian, while in Crow Country, Pokey has a spirit dream about Sam, Old Man Coyote and death. After Sam fails in his presentation at Motion Marine, Aaron angrily accuses him of sending an Indian to frighten Cable. Sam recalls Pokey giving him a dream in 1967. Sam has problems with his neighbors because of the coyote on his patio. When Sam goes home, he sees the coyote turn into the young Indian. In 1967, Sam takes his first sweat and is renamed. Sam picks Calliope up from work, and they schedule a date for the next evening. Sam recalls his vision in 1967 of Lloyd Commerce who Pokey believes is Old Man Coyote in disguise. Sam is voted out of his complex and threatens Spagnola. Sam returns to his office to find his secretary having sex with the young Indian who reveals himself to be Old Man Coyote.

In 1973, Pokey fails in his attempts to interpret Sam's vision. Sam goes to a party where he pushes Enos off a cliff into the dam wall two hundred feet below. Sam flees Crow Country and works as a busboy until he meets Aaron who teaches him to sell insurance and eventually makes Sam a partner in his insurance agency. Sam offers to sell his shares to Aaron, blackmailing him with the thought of bad publicity. On Sam's date with Calliope, he meets Grubb and learns about Lonnie. Due to Coyote's trickery with Lonnie, Tinker beats Spagnola up, and Spagnola calls a committee to allow Sam to keep his home. Calliope's nervousness about leaving Grubb with Lonnie proves justified when Lonnie kidnaps Grubb and goes to Las Vegas. Calliope follows, and Sam and Coyote trail after Calliope. In Las Vegas, Coyote loses all of Sam's money in the casino and sells Sam's car. M. F. is ordered to watch Coyote due to his odd behavior. Coyote steals the hotel's limo and follows Calliope. After Coyote informs Sam that he has found Calliope, Sam joins them, but Calliope has already left.

Sam and Coyote eventually join Calliope at Satori Japanese Auto Repair where M. F. also arrives to reclaim the hotel's limo. Calliope's car is fixed, and she, Sam and Coyote go to Sturgis, SD to retrieve Grubb. Coyote disguises himself as a woman and steals Grubb from the bikers. M. F. arrives to prevent the Guild from following Sam, Calliope, Coyote and Grubb, but he is beaten up by the bikers for his efforts. Lonnie shoots at Calliope's car as it pulls away, and Calliope dies. Sam, Coyote and Grubb travel to Crow Country where Sam visits Pokey and learns about the sacred medicine bundle and the ability to travel to the Underworld. Sam steals the sacred medicine bundle from Amstead Houston in Billings, but Coyote refuses to accompany Sam to the Underworld. With Pokey's help, Sam goes to the Underworld, but Anubis refuses to allow Calliope's soul to return to her body. Sam awakes, maddened, and fights the Guild. During the battle, Tinker shoots Coyote, and Coyote dies. When Sam returns home, Calliope

awakes, and they marry and live happily in Crow Country and have a daughter. Grubb is raised as a Crow, and his eyes turn golden as he grows up.



Section 1: chapter 1-3

Section 1: chapter 1-3 Summary

"Coyote Blue" by Christopher Moore is an entertaining novel about a Crow Indian. After killing a police officer, Sam flees to Santa Barbara and becomes a successful insurance salesman. Coyote, his spirit helper, arrives and creates chaos in Sam's mundane life, ultimately concluding with Sam's happy return to his home and heritage. "Coyote Blue" is an interesting combination of Crow legends and chaos.

In the first part, "Epiphany", and the first chapter, "Life Will Find You", in Santa Barbara, California, twenty years after running away, Samuel Hunter steps outside his office and is overwhelmed with desire for a girl. A young Indian appears and, after asking if Sam wants her, throws a knife into her tire. Sam gives the girl, Calliope, a ride to work. Her conversation is hard to follow, and Calliope jumps out of the car when they reach the Tangerine Tree Cafe, forgetting her clothes for work. Sam cannot remember where his next appointment is as he realizes the Indian has golden eyes. In the second chapter, "Montana Medicine Drunk", in Crow Country, Montana, Adeline Eats pulls into Wiley's Food and Gas and sees a body in the grass. When Adeline nudges the body with her foot, the body answers that it is drunk. She recognizes Pokey Medicine Wing, who claims he just had a medicine dream. Adeline recently converted to Christianity, and the old ways make her uncomfortable. Pokey tells of how he dreamed of his nephew who threw the cop off the bridge with Old Man Coyote and Death; Pokey must find and warn the boy. Adeline points out that the boy has been gone for twenty years and heads toward her job. Pokey shouts about seeing a screech owl, the worst of omens, and Adeline scans the sky in panic.

In chapter three, "The Machines of Irony Bring Memory", back in Santa Barbara, Sam arrives for his appointment and asks to see Mr. Cable, a scuba diver who invented a scuba helmet to allow divers to maintain radio contact. The company is thinking of going public, and Sam is trying to write a multi-million dollar policy to provide buyout capital in case one partner, Cable or Cochran, dies. Cable is going to be a problem because divers come to terms with fear which is what Sam deals in. After Sam finishes, Cable does not agree with the policy because he refuses to bet against himself, but agrees to take the physical exam if Cochran wants to take out a policy on him. Sam does not know how to instill fear in Cable who has had several close calls with death. Sam decides it is time to salvage half of the deal with Cochran and leaves, wondering what he did wrong. As he leaves, Sam finds a red feather on the seat of his Mercedes which he brushes onto the street and drives back to his office, sweating though the air conditioner is on high.



Section 1: chapter 1-3 Analysis

This section begins the first part of the novel, "Epiphany". In the first chapter, Sam, Calliope and Coyote are introduced. The narrator reveals that Sam plays many roles which introduces the theme of characters acting as shape shifters. A reference is made to Sam's past twenty years ago. Sam is immediately attracted to Calliope, and the young Indian's interference foreshadows the importance of both him and Calliope in Sam's future. Sam's conversation with Calliope reveals that she is somewhat scatter-brained. The Indian's appearance at the counter of Calliope's job makes Sam question if there is a conspiracy against him and foreshadows the revelation about Sam's past, especially when he wonders how they know about the killing. Sam's shock at realizing that the Indian has golden eyes foreshadows the Indian's identity, is a repetitious event throughout the novel and makes the reader question the significance of golden eyes in the novel.

In the second chapter, Adeline and Pokey are introduced. Pokey's medicine dream introduces the themes of heritage and magic. Adeline's conversion to Christianity contrasts with her Crow superstition regarding the screech owl. Pokey's concern for his nephew who has been gone for twenty years foreshadows Sam's connection to Pokey, and Pokey's dream that his nephew is with Old Man Coyote foreshadows the identity of the Indian. In the third chapter, Sam's use of technology to separate himself from the world demonstrates his isolation. His attempt to write a multi-million dollar policy for Motion Marine is evidence of his success in his industry. The subliminal messages in Sam's presentation show his immorality. Sam's inability to instill fear in Cable is ironic since this is his job which he is good at. The red feather on the seat of Sam's Mercedes foreshadows the Indian's further interference.



Section 2: ch. 4-6

Section 2: ch. 4-6 Summary

In the fourth chapter, "Moment Are Our Mentors", in Santa Barbara, Sam has a day when the senses are heightened as he realizes the extreme ugliness of Gabriella, his secretary, and composes a poem about her in his head. Gabriella tells Sam that Aaron, his boss, is angry and wants to see him. Aaron yells at Sam over the stunt he pulled at Motion Marine because Cable fainted and Cochran is talking about a lawsuit. When Sam objects that Aaron approved of the subliminal messages, Aaron explains that he is talking about the Indian who attacked Cable with a tomahawk after Sam left. Aaron ignores Sam's denials because someone saw the Indian leaving Sam's car. Sam is speechless; he fears Indians because he is one and he fears cops because he killed one. Aaron suggests a backdated agreement to sign Sam's shares over to Aaron. Sam barely hears Aaron because he is twenty-six years and twelve hundred miles away near Crow Country, Montana, listening to his first mentor, his uncle, Pokey Medicine Wing.

In chapter five, "The Gift of a Dream", Sam is known as Samson Hunts Alone in Crow Country, Montana in 1967. Sam cries because his uncle Pokey tells him that it is the Crow way to give away his first deer kill. Sam tells Pokey that all the other people say that Pokey has no medicine; he is just a crazy drunk. Pokey shows Sam his medicine bundle. Pokey's spirit helper is the trickster, Old Man Coyote, who gave Pokey the medicine bag to make him crazy and want to drink. Sam asks why Pokey kept it and Pokey claims that maybe it is part of a larger circle, but at least he knows why he is unhappy. Sam does not want to be like Pokey, so Pokey tells Sam to be like himself then. Pokey shows Sam how to dress a deer and gives him the gift of a dream. In the dream, Old Man Coyote came to Pokey and told him that it ruins his balance when he is afraid something will go wrong and then he is Coyote Blue. Pokey does not know what the dream means, but he knows that it is an important dream.

In the sixth chapter, "A Malady of Medicine", back in modern day Santa Barbara, Sam tells Aaron that he did not hire an Indian to attack Cable. Aaron believes him; he was being greedy and wants Sam's shares. Gabriella tells Sam that his complex called to complain about his dog on his patio, but Sam objects that he does not have a dog. Sam tells Gabriella to have Calliope's flat tire changed and charged to him. Sam goes to his complex, The Cliffs, where Spagnola, the security guard, details the day's complaints against the dog on Sam's patio. Sam and Spagnola evade the angry neighbors and go to Sam's condo to see the dog molesting Sam's expensive leather couch. Spagnola cannot shoot the animal unless there is imminent danger. Sam realizes that the dog is actually a coyote and urges Spagnola to shoot it when it growls at them. Spagnola shoots six times, misses, and runs out of Sam's condo. Sam hears laughing and realizes that the coyote is gone and the young Indian is in its place. The young Indian runs through the shattered glass door to Sam's deck and jumps to the ground below as he grins at Sam. Sam thinks of prayer and faith; he takes his bag of coyote medicine out of his dresser drawer and trembles.



In "Coyote Makes the World", there is water everywhere, but with the help of four ducks, Old Man Coyote makes land and the Crow Indians to tell stories about him. He creates buffalo for his men to eat and horses to help them catch the buffalo. Old Man Coyote builds a sweat lodge and steams with the ducks. He cooks and eats the irritating ducks and decides to give sweat to the Absarokee as their church and sacrament.

Section 2: ch. 4-6 Analysis

In chapter four, Sam begins to have problems with his job. Aaron's accusation that Sam hired the Indian to attack Cable fulfills the foreshadowing of the Indian's continued interference in Sam's life. Sam's fear of Indians and cops fulfills the foreshadowing about the revelation of Sam's past. Sam thinks about Pokey, fulfilling the foreshadowing to connect Pokey and Sam. The fifth chapter is a flashback into Sam's past. Old Man Coyote is introduced as Pokey's spirit helper. This chapter also shows Sam's discontent with his heritage. The title of the novel is explained when Pokey gives Sam a dream.

In the sixth chapter, the reader learns that Aaron is greedy. Sam now begins having problems with his home which parallels his problems with his job. Spagnola is introduced. The fact that the dog is actually a coyote foreshadows the appearance of Old Man Coyote in Sam's life, especially when the coyote turns into the young Indian which further foreshadows the discovery of the Indian's identity. Sam taking the coyote medicine out of his dresser drawer shows Sam's faith and his suspicion that the young Indian is Old Man Coyote. "Coyote Makes the World" is a legend about Old Man Coyote creating the Crow Indians; it introduces the theme of legends about Old Man Coyote throughout the novel.



Section 3: ch. 7-9

Section 3: ch. 7-9 Summary

In chapter seven, "The Children of the Large-Beaked Bird", in Crow Country in 1967, Samson Hunts Alone sits on a bench outside the sweat lodge as Pokey prays to the Great Spirit for good medicine. Uncle Harlan and his two sons, Harry and Festus, visit to witness Sam's first sweat, and Uncle Harlan mocks Pokey. Harlan disdains his heritage; he and Pokey are very different. The two men and two boys enter the sweat lodge which is so hot that Sam passes out and recovers only when water is splashed on his face. Harlan tells Sam that they did the naming ceremony while he was unconscious, and Sam is unhappy to learn that his new name is Squats Behind the Bush. Harlan mockingly asks Sam what he will do if he sees Old Man Coyote in his vision like Pokey, and Sam rejects the idea since only Pokey sees Old Man Coyote.

In "Meet the Muse, Mr. Lizard King", the eighth chapter, back in Santa Barbara, Calliope thinks about the past lives of lizards as she waits for Sam, who is thirty minutes late, to pick her up from work. Calliope is raised Hindu between the ages of seven and nine, but her mother often changes religions. Sam apologizes for being late when he finally arrives, but Calliope is indifferent to time. After Calliope feeds a moth from Sam's bumper to the lizard, Sam tells her that he had her car fixed. Calliope confides that her original name was not Calliope; she changed it while living with a sculptor, much like Indians do. Sam tries to ask Calliope about the young Indian but is distracted by her incessant rambling. As Sam drops Calliope off at her car, she invites him to dinner at her house tomorrow night. Sam agrees, and Calliope leaves.

In the ninth chapter, "Quitting Now Greatly Reduces the Chance of Visions", in Crow Country 1967, Sam and Pokey drive to the fasting place. Pokey shows Sam where to fast, find the Spirit World and his spirit helper. Pokey will wait for Sam. Sam's mind wanders as he grows bored. Unable to find the Spirit World, Sam decides to fabricate a vision. He returns to where he left Pokey, but Pokey is gone. Sam waits, and a powder blue car with a fat white man stops for directions. Confused by Sam's directions, the man asks Sam to ride with him, and Sam agrees because the man is passing near Sam's home. The man, Lloyd Commerce, sells the Miracle, a cleaning apparatus. At first, Sam thinks Lloyd is crazy as he talks about his job, but then Sam decides that he wants to be a salesman as he falls asleep. Sam wakes to Pokey shaking him by the side of the road where Lloyd Commerce picked Sam up. When Sam tells his uncle about the dream, Pokey worries that Sam saw Old Man Coyote.

Section 3: ch. 7-9 Analysis

Chapter seven is a flashback into Sam's past. Sam's first sweat signifies his journey into manhood. His name change demonstrates his ability to be a shape shifter, reiterating this earlier introduced theme. Sam's thoughts again reveal his malcontent with his Crow



heritage. Sam reveals his faith in Pokey by his declaration that only Pokey sees Old Man Coyote. Chapter eight provides background information on Calliope, especially concerning her religious upbringing. Sam's further conversation with Calliope reveals her strangeness. Calliope and Sam arrange a date for the following evening which foreshadows their date.

Chapter nine is a flashback into Sam's past where he goes on his vision quest to find his spirit helper. Lloyd Commerce is introduced as he appears in Sam's dream. After meeting Lloyd Commerce, a salesman, Sam decides that he wants to be a salesman also, which is ironic since modern Sam is a salesman. When Pokey hears about Sam's dream, he is convinced that the salesman was actually Old Man Coyote, reiterating Coyote's shape shifting abilities. The fact that Pokey is sad that Old Man Coyote is Sam's spirit helper foreshadows that Coyote is trouble.



Section 4: ch. 10-12

Section 4: ch. 10-12 Summary

In chapter ten, "Over Easy, Politically Correct", Spagnola calls to tell Sam that his neighbors have voted him out of the complex. Spagnola is rude to Sam, and Sam asks what his problem is. Spagnola hears about the Indian attacking Cable, and he saw an Indian jump off of Sam's deck last night. Spagnola also talked to Aaron, who wants Sam out of the business. Sam tells Spagnola to remember that he does not know who Sam is or what he is capable of.

In "Coyote Gets His Powers", the Great Spirit decides to rename the animal people. Coyote wants to get a good name so he tries but fails to stay awake all night. Coyote oversleeps, and only the name Coyote is left. As a consolation, the Great Spirit gives Coyote the power to take on any shape he wishes.

In "The God, the Bad and the Ugly", Sam enters his office to find the young Indian engaging in intercourse with Gabriella. Sam drags the Indian off of his secretary, knocks him unconscious using his phone and drags him into his office. The Indian has no pulse and turns into a large black coyote, who awakes and growls at Sam before shifting back into the young Indian. Sam demands to know who the Indian is, and the Indian says he is Samson Hunts Alone's spirit helper, Coyote. Sam had guessed the Indian's identity but did not believe it because gods are supposed to be mythological. Sam wants his life back because it is safe, but Coyote says to be safe is to be afraid.

In chapter twelve, "Cruelly Turn the Steel-Belted Radials of Destiny", in Crow Country in 1973, Pokey tries to interpret Sam's vision and decides that Coyote is telling them to turn their dreams into money. Pokey and Sam try and fail at many different business attempts, making little money. When Sam is fifteen years old, Pokey decides that they are not meant to turn their dreams into money. Sam says the dream is unimportant because he was only nine years old, but Pokey objects that the Crows did not fight the white men because of the dream of a nine-year-old boy. Sam and Billy Two Irons go to a party, hoping that Enos Windtree, a mean, half-Crow cop, is not working. Sam sees and lusts after Ellen Black Feather as he and Billy unload the liquor from the truck. Enos arrives to break the party up, and Ellen yells obscenities at Enos. When Enos gropes Ellen at gun point, Sam grabs a spare tire and runs at Enos. The spare tire catches Enos in the chest, knocking him over the railing to the dam wall two hundred feet below.

Section 4: ch. 10-12 Analysis

In chapter ten, Sam loses his home, showing the trouble that the young Indian causes in Sam's life. Along with Pokey's reaction to Sam's dream, this foreshadows the identity of the young Indian as Old Man Coyote. Spagnola is rude to Sam because he believes Sam is involved with the Indian after seeing the Indian jump off of Sam's deck the



previous night. Spagnola also reveals Aaron's betrayal in wanting Sam out of the business. Sam threatening Spagnola foreshadows the injury to Spagnola. "Coyote Gets His Powers" is a legend about Coyote obtaining his name and his powers, and this foreshadows Coyote's impressive shape shifting ability.

In chapter eleven, Coyote reveals his identity to Sam, fulfilling the multiple times that this revelation has been foreshadowed. When Coyote accuses Sam of being afraid, Sam denies his fear, which becomes a recurring theme throughout the novel. Chapter twelve is a flashback into Sam's past as Sam and Pokey try in vain to interpret Sam's dream. The description of the party and Sam pushing Enos over the cliff reveals the reason that Sam left his home and fulfills the foreshadowing of the revelation of Sam's past.



Section 5: ch. 13-14

Section 5: ch. 13-14 Summary

In the second part of the novel, "The Call to Action", and chapter thirteen, "Forget What You Know", after Enos falls, only Billy is not stunned into silence. He plans how to save Sam. Billy tells Sam that he must leave the reservation, possibly forever. Billy collects money and takes Sam to the bus, suggesting that Sam might be able to pass for a white man. Sam tries to imagine his future but is disoriented. He realizes this is just another type of Coyote Blue. On the bus, Sam is shocked to see the powder blue car with Lloyd Commerce pass and Lloyd Commerce toast Sam with a bottle of Coca Cola. In chapter fourteen, "Lies Have Lives of Their Own", Samson Hunts Alone becomes a white man named Samuel Hunter. After hitching rides with truckers, a bum refers him to a "coyote" who smuggles Mexicans over the border to do hard work for minimal pay. Sam is hired and does the hardest work he has ever done. Eventually, Sam is hired as a busboy at a restaurant because he speaks English. Sam is homesick from the moment he arrives in Santa Barbara, but he tries to forget his past in order to fend off the hopelessness. The affluent Americans ignore Sam until one day when he finishes the sentence of a young insurance sales manager, Aaron Aaron. Aaron bets his companions that he can train Sam to outsell them all, intending to embarrass the other salesmen. When Sam excels at selling insurance, Aaron offers him a partnership in his agency to avoid losing Sam. In the present, Sam offers to sell his shares to Aaron and keep his office. Aaron objects to the price that Sam asks, but Sam points out that if he refuses to sell, Aaron's name will appear beside Sam's in the newspaper and may draw the attention of the IRS. Aaron is frightened, and Sam tells him to think it over.

Section 5: ch. 13-14 Analysis

This section begins the second part of the novel, "The Call to Action". In the thirteenth chapter, a flashback shows Sam fleeing from Crow Country into the world of the white man. This flashback foreshadows Sam's future. The fact that Sam sees Old Man Coyote disguised as Lloyd Commerce as he takes a bus away from Crow Country shows that Sam leaving his home is at least part of the meaning of his dream several years earlier. In chapter fourteen, Sam is hired by a "coyote" who smuggles Mexicans across the border to do difficult work for minimal pay; the reference to a coyote is ironic. After leaving his home, Sam shape shifts into a white man. This chapter also reveals how Sam and Aaron met and became partners, a story which is very ironic since Aaron only intended to train Sam in insurance sales to embarrass the other salesmen. Sam shows the side of him that is not very pleasant when he threatens Aaron.



Section 6: ch. 15-16

Section 6: ch. 15-16 Summary

In chapter fifteen, "Like God's Own Chocolate, I'd Lick Her Shadow Off a Hot Sidewalk", in Santa Barbara, Sam is excited for his evening with Calliope, despite everything else. Sam goes to her apartment and meets Yiffer, Nina's man. Calliope ruins the spaghetti. When a baby cries, Calliope leaves the room to calm her son, Grubb. Sam follows and meets Grubb, Nina, and Nina and Yiffer's son, J. Nigel Yiffworth, Esquire. Nina and Yiffer leave the apartment, and Sam and Calliope change the babies' diapers. As they engage in intercourse, someone slams the doors in the apartment below them, and Calliope tells Sam to ignore them. Sam finishes quickly and without pleasure. Calliope argues with Grubb's father who lives downstairs and threatens to get custody of Grubb. Sam offers to leave, but Calliope objects.

In "Live, via the Spirit World Satellite Network", the sixteenth chapter, Lonnie Ray Inman sits downstairs, listening to Calliope and Sam above him, and playing with his gun. He decides to kill Calliope's new lover. Pokey sits in the Bighorn Mountains, watching Lonnie with his gun. Pokey summons Old Man Coyote from the women's locker room and asks him to help Sam. Coyote points out that Pokey is close to death and sends him back to his body. When Sam asks, Calliope assures him that Lonnie is not dangerous. Calliope tells Sam to light the candles, but they leave the radio off to avoid irritating Lonnie. A raven lands on Sam's car, turns into a mosquito to fly in the vent, and then removes a card from Sam's Rolodex as Coyote. An Indian knocks on Lonnie's door and asks where Sam is. Lonnie finds out that the Indian knows where Sam lives and steals the Rolodex card at gunpoint before pointing the Indian toward Calliope's apartment. Calliope asks Sam what he wants, but he does not know. Sam asks Calliope if she is part of Coyote's plan and is convinced by her confusion that she does not know about Old Man Coyote. Calliope goes to the kitchen to get ice cream, and Sam runs after her when he hears footsteps on the stairs.

Section 6: ch. 15-16 Analysis

In chapter fifteen, Nina, Yiffer, Grubb and Lonnie are introduced to the plot. Sam's date with Calliope fulfills the earlier foreshadowing that took place when they arranged the date. Sam is also introduced to the chaos of Calliope's life which contrasts sharply with his safe, orderly life. He also learns some of Calliope's background, including her having a son with Lonnie who lives downstairs. Chapter sixteen reveals that Lonnie may be dangerous. When Pokey is in danger, Coyote tries to help him by giving him a packet of Kool Aid. Pokey's fasting shows his love and devotion to his nephew. Coyote attempts to help Sam by giving Lonnie a Rolodex card which he claims has Sam's address on it; this foreshadows injury to someone that Sam knows. Sam's belief that Calliope does not know about Old Man Coyote shows his faith in Calliope and foreshadows their growing

relationship. Sam runs to the kitchen when he hears footsteps in the stairway; this demonstrates his concern for Calliope.



Section 7: ch. 17-19

Section 7: ch. 17-19 Summary

In chapter seventeen, "A White Picket Fence Around Chaos", Yiffer and Nina return drunk and begin fighting. Sam and Calliope go to her room, and Calliope wants to have sex again. When Grubb wakes crying, Sam excuses himself to the bathroom where he complains to himself that he cannot do this. Coyote appears to help because Sam is wasting this woman. Sam cannot have sex with Calliope because of the chaos in her apartment. Coyote advises him to lose himself in Calliope's body and gives him a medicine pouch to put on his member. Calliope enters the bathroom to retrieve Sam as he sprinkles the powder on his member. When Lonnie begins slamming doors below again, Yiffer goes to yell at Lonnie, and Calliope says that Lonnie is scared of Yiffer. As Calliope and Sam make love, Sam loses himself in Calliope's body.

In "Shadowphobia", the next chapter, Spagnola awakes on Saturday morning to Tinker, a biker sent by Lonnie, crashing through his apartment on a Harley. Spagnola dresses and reaches for his gun as Tinker opens the door which hits Spagnola in his head, knocking him unconscious. Tinker uses a baton to break Spagnola's legs. Sam wakes to Calliope, Nina and Yiffer hiding from yard sale people because Yiffer put the wrong date in the newspaper. Sam leaves and convinces the yard sale people to go away because there is nothing left. Coyote joins Sam who objects, but Coyote points out that one cannot wipe off their own shadow. In Crow Country, Kiro Yashamoto, his wife and two children drive up a mountain road to an ancient Indian medicine wheel. Kiro sees a prostrate figure in the dirt and realizes that the man is sick. He searches the man's information and learns that the man is Pokey. Kiro gives Pokey water which causes Pokey to revive for a second before passing out again.

In the nineteenth chapter, "Five Faces of Coyote Blue", a screech owl sits outside of Adeline's house since the day she found Pokey. Her car blows up, her kids get the flu and her husband attends a peyote ceremony. She believes it is unfair that her new faith is tested so early; she laments getting bad medicine from being Crow and going to hell for being Christian. In Sam's condo, Coyote plays a video game, and Spagnola calls to tell Sam that if Sam says it is over, he will arrange a committee to vote for Sam to keep his home. Sam does not know what Spagnola is talking about but agrees that it is over. Coyote explains that Sam wanted his old life back. Calliope fears her relationship with Sam and worries about leaving Grubb with Lonnie while she goes to work. Lonnie prepares to leave Cheryl, his girlfriend, and decides that it is time to feel good again and stop being tied to Calliope because of Grubb. Cochran's secretary tells him that a man from the Native American Reform Coalition has arrived to see him, and Coyote grows claws and fur as he enters.



Section 7: ch. 17-19 Analysis

In chapter seventeen, more chaos erupts at Calliope's apartment. Later, Coyote helps Sam and Calliope have sex by providing Sam with a magic powder; this also illustrates the theme of magic in the novel. In the eighteenth chapter, Tinker's attack on Spagnola fulfills the foreshadowing of injury to someone in Sam's life as a result of Coyote giving Lonnie the Rolodex card as well as the foreshadowing of Spagnola's injury due to Sam's threat. Sam shows his growing interest in Calliope by helping her to get rid of the yard sale people who are harassing her and her roommates. The introduction to Kiro foreshadows Pokey being saved.

In chapter nineteen, Spagnola's injuries are revealed, further fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. As a result, Spagnola calls a committee to allow Sam to retain his home. When Sam asks Coyote what he did to Spagnola, Coyote reveals his unique rationale. Adeline's reappearance shows her superstitious side as she ironically laments on getting bad medicine from being Crow and going to Hell for being Christian. Background on Calliope's past shows that she is frightened of a relationship with a good guy because it causes her to hope. Calliope's fear of leaving Grubb with Lonnie and Cheryl's conversation with Lonnie foreshadows Lonnie kidnapping Grubb. Coyote's attack on Cochran appears to be making Sam's situation worse rather than better.



Section 8: ch. 20-22

Section 8: ch. 20-22 Summary

In "Nevermore", the twentieth chapter, Aaron claims that there is no reason for Sam to sell his shares since the lawsuit is behind them. Sam insists upon selling his shares and returns to his office to find Gabriella hyperventilating and a raven perched in the corner. When Sam yells at the raven, Coyote asks what Sam is doing. Detective Rivera arrives in Sam's office and tells Sam that the police believe that someone put hallucinogens in the water at Motion Marine because several people today claim that they saw a polar bear in the office. Detective Rivera leaves, and Sam points out to Coyote that he will go to jail if the police run a background check on him. Coyote protests that Sam wants his old life back, but now Sam just wants Coyote to go away. Coyote says he is gone and so is the girl before turning into a raven and flying away.

In the next chapter, "All Happy Families", Calliope worries about Lonnie watching Grubb even though she is not good at worrying. Lonnie arrives on his Harley with Cheryl behind him, refuses to stay home and ignores Calliope's pleas not to take Grubb on the cycle. As they leave, Cheryl tells Calliope that they will put money on black for her. At the insinuation, Calliope panics and rushes to her apartment. Sam worries about Calliope; though he tries to convince himself she is trouble and she does not matter, he realizes he loves her. Sam goes to Calliope's apartment where Nina informs him that Calliope left a note that Lonnie took Grubb and she is going after him. Sam no longer wants his normal life; he wants something real. At the Guild's clubhouse, where they make the drugs they sell to fund their club, President Bonner Newton informs the other members of the Guild that Lonnie is running an errand to Las Vegas with his old lady to pick up money for the ether which the whole group will be going on an impromptu road trip to obtain. Lonnie will meet them in South Dakota. A flea in the clubhouse turns into a horsefly, then into a raven, and flies away.

In chapter twenty-two, "Sprinkling the Son of the Morning Star", Sam is unable to stop himself from worrying about Calliope. Coyote arrives as a coyote and tells Sam that Calliope has gone to Las Vegas to retrieve Grubb and will get hurt if she tries to take Grubb from Lonnie. Sam claims that it is not his problem. Coyote tells Sam that it is acceptable to be afraid but not to act afraid; courage is its own reward. Coyote sends Sam a memory from his childhood about breaking into a cemetery to see Custer's grave. Sam claims that was nothing but trouble but admits that he would do it again. Coyote points out that Calliope is nothing but trouble also. Coyote really angers Sam sometimes, but Sam prepares to travel to Las Vegas with Coyote.

Section 8: ch. 20-22 Analysis

In chapter twenty, Aaron and Sam are reconciled. Coyote's fax demonstrates his penchant for mischief. Detective Rivera's arrival shows Sam's discomfort and fear



around police officers due to killing Enos. The police suspect that someone put hallucinogens in the water at Motion Marine; this shows the misdirection of the previous chapter in that Coyote's attack on Cochran actually does help Sam since people are unwilling to believe the supernatural possibility of a man becoming a polar bear. Sam is not grateful. He only wants his old life back and tells Coyote to go away. Coyote says that he is gone and so is the girl; this foreshadows Calliope leaving Santa Barbara.

In chapter twenty-one, Calliope's worry and conversation with Lonnie and Cheryl foreshadows Lonnie kidnapping Grubb. Sam worrying about Calliope foreshadows Sam realizing that he loves her. Sam learns that Calliope went after Lonnie and Grubb, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing to this effect. The Guild is introduced in this chapter, and their connection to drug activity is revealed. Coyote spies on the Guild's meeting. In the twenty-second chapter, Coyote tells Sam that Calliope went to Las Vegas to get Grubb back, foreshadowing Sam going to Las Vegas as well. Coyote reintroduces the theme of fear when he tells Sam that it is okay to be afraid but not to act afraid. When Sam claims that Calliope is nothing but trouble, Coyote sends Sam a memory that reminds Sam that sometimes the trouble is worth it. This convinces Sam to go to Las Vegas after Calliope, fulfilling the foreshadowing that occurred before Sam's memory.



Section 9: ch. 23-24

Section 9: ch. 23-24 Summary

In the third part, "Quest", and the twenty-third chapter, "Pavlov's Dogs and the Rhinestone Turd", after a tedious drive, Sam and Coyote arrive in Las Vegas where Sam has been before with Aaron. Sam explains his navigation system to Coyote and reserves a hotel room at the Camelot hotel. After warning Coyote away from the naked women in this city, Sam hands his car keys to the valet, which always makes him feel that it is the last time he will see his car. As Sam withdraws money from an ATM, Coyote gets excited that Sam is winning on this machine. After checking in, Sam goes to sleep while Coyote thinks of a plan to find Calliope.

In "Coyote Loses His Ass", Coyote bets Beaver he is a better hunter with the winner sleeping with the loser's wife. After Beaver wins, Coyote plays a hand game with Beaver and loses his wife, house, horses, clothes and butt.

In chapter twenty-four, "Coyote in Trickster Town", no one will gamble with Coyote in the Spirit World so he must make up for lost time in Las Vegas. Coyote tries Sam's cheating machine, the ATM, but cannot get money. When a woman impatiently taps her foot, Coyote tells her the machine will not help her because she will still be ugly. A large black man stops her from hitting Coyote, and Coyote says the man looks like Raven; the man's name is M. F. which stands for Minty Fresh. M. F. tells Coyote to pick a language first. Coyote uses all of Sam's cards and walks away with twenty thousand dollars, which he bets at the roulette table. The monitors notice Coyote and tell M. F. to keep a close eye on the man; M. F. suggests Coyote moves to a private table where Coyote is prevented from using his cheating powder. Coyote wins a hand, then loses. He takes Sam's Mercedes to get more money, and M. F. is relieved when Coyote leaves.

Section 9: ch. 23-24 Analysis

The third part of the novel, "Quest", begins at this point as Sam follows Calliope to Las Vegas. In chapter twenty-three, Sam shows his disdain for Las Vegas through his claim that this is where people come to ruin their lives. Sam's feeling that this is the last time he will see his car as he hands the keys to the valet foreshadows Coyote selling Sam's Mercedes. Sam withdrawing money from the ATM machine and Coyote's interest in Sam's cheating machine foreshadows Coyote's adventure with the ATM machine and stealing all of Sam's money. M. F. is introduced in this chapter briefly.

"Coyote Loses His Ass" is a legend about Coyote's gambling problem, which foreshadows Coyote losing all of Sam's money at the casino in Las Vegas. In chapter twenty-four, Coyote's venture with the ATM machine fulfills the foreshadowing from the previous chapter. This chapter also fulfills the foreshadowing of the legend as far as Coyote losing all of Sam's money. M. F.'s interference and order to watch Coyote

demonstrates M. F.'s distrust of Coyote. Coyote taking Sam's car to get more money foreshadows Coyote selling Sam's car.



Section 10: ch. 25-26

Section 10: ch. 25-26 Summary

In "Wheels, Deals and the Persistence of Visions", the twenty-fifth chapter, Calliope tries to sleep in her car but gets scared when some young thugs approach. She speeds off, going faster when a policeman follows her. Lonnie yells at Cheryl to clean up after Grubb when he sees his son urinate on the drugs. When Cheryl complains about their vacation, Lonnie aims a pistol at her head. The police officer pursues Calliope, but a black Mercedes blocks his path. There is no driver, and a skunk sprays the officer in the face when he goes to examine the car. He hears laughter as the Mercedes speeds away. Coyote goes to Clyde's Cash for Your Car and sells Sam's Mercedes for five thousand dollars. Kiro watches as two doctors, one who practices European medicine and one Indian practitioner, fight to save Pokey's life. The Indian doctor says Pokey is gone as Pokey begins speaking in Navajo. A shadow tells Pokey to warn Coyote that there is death where he goes, but Coyote is annoyed when Pokey summons him and chides Pokey for not drinking the Kool Aid since he is dying again. The European doctor yells that they are losing Pokey.

In chapter twenty-six, "Hang with a Horse Thief, Wake Up Walking", M. F. is summoned to watch the Indian again, but oddly, M. F. knows Coyote's name. Coyote lets a newlywed bride bet all of his money when she claims she is lucky. After she loses, Coyote attacks her, and M. F. drags Coyote off the woman. Coyote claims that he needs to get money from another hotel, and M. F. takes him in the hotel limo. M. F. refuses Coyote's request to follow Calliope's 280Z but stops for cigarettes when Coyote asks. As M. F. stands in line, Coyote steals the limo. M. F. takes off his sunglasses and the clerk is shocked by his golden eyes. Coyote parks near Calliope's car, which is parked near the Harley shop where Lonnie's motorcycle is. Coyote calls Sam who tells Coyote to keep Calliope there because he is on his way. M. F. calls Jake, a detective who owes the casino a lot of money, to ask for help finding the limo without contacting the hotel or police. Calliope is scared of failure as approaches Lonnie and demands that he give her Grubb, but Lonnie refuses, gives Grubb to Cheryl and leaves on his bike as Calliope cries. Sam meets Coyote at the Harley shop, but Calliope has already left. As Sam and Coyote pull away, Jake calls on the limo's car phone and tells Sam and Coyote to pull over; Sam tells Coyote to get off at the next exit.

Section 10: ch. 25-26 Analysis

In chapter twenty-five, Coyote sells Sam's car, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. The scene between Lonnie and Cheryl shows Lonnie's violent tendencies. Coyote interferes in Calliope's life in order to save her from being pulled over by the police. Pokey's life is in danger at the clinic, but he is receiving medical attention which fulfills the foreshadowing that Kiro would save Pokey's life. A shadow tells Pokey to warn Coyote of death foreshadowing Calliope's pending death. Coyote helps Pokey when Pokey



summons him, even though Coyote is exasperated at being summoned twice in one day.

In the twenty-sixth chapter, M. F. is repetitively sent to watch after Coyote because someone suspects that Coyote will cause trouble; this foreshadows M. F.'s involvement in the Spirit World, especially when M. F. realizes that he inexplicably knows Coyote's name. Coyote steals the hotel limo, foreshadowing his intent to help Calliope. Coyote tells Sam about Calliope, foreshadowing Sam joining Coyote. Coyote's attempt to call Calliope demonstrates his ineptness with technology. Calliope's fear of failure in saving Grubb parallels her fear of failure in a relationship with Sam. Jake calling Coyote and Sam on the limo's car phone foreshadows M. F. and Jake catching Coyote and Sam. Sam telling Coyote to stop at the next exit foreshadows their next adventure and finding Calliope.



Section 11: ch. 27-28

Section 11: ch. 27-28 Summary

In "Food, Gas, Enlightenment, Next Right", Sam and Coyote take the exit to King's Lake, Nevada, where they find Calliope's car in front of Satori Japanese Auto Repair. Before they can leave, M. F. and Jake arrive. M. F. did not call the police; he only wants the keys to the limo and to know what is going on. He tells Sam that there is something strange about Coyote and notices Sam's golden eyes for the first time. Sam tells M. F. that they need the limo to retrieve Grubb from Lonnie, and M. F. apologizes but takes the limo. Calliope's car is fixed, and Calliope, Sam and Coyote leave the auto repair shop.

In "Hope is Bulletproof, Truth Just Hard to Hit", as M. F. drives back to Las Vegas, he thinks of his mother calling to say that she needed him. He went home for his father, Nathan Fresh, a commended Navy officer who was forced to retire the same week that M. F. left home for University of Nevada in Las Vegas to play football. M. F. goes home right before opening game, and the coach kicks him off the team. His mother says that Nathan has changed since his retirement; he drinks, gambles and has not been home in four days. M. F. finds his father in a Mexican cantina outside of Tijuana. The Mexicans will not let Nathan leave and push M. F. When Nathan tells them not to touch his son, they knock him unconscious. M. F. beats up seven Mexicans, and his mother meets him and Nathan at the hospital. Nathan awakes and calls M. F. a yellow-eyed freak.

Sam drives into Utah as Calliope and Coyote sleep. When Calliope wakes, Sam complains about her not calling because it would have been easier than tracking her down. Calliope points out that he may not have come if it had been easier. Calliope had sex with Sam so soon to get past the wanting, and then she started to have hope; she did not call because she did not want to lose that hope. Sam tells Calliope about his sordid history. Calliope kisses his cheek, and Sam tells her to get some sleep because she will need to drive since he does not trust Coyote behind the wheel.

Section 11: ch. 27-28 Analysis

In chapter twenty-seven, Coyote talks to a prairie dog who says Sam has shifty eyes; this becomes a means for Coyote to repetitively tease Sam. Sam and Coyote encounter Calliope at Satori Japanese Auto Repair, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing. The monk's sayings are reminiscent of Pokey's adages. M. F. notices Sam's golden eyes, repeating the significance of this theme. M. F. catching up to Coyote and Sam fulfills the foreshadowing that occurred when Jake called the limo's car phone. M. F. feels sorry for Calliope's situation which foreshadows his assistance in helping her retrieve her son. Calliope's car is fixed which foreshadows the continued journey to retrieve Grubb.



The action of chapter twenty-eight foreshadows Sam, Calliope and Coyote retrieving Grubb. Also, background on M. F. is provided, including his father spurning him for his golden eyes. Calliope provides her reason for not telling Sam that she was going to Las Vegas as a fear of losing hope. Calliope also points out that maybe Sam would not have come if it had been too easy. Sam tells Calliope about his history, demonstrating his trust in her and foreshadowing the growth of their relationship.



Section 12: ch. 29-30

Section 12: ch. 29-30 Summary

In chapter twenty-nine, "Shifting", Sam stops at a truck stop outside of Salt Lake City, Utah to get breakfast. Calliope expresses her faith that they will be able to retrieve Grubb. Calliope, Coyote and Sam plot, and Coyote states that they will have to trick the Guild. As Sam looks out the window at the gas pumps, a black limo pulls away. In Sturgis, they pull onto the dirt road that leads to the farm where the Guild meets, turn around to face the road and walk the rest of the way. In "Coyote and Cottontail", Coyote and Cottontail watch girls dancing in the woods. Since they will not let him approach them, Coyote takes off his penis, hands it to Cottontail and disguises himself as an old woman to wrestle with the girls. He goes to retrieve his penis but is unable to find Cottontail, who is busy pleasuring three of the girls with Coyote's penis.

In the thirtieth chapter, "Like Flies", Coyote, Calliope and Sam hear a baby crying, and Sam stops Calliope from rushing to her son. Coyote takes his penis off, dons Calliope's clothes and goes to get Grubb. As Tinker sulks in the truck bed, he sees a beautiful Indian woman steal Grubb. Tinker hides with his gun cocked, but someone takes the gun and beats him up. Coyote greets M. F. as shade, and M. F. is confused by Coyote's appearance as a woman. When Calliope insists it is time to leave, Coyote suggests that they go to the Crow reservation in Montana. As the bikers approach, Calliope, Coyote and Sam leave in Calliope's car while M. F. blocks the bikers with the limo. Lonnie fires his gun at Calliope's 280Z, and the bikers begin hitting M. F. In the car, Sam realizes that there is blood on Calliope; Coyote says she is dead.

Section 12: ch. 29-30 Analysis

In chapter twenty-nine, Coyote's plotting to trick the Guild foreshadows retrieving Grubb. The black limo pulling away from the gas pump at the truck stop foreshadows M. F.'s involvement in Sturgis, South Dakota. When Calliope stops to help get the calf out of the fence, this demonstrates her kindness and is indicative of her upbringing in Eastern religions. Calliope, Coyote and Sam arrive at the farm in Sturgis and prepare their escape with Grubb, foreshadowing their successful retrieval of Calliope's son.

"Coyote and Cottontail" is a legend about Coyote disguising himself as a woman; this foreshadows Coyote disguising himself as a woman to rescue Grubb. The events in chapter thirty fulfill the foreshadowing of Coyote disguising himself as a woman and rescuing Grubb. M. F.'s appearance fulfills the foreshadowing that he would arrive in Sturgis to help Calliope, Sam and Coyote. Calliope's death foreshadows Sam's journey to the Underworld and reveals the depth of Sam's feelings for her.



Section 13: ch. 31-32

Section 13: ch. 31-32 Summary

Part four, "Home", begins with the legend of "Coyote Hears His Heart" in which Coyote sits in a canoe, unsure of where he wants to go. A thumping noise distracts Coyote, and he calls out to Old Mother to stop the noise. She laughs, tells him it is his heart and advises him to think of the sound of drums and home.

In chapter thirty-one, "There Are No Orphans Among the Crow", Coyote drives back to Crow Country while Sam, paralyzed with grief, plays with Grubb. At the Hunts Alone house, Sam meets Festus's wife Cindy and learns that Grandma is dead and Pokey is sick in the clinic. Cindy watches Grubb as Coyote and Sam go to see Pokey. The nurse at the clinic tells Sam that Pokey should be in the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital but refuses to leave the clinic. Pokey recognizes Sam immediately and asks about Coyote, who is in the waiting room. Pokey mentions that Enos was badly injured and looked for Sam for years, and Sam laments that he ran away from home for no reason. Pokey tells Sam that he was worried because he saw Coyote and Sam going where Death was. Sam explains that Pokey saw Calliope's death, and Pokey mentions that Coyote can retrieve people from the Underworld. Pokey convinces Sam that it is possible and tells his nephew where to find the sacred arrow bundle necessary to travel to the Underworld. Sam leaves Pokey and returns to Coyote. He tells Coyote that he needs a phone and clothes and asks if Coyote can go to the Underworld. Coyote admits that he can but does not like to because it is depressing. Sam says he must go to Billings first to get something; Coyote complains that Billings is also depressing. As they pull in front of the Hunts Alone house, Sam asks Coyote what he is afraid of in the Underworld.

In chapter thirty-two, "A Doctorate in Deception", Pokey tells Sam about seven sacred arrow bundles that contain the most powerful warrior medicine possible. Sam believes him based on his heart more than logic. One of the bundles is owned by a private collector in Billings. When Sam enters the house, Cindy barely recognizes him because he now has purpose. Sam calls the Museum of West and learns the collector's name is Amstead Houston. After several calls, he calls Amstead Houston and claims the bundle was undervalued and asked to conduct a new appraisal tonight. Cindy and Coyote are bewildered; Coyote points out Sam's shifty eyes. Arnie sits in the den, excited about turning junk into money. Sam and Coyote arrive disguised as an anthropologist professor and an expert in Indian artifacts. Sam asks if Arnie opened the bundle, and Arnie says the guy that he got it from told him what is in it: four arrows, an eagle skull and sacred powder. Sam says that they will have to open it to appraise it. After opening it, he claims that the bundle may be priceless but he needs to take it to the lab to be sure. In the meantime, he can only bond it for two hundred thousand dollars; Arnie agrees and Sam scribbles on some forms before he and Coyote leave. Arnie celebrates inside as Sam yells at Coyote outside for acting weird and almost blowing their cover. Coyote agrees to help Sam get Pokey out of the clinic, but he refuses to go to the Underworld with Sam.



Section 13: ch. 31-32 Analysis

This section marks the beginning of the fourth part of the novel, "Home". "Coyote Hears His Heart" is a legend about Coyote that foreshadows Sam's return to Crow Country. This foreshadowing is fulfilled in chapter thirty-one when Sam returns home. Sam caring for Grubb and his immense grief demonstrates his love for Calliope. Sam learns about what has happened in his family during the past twenty years. Sam visits Pokey when he learns that his uncle is sick, in the clinic. Pokey reveals that Enos did not die when Sam pushed him from the cliff; this shows that Sam left his home for no reason. When Pokey tells Sam about his death vision, Sam explains what it meant. Pokey telling Sam that Coyote can travel to the Underworld foreshadows Sam's journey to the Underworld and Calliope's resurrection. Pokey telling Sam about the sacred medicine bundle necessary to journey to the Underworld foreshadows Sam stealing the bundle. Coyote claims that the Underworld is depressing, foreshadowing his refusal to accompany Sam to the Underworld.

The sacred medicine bundles are a symbol of Sam's heritage and magic. Sam is ruled more by his heart than logic, but his willingness to believe what Pokey tells him foreshadows Sam accepting his heritage. Sam's trickery in learning the location and gaining access to the sacred medicine bundle parallels Coyote's trickery throughout the novel. Sam and Coyote go to Billings in disguise, which parallels the disguise of a woman that Coyote used to retrieve Grubb. Sam and Coyote tricking Amstead Houston to get the bundle parallels Amstead tricking an old Indian to get the bundle originally. Coyote's odd behavior in Billings causes Sam to accuse the god of trying to blow their cover. Sam asking Coyote to get help foreshadows Coyote getting Pokey out of the clinic. Coyote's refusal to accompany Sam to the Underworld fulfills the earlier foreshadowing.



Section 14: ch. 33-34

Section 14: ch. 33-34 Summary

In "Doors", chapter thirty-three, Pokey looks healthier. Sam tells Pokey that they got the arrow bundle and asks Pokey to act as his medicine man to send him to the Underworld. Pokey is unable to walk, so Sam reminds Coyote that he promised to help. The clinic is officially closed, with only two nurses on duty, and Adeline Eats sits in the waiting room with her six children who have the flu. When a black horse with an old man and a young man leave the clinic and get in a white Blazer, Adeline asks the nurses if they have room for her children now. Coyote instructs Pokey to open the bundle and sing the song to send Sam to the Underworld. Sam must ask the one who weighs souls to return Calliope's soul. Coyote has something to do but will be back when Sam returns; he turns into a hawk and flies away. Harlan and his sons come to help Sam and Pokey. Frightened, Sam promises Calliope that he will be with her one way or another. Pokey sings, and Sam shivers and his eyes roll back. Pokey tells the others to pray hard.

In chapter thirty-four, "Let Slips the Dogs of Irony", Adeline Eats read Job in the Bible as she contemplates the fact that the screech owl is still perched on the power pole outside her house. Lloyd Commerce rings the doorbell to sell Miracle Medicine. When Adeline's husband awakes, Lloyd is gone but the Miracle Medicine is sitting on the table, and Adeline feels better already. Sam feels as though he is passing out, then falling, then he is surrounded by blackness with two golden eyes and a giant balance scale. A man tells Sam that he tried to warn him that his brother, Coyote, would cause problems; he even sent his unwitting agent, M. F., to help Sam. The man introduces himself as Anubis, the Egyptian god of the Underworld, and explains how he and Coyote are brothers. Anubis also tells Sam that Coyote needs Sam to tell stories about him in order to continue as a living god. Sam asks Anubis to return Calliope's soul to her body, but Anubis refuses because Coyote must learn to sacrifice for his people. Sam feels the loss of his love as the ground drops from underneath him. Coyote arrives at the sweat lodge as Sam awakens just before dawn. Sam attacks Coyote and accuses him of killing Calliope for stories. Pokey restrains Sam and tells him that M. F. called to warn Sam that the bikers are coming for Grubb; they will be there around dawn.

Section 14: ch. 33-34 Analysis

In chapter thirty-three, Sam shows faith in Pokey by asking him to help send him to the Underworld. To be believed is all that Pokey has ever asked. Adeline Eats reappears in the waiting room with her children. Coyote turning into a horse to get Pokey out of the clinic demonstrates the themes of magic and shape shifting. Coyote leaves Sam and Pokey in the sweat lodge, foreshadowing his mischief elsewhere. Harlan and his sons arriving to help Sam demonstrates the loyalty of Sam's family since he has not seen them in twenty years. Sam's promise to be with Calliope no matter what demonstrates



his love and devotion to Calliope. When Sam shivers and his eyes roll back into his head, this foreshadows his descent into the Underworld.

In chapter thirty-four, the screech owl's appearance is repetitious. Adeline Eats reappears and is plagued by Coyote, disguised as Lloyd Commerce. Coyote's appearance with the Miracle Medicine fulfills the foreshadowing of Coyote's mischief elsewhere that occurred when he left Sam and Pokey in the sweat lodge because he had something to do. Sam arrives in the Underworld, fulfilling the foreshadowing that he would go to the Underworld. Anubis is introduced, and Sam discovers that Anubis is Coyote's brother. Anubis claims that he sent his agent to help Sam, which explains M. F.'s position in the novel. Sam also learns that Coyote needs Sam to tell stories about him to continue as a living god; this explains the significance of the legends about Old Man Coyote that appear scattered throughout the book. Sam tries to barter with Anubis, but Anubis refuses to return Calliope's soul to her body because Coyote must learn to sacrifice for his people. This statement foreshadows Coyote's death. Coyote returns to the sweat lodge as Sam awakes, fulfilling his promise. Sam attacking Coyote and blaming Coyote for Calliope's death is indicative of Sam's love for Calliope being misdirected into anger at Coyote. M. F.'s warning call foreshadows Sam fighting the Guild.



Section 15: ch. 35-36

Section 15: ch. 35-36 Summary

In "Crazy Dogs Wishing to Die", chapter thirty-five, Sam is stripped of hope by his journey to the Underworld. He grabs a lance from the living room, swings at and cuts Coyote, and runs outside to jump on a buckskin horse. As he rides toward town, Sam claims that he is tired of being afraid and it is a good day to die. Coyote follows Sam on a painted horse. As dawn breaks, forty bikers, led by Lonnie, enter Crow Agency. They hear a war cry, and two men on horses charge them. When Bonner reaches to draw his pistol, a shot on his left causes his speedometer to explode. The bikers notice the four men on the roofs with rifles. When Sam screams again, Tinker draws and fires his gun, causing Harlan to shoot Tinker in the shoulder, but Coyote grabs his chest and rolls off of his horse. Sam jumps over Lonnie's bike, his horse's hoofs hitting Lonnie. Sam rolls off his horse and places the spear to Lonnie's chest. When Harlan yells, Sam flips the lance to place the blunt end to Lonnie's chest and tells him to go away. The bikers leave. Sam goes to Coyote, who is gasping for breath and says it is a new world now. When Sam asks what he can do, Coyote asks him to tell the stories. M. F. arrives and takes Sam to his home. Sam notices M. F.'s golden eyes for the first time and asks if M. F. knows what is happening and what they are. M. F. will probably go to San Diego because he feels there is something he still has to do. Sam tells him to remember that he must jump over the body four times as M. F. leaves. Sam is shocked and empty as he realizes he has no life to return to. He heads to wash near the sweat lodge in the back of the house, and Calliope steps out of the trailer, claiming she had the strangest dream. Sam laughs and cries as he holds Calliope in his arms; he feels that he has come home at last.

In "Coyote and the Cowboy", Coyote sees a cowboy roll tobacco and light a cigarette. Before he has only smoked a pipe before, he asks to do that, but the cowboy says he cannot because he has no shirt pocket to hold the tobacco in. Coyote cuts deep into his chest and dies. Coyote's brother comes and jumps over his body four times, and Coyote springs up. Anubis tells Coyote that just because he wants something does not mean it is good for him.

In "There Ain't No Cure for Coyote Blue", the thirty-sixth and final chapter, Sam finds his family, his wife and her son waiting for him when he becomes Samson Hunts Alone again. He maintains his shape shifter ways, wearing traditional tribal dress when speaking to the American government for the Crow and Armani suits when reporting to his own people. Sam puts on many faces when he tells the stories about Coyote. Calliope becomes pregnant and has a little girl with Calliope's deep brown eyes, not her father's golden ones. Sam takes Grubb to the medicine wheel for the first time at age nine and teaches him how to enter the Spirit World. He warns him against getting in a light blue car with a fat guy, but Grubb's vision is a story for another time; however, as he grows into manhood, his eyes change to a bright, shining gold.



Section 15: ch. 35-36 Analysis

In chapter thirty-five, Sam grabbing the lance and running out of the house, along with his claim that it is a good day to die, shows that Sam has gone crazy and foreshadows his battle with the Guild. Coyote following Sam foreshadows Coyote joining the battle against the Guild. The Crow Indians on the roofs with guns shows the unity and loyalty of their small community. Tinker's shot and Coyote falling from his horse foreshadows Coyote's death. The fact that Sam does not kill Lonnie demonstrates his mercy. Coyote's death fulfills the foreshadowing that he would die and foreshadows Calliope's resurrection. M. F.'s arrival fulfills the foreshadowing of his aid, while his feeling that he still needs to do something demonstrates his status as Anubis's agent. Sam notices M. F.'s golden eyes for the first time, repeating this theme that marks the agents of the gods. Sam telling M. F. that he must jump over the body four times and M. F. taking Coyote's body foreshadows Coyote's resurrection. Calliope's resurrection fulfills the earlier foreshadowing and foreshadows happiness for Sam. It also proves that Coyote's death served as a sacrifice for his people.

"Coyote and the Cowboy" is a legend about Coyote dying and Anubis resurrecting him by jumping over his body four times. This explains the logic of Sam's previous statement and foreshadows Coyote's resurrection. The events in chapter thirty-six fulfill the foreshadowing that Sam will have a happy life. Sam returns to his life as a Crow, as Samson Hunts Alone, and continues his life as a shape shifter in his interactions with the American government and his own people. Grubb scares Sam by making coyote noises. Grubb being raised in the Crow way of life and his eyes turning gold as he grows up foreshadows Coyote's involvement in Grubb's future.



Characters

Samson Hunts Alone AKA Samuel Hunter

Samson Hunts Alone is a Crow Indian who lives on the reservation in Montana. He is ashamed of his uncle and his heritage. Sam flees from the Crow reservation in 1973 after pushing a police officer over a cliff into the dam wall two hundred feet below. In Santa Barbara, he changes his name to Samuel Hunter and becomes a successful insurance salesman. His uncle is Pokey Medicine Wing, and his spirit guide is Old Man Coyote. Sam meets and falls in love with Calliope as Old Man Coyote ruins his life in Santa Barbara. Ultimately, Sam returns to Crow Country where he embraces his heritage and marries Calliope.

In Santa Barbara, California, Samuel Hunter exits his office and is overwhelmed with desire for a girl. After an Indian throws a knife into her tire, Sam gives her a ride to work. Sam leaves the restaurant, wondering if this is a blackmail situation and how they know about the killing. At his next appointment, Sam fails to sell insurance to Cable of Motion Marine because he is unable to instill fear in Cable. As he leaves, Sam finds a red feather on the seat of his Mercedes which he brushes onto the street and drives back to his office, sweating though the air conditioner is on high. Sam returns to his office where he argues with his boss, Aaron, who accuses him of hiring an Indian to attack Cable. Sam does not hear Aaron as his memory recalls the day in 1967 where his uncle, Pokey Medicine Wing, gave him a dream. Reverting to the present, Sam convinces Aaron that he did not hire the Indian to attack Cable. Gabriella, Sam's secretary, informs him that his complex has called to complain about a dog on his patio, and Sam goes home where he finds a coyote in his living room. The coyote turns into the Indian from earlier in the day and jumps off his patio. Sam thinks of his enemies and wonders who is messing with his life, but he decides that he is not passionate enough about anything for anyone to go to this much trouble. Sam thinks of prayer and faith; he takes his bag of coyote medicine out of his dresser drawer and trembles.

In 1967, Sam takes his first sweat, and his name is changed to Squats Behind the Bush. Sam is late picking Calliope up from work, and they schedule a date for the next evening. In another flashback, Sam has a vision where he encounters a fat salesman, Lloyd Commerce, who Pokey believes to be Old Man Coyote in disguise. The next morning, Sam learns that he has been voted out of his complex, and he threatens Spagnola. He goes to his office where he learns that the young Indian is actually Old Man Coyote. In 1973, Sam pushes Enos, a police officer, over the cliff into the dam wall two hundred feet below. Sam flees from Crow Country to become a busboy in Santa Barbara until he meets Aaron who trains him in selling insurance and eventually makes him a partner in his firm. Sam goes to Calliope's apartment for their date, meets Grubb, learns about Lonnie and has sex with Calliope. After Spagnola is beaten up by Tinker as a result of one of Coyote's pranks, Sam is reinstated to his complex and allowed to keep his home.



When Coyote informs him that Calliope has gone to Las Vegas to retrieve Grubb from Lonnie, Sam travels to Las Vegas where he takes a nap until Coyote calls to say that he has found Calliope. Sam joins Coyote, and they finally find Calliope at Satori Japanese Auto Repair in King's Lake, Nevada. Sam drives Calliope's car as she and Coyote sleep. When Calliope awakes, she and Sam discuss the reason that she did not telling him she was leaving, and he tells her about his history. Sam, along with Coyote and Calliope, arrive in Sturgis, South Dakota and retrieve Grubb. As they flee from the Guild toward Crow Country, Calliope is shot and dies. In Crow Country, Sam visits Pokey in the clinic where he learns about the possibility of resurrecting Calliope by journeying to the Underworld. Sam steals a sacred medicine bundle from Amstead Houston in Billings and, with Pokey's help, visits there Underworld where Anubis refuses to allow Calliope's soul to return to her body. Crazed, Sam returns to Crow Country and rides out to do battle with the Guild. Instead of killing Lonnie, Sam simply tells him to go away. When Sam returns to his home after Coyote's death, he is distraught, but his mood changes when Calliope resurrects. Sam and Calliope live together happily.

Old Man Coyote

Old Man Coyote, also known simply as Coyote, is a god and a spirit helper. He is Sam and Pokey's spirit helper. Coyote is a trickster and arrives in Sam's life to create chaos. Coyote arrives in Santa Barbara as Sam first spots Calliope, and he throws a knife into her tire so that Sam has to give her a ride to work. He makes Sam uncomfortable when he reappears at Calliope's job. Coyote attacks Cable after Sam's meeting in an attempt to instill fear in Cable, but this nearly costs Sam his job. Coyote is Pokey's spirit helper, and he gives Pokey a medicine bag to make him crazy and want to drink. In a dream, Old Man Coyote comes to Pokey and tells him that it ruins his balance when he is afraid something will go wrong and then he is Coyote Blue. Coyote appears as a coyote in Sam's apartment, causing Sam's neighbors to call a meeting to vote him out of the complex. In "Coyote Makes the World", there is water everywhere, but with the help of four ducks, Old Man Coyote makes land and the Absarokee, or Crow, Indians to tell stories about him. He creates buffalo for his men to eat and horses to help them catch the buffalo. Old Man Coyote builds a sweat lodge and steams with the ducks. He cooks and eats the irritating ducks and decides to give sweat to the Absarokee as their church and sacrament.

In 1967, Coyote appears to Sam in his vision as Lloyd Commerce, a fat white salesman in a powder blue car. In "Coyote Gets His Powers", the Great Spirit decides to rename the animal people. Coyote wants to get a good name so he tries but fails to stay awake all night. Coyote oversleeps, and only the name Coyote is left. As a consolation, the Great Spirit gives Coyote the power to take on any shape he wishes. When Sam enters his office to find Coyote engaging in intercourse with Gabriella, he knocks Coyote out and drags him into his office where Coyote shifts into a large black coyote and growls at Sam before resuming his shape as a young Indian and revealing his identity. When Pokey summons Old Man Coyote from the women's locker room and asks him to help Sam, Coyote points out that Pokey is close to death and sends him back to his body with a Kool Aid packet before returning to the locker room as a raven and chasing an



aerobics instructor. Coyote, as a raven, lands on Sam's car, turns into a mosquito to fly in the vent, and then removes a card from Sam's Rolodex as Coyote. Coyote then knocks on Lonnie's door and asks where Sam is. Lonnie finds out that the Indian knows where Sam lives and steals the Rolodex card at gunpoint before pointing the Indian toward Calliope's apartment. On his date with Calliope, Sam is unable to have sex with her due to the distractions caused by the chaos in her apartment, but Coyote appears to help; he advises Sam to lose himself in Calliope's body and gives him a medicine pouch to put on his member.

Coyote visits Cochran of Motion Marine and turns into a polar bear which convinces the authorities that someone put hallucinogens in the water at Motion Marine. Coyote spies on the Guild's meeting and tells Sam that Calliope has gone to Las Vegas to retrieve Grubb and will get hurt if she tries to take Grubb from Lonnie. In "Coyote Loses His Ass", Coyote bets Beaver he is a better hunter with the winner sleeping with the loser's wife. After Beaver wins, Coyote plays a hand game with Beaver and loses his wife, house, horses, clothes and butt. When Coyote's wife mentions a twelve-step program for gambling problems, Coyote bets he can do it in six steps. Coyote goes to Las Vegas with Sam where Coyote gambles away all of Sam's money, sells Sam's Mercedes for five thousand dollars and steals the hotel's limo from M. F. when he finds Calliope. At Satori Japanese Auto Repair in King's Lake, Nevada, Coyote and Sam are reunited with Calliope, and M. F. arrives to retrieve the hotel's limo. At a truck stop in Salt Lake City, Utah, Coyote plots how to retrieve Grubb. In "Coyote and Cottontail", Coyote and Cottontail watch girls dancing in the woods. Coyote wants to approach them, but Cottontail reminds him that the girl will not let him near them. Coyote takes off his penis, hands it to Cottontail and disguises himself as an old woman who wrestles with the girls. He goes to retrieve his penis but is unable to find Cottontail who is busy pleasuring three of the girls with Coyote's penis. On the farm where the Guild meets in Sturgis, South Dakota, Coyote takes off his penis and steals Grubb from the bikers, disguised as a woman.

Coyote flees to Crow Country with Sam after Calliope's death. In "Coyote Hears His Heart", Coyote sits in a canoe, unsure of where he wants to go. A thumping noise distracts Coyote, and he calls out to Old Mother to stop the noise. She laughs, tells him it is his heart and advises him to think of the sound of drums and home. Coyote helps Sam steal the sacred medicine bundle and sneak Pokey out of the clinic, but he refuses to accompany Sam to the Underworld. Coyote, disguised as Lloyd Commerce, visits Adeline Eats and leaves a bottle of Miracle Medicine on her counter. He returns to the sweat lodge to greet Sam who returns from the Underworld angry because he learned from Anubis, Coyote's brother, that Coyote needs Sam to tell stories about him in order to continue as a living god. Coyote follows Sam into battle against the Guild and is shot by Tinker. Coyote dies, which causes Anubis to permit Calliope's resurrection. In "Coyote and the Cowboy", Coyote sees a cowboy roll tobacco and light a cigarette. Before he has only smoked a pipe before, he asks to do that, but the cowboy says he cannot because he has no shirt pocket to hold the tobacco in. Coyote cuts deep into his chest and dies. Coyote's brother comes and jumps over his body four times, and Coyote springs up. Anubis tells Coyote that just because he wants something does not mean it is good for him.



Pokey Medicine Wing

Pokey Medicine Wing is Sam's uncle and mentor. He is a Crow Indian medicine man, but he does not speak Crow. Pokey's spirit helper is Old Man Coyote whose medicine makes Pokey crazy and want to drink. Everyone thinks Pokey is a crazy drunk with no medicine. When he has a vision of Sam and Old Man Coyote going to where death is, he wants to warn his nephew and nearly dies from starvation and dehydration caused by his fast. Kiro Yashamoto finds and saves Pokey, who remains in the clinic until Sam returns to Crow Country. Sam visits his uncle after Calliope's death, and Pokey tells him that Coyote can travel to the Underworld. After Sam steals the sacred medicine bundle, Sam and Coyote take Pokey from the clinic because Sam needs a medicine man to send him to the Underworld. When Sam settles in Crow Country, he teaches Pokey to speak the Crow language.

Calliope

Calliope is a beautiful, scatter-brained blond that Sam sees and lusts after. She gets a ride to work, the Tangerine Tree Cafe, from Sam after Coyote puts a knife in her tire. She is raised by a mother who frequently switches religions and changes her name when she lives with a sculptor. Calliope lives in an apartment with her son, Grubb, Nina, Nina's son and Yiffer. Her ex-boyfriend, Lonnie, lives below them. She begins dating Sam and sleeps with him quickly to get past the wanting.

When Lonnie kidnaps Grubb, Calliope follows them to Las Vegas to retrieve her son. She does not tell Sam because she is afraid to lose hope for their potential relationship. Sam catches up with Calliope at Satori Japanese Auto Repair where she is getting her orange 180Z fixed. With Sam and Coyote, Calliope travels to the farm where the Guild meets in Sturgis, South Dakota to retrieve Grubb. She is shot during their escape and dies. After Coyote dies, Calliope is resurrected and marries Sam. They live happily in Crow Country, Montana and have a daughter.

Aaron Aaron

Aaron Aaron is Sam's greedy boss who trained Sam to sell insurance to embarrass the other salesmen but made him a partner to avoid losing him to a competitor. He likes the models in magazines and is embarrassed by Kate, his fat wife, but he is afraid to lose his possessions in a divorce.

Enos Windtree

Enos Windtree is a fat, mean-spirited, half-breed cop who Sam throws over the cliff to the dam wall for groping Ellen Black Feather. Sam flees Crow Country because he thinks Enos is dead, but Enos is only badly injured and searches for Sam for years.



Minty Fresh

Minty Fresh is a large, black enforcer who works at the Camelot hotel in Las Vegas and goes by the name M. F. His golden eyes are a sign that he is the messenger of Anubis. Coyote steals the hotel's limo from M. F. who retrieves it at Satori Japanese Auto Repair. M. F. gets beaten up by the Guild for blocking them from pursuing Sam, Coyote and Calliope. He calls to warn Sam that the Guild is coming to Crow Country and arrives himself after the battle to take Sam home and take Coyote's body with him.

Josh Spagnola

Josh Spagnola is the security guard at the Cliffs who is beaten up by Tinker due to Coyote tricking Lonnie into believing Spagnola's address is Sam's address. Spagnola calls a committee meeting to allow Sam to keep his townhouse.

Adeline Eats

Adeline Eats is a recently converted Christian who finds Pokey passed out in front of her job, Wiley's Food and Gas. She is haunted by a screech owl until Coyote, disguised as Lloyd Commerce, leaves Miracle Medicine on her counter.

Anubis

Anubis is the Egyptian god of the Underworld who weighs the scale of the dead's souls. He refuses to give Calliope's soul to Sam because he claims that Coyote, his brother, must learn to sacrifice for his people. Anubis' unwitting messenger is Minty Fresh.

Lonnie

Lonnie is Grubb's father and Calliope's crazy ex-boyfriend, as well as a member of the Guild. He kidnaps Grubb and shoots Calliope when she retrieves their son. Lonnie follows Sam, Coyote, Calliope and Grubb to Crow Country where Sam nearly kills him but instead simply tells him to go away.

Grubb

Grubb is Calliope and Lonnie's son who is kidnapped by Lonnie and retrieved by Calliope, Sam and Coyote. After Calliope is resurrected, he grows up learning the Crow way of life and loves his step-father, Sam. Grubb's eyes turn golden as he grows older.

Gabriella

Gabriella is Sam's ugly but proficient secretary who has intercourse with Coyote.



Objects/Places

Motion Marine

Motion Marine is the corporation owned by Cable and Cochran. Sam has a meeting at Motion Marine to sell Cable insurance. After Sam leaves, Coyote attacks Cable with a tomahawk, causing Cochran to consider suing Sam. Coyote returns to Motion Marine to visit Cochran and turns into a polar bear which makes the police believe that someone put hallucinogens in the water at Motion Marine.

Sam's Office

Sam's office is where he runs the insurance company that he and Aaron are partners in. Coyote continually harasses Sam at his office.

The Cliffs

Sam owns a townhome in the Cliffs complex. The residents vote Sam out for having a dog when Coyote appears on Sam's patio, but Sam is reinstated after Coyote tricks Lonnie into sending Tinker to beat up Spagnola.

Calliope's Apartment

Calliope lives in an apartment with Grubb, Nina, Yiffer and Nina's son. Lonnie lives in the apartment below Calliope and slams his doors during Calliope and Sam's dinner date and subsequent intercourse.

Santa Barbara, California

Sam flees to Santa Barbara, California after pushing Enos over the cliff. About one-third of the novel occurs here.

Crow Country, Montana

Sam is raised in Crow Country, Montana but flees after pushing Enos over the cliff. He returns after Calliope's death, and they settle in Crow Country after Calliope is resurrected. About one-third of the novel's action occurs here.



Las Vegas

When Lonnie kidnaps Grubb, Calliope follows him to Las Vegas, and Sam follows Calliope.

Medicine

Medicine is Crow magic; Coyote's medicine drives Pokey crazy and makes him want to drink.

The Guild

The Guild is the motorcycle gang that Lonnie belongs to. They sell drugs and help Lonnie kidnap Grubb.

Mercedes

Sam drives a Mercedes with a navigation system which Coyote sells in Las Vegas for gambling money.

Sweat Lodge

The sweat lodge is part of the Crows' religion. Sam faints during his first sweat and returns here to be sent to the Underworld.

280Z

Calliope drives an orange 280Z which she loves. She has it fixed at Satori's Japanese Auto Repair and dies in the car after getting Grubb back from Lonnie.

Clyde's Cash for Your Car

Clyde's Cash for Your Car is a chop shop in Las Vegas where Coyote sells Sam's Mercedes for five thousand dollars.

Satori Japanese Auto Repair

Calliope's car is fixed at the Satori Japanese Auto Repair by the master while a monk entertains Calliope, Sam and Coyote.



Sturgis, South Dakota

The Guild's meeting takes place at a farm in Sturgis, South Dakota. This is where Calliope, Coyote and Sam go to get Grubb back after Lonnie kidnaps him.

Hunts Alone House

The Hunts Alone house is Sam's family home where he returns after Calliope's death.

Underworld

Sam goes to the Underworld to beg Anubis to give him Calliope's soul, but Anubis refuses because Coyote must learn to sacrifice for his people.

Golden Eyes

The golden eyes are symbols of the gods and those humans who belong to the gods, such as Sam and M. F. Grubb's eyes become gold as he grows older.



Themes

Legends

One of the recurring themes in this novel is that of legends about Old Man Coyote. Coyote needs these stories to be retold in order to remain a living god, according to Sam's conversation with Anubis. After Coyote dies, Sam puts on many faces as he tells the stories about Coyote. In "Coyote Makes the World", there is water everywhere, but with the help of four ducks, Old Man Coyote makes land and the Absarokee, or Crow, Indians to tell stories about him. He creates buffalo for his men to eat and horses to help them catch the buffalo. Old Man Coyote builds a sweat lodge and steams with the ducks. He cooks and eats the irritating ducks and decides to give sweat to the Absarokee as their church and sacrament. In "Coyote Gets His Powers", the Great Spirit decides to rename the animal people. Coyote wants to get a good name so he tries but fails to stay awake all night. Coyote oversleeps, and only the name Coyote is left. As a consolation, the Great Spirit gives Coyote the power to take on any shape he wishes. In "Coyote Loses His Ass", Coyote bets Beaver he is a better hunter with the winner sleeping with the loser's wife. After Beaver wins, Coyote plays a hand game with Beaver and loses his wife, house, horses, clothes and butt. When Coyote's wife mentions a twelve-step program for gambling problems, Coyote bets he can do it in six steps.

In "Coyote and Cottontail", Coyote and Cottontail watch girls dancing in the woods. Coyote wants to approach them, but Cottontail reminds him that the girl will not let him near them. Coyote takes off his penis, hands it to Cottontail and disguises himself as an old woman who wrestles with the girls. He goes to retrieve his penis but is unable to find Cottontail, who is busy pleasuring three of the girls with Coyote's penis. In "Coyote Hears His Heart", Coyote sits in a canoe, unsure of where he wants to go. A thumping noise distracts Coyote, and he calls out to Old Mother to stop the noise. She laughs, tells him it is his heart and advises him to think of the sound of drums and home. In "Coyote and the Cowboy", Coyote sees a cowboy roll tobacco and light a cigarette. Because he has only smoked a pipe before, he asks to do that, but the cowboy says he cannot because he has no shirt pocket to hold the tobacco in. Coyote cuts deep into his chest and dies. Coyote's brother comes and jumps over his body four times, and Coyote springs up. Anubis tells Coyote that just because he wants something does not mean it is good for him.

Heritage and Religion

Heritage and religion is a predominant theme in "Coyote Blue". Sam is a Crow Indian, but he hates his heritage; mostly, he does not want to be like Pokey. Pokey has a medicine dream in which he sees Sam and Coyote approaching death. Sam is scared of Indians because he is one. Pokey and Sam's spirit helper is Old Man Coyote. Pokey



tells Sam that he can win in a fight against a larger Cheyenne boy if his medicine is strong enough.

Adeline Eats claims that she got bad medicine from being Crow and is going to Hell for being a Christian. Sam has a vision where he sees Old Man Coyote disguised as Lloyd Commerce, a salesman. After seeing a coyote in his townhouse, Sam takes his coyote medicine out of a dresser drawer and thinks about faith. Harlan disdains his Crow heritage. Pokey cannot speak Crow because his school discouraged Indians from speaking their native tongue. When Sam flees from the Crow reservation, he becomes a white man in Santa Barbara, California. Calliope's mother changed religions frequently during Calliope's childhood.

Coyote gives Sam magic powder to enable Sam to have sex with Calliope and block out the distractions. When Pokey is sick in the clinic, two doctors fight for his life: a Crow doctor and a doctor who practices European medicine. M. F. And Sam both have golden eyes which mark them as agents of the gods. After rescuing Grubb and Calliope dying, Sam returns to his home in Crow Country. Pokey tells Sam about the sacred medicine bundle and Coyote's ability to travel to the Underworld. Sam steals the sacred medicine bundle and travels to the Underworld in an attempt to retrieve Calliope's soul, but Anubis refuses Sam's request. Coyote can only remain a living god if people tell stories about him. After Coyote dies, Calliope is resurrected. Sam becomes Samson Hunts Alone again and resumes being an Indian. Grubb is raised in the Crow way of life.

Shape Shifting

A recurring theme in "Coyote Blue" is that of shape shifting. This theme can be literal, such as with Coyote, or more figurative in the other characters. Sam makes other people uncomfortable because of the ease with which he switches roles. Adeline Eats converts to Christianity. In Sam's townhouse, the coyote becomes a young Indian man. After Sam's first sweat, his name is changed from Samson Hunts Alone to Squats Behind the Bush. Calliope switches her religions often in her youth, and she also changes her name. Coyote appears to Sam in his dream as Lloyd Commerce, a salesman. Sam finds the young Indian in his office who then shape shifts into a coyote before resuming its form as a man and revealing himself to be Old Man Coyote.

When Coyote gets his powers, he is given the ability to take on any shape he wants. Sam leaves the reservation and becomes a white man, changing his name to Samuel Hunter. In front of Calliope's apartment, Coyote switches from a raven into a mosquito to fly through the vents, into a man in the car and then reverses the process. Coyote grows claws and fur to become a polar bear at Motion Marine when he visits Cochran. When Sam tells Coyote to go away, Coyote turns into a raven and flies away. At the Guild meeting, Coyote changes from a flea into a horsefly into a raven and flies away. Sam no longer wants his safe life; he wants something real. In Las Vegas, Coyote turns into a skunk and sprays a police officer to protect Calliope.



Arlene, a waitress at the truck stop in Salt Lake City, is a shape shifter who gives each customer what they want. In "Coyote and Cottontail", Coyote takes off his penis and disguises himself as an old woman. In order to save Grubb, Coyote again takes off his penis and disguises himself as a beautiful Indian woman. In order to steal the sacred medicine bundle, Sam disguises himself as a college professor and Coyote disguises himself as an expert on Indian artifacts. In the clinic, Coyote changes into a black horse in order to carry Pokey out of the clinic. When Sam is in the Underworld, Coyote flies away as a hawk and appears to Adeline Eats as Lloyd Commerce. Sam returns from the Underworld, tired of being afraid and becomes a warrior. Coyote dies, sacrificing for his people. Calliope comes back to life, changing from death to life. Sam becomes Samson Hunts Alone again at the end of the novel and continues his shape shifter ways, wearing the Crow ceremonial garb for speaking to the American government and an Armani suit to talk to his people. Grubb is raised as a Crow rather than a white child, and his eyes turn golden.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in "Coyote Blue" is third person and omniscient. This is evident by the fact that the narrator reports on the action of the novel but is excluded from the action. It is also evident in the fact that the narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of the characters, other than Coyote. The use of this point of view is important because it allows the narrator to provide information such as flashbacks and background information that occurred at a point before the beginning of the novel. It also provides a more detailed connection between the flashbacks and background information and the current action of the novel. This point of view allows the reader to know what the characters are thinking and what their motives are behind certain actions; again, this excludes Coyote.

This novel is written primarily in dialogue, but the amount of exposition is not far behind. This style keeps the reader focused on the relationships between the characters, which is a large part of the novel, even in terms of how these relationships affect the characters' development. The events of the novel are usually seen through Sam's eyes, with detours into the viewpoints of Calliope, Lonnie, Pokey and M. F. Coyote is always viewed by other characters; his thoughts and feelings are kept secret. The legends about Old Man Coyote gives the best example of the way that he views things.

Setting

This novel is set in America in the early 1990s. A large part of the novel is set in Santa Barbara, California. This is where Sam's insurance office is located and where he first encounters Calliope and the young Indian. Due to Coyote's interference, Sam's life in Santa Barbara falls apart. He nearly loses his townhome, and his career is at risk. This is also where Sam first begins his relationship with Calliope and meets Grubb and learns about Lonnie. Lonnie kidnaps Grubb from Santa Barbara. Some of the major scenes in Santa Barbara take place in Sam's office, in Sam's townhouse which is part of the Cliffs complex and in Calliope's apartment. After Lonnie kidnaps Grubb, he goes to Las Vegas where Calliope follows him; Sam and Coyote follow Calliope. In Las Vegas, Coyote loses all of Sam's money through gambling and sells Sam's Mercedes. The major scenes in Las Vegas are the Camelot hotel and casino where Sam and Coyote stay, Cash for Your Car where Coyote sells Sam's car, and the streets of the city where Coyote finds Calliope.

One of the most important settings in this novel is Crow Country, Montana. All of Sam's flashbacks occur in Crow Country in 1967 and 1973. These flashbacks provide information about Sam's childhood being raised as a Crow, as well as the reason behind him leaving Crow Country and fleeing to Santa Barbara. Additionally, some of the present action of the novel occurs in Crow Country. In the first three quarters of the



novel, Pokey is seen in Crow Country, worrying about Sam and getting sick as a result of fasting too much. In the last quarter of the book, Sam returns to Crow Country after Calliope's death. This is where he travels to the Underworld, where Coyote dies, and where Calliope resurrects to begin Sam's happy life as a Crow. The major scenes in Crow Country are the sweat lodge, the medicine wheel, the clinic, the Hunts Alone home and the actual town, where Sam fights the Guild.

There are several additional, less important settings in "Coyote Blue" as well. The legends about Old Man Coyote that appear scattered throughout the novel take place in the Spirit World, as does Sam's spirit dream about Lloyd Commerce. Sam and Coyote are reunited with Calliope at Satori Japanese Auto Repair shop in King's Lake, Nevada. Sam, Calliope and Coyote stop at a diner in Salt Lake City, Utah, and they rescue Grubb from Lonnie at a farm in Sturgis, South Dakota which is also where Calliope is shot and dies.

Language and Meaning

The language in "Coyote Blue" varies depending on which character's viewpoint is being used at that given point. The language in the novel is used to identify and differentiate between the different characters, especially Sam, Calliope and Pokey. The language that is used from Sam's viewpoint tends to be more organized, while Calliope's viewpoint shows her scattered frame of mind.

The novel is written in modern English and is very informal; however, the informality of the language does not hinder understanding at all. Instead, this informality permits the reader to gain a better understanding of the individual characters, as the language tends to characterize the characters and demonstrate their education and social status. Vulgar language is often used to classify less-educated and more suspicious characters, such as Lonnie and other members of the Guild. A short amount of time passes during the novel; yet, the flashbacks create the illusion that a much broader period of time is used. The legends that appear throughout the novel tend to veer toward a more formal style of writing, though vulgarity seems to be used more frequently. These legends allow the reader an opportunity to better understand Coyote.

Structure

"Coyote Blue" is broken down into thirty-six chapters, varying in length from three to thirteen pages each. Each chapter is titled to ambiguously refer to the action of the novel. The chapters tend to be short and descriptive, and a small amount of time passes in each chapter; however, when the flashbacks are included, the action of the novel spans over two decades with a huge gap of time between 1973 and the present, which is approximately 1993. Furthermore, the novel is broken into four sections by which the chapters are separated, and titled to refer to the collective events that occur in each section.



The novel's plot is very complex as it deals with the past and the present simultaneously. Sam's interaction with Calliope is interrupted by Coyote's interference in his life and his thoughts about his past. Calliope's situation with Lonnie and Grubb proves another hindrance in her growing relationship with Sam. At the same time as Sam's story unfolds in Santa Barbara and Las Vegas, detours show an additional plot as Pokey has a vision about Sam, Old Man Coyote and death. All of these plots merge in the final section of the novel.

The novel's pace is rather quick due to the frequent use of dialogue. It is easy to read, engrossing and entertaining. The story is not at all linear as it contains many flashbacks into Sam's past, background information on Calliope and legends about Old Man Coyote.



Quotes

"Do you think that the Germans make such good cars to atone for the Holocaust?"
Calliope, Chap. 1, p. 6

"Back in the buffalo day, the Cheyenne prophet Sweet Medicine had seen a vision of men with hair on their faces who would come bringing a white sand that was poison to Indiana. The prophecy had come true, the white sand was sugar, and Adeline blamed the white man for poisoning her right up to two hundred pounds." Narrator, Chap. 2, p. 11

"Adeline recovered and stomped into the store, praying to Jesus to forgive Pokey for his sins, but adding to her prayer a request for Jesus to beat the shit out of Pokey if He had the time." Narrator, Chap. 2, p. 13

"You know, I used to look forward to sex because it was fifteen minutes when I didn't have to think about death and taxes." Aaron, Chap. 4, p. 23

"'I don't want to be Crow. I don't want to be like you.' 'Then be like you.'" Sam and Pokey, Chap. 5, p. 29

"It's only time. I'm always late." Calliope, Chap. 8, p. 51

"This man was just like Pokey: if he wanted to tell you something he would tell you even if you dropped dead and rotted right before his eyes." Narrator, Chap. 9, p. 62

"Samson, you had your vision. I'm sorry. I wish you saw a squirrel or a flicker, Samson, but you saw a vacuum cleaner salesman. He only looked like a white man. I think you saw Old Man Coyote." Pokey, Chap. 9, p. 65

"Josh, before you become too enraptured, remember the information you don't have... You have no idea who I am or what I'm capable of." Sam, Chap. 10, p. 71

"The Cheyenne call me Wihio, the Sioux, Iktome. The Blackfeet call me Napi Old Man. The Cree call me Saultaux, the Micmac, Glooscap. I am the Great Hare on the East Coast and Raven on the West. You know me, Samson Hunts Alone, I am your spirit helper." Coyote, Chap. 11, p. 78

"Anger is the spirits telling you that you are alive." Pokey, Chap. 11, p. 81

"If you are going to learn, you need to forget what you know." Pokey, Chap. 13, p. 97

"You must leave here, then. You must find a place on the woman's body and live there. Hear only her breath, smell only her scent." Coyote, Chap. 17, pp. 131-132

"Can you wipe off your shadow?" Coyote, Chap. 18, p. 138



"I got bad medicine from being Crow. And I'm going to Hell for being Christian." Adeline Eats, Chap. 19, p. 143

"You know, I was thinking- we've got an Indian, a policeman, and an insurance broker. We're only a construction worker away from the Village People." Sam, Chap. 20, p. 154

"Everything had changed and nothing had changed. His life was back to normal, and normal wasn't enough anymore. He wanted real." Narrator, Chap. 21, p. 159

"You can be afraid, just don't act like it... You lost Pokey. You lost your family. You lost your name. All you have left is your fear, white man." Coyote, Chap. 22, pp. 165-166

"Anger is the gods' way of letting you know you are alive." Coyote, Chap. 22, p. 172

"You know, there's a twelve-step program for gambling. You should look into it.' 'Twelve steps. I'll bet I can do it in six.'" Coyote's wife and Coyote, Chap. 23, p. 185

"The mother instinct, the feeling of righteous invincibility that had filled her when she had come here, was leaking away. Right now she was not protecting her child; she was afraid for herself." Narrator, Chap. 25, p. 196

"Coyotes stood looking at a sign on the saloon door. NO INDIANS OR DOGS ALLOWED. Coyote said, 'What do they have against dogs?'" Narrator, Chap. 27, p. 219

"The first step to knowledge is not knowing." Monk, Chap. 27, p. 220

"To achieve enlightenment, one must give up the things of this world." Monk, Chap. 27, p. 225

"And maybe you wouldn't have done it if it was a hell of a lot easier. Would you?" Calliope, Chap. 28, p. 231

"That's the scary thing about hope. If you let it go too long it turns into faith." Calliope, Chap. 29, p. 235

"You still hate it when I talk about the old ways." Pokey, Chap. 31, p. 258

"He believed what Pokey had told him about the power of the bundle, and all Pokey had ever asked of him was to be believed." Narrator, Chap. 32, p. 268

"You want me? I didn't think you believed I had medicine, Samson.' 'Things change, Pokey. I need you.'" Pokey and Sam, Chap. 33, p. 269

"I wanted you to know that I would do anything for you. That all this craziness was- will be- worth it if I can bring you back. I've been hiding out for my whole life, and I don't want to live that way anymore. Anyway, I wanted you to know that Grubb will be okay. My family will take care of him. I'll be with you, one way or another." Sam, Chap. 33, p. 272



"Look, I tried to warn you that my brother was going to cause you problems. I sent my agent to help you." Anubis, Chap. 34, p. 280

"Rarely does one encounter a combination of human traits quite so frightening as a psychopath with a purpose." Narrator, Chap. 35, p. 285

"That's the last coup. You counted the last coup. It's a new world now." Coyote, Chap. 35, p. 287

"Just because you want something, it don't mean that it's good for you." Anubis, Chap. 35, p. 291

"Coyote medicine will do them white folks some good." Pokey, Chap. 36, p. 294

Topics for Discussion

Explain the term "Coyote Blue".

Compare and contrast Samson Hunts Alone and Samuel Hunter.

What is the significance of certain characters having golden eyes?

Do you think the use of flashbacks aids or hinders the story? Defend your position.

Does Coyote ruin Sam's life? Why or why not?

Why is it important for Sam to tell stories about Coyote?

Choose a minor character (not Sam, Calliope, Coyote or Pokey) and explain how their presence significantly alters the novel.