

The Cat Who Went Underground Study Guide

The Cat Who Went Underground by Lilian Jackson Braun

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Plot Summary

"The Cat Who Went Underground" by Lillian Braun is a murder mystery in which Qwill investigates the disappearances and deaths of five carpenters in Mooseville. Qwill decides to spend the summer in Mooseville at the Klingenschoen cabin. Immediately, things begin to go wrong. He is continually forced to utilize the Glinko Network for repairs on the cabin. When he decides to build an addition, he hires Clem Cottle but the industrious young man disappears. Qwill replaces his carpenter with Iggy who is lazy but Iggy also disappears. After Koko uncovers Iggy's body in the crawl space beneath the cabin, people begin to suspect Qwill of the murder. With Koko's help, Qwill is able to clear his name and uncover the real murderer, Joanna Trupp. "The Cat Who Went Underground" is an interesting and entertaining novel that most readers will find immensely enjoyable.

Qwill decides to spend the summer at the Klingenschoen cabin but he begins having problems with the cabin's condition immediately. When he calls Glinko repair network, Joanna fixes his heater. Qwill attends a party on the dunes and discusses his desire to build an addition to the cabin, and his neighbors warn him that he will have to hire an underground builder who is unreliable. Qwill has several more repair problems for which he hires Glinko and he begins to suspect the Glinko network of shady business practices. When he mentions his desire for an addition to Nick and Lori Bamba, they recommend Clem Cottle to do the work and so Qwill hires the young man. Clem begins work on Qwill's addition and Qwill is very pleased with the industrious and honest carpenter. Qwill judges the Fourth of July parade in Mooseville and is puzzled by Clem's absence. This puzzlement increases when Clem does not show up for work and Qwill doubts the honesty of Clem's fiancée when she claims that he is out of town. Qwill attends the Wimsey family reunion and interviews Emma Wimsey. After Qwill finds Clem's empty truck, he advises Maryellen to report the disappearance to the sheriff.

Qwill meets with Roger who invites Qwill to join him on an investigation regarding an UFO landing on Three Trees Island and tells Roger that he is suspicious of the string of carpenters disappearing or dying. At the Black Bear Cafe, Gary recommends Iggy when Qwill asks about a carpenter to replace Clem working on the addition. Qwill hires Iggy but becomes annoyed quickly due to Iggy's laxity in his work. Qwill attends a meeting with Mrs. Ascott, the clairvoyant, and is disturbed by a message from his dead childhood sweetheart, Joy, who warns him to protect Koko and Yum Yum and mentions an excavation. Qwill visits Emma Wimsey at the nursing home and she gives him a bag of her collectibles because her family does not care about it.

Qwill boats to Three Tree Island with Bushy and Roger but the three men get stranded on the island when a tornado lands and floods the area. They are rescued and on the way to the hospital, Qwill sees that the tornado destroyed his new addition. When he returns home, Qwill is too lazy to search for Iggy whose truck is still parked in the driveway although there is no sign of the carpenter. He finally follows Koko into the crawl space and finds Iggy's body. He is upset when the police seem to suspect him. When he learns that Emma Wimsey died, he goes through her bag of belongings and



reads several stories that she had written. After verifying the accuracy of one of these stories with Cecil Huggins, he learns that Joanna is Emma's granddaughter and was sexually molested by her father. Nick stays the night with Qwill to protect him when local troublemakers begin plotting against Qwill because they believe that he is responsible for Iggy's death. When Nick follows Koko into the crawl space, he finds a list of the five dead or missing carpenters along with the date that they were murdered. After Nick leaves, Qwill has Joanna come by and he tricks her into telling him that Louise killed those men because her father was a carpenter and a bad man. Back in Pickax, Qwill explains to Arch Riker and Amanda that Joanna created an alter-ego to kill carpenters because she believed they were all bad men since her father was. Qwill praises Koko's genius in providing Qwill with the clues to solve the deaths of the five carpenters.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

"The Cat Who Went Underground" by Lillian Braun is a murder mystery in which Qwill investigates the disappearances and deaths of five carpenters in Mooseville. Qwill decides to spend the summer in Mooseville at the Klingenschoen cabin, but immediately, things begin to go wrong. He is continually forced to utilize the Glinko Network for repairs on the cabin. When he decides to build an addition, he hires Clem Cottle, but the industrious young man disappears. Qwill replaces his carpenter with Iggy who is lazy, but Iggy also disappears. After Koko uncovers Iggy's body in the crawl space beneath the cabin, people begin to suspect Qwill of the murder. With Koko's help, Qwill is able to clear his name and uncover the real murder, Joanna Trupp. "The Cat Who Went Underground" is a very interesting and entertaining novel that most readers will find immensely enjoyable.

Perhaps none of this would have happened if Jim Qwilleran had read his horoscope which warned him against changing his life-style, but he had never been interested in astrology. Though he recently inherited the Klingenschoen fortune, his needs are simple, and he is content to live in an apartment over the garage with his two Siamese cats. As Qwill feeds Koko and Yum Yum, he tells them his intention to spend three months at the log cabin at the lake in Mooseville because he is discontent with the dull life of Pickax and spending the summer in Mooseville sounds like an exceptional idea. When he expresses his wishes to Hasselrich, the attorney of the Klingenschoen estate, the arrangements are made, but Qwill has no idea that the summer would not continue as simply, ending with him as a murder suspect; he should have known better than to ignore Koko's protests. Qwill packs the cats and moves to Mooseville for the summer. As soon as he reaches the cabin, he is irritated by the inconvenience of the frigid cabin which has been shut up all winter. When he phones Mildred, she advises him to sign up for repairs with Glinko, and when Qwill does so, Mrs. Glinko promises to send Little Joe over after lunch to repair the heater.

After lunch in a parking lot overlooking the marina, Qwill returns to the cabin to find that Little Joe has opened the doors and windows to ventilate the cabin, but he is surprised to find she is a woman. As he talks to Joanna and learns that her daddy, who was also a carpenter, was killed in an accident a few months ago, he considers that she may be a topic for the Qwill Pen, his column in the paper. Once the indoor climate is reasonable, Qwill is able to appreciate the cabin. After bringing the cats inside, he calls Mildred to apologize and because he wants to discuss the Glinkos' unorthodox way of doing business, so Mildred invites Qwill over for dinner. Before Qwill leaves, Koko digs at a rug, and the trapdoor underneath reveals a crawl space filled with sand. Mildred and Qwill gossip, discuss the Glinkos who Qwill suspects of shady business practices, and discuss Little Joe. When Mildred invites Qwill to a party on the dunes tomorrow night, they talk about Captain Phlogg, a retired sea captain whom Qwill wants to write about but is unable due to the man's disagreeable nature. Mildred tells Qwill that the



captain is a fraud as he was a carpenter on a ship and never even went to sea. Roger calls his mother-in-law to inform her that his school friend drowned while fishing. Qwill hurries home because he has a twitch in his moustache that always presages trouble. As he climbs the dune to his cabin, he hears Koko yowling violently, and Qwill unlocks the door and smells gas.

Chapter 1 Analysis

This novel begins with a lot of foreshadowing. First, the book opens by saying that perhaps none of this would have happened if Jim Qwilleran had read his horoscope which advised against changing his lifestyle. This tells the reader that Qwill will change his lifestyle, that something negative will result from this change, and that the zodiac will play a role in this book. After providing some general background information about Qwill and his cats, the narrator details the change that will be made in Qwill's lifestyle, moving to Mooseville for the summer, and the reasons behind it. The narrator explicitly states that the summer will end with Qwill being suspected as a murderer which blatantly foreshadows this event. Furthermore, Koko reacts negatively to the idea of moving to Mooseville, showing the cat's intelligence and foresight. Qwill's summer begins poorly when he arrives at the cabin to find it frigid after being locked up all summer. At Mildred's advise, he signs up with the Glinko Network, and Qwill first meets Joanna, AKA Little Joe, when she arrives to ventilate the cabin. In the first of many instances, Qwill considers someone he has met, Joanna in this case, as a potential topic for the column he writes, "From the Qwill Pen". When Qwill visits Mildred, their conversation emphasizes their close relationship. Qwill's suspicions about the Glinko Network hints at their guilt in the pending murder that has already been foreshadowed. The mention of Captain Phlogg's disagreeable nature also implicates him in the foreshadowed murder. When Roger calls Mildred to tell her about Buddy Yarrow drowning, this is the first death of a carpenter since Qwill arrives in Mooseville; however, the first death occurred several months prior when Big Joe, Joanna's father, was killed in an accident. Both of these deaths are deemed accidental. Qwill leaves Mildred's house because the twitch in his moustache presages trouble. He smells gas when he reaches the cabin, foreshadowing his need for further services from the Glinko Network.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

After Qwill calls the Glinkos to explain the situation, a man in an emergency truck arrives within minutes, and after inspecting the house, he tells Qwill that a bird's nest in the vent needs to be cleaned out. As Qwill cleans the vent out, he thinks that the Glinko network is convenient no matter how corrupt it might be. He relaxes as his first hectic day in Mooseville ends, but it is only a sample of what is yet to come. The next morning, Qwill breakfasts at the Northern Lights Hotel and reads about Buddy Yarrow, the drowning victim. He also reads his column. Though Qwill has several ideas for future columns, the subject that eludes him is the Captain's Mess, the antique shop run by Captain Phlogg who is rude, evasive and inattentive. On Saturday morning, after devising a new way to interview the captain, Qwill goes to the antique shop and asks annoying questions which he plans to do until he gets a decent story. When he returns to the cabin, Koko is racing around and howling for attention. Qwill follows Koko to the bar and steps in something wet. Because the cabinet under the sink is flooded, he calls Glinkos, and Joanna fixes the leak by turning the water off in the crawl space. She admires Qwill's cats and tells him about the wild animals she has rescued. After she leaves, Qwill realizes that her hair looked clean and she was wearing lipstick.

After working on his column about Old Sam, the gravedigger, Qwill attends the party on the dunes with Mildred. Dottie Madley, the hostess, introduces Qwill to Russell Simms, but his attempts at conversation are futile, and he is relieved when Dottie ushers Russell away to meet the newly divorced attorney. After general socializing, Qwill causes an uproar when he mentions his desire to build an addition to his log cabin. Since all of the good contractors are busy in the summer, Qwill will have to dig up an underground builder, and everyone shares horror stories about underground builders they have hired in the past. He stares in disbelief when the partygoers begin discussing UFOs visiting Mooseville, and Russell remains silent during the small talk. When Lyle Compton wanders down the beach to smoke a cigar, Qwill follows and discusses his idea of building an addition, and Compton's opinions are very discouraging. When Qwill and Mildred return to her cabin for sundaes, they discuss Russell who acts like a sleepwalker and has strange eyes. Mildred sketches a layout of the addition that Qwill envisions for him to show to the builder. When Qwill returns to his cabin, he trips over the rug that is supposed to cover the trapdoor and finds the newspaper page with the story about Buddy Yarrow and Qwill's column on the reverse shredded on the hearth rug. He tells Koko that he does not appreciate the cat's mode of communication and cleans up, wondering why Koko acted this way.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The foreshadowing from the end of the first chapter is fulfilled immediately as Qwill calls Glinko about the gas smell, and an emergency truck answers the call, reporting that



Qwill needs to clean out his vents. Qwill complies and ruminates on the convenience of the Glinko Network, regardless of his suspicions concerning its corruption. Qwill reads the article about Buddy Yarrow and his column which is printed on the opposite side of the paper. He brainstorms about future columns, considering how to interview Captain Phlogg since the man is rude and inattentive. He decides to employ a similar attitude by plaguing the man with annoyinh questions until he obtains a story. Back at the cabin, Koko directs Qwill to a wet spot on the floor which signifies a leak for which Qwill must contact Glinko again. After Joanna fixes the leak, Qwill notices the improvement in her appearance and vainly suspects that she is interested in him. Qwill attends the party on the dunes with Mildred which was foreshadowed in the first chapter. This party initiates several important aspects of the remainder of the novel. First, the belief in UFOs is discussed, and also, horoscopes are mentioned again. Also, when Qwill mentions his desire to build an addition, the discouraging opinions foreshadow the problems he has with building his addition. He also meets Russell Simms, an odd young woman who is renting the Dunfield cottage for the summer. When he returns home, Koko has shredded the page of the paper that contains Qwill's column and the story about Buddy Yarrow, and Qwill wonders why his cat has chosen to communicate in this way.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Qwill could have saved a few phone calls on Monday morning if he had heeded his horoscope and listened to the advice of associates rather than insisting upon doing things his own way. He phones several construction companies only to learn that no one can build his addition during the summer. When he discovers that the sink is leaking again, he calls Glinkos and takes a walk on the beach where his tranquility is somewhat restored by the sight of Russell feeding and talking to the seagulls. After Joanna replaces a pipe, Qwill suspects the Glinko method of doing business and wonders if Joanna left a fitting loose so that it would drip again. He invites Arch Riker to dinner at the Northern Lights Hotel, and when Arch arrives, he informs Qwill that he broke off his engagement to Amanda Goodwinter. The two men discuss their personal lives and the "Something", the Pickax paper, including Koko shredding the page, of which Arch is the editor and Qwill is a writer and the financial backer. When Arch notices that Qwill has carpenter ants, Qwill elaborates on the joys of living in a seventy-five year old cabin and tells Arch about Glinko and Joanna. He believes the "whole Glinko system is a racket" (page 46) and suggests the "Something" run an expose, causing Arch to tease him about putting Koko on the investigation. At dinner, Qwill tells Arch about his desire to build an addition to the cabin and his problems finding a contractor, as well as the rumors about UFOs. After Arch leaves, Qwill stops at a nearby table to talk to Nick and Lori Bamba, and when he mentions his addition, Nick suggests that Clem Cottle needs work and is good and reliable. Nick phones Clem who agrees to start building Qwill's addition tomorrow. After thanking the Bambas, Qwill returns home where he is greeted by his cats. He is roused from his sleep at 2:30 a.m. and becomes aware of a blinding, pulsating light outside and an odd noise, but both disappear as he reaches the front porch. Qwill returns indoors and decides that it was a practical joke due to his disbelief in UFOs.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Once again, Qwill ignores his horoscope and causes himself unnecessary trouble. As his neighbors predicted, all of the local construction companies are busy during the summer and Qwill will have to hire an underground builder to construct his addition. Qwill's concerns about the Glinko Network being corrupt seem justified when his sink begins leaking again and Joanna replaces a pipe. The friendship between Qwill and Arch Riker is evident as they discuss their personal life and Qwill's concerns about the events during his summer so far. Qwill complains about the upkeep on the cabin when Arch notices the carpenter ants, and Arch teases Qwill about having Koko investigate the Glinko Network being corrupt, showing his knowledge of Koko's uncanny ability to find clues. After Arch leaves, Qwill talks to Nick and Lori Bamba, and they recommend Clem Cottle as a carpenter that could build his addition. Clem agrees to begin work the next day, foreshadowing his industrious nature. Qwill's disbelief in UFOs is evident as

he believes someone is playing a practical joke when he sees a blinding light and hears an odd noise in the middle of the night.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

On Tuesday morning, Qwill is wakened at 6:30 a.m. by the sounds of an electric saw and a hammer and when he goes outside, Clem Cottle introduces himself. While Qwill feeds the cats breakfast, Mildred calls to report the death of Captain Phlogg. Qwill is pleased with Clem's work on his stone steps because the bill is reasonable and Clem is honest, skilled and industrious, so he discusses the possibility of Clem building his addition, and Clem agrees. Because he is in such a pleasant mood, Qwill agrees to judge the Fourth of July parade in Mooseville which Mildred is also judging. During lunch at the Northern Lights Hotel, Qwill sees an engagement announcement about Clem and Maryellen Wimsey as well as a notice about the Wimsey family reunion and he considers writing a column about family reunions. At Huggins Hardware, Qwill buys insect spray at Clem's suggestion to rid his cabin of the carpenter ants. When he asks about the price of a bicycle, Cecil Huggins allows him to try it on the trails and Qwill is enchanted by the sights. On Hogback Road, he stumbles upon Joanna's house and zoo of wild animals. When she pulls up, she tells Qwill about her zoo and learning her trade from her daddy. Qwill declines Joanna's offered beer and returns to Mooseville.

The following days are uneventful as Clem and his younger brother lay the concrete foundation for Qwill's addition. Clem works daily, and Maryellen frequently visits to bring him lunch. Mildred and Sue Urbank praise Qwill's good fortune in finding a decent builder. The Comptons want Clem to work on their garage when he finishes Qwill's addition. John and Vicki Bushland tell Qwill about their photography studio and invite him to bring Koko and Yum Yum over for a portrait. One afternoon, Joanna visits to inquire about her lost lipstick, ask about the addition and ask whether there have been any more leaks. Qwill wonders if her lost lipstick is simply an excuse for a social call. Clem works fast, and the roof trusses are erected and the roof boards are in place by July third. He cannot afford to take a long weekend but he will be in Saturday's Fourth of July parade and will play in a softball game afterward. Qwill likes the young carpenter and gives him a parting salute which turns out to be prophetic as it is the last time Qwill ever sees Clem Cottle.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Clem arrives for work early in the morning, demonstrating his industrious work ethic and his reliability. Qwill is pleased with his first impression of the carpenter. Another death is discovered when Mildred phones to inform Qwill that Captain Phlogg is dead. This information correlates in Qwill's mind to the fact that Captain Phlogg was actually a carpenter on a ship, rather than a captain. Qwill agrees to act as judge in Mooseville's Fourth of July parade, foreshadowing his involvement with this event. Qwill's interest in the Wimsey family reunion foreshadows the column that he writes about it. Qwill takes a bike ride out on the trails and stumbles upon Joanna's house but he is clearly



uncomfortable when she returns to find him on her property, though she does not seem to object. Clem continues to work hard, disproving the negative connotations about underground builders. Joanna visits Qwill's cabin to search for her lost tube of lipstick, foreshadowing the significance of this item, though Qwill sees it as evidence of her interest in him. Clem tells Qwill that he intends to work over the holiday weekend, laying the foundation for Qwill's worry when Clem does not show up. At the end of this chapter, the narrator states that this is the last time that Qwill sees Clem, foreshadowing Clem's disappearance.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

When the Fourth of July dawns, Qwill is in good spirits. He investigates a tapping sound and finds Koko tapping his tail against the windowsill. When he picks Mildred up for the parade, she tells him about complaining last year when the parade consisted of lots of candy and not a single American flag. Qwill and Mildred push through the crowded sidewalk to the judges' stand, and they discuss the parade as Amanda Goodwinter, the third judge, arrives late and proceeds to complain about everything. Mildred is pleased with the improvements over the previous year's parade. After the parade ends, Qwill realizes that Clem did not march. Qwill and Mildred eat dinner early at the Fish Tank and discuss their neighbors. When Mildred suggests Qwill talk to Russell because she is lonely, he claims that he has had enough complications with younger women and complains that Joanna is getting too friendly. Qwill mentions his desire to write a column about the Wimsey family reunion, and Mildred tells him to talk to Cecil Huggins; she is sure that the Wimseys will be delighted for the newspaper to cover their reunion. After indulging in dessert and a backrub at Mildred's house, Qwill goes home to feed the cats and notices the rug over the trapdoor is askew as usual. Walking on the beach, he tries to talk to Russell with little response because she is uncomfortable, but she realizes he is a nice man when he tells her to contact Mildred if she has any concerns. After asking about Qwill's addition, Russell excuses herself in order to get home before dark. Qwill wonders about Russell and decides that she, like Koko, can obviously sense a sinister influence in Mooseville. Qwill detects mischief when he returns home, and Yum Yum drops a dead mouse in his typewriter.

Chapter 5 Analysis

The earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled when Qwill and Mildred attend Mooseville's Fourth of July parade as judges. Mildred complains about the previous year's parade, allowing her to favorably compare it to the current parade. Amanda demonstrates her cantankerous nature as she complains about every aspect of the parade. At the end of the parade, Qwill realizes that Clem did not march, despite stating that he would. This further foreshadows Clem's disappearance as he has proven himself to be reliable. When Qwill mentions his desire to write a column on the Wimsey family reunion, Mildred advises him to interview Emma Wimsey, foreshadowing his interactions with this woman. The fact that the rug over the trapdoor is askew shows Koko's unusual interest in the crawl space and foreshadows the events that occur there. Qwill's interactions with Russell on the beach show this woman's oddity and Qwill compares her to Koko, stating that both sense a sinister influence in Mooseville.



Chapter 6 & 7

Chapter 6 & 7 Summary

In Chapter 6, since it rains hard on Saturday, Qwill does not expect Clem to work, but he is surprised when the carpenter does not call. When he praises Clem to the cats, Koko taps his tail in reply. Qwill call Glinko about the mice, and Young Jake goes into the crawl space and seals the mice's entrance. Qwill is surprised that Clem does not appear when the rain stops. On Sunday, the temperature is pleasant and the sun is shining, but the water runs cold during Qwill's shower so he calls Glinko. He attends the Wimsey family reunion on the Wimsey centennial farm on Sandpit Road and observes the festivities. When Qwill questions Maryellen, she says that Clem is out of town and will hopefully return tomorrow. According to Mildred's suggestion, Qwill asks for Emma Wimsey, and Irma Hasselrich introduces them. As Qwill interviews Emma, he is disturbed by her tale of a cat that scratches at the door to warn her of trouble. Qwill returns home to no sign of Koko. Fearing Joanna fixed the water and accidentally let Koko outside, he verifies that Joanna was there before rushing outside to search for Koko.

In Chapter 7, Qwill searches the woods for Koko in vain and returns to the cabin to phone Joanna when he faintly hears Koko. After searching the cabin frantically, Qwill finds Koko in the crawl space. Qwill walks along the beach to calm his nerves, and when he sees Russell, he tells her about his recent traumatic experience and invites her to meet Koko and Yum Yum. He is embarrassed when Koko treats Russell with unusual hostility, so he shows her the work on the new addition; Russell hopes they get it finished. Qwill tells Mildred about this odd statement when he phones to acquaint her with the details of his day after Russell's departure. He also claims that Maryellen's excuse that Clem is out of town was not very convincing, but Mildred says Qwill is too suspicious, so he hangs up without mentioning that Koko has been tapping his tail significantly for the past three days.

Chapter 6 & 7 Analysis

Qwill is surprised that Clem does not phone out of work because of the young man's reliable nature. He calls Glinko to rid the cabin of mice on Saturday, and Sunday, his water runs cold during his shower, forcing him to hire Glinko yet again. The earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled when Qwill attends the Wimsey family reunion and talks to Emma Wimsey. At the reunion, he is skeptical of Maryellen's claim that Clem is out of town. Back at the cabin, Qwill does not find Koko and he frantically searches for his beloved cat. Koko being found in the crawl space further demonstrates his interest in that area of the house and this is more significant since he obviously gained access to the crawl space by following Joanna through the trapdoor when she fixed the water. Qwill is confused and embarrassed when Koko treats Russell with unusual hostility and this raises questions about the strange neighbor. Qwill reveals his skepticism about



Clem being out of town to Mildred, but she states he is too suspicious, so he punishes her by not telling her how Koko has been tapping his tail significantly for the past three days, shortly after Clem was last seen.



Chapter 8 & 9

Chapter 8 & 9 Summary

In Chapter 8, Qwill is worried when Clem does not show up for work on Monday, so he phones the Cottle farmhouse, and Clem's father states that Clem is out of town and hangs up. When Qwill heads toward Grandpa Huggins' General Store, he sees Clem's truck parked on the side of the road but the driver is missing. Qwill loses interest in going to the store and returns home to find Maryellen waiting for him. She does not believe that Clem left town for a last fling before settling down, as his father does. She goes to Qwill because she has no one else to go to and Clem told her that Qwill is an important man in the county. Qwill tells Maryellen about finding Clem's truck and suggests reporting the disappearance to the sheriff. Since Qwill does not have rapport with the Moose County law enforcement agencies, he contacts Roger MacGillivray, Mildred's son-in-law, who covers the police beat for the county paper. Qwill and Roger go to dinner at the Black Bear Cafe, and Roger claims that an UFO landed on Three Tree Island. He wants to write a story about it, and Qwill agrees to investigate the claim with Roger though he is skeptical. He tells Roger that he should be investigating a rash of criminal activity in Mooseville instead of chasing UFOs.

In Chapter 9, Roger questions Qwill about the supposed criminal activity in Mooseville and Qwill expresses his suspicion that someone put a curse on Mooseville carpenters as they are dying and disappearing at an ungodly rate. Qwill recounts the four verified disappearances and deaths and tells Roger about Clem's truck and Maryellen's visit. He advises Roger to keep his eyes open when he covers his beat. After Roger leaves, Qwill goes to the bar and asks Gary, the bartender, about UFO sightings on Three Tree Island. Mighty Lou joins the conversation, claiming he has seen seventeen UFOs this year already. When Qwill asks if Gary knows any carpenters to complete his addition, Gary recommends Iggy who is a good craftsman though he is lazy. Qwill asks for Iggy to come by the cabin early the next morning.

Chapter 8 & 9 Analysis

Qwill's concern for Clem increases when the carpenter does not report for work on Monday, but he is treated with hostility and disdain when he phones the Cottle residence to inquire about Clem. He decides to buy socks at the general store when Koko steals one of his socks. This results in the discovery of Clem's truck without Clem anywhere in sight. Returning home, Qwill finds Maryellen who admits that she does not believe Clem is out of town, and Qwill advises her to contact the sheriff about the disappearance, telling her about finding Clem's truck. Qwill shows his interest in Clem's disappearance by contacting Roger and suggesting that Roger look into the criminal activity against carpenters. Roger's mention of the UFO landing on Three Trees Island foreshadows their journey to investigate the claim. Gary recommends Iggy as a replacement for Clem, foreshadowing Iggy's work on Qwill's addition.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

On Tuesday morning, Qwill wakes to the cats wrestling on top of him and the bed. He grows fidgety when Iggy does not arrive by 9 a.m.. When Mildred visits at 10 a.m., she asks about Clem's disappearance and suggests that her clairvoyant friend, Mrs. Ascott, may be able to throw some light on the mystery of Clem's disappearance. Qwill agrees to attend a meeting as an observer though he is skeptical. When Iggy finally arrives near noon, Qwill details the job and gives Iggy money for cigarettes. Iggy buys cigarettes and picks up the lumber, returning three hours later without nails or a ladder. Qwill writes until he is disturbed by the noise of Iggy finally returning to work but the shingles are the wrong color. Qwill tells Iggy to remove them and replace them in the morning. Qwill is frustrated because he pays Iggy for five and half hours of work but has nothing to show for it.

On Wednesday, Iggy asks for money to buy a hammer and returns two hours later, talking to himself while he works. Koko taps his tail which makes Qwill nervous. When Qwill goes to lunch in Mooseville, he stops at the post office and receives a note from Irma Hasselrich on behalf of Emma Wimsey. The flattery improves his mood, but he returns home to find Iggy napping on the porch, though the shingles on the roof are half completed. Looking at Irma's note, Qwill phones to ask about her position at the nursing home, and he thinks that he would like to have lunch with Irma. His pleasant mood continues until Iggy wants to quit working at 4 p.m. At Qwill's insistence, Iggy works until 8 p.m. and finishes the roof. Qwill instructs Iggy to pick up the supplies for the addition on his way to the cabin in the morning, and after Iggy leaves, Qwill cleans up the cigarette butts in his yard which represent Iggy's sloth and delay. Qwill deplores Iggy's laxity.

On Thursday morning, Qwill gives Iggy a coffee can for his cigarette butts. When Qwill plugs the coffeemaker in, the electricity goes out, forcing him to call Glinko for an electrician and a chimney sweep. The chimney sweep's attempts to educate Qwill about the type of wood to burn irritates Qwill so that he is in a vile mood by the time Mad Mac, the electrician, announces that the entire wiring system is obsolete. Iggy quits working when it starts to rain, and Qwill insists that Iggy put the siding inside before leaving. After Iggy leaves, Qwill tells Koko that they are the only sane ones left, and Koko prowls irrationally as a violent storm approaches and causes the submersible pump to stop pumping; Qwill calls Glinko yet again. When Arch Riker phones Qwill, Qwill complains about the rain and his problems with the cabin, including Iggy who he could "cheerfully murder" (pg. 135.) Qwill ends the conversation when Joanna, the plumber, arrives to fix the water. Qwill is surprised when she offers to finish the plumbing under the new addition since she has not seen Clem lately. Qwill tells Joanna that he has a different builder now but will mention it to Iggy tomorrow; however, Iggy does not show up for work for the next three days.



Chapter 10 Analysis

The fact that Iggy arrives so late for work shows his laziness and foreshadows the problems Qwill will have with the new carpenter. Moreover, he takes three hours to pick up the lumber only to return without nails or a ladder. Then, he puts the wrong color shingles on the roof, causing Qwill to pay him for a day's work in which nothing is accomplished. The next day, he arrives without a hammer and continues to irritate Qwill with his littered cigarette butts and slothful work ethic. At the beginning of this chapter, Mildred suggests that Mrs. Ascott, her clairvoyant friend, may be able to shed some light on Clem's disappearance, foreshadowing the meeting with Mrs. Ascott. Koko's continued tail-tapping makes Qwill nervous because he knows that there is some significance to the action. Irma Hassrelrich's note improves Qwill's mood and makes him decide to visit Emma at the nursing home. He also expresses a personal interest in Irma. Continued issues with the cabin cause Qwill to be in a foul mood. When Iggy quits work because of the rain, Qwill has to force him to secure the supplies for the addition. Qwill complains to Arch about his negligent carpenter when Arch calls but the conversation is cut short by Joanna's arrival. Her interest in the addition and her surprise that Qwill has already hired a new builder foreshadow her involvement in the missing and dead carpenters.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Qwill, disturbed by Iggy's absence, is in no mood to write and spends Friday picking up debris from the storm. When Nick calls to tell him that a fallen tree is blockading his driveway, Qwill sees this as an explanation for Iggy's absence, and he calls Glinko to dispose of the tree. The next morning, Qwill walks to the hardware store and discusses Clem's disappearance with Cecil who informs him that Clem and his father were not getting along very well. Still worried about Iggy, Qwill phones Gary at the Black Bear Cafe, but Gary has not heard from Iggy either. After searching Mooseville for Iggy in vain, Qwill joins Roger for the meeting with Mrs. Ascott. Qwill and Roger stop for dinner at the Palomino Paddock, and Qwill asks what Roger knows about Mrs. Ascott. Mrs. Ascott once advised Roger and his wife to move the baby's crib to a different room; they complied. Two nights later, the plaster ceiling of the nursery falls down. After Roger and Qwill pick up Mrs. Ascott, they drive back to Mooseville for the meeting. The guests write their initials on slips of paper and drop them in a basket, and Mrs. Ascott pulls the initials and distributes messages and advice. When the session ends, everyone except Qwill has received a message. Mrs. Ascott agrees to answer a few direct questions, so Qwill asks about Clem's whereabouts, and she says that Clem is very far away and wishes to return home but is unable. She also has a message for JQ from Joy: to protect his two children and something about an excavation but the second message fades. Qwill is disturbed by the message from Joy, his childhood sweetheart who died two years ago.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Although Qwill is irritated by Iggy's absence, he does not show the concern that he did when Clem disappeared. This is likely because Iggy has shown himself to be significantly less reliable than Clem. Qwill continues to ask about Clem and phones Gary at the Black Bear Cafe to ask about Iggy. The earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled when Qwill attends the meeting with Mrs. Ascott. However, Roger provides evidence of the woman's uncanny abilities through a message from his great-great-grandmother concerning the safety of his infant. Mrs. Ascott tells Qwill that Clem is far away and wishes to return but is unable. This foreshadows the discovery that Clem is dead. The message from Joy about Koko and Yum Yum and an excavation disturbs Qwill and foreshadows Koko finding Iggy's body in the crawl space.



Chapter 12 & 13

Chapter 12 & 13 Summary

In Chapter 12, on Sunday morning, Qwill is still disturbed by the message from Joy. When Koko shreds the story about Emma Wimsey, Qwill is possessed by a sudden urge to visit the Senior Care Facility, so he takes flowers to Emma whose health is poor. He talks to Irma Hasselrich about the possibility of interviewing other patients, but she declines his dinner invitation. A caretaker brings Qwill a bag of Emma's collectibles and writings which she wants him to have because her family is not interested in them. Back at the cabin, Koko investigates Emma's belongings while tapping his tail against the table.

In Chapter 13, Iggy returns to work on Monday morning, and Qwill restrains the urge to question or rebuke the carpenter. Promising to return in time to pay Iggy for the day's work, Qwill locks the cabin and drives to Pickax for the monthly meeting of the trustees of the Klingenschoen Fund. However, his mind wanders and something seems to call him home to the lakeshore. Rushing home, Qwill finds the clearing filled with smoke and Iggy sleeping in his truck. When he goes to the shed to obtain a shovel with which to douse the fire, he finds Koko and Yum Yum in the shed, but Iggy claims ignorance of how they got there. Qwill takes the cats inside and when he sees the hole that Iggy cut in the wall for the new addition door, he locks them in the guestroom. Russell visits and explains that she locked the cats in the shed because she saw them in the yard. She asks what is wrong with her cabin and why the Dunfields are renting it. Qwill explains that Mrs. Dunfield does not care to live at the beach anymore since her husband died two years ago. When Russell asks how Mr. Dunfield died, Qwill admits he was murdered. Russell shouts "I knew it!" (pg. 163) and runs home.

Chapter 12 & 13 Analysis

Koko shredding the story about Emma Wimsey increases Qwill's urge to visit the nursing home, and he does so, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing that occurred when he received Irma's note. The bag of collectibles that Emma gives Qwill is obviously significant, as demonstrated by Koko's interest and tail-tapping as he investigates the objects. Iggy finally returns to work in Chapter 13, proving that he is still alive but Qwill's meeting with the trustees of the Klingenschoen Fund is disrupted by his urge to return to the cabin where he finds a fire in the clearing and the cats in the shed. Back in the cabin, Qwill realizes that his cats escaped through the hole Iggy cut in the wall to connect the new addition. This further provides evidence of Iggy's carelessness. Russell visits and explains that she confined the cats in the shed but when she questions Qwill about what is wrong with her cabin, she rushes away when she learns that Mr. Dunfield was murdered. The fact that she "knew it" (pg. 163) supports Qwill's belief that Russell can sense sinister influences in the Mooseville area.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

When Qwill lunches at the FOO with Roger and Bushy, they discuss the events of the previous afternoon. Bushy recalls his negative experience with an underground builder, and Qwill realizes that Bushy also hired Iggy. Qwill admits that he has to watch Iggy every minute; he would not tolerate it, but Iggy is his last resort. The three men take Bushy's boat to Three Tree Island. They walk around the island looking for signs of the UFO landing, but a storm approaches quickly, and the boat is lost to a wave. Qwill, Roger and Bushy take shelter in a makeshift hut but the waves slap against the building as the lake rises. Instead of talking, they simply wait for the next big wave, and Qwill worries about what will happen to Koko and Yum Yum if he dies. Around 5 p.m., the waves move the hut and wedge it between the three trees on the island. The men climb to the roof as the shack fills with water and pass the time with meaningless chatter and attempts at brave humor. By 8:30 p.m., the surf is less menacing, but the island is still flooded. Qwill tells Bushy and Roger about Koko's obsession with the trap door and Russell's bad vibrations about the Dunfield cottage; she moved out last night after Qwill told her about Mr. Dunfield's murder. As the night turns cold, a helicopter finds the three men and flies them to the hospital in Pickax. When Qwill sees that the roof of the Dunfield cottage has blown off, he thinks that Russell got out just in time. He searches for his cabin and realizes, in despair, that the new addition is gone.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Qwill's impression of Iggy's laziness is reinforced when he learns that Bushy had similar experiences when he hired Iggy. The earlier foreshadowing is fulfilled as Qwill, Bushy and Roger take a boat to Three Trees Island to investigate the claims of an UFO landing. Unfortunately, they are stranded when a storm approaches quickly and steals their boat. While marooned, Qwill tells his friends about Koko's obsession with the trapdoor, emphasizing the significance of this phenomenon. He also reveals that Russell has moved out of her cabin since learning that Mr. Dunfield was murdered; the significance of this is heightened when, after being rescued, Qwill notices that the roof blew off the Dunfield cottage. Qwill also realizes that his new addition has been destroyed by the storm.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Qwill, Roger and Bushy are treated for exposure at the Pickax Hospital. Mildred feeds Koko and Yum Yum while Qwill is hospitalized, and she also picks Qwill up when he is released on Thursday. She blames the unusual weather on the UFOs and is offended when Qwill asks if the bright light pulsating in his window several weeks ago was a joke she was playing on him. She tells him that the foundation of his new addition is intact, but the rest blew away in the tornado. All three times she went to feed the cats, Mildred saw a truck in the driveway but no sign of the carpenter. After Mildred drops Qwill off at the FOO to pick up his car, Qwill dreads the sight of destruction at his cabin but is eager to see the cats. Qwill feeds Koko and Yum Yum and is sipping coffee when Arch Riker phones in relief that Qwill was rescued. Although Qwill is ready to move back to Pickax, Arch tells him Pickax was also flooded. Qwill is lethargic until Koko noses at the trapdoor, causing Qwill to wonder if Iggy is sleeping in the crawl space. He opens the trapdoor and calls for Iggy but receives no response. Qwill realizes he should investigate as Iggy could have been killed in the tornado, but he lacks the ambition to do so because of the continuing rain.

When Koko's behavior causes Qwill's moustache to quiver, his curiosity overwhelms his weariness. He grabs a flashlight and peers into the crawl space but sees nothing except sand. Koko jumps into the crawl space and refuses to obey Qwill's commands to come back, so Qwill, refusing to follow Koko, closes the trapdoor. After dining at the Northern Lights Hotel, Qwill decides to give Koko another chance by opening the trapdoor, but Koko still does not appear. Since Koko is making the sound he makes when he is busy with some engrossing task, Qwill takes the flashlight and lowers himself into the crawl space where Koko sits in the center, digging industriously. As Qwill thinks of Mrs. Ascott's message about an excavation, his moustache prickles and his scalp tingles, and he approaches Koko. As Koko digs, the shape of the solid object he is uncovering becomes more defined, but the flashlight battery dies, leaving Qwill in total darkness. Qwill feels for the object and touches a shoe with a foot inside. The foot is connected to a leg.

Chapter 15 Analysis

While Qwill is treated for exposure at Pickax Hospital, Mildred feeds Koko and Yum Yum. When she picks Qwill up from the hospital, she denies any involvement with the pulsating light Qwill saw several weeks earlier, indicating some supernatural phenomenon in Mooseville. The fact that the foundation of the new addition is still intact is indicative of Clem's work compared to Iggy's. Qwill's decision to return to Pickax is thwarted by Arch telling him that Pickax is also flooded. Qwill is too lazy to search for Iggy despite the carpenter's truck being in the driveway and no sign of Iggy until Koko begins nosing at the crawl space. Koko refuses to leave the crawl space once he gains



access, and eventually, Qwill descends into the crawl space as well. His prickling moustache indicates something is wrong as Koko begins digging in the sand of the crawl space and he recalls Mrs. Ascott's message about an excavation. Koko's findings are a foot attached to a leg, and this foreshadows the discovery of Iggy's murder.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

After discovering the body, Qwill notices the sheriff, but first, he tips off the "Something." Koko and Yum Yum are locked in the guestroom as the police remove the body. Though unofficial visitors are stopped at the entrance to the property, Arch Riker, who chooses to cover the story himself because he feels his friend may need the moral support, gets through with his press card but is restricted to the back porch. Qwill is asked to stand by but stay out of the way. He is able to identify the body as Iggy. The police question Qwill and he tells them that he has no idea who buried the body under his house. The police tell Qwill to keep them informed of his whereabouts and ask for his prints to check against those they have found. They also forbid him to discuss the case with anyone. As the police leave, Arch questions them but receives no response. Qwill cannot answer Arch's questions either because he is a suspect. After Arch leaves to take Amanda to dinner, Qwill phones Mildred to ask about his horoscope which tells him, "Don't complain about the lack of excitement today. Take a trip! Visit a friend! Do something you've been wanting to do" (pg. 195.) As a result, Qwill phones Bushy and schedules an appointment to photograph the cats. At the photography studio, the cats refuse to leave the basket and therefore, Qwill socializes instead. On the way home, Qwill listens to the report about Iggy's death on WPKX, and he is very upset that the station makes him sound like the primary suspect in Iggy's murder.

Chapter 16 Analysis

The foreshadowing concerning Iggy's death is fulfilled when Qwill identifies the body in his crawl space as Iggy. Arch Riker shows his loyalty to Qwill by covering the murder because he feels that his friend needs the moral support. As the police question Qwill, it is obvious that they suspect him of murdering Iggy. Qwill shows an interest in his horoscope when he calls Mildred to ask her about it and decides to adhere to the horoscope's advice by visiting Bushy with the intention of getting a portrait of Koko and Yum Yum. On the way home, Qwill is upset by the fact that the radio report about Iggy's death makes Qwill sound like the primary suspect in the case.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

After WPKX broadcasts news of Iggy's murder every half hour, Qwill begins to receive joking and prank calls. The red-haired detective from Pickax returns with a homicide specialist from Down Below to question Qwill about Iggy. When the homicide specialist questions Qwill about his desire to beat Iggy with a two-by-four, Qwill realizes that he was overheard during his lunch at the FOO with Roger and Bushy. Koko and Yum Yum wreak havoc when the phone rings, and the police leave, though they may want to talk to Qwill again. Qwill wonders if Mooseville "is in the grip of a serial killer- an out-and-out sociopath" (pg. 203,) and Koko seems to agree with unusual interest. When Qwill goes to the hardware store, Cecil warns him that people are circulating unpleasant rumors about Qwill's involvement in Iggy's death. At the cabin, the cats have scattered the content of Emma Wimsey's bag, so Qwill cleans the mess before reading his letter from Irma Hasselrich. Irma's letter tells Qwill that Emma celebrated her ninetieth birthday yesterday, heard scratching at the door when the aide put her to bed and passed away in her sleep shortly afterward.

Qwill decides to look through Emma's bag as the cats watch excitedly, especially when Qwill reads Emma's written stories aloud. Qwill believes his readers would enjoy Emma's stories of local lore and considers publishing a book of her stories and establishing a scholarship in her honor; he knows the publication would make Emma glad. One story contrasts poignantly with the others and was obviously written after Emma entered the nursing home. "A Family Tragedy" tells that Emma and her husband had four sons and one daughter, Violet. Violet married against her father's wishes and was disowned. Emma however, kept track of her granddaughter who became a woman overnight when Violet died giving birth to her second daughter as a result of her husband's abuse. Rumors arose, and Emma knew something terrible was happening. The baby grew into a beautiful child who shot herself at age twelve with her father's gun. Emma prayed God would punish her son-in-law; then, the back of a dump truck fell on him and killed him. Qwill calls Cecil and learns that Little Joe is Emma's granddaughter. Cecil says it is a sad case because Big Joe sexually abused both of his daughters after his wife died.

Chapter 17 Analysis

As the news radio station continues broadcasting reports of Iggy's murder that seem to implicate Qwill, he begins receiving odd phone calls. His position as primary suspect is determined when the detective from Pickax returns to question Qwill further with a homicide specialist from the city. Qwill is viewed as a primary suspect because someone overheard his joking claims to want to inflict violence on Iggy. Qwill suspects that all of the deaths are related as he tells Koko that he suspects a serial killer is murdering carpenters in Mooseville. At the hardware store, Cecil Huggins is the first to



warn Qwill that being named a suspect puts him in danger as there are unpleasant rumors circulating about him. When Qwill returns home, Koko indicates the importance of Emma's belongings by scattering them around the cabin. This becomes more obviously significant when Qwill learns that Emma has died and decides to look through her belongings, as does Koko's apparent interest when Qwill reads Emma's stories aloud. One of these stories, "A Family Tragedy" causes Qwill to associate Emma Wimsey with Joanna, and he calls Cecil who verifies that Emma was Joanna's grandmother. Cecil also informs Qwill that Joanna's father sexually molested her and her younger sister who committed suicide. This foreshadows Joanna being the murderer of the carpenters.



Chapter 18 & 19

Chapter 18 & 19 Summary

In Chapter 18, Qwill decides to bestow Emma's belongings upon Joanna, but when he bikes to her house through the flood, he finds her house destroyed. He phones Glinko, and Mrs. Glinko assures him that Little Joe is around somewhere. Qwill calls Mildred to ask about his horoscope. The "Morning Rampage" tells him to hang in a little longer, but the "Daily Fluxion" tells him to cut his losses. Qwill is inclined to agree with the horoscope in the "Morning Rampage". When Nick Bamba visits, he advises Qwill to move back to Pickax immediately because he has heard nasty rumblings among the local troublemakers and worries they may do something to the cats. Qwill grows pensive at the mention of Koko and Yum Yum. Gary Pratt from the Black Bear Cafe calls Qwill and warns him that a nasty crowd is plotting against him. Nick alerts the sheriff and spends the night with Qwill who suspects Iggy's murderer is a serial killer operating in Mooseville. When Koko sniffs and growls at the trapdoor, Nick follows the cat into the crawl space. Koko grows excited in the far corner, and Nick calls Qwill down to see a message written in blood on the overhead joist, but it is hard to decipher because the wood is dark with age. The next morning, Nick leaves after Qwill promises to return to Pickax, but after Nick leaves, Qwill calls Glinko with a plumbing problem and specifically requests Little Joe. When she arrives, Qwill apologizes, saying the problem fixed itself, offers her breakfast and presents her with Emma's keepsakes. Qwill tells Joanna that he is not going to rebuild the addition because his carpenter was murdered and that he found Clem's jacket in the mud near her house. Qwill asks if it seems strange that so many carpenters have died or disappeared; he suspects that Joanna buried Clem on her property. When Qwill states that there is a list in his crawl space of the five dead carpenters with the date they were murdered, Joanna claims she did not do it. Qwill presses her, claiming she knows who did and the police will suspect her since the list is written with her lipstick. Joanna states that Louise, a girl who does bad things, killed five carpenters because her daddy was a carpenter and a bad man. She runs from the cabin and drives away. Qwill calls the police.

In Chapter 19, the sun is shining and Pickax is drying out as Qwill reaches his apartment above the Klingenschoen garage. Since his horoscope advises him to socialize with an old friend, he invites Arch Riker to come over for a drink that night. When Arch arrives with Amanda around 10 p.m., Qwill describes finding the list of victims, Big Joe, Mert, Buddy, Clem, and Iggy, in his crawl space and recognizing Joanna's lipstick color. Originally, he had thought the list was written in blood. She kept the list because each murder boosted her ego. Little Joe had invented an alter-ego, Louise, to do her dirty work, and Louise's holy mission was to wipe out carpenters; since her daddy, a carpenter, was a bad man, all carpenters must be bad men. Now, the murders are over, and Qwill only regrets that Little Joe turned out to be the murderer. Once Arch and Amanda leave, Qwill asks Koko about his strange behavior toward Russell, causing Koko to exit the room contemptuously. Qwill tells Yum Yum that Koko knew something was odd about the crawl space long before anything actually happened



there and could give Mrs. Ascott lessons. As he gives the cats their bedtime treat, Qwill maintains that Koko's tail-tapping was somehow related to the serial killings.

Chapter 18 & 19 Analysis

When Qwill learns of Joanna's relationship to Emma, he decides to give her her grandmother's belongings but cannot find her. He phones Mildred to ask about his horoscope again but receives contradictory advice from two different papers. After choosing to continue the investigation, Qwill receives a visit from Nick Bamba who, like Cecil, warns that Qwill may be in danger since he is the primary suspect in Iggy's murder. Qwill's only concern is elicited when Nick mentions the potential danger to Koko and Yum Yum. Gary Pratt also warns Qwill of trouble, causing Nick to stay the night to protect Qwill. Qwill shares his serial killer theory with Nick. When Koko expresses excitement at the trapdoor, Nick follows the cat into the crawl space, and shortly afterward, he summons Qwill to join them to see the list of murder victims with the dates of their demise. After Nick leaves the next morning, Qwill reports a false repair in order to gain Joanna's attention. He questions her about the deaths and disappearances of the carpenters, telling her that the list was written in her lipstick. Although Joanna claims that she did not murder the men, she says Louise did because her daddy was a carpenter and a bad man. Qwill reports his discovery to the police. In the final chapter, Qwill explains the nuances of Joanna's role as the murderer of the five carpenters. Since her sexually abusive father was a carpenter, she assumes all carpenters are equally bad and invents an alter-ego whose holy mission is to eradicate these evil beings. Qwill credits Koko with solving the crime and insists that Koko tapped his tail in relation to the murders.



Characters

Jim Qwilleran

Jim Qwilleran is the main character of this novel. He is a bachelor who lives in Pickax with his two cats, Koko and Yum Yum. Though he recently inherited the Klingenschoen fortune, his needs are simple, and he is content to live in an apartment over the garage of the estate. Qwill decides to spend the summer in Mooseville, a nearby lakeshore resort town, because he is bored with the dull life of Pickax; however, as soon as he arrives at the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville, he begins having problems with the cabin and frequently requires the services of the Glinko Network to make repairs on the cabin so that he can comfortably inhabit it.

Qwill writes a column, "From the Qwill Pen", for the "Moose County Something" and is always looking for a new topic for his column. He is very close friends with Mildred Hanstable and spends a lot of time with her. Qwill occasionally feels a twitch in his moustache that presages trouble, such as shortly before he smells gas in his cabin. Qwill is very vain, as can be seen by his constant suspicions that women are interested in him. Qwill decides to build an addition to his cabin and hires Clem Cottle, but when Clem disappears, Qwill begins to investigate the many disappearances and deaths of local carpenters. With Koko's help, Qwill solves the mystery surrounding the murders of the five carpenters, though he credits Koko fully in the discovery.

Joanna Trupp

Joanna Trupp, also known as Little Joe, is a carpenter and plumber who works as part of the Glinko Network, and as such, she is sent to repair Qwill's cabin several times, beginning with his first day in Mooseville. She is a husky young woman with mousy hair, and although she is strong and healthy, she never smiles. Joanna begins wearing lipstick and washing her hair on her second visit to Qwill's cabin. She reacts oddly when she learns Qwill has hired Clem to build his addition and when she learns that Iggy has replaced Clem.

Joanna's father, Big Joe, sexually abuses Joanna and her younger sister after his wife dies, and after her sister commits suicide, Joanna kills her father. Joanna also kills Mert, Buddy, Clem and Iggy. She keeps a list of her victims and the date she murdered them in Qwill's crawlspace, written in lipstick. Joanna invents an alter-ego, Louise, who commits these crimes because Joanna feels that since her father, a carpenter, was a bad man, all carpenters must be bad men.

Clem Cottle

Clem Cottle is the first carpenter that Qwill hires to build his addition. Clem plans to marry Maryellen Wimsey in October, and he is honest, skilled and industrious. Quill



worries when Clem disappears the day before the Fourth of July parade, and eventually, he learns that Clem is Joanna's fourth victim.

Ignatius Small

Ignatius Small is known as Iggy, and he is the second builder that Qwill hires to construct his addition. Gary Pratt, the bartender at the Black Bear Cafe, recommends Iggy as lazy but a good craftsman. Iggy is an emaciated man with large teeth which Qwill does not believe are real. He vanishes while Qwill is hospitalized, and with Koko's help, Qwill finds Iggy buried in the crawlspace. Iggy is the fifth carpenter that Joanna kills.

Roger MacGivillray

Roger MacGivillray is Qwill's friend who is stranded on Three Trees Island with Qwill and Bushy when they investigate claims of an UFO landing.

Nick Bamba

Nick Bamba is Qwill's friend who recommends Clem Cottle when Qwill is searching for a carpenter to build an addition to his cabin. Nick spends the night with Qwill to protect him when troublemakers plot against Qwill due to their belief that he murdered Iggy. He follows Koko into the crawlspace and finds Joanna's list of murder victims.

Mrs. Ascott

Mrs. Ascott is Mildred's clairvoyant friend who holds a meeting at Mildred's cabin. When Qwill asks about Clem, she says Clem is far away and wishes to return but is unable. She also gives Qwill a message from Joy, his dead childhood sweetheart, regarding danger to his cats and an excavation.

Russell Simms

Russell Simms is Qwill's reclusive neighbor with strange eyes. She is an attractive young woman but seems to sense a sinister influence in Mooseville. Russell leaves Mooseville almost immediately after learning that Mr. Dunfield was murdered, narrowly escaping the roof of the cottage she rented collapsing.



Arch Riker

Arch Riker is Qwill's oldest and closest friend who lives in Pickax and is the editor of the "Moose County Something". He frequently visits Qwill to socialize, and it is apparent that Arch is a very loyal friend.

Mildred Hanstable

Mildred Hanstable is Qwill's friend and Roger's mother-in-law. She lives in Mooseville where she teaches school, writes for the local paper, raises money for the hospital and conducts a non-profit project for low-income handworkers. Qwill and Mildred spend a lot of time together, and she feeds his cats when he is hospitalized.

Captain Phlogg

Captain Phlogg is a retired carpenter on a ship who owns an antique shop and pretends that he was a captain. Qwill wants to interview Captain Phlogg, but the man is rude and evasive. He dies from excessive consumption of alcohol.

Buddy Yarrow

Buddy Yarrow is Roger's friend who drowns while fishing on the first day Qwill is in Mooseville. He is the third name on the list of carpenters that Joanna kills.

Koko

Koko is Qwill's male Siamese cat who finds clues that lead to the murderer.

Yum Yum

Yum Yum is Qwill's female Siamese cat who is emotionally dependent upon Qwill.



Objects/Places

Pickax

Pickax is the town in Moose County where Qwill lives as mandated by the Klingenschoen will. The story begins and ends in Pickax.

Mooseville

Mooseville is the lakeshore resort town where the Klingenschoen cabin is located and where Qwill decides to spend the summer. This is the main setting of the novel.

Klingenschoen Cabin

Located in Mooseville, the Klingenschoen cabin is owned by the Klingenschoen estate, and this is where Qwill decides to reside for the summer. The cabin's age inconveniences Qwill as he constantly requires repairs through Glinko.

New Addition

Qwill decides to build an addition to the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville because he wants a writing studio and an apartment for his cats. The neighbors warn him against hiring an underground builder but he has good luck in obtaining the services of the industrious Clem Cottle. Unfortunately, Clem disappears and Qwill hires Iggy who is very lazy. The tornado that strands Qwill on Three Trees Island also destroys his addition except for the foundation.

Three Trees Island

Three Trees Island is an island in the middle of the lake where an UFO is reported to land. When Qwill, Bushy, and Roger investigate, they are stranded on the island during a tornado until a helicopter rescues them.

Glinko Network

The Glinko Network is a repair operation in Mooseville that outsources repair work to local plumbers and various repairmen. Because they only accept cash and for many other reasons, Qwill suspects them of shady business practices.



Crawlspace

Koko is fascinated by the crawlspace under the trapdoor in the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville. This is where Iggy's body is found as well as the list of murdered carpenters.

Frantic Chicken

Clem Cottle's truck is named the Frantic Chicken.

Black Bear Cafe

When Qwill has a drink at the Black Bear Cafe, the bartender, Gary, recommends Iggy as a replacement for Clem. Gary calls Qwill from the cafe to warn him when a rowdy crowd plots against him because they believe he murdered Iggy.

Horoscopes

Horoscopes play a large role in this novel as they are used to foreshadow events. Although Qwill has no interest in them initially, he begins to follow his horoscope as they seem related to the odd events transpiring in Mooseville.

Joanna's Lipstick

When Joanna begins wearing lipstick on her second call to see Qwill, he suspects that she is interested in him. She visits once while Clem is building the addition because she lost her lipstick. When Qwill finds the list of murder victims in the crawlspace, he recognizes the lipstick as the writing utensil used, thus implicating Joanna in the murders.



Themes

Disappearances and Deaths of Carpenters

Since the main plot of this novel focuses on Qwill's investigation into the deaths and disappearances of the carpenters in Mooseville, this is also one of the main themes of "The Cat Who Went Underground." On Qwill's first day in Mooseville, he meets Joanna and learns that her father, Big Joe, was a carpenter who was killed in an accident several months earlier. Later that day, Roger calls Mildred while Qwill is visiting to report that his friend, Buddy Yarrow, drowned while fishing. When Qwill reads the paper the next day, he learns that Buddy was a carpenter. In the fourth chapter, Mildred informs Qwill that Captain Phlogg, a retired carpenter on a ship, drank himself to death. Qwill hires Clem Cottle to build an addition on his cabin and is very pleased with the young man's work ethic, but Clem Cottle disappears during the weekend of the Fourth of July. When Clem does not show up for work, Qwill asks Maryellen Wimsey, Clem's fiancée, who claims that Clem is out of town but Qwill does not believe her. When Clem is absent on Monday as well, Qwill calls the Cottle farmhouse but Clem's father is very rude and insists that his son is simply out of town. On the way to the general store in town, Qwill stumbles upon Clem's truck parked on the side of the road, but Clem is nowhere to be seen. Qwill returns home to find Maryellen who asks for his help because she does not believe Clem left town for a last fling as his father insists. Qwill recommends that Maryellen report the disappearance to the sheriff.

Qwill talks to Roger about the fact that Mooseville carpenters are disappearing and dying at an ungodly rate and suggests Roger keep an eye out while covering the police beat for the paper. Qwill hires Iggy to finish his addition, but Qwill deplores the new carpenter's laxity. When Qwill attends the meeting with Mrs. Ascott, he asks about Clem, and Mrs. Ascott claims that Clem is very far away and wishes to return home but is unable. After Qwill is released from the hospital after being stranded on Three Trees Island, he learns from Mildred that Iggy's truck has been parked in his driveway for the past three days, but there has been no sign of Iggy. When Koko persists in his interest in the crawlspace, Qwill descends and finds Iggy's body. Although Qwill is suspecting of murdering Iggy, he believes that Mooseville "is in the grip of a serial killer- an out-and-out sociopath" (pg. 203.) On the night that Nick Bamba stays at Qwill's cabin, they find a list of the murder victims with the dates that they were murdered in Qwill's crawlspace. These names are Joe, Mert, Buddy, Clem, and Iggy. Recognizing Joanna's lipstick and aware that her father sexually molested her, Qwill realizes that Joanna is the murderer. Joanna invents an alter-ego, Louise, who murders carpenters. Since her father was a carpenter and a bad man, she believes that all carpenters are bad men.

Issues with Qwill's Cabin

When Qwill moves to the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville for the summer, he immediately begins encountering issues with the aged cabin, and this becomes an



important theme throughout the novel. When Qwill first arrives in Mooseville, he signs up for the Glinko Network because his cabin is frigid due to being locked up all winter. Joanna is sent to Qwill's cabin and she ventilates the cabin by opening the doors and windows. At the end of Qwill's first day, he smells gas, but the Glinko operative that responds to the call tells him that he simply needs to clean out the birds' nest in the vents. On Saturday morning in Chapter 2, Joanna is summoned to fix a leak at Qwill's cabin and two days later, she replaces a pipe when the sink begins to leak again. When Arch Riker visits, he informs Qwill that carpenter ants are swarming the cabin, so Qwill, at Clem's suggestion, buys insect spray at Huggins Hardware to get rid of the ants.

In Chapter 6, Young Jake is sent to eradicate Qwill's cabin of mice by sealing their entrance into the house. In the tenth chapter, Qwill's electricity goes out and the electrician announces that the cabin's wiring is obsolete. On the same day, Qwill asks for a chimney sweep to clean the chimney but grows irritated when the boy tries to educate him on what type of wood to burn. When the submersible pump stops pumping in Chapter 10, Joanna fixes the water, and she also offers to finish the plumbing under Qwill's new addition. After the storm, Qwill is forced to call Glinko to dispose of a fallen tree blockading his driveway. Qwill is stranded on Three Trees Island during a tornado, and when he is rescued, he sees that his new addition has been destroyed. Qwill phones Glinko for a final time in Chapter 18, claiming that his toilet is backed up, and he requests Joanna specifically. However, this is simply a ruse to get Joanna to come by and Qwill claims that the problem fixed itself.

Koko's Investigative Skills

One of the most important themes in this novel regards that fact that Koko, Qwill's male Siamese cat, is the one who actually finds the clues or at least points Qwill in the right direction. First, Koko seems to disapprove of Qwill's intention to spend the summer at the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville, but Qwill ignores his cat. At the end of Chapter 1, Koko's violent yowling alerts Qwill to the smell of gas in the cabin. Koko's fascination with the trapdoor leading to the crawlspace begins almost as soon as they relocate. At the end of Chapter 2, Koko shreds the newspaper page that contains the story about Buddy Yarrow's death as well as Qwill's column. When Qwill mentions Koko's odd behavior to his friend, Arch Riker jokingly suggests putting Koko on the investigation. On the Fourth of July, Qwill investigates an odd tapping sound and finds Koko tapping his tail against the windowsill. When Qwill returns home from the parade, he finds the rug over the trapdoor askew as usual. When Qwill praises Clem, Koko taps his tail in reply and when Koko goes missing in Chapter 6, Qwill finds him in the crawlspace where, Qwill conjectures, Koko must have followed Joanna when she fixed the water. Qwill discovers Clem's truck on his way to the general store, but the reason he goes to the general store is because Koko stole his sock and he wants to replace it. Qwill gets increasingly nervous as Koko continues tapping his tail. After Qwill visits Emma Wimsey at the nursing home, he returns to the cabin with a bag of her belongings, and Koko investigates the belongings while tapping his tail against the table. Qwill continues to be puzzled by Koko's obsession with the trapdoor and the crawlspace.



When Qwill returns home from the hospital after being stranded on Three Trees Island, his curiosity overwhelms his weariness when Koko's behavior causes his moustache to quiver. He grabs a flashlight and peers into the crawlspace but sees nothing except sand. Koko jumps into the crawlspace and refuses to obey Qwill's commands to come back, so Qwill, refusing to follow Koko, closes the trapdoor. After dining at the Northern Lights Hotel, Qwill decides to give Koko another chance by opening the trapdoor, but Koko still does not appear. Since Koko is making the sound he makes when he is busy with some engrossing task, Qwill takes the flashlight and lowers himself into the crawlspace where Koko sits in the center, digging industriously. As Qwill thinks of Mrs. Ascott's message about an excavation, his moustache prickles and his scalp tingles. He approaches Koko. As Koko digs, the shape of the solid object he is uncovering becomes more defined, but the flashlight battery dies, leaving Qwill in total darkness. Qwill feels for the object and touches a shoe with a foot inside. The foot is connected to a leg.

In Chapter 17, Koko scatters the contents of Emma Wimsey's bag of belongings and he watches intently when Qwill looks through the bag and reads Emma's stories aloud. During Nick's stay at Qwill's cabin to protect Qwill, Nick follows the cat into the crawlspace when Koko sniffs and growls at the trapdoor. Koko grows excited in the far corner, and Nick calls Qwill down to see a message written in blood on the overhead joist, but it is hard to decipher because the wood is dark with age. At the end of the novel, Qwill praises Koko for being aware that something was odd about the crawlspace long before anything actually happened there and he maintains that Koko's tail-tapping was somehow related to the serial killings.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is the third-person. This point of view is limited and unreliable, proven by the fact that the narrator reports not only on the events and actions of the novel but also on Qwill's thoughts and feelings. As the reader only has access to Qwill's thoughts, the story is often misleading as his thoughts are frequently later found to be incorrect conjectures. This point of view is important to the novel since one of the obvious themes of the novel is Koko's discovery of the clues to solve the murder. By utilizing this point of view, it retains suspense for the reader and allows the focus to remain on Qwill's revelations concerning the case.

The story is told using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This allows the narrator to share the events as well as the conversations between characters which serve to further character development. The novel follows Qwill through his adventures in Mooseville as he investigates the deaths and disappearances of several carpenters, including two that he personally employed. The events are generally seen through Qwill's point of view, although he is not the narrator.

Setting

The novel is set in the realistic world in America. Specifically, this novel is set in Moose County, in the lakeshore resort town of Mooseville. Qwill spends the summer in Mooseville to escape the boredom of Pickax, the small town where he lives as mandated by the Klingenschoen will. In Mooseville, there are many locals as well as tourists. However, Qwill's time is spent preoccupied with a specific demographic of carpenters as they are disappearing and dying at an alarming rate.

Pickax is the town in Moose County where Qwill lives as mandated by the Klingenschoen will. The story begins and ends in Pickax. Mooseville is the lakeshore resort town where the Klingenschoen cabin is located and where Qwill decides to spend the summer. This is the main setting of the novel. Located in Mooseville, the Klingenschoen cabin is owned by the Klingenschoen estate, and this is where Qwill decides to reside for the summer. The cabin's age inconveniences Qwill as he constantly requires repairs through Glinko. Qwill decides to build an addition to the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville because he wants a writing studio and an apartment for his cats. The neighbors warn him against hiring an underground builder, but he has good luck in obtaining the services of the industrious Clem Cottle. Unfortunately, Clem disappears, and Qwill hires Iggy who is very lazy. The tornado that strands Qwill on Three Trees Island also destroys his addition except for the foundation.

Three Trees Island is an island in the middle of the lake where an UFO is reported to land. When Qwill, Bushy and Roger investigate, they are stranded on the island during



a tornado until a helicopter rescues them. Koko is fascinated by the crawlspace under the trapdoor in the Klingenschoen cabin in Mooseville. This is where Iggy's body is found as well as the list of murdered carpenters. When Qwill has a drink at the Black Bear Cafe, the bartender, Gary, recommends Iggy as a replacement for Clem. Gary calls Qwill from the cafe to warn him when a rowdy crowd plots against him because they believe he murdered Iggy.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is casual and informal as it is written in modern English. As the language used is modern, it is very easy to understand and aids reader comprehension since it is written in such common language. The language is also used to distinguish characters by their class and social standing.

The language used in "The Cat Who Went Underground" tends to characterize the individuals, the social statuses, and their ways of looking at other characters. The novel is told through a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue, allowing the dialogue to be an effective means of distinguishing between characters and their personalities. The casual language allows the author to easily convey her topics to the reader in such a way to inhibit confusion and enhance clarity. The overall effect of the language is easy to understand and also effective in distinguishing characters.

Structure

This novel is comprised of nineteen chapters and two hundred and thirty-three pages with each chapter being approximately ten to fifteen pages long. The chapters are numbered rather than titled. They tend to be short, descriptive, and filled with vast amounts of Qwill's thoughts and suspicions.

The plot of the novel is fairly simple, although it is filled with intrigue and mystery surrounding the deaths and disappearances of five local carpenters. Qwill decides to spend the summer in Mooseville at the Klingenschoen cabin. Immediately, things begin to go wrong however. He is continually forced to utilize the Glinko Network for repairs on the cabin. When he decides to build an addition, he hires Clem Cottle, but the industrious young man disappears. Qwill replaces his carpenter with Iggy who is lazy but Iggy also disappears. After Koko uncovers Iggy's body in the crawlspace beneath the cabin, people begin to suspect Qwill of the murder. With Koko's help, Qwill is able to clear his name and uncover the real murderer, Joanna Trupp.

The novel is fairly quick paced due to the combination of descriptive exposition and dialogue. The novel is easy to read and the plot is quite engrossing. The story is mostly linear with only a few instances where background information is provided. Overall, the novel is easy to read and highly entertaining.

Quotes

"If Jim Qwilleran had read his horoscope in the daily paper on that particular morning, perhaps none of this would have happened. But astrology had never been one of his interests" (Chapter 1, pg. 1.)

"He should have known that Koko's whims were not to be taken lightly. The cat seemed to have a sixth sense that detected precarious situations" (Chapter 1, pg. 5.)

"Don't sit there looking smart! Whatever you're trying to tell me, your mode of communication is not appreciated. Furthermore, you rolled up that rug in the hall and I tripped over it! I could have broken my neck!" (Chapter 2, pg. 41.)

"As he walked, he began to realize that he had lived contentedly with very little money during his entire life; now that unlimited funds were available, he was reacting like a spoiled child" (Chapter 3, pg.43.)

"Qwill began to suspect the entire Glinko method of doing business. When Joanna fixed the sink the first time, could she have left a fitting loose so that it would start dripping again? Was this a Glinko technique? Did Mrs. Glinko train her people, like a north-country Fagin?" (Chapter 3, pg. 45.)

"[Koko] would have made a great investigative reporter. We always had cats at home, but never any to compare with Koko. I think it has something to do with his whiskers. He has a magnificent set of whiskers" (Chapter 3, pg. 46.)

"Qwilleran liked the young carpenter, and he gave him a parting salute as the Frantic Chicken drove away. It was prophetic. That was the last time he ever saw Clem Cottle" (Chapter 4, pg. 67.)

"But worst of all, there was not a single flag in the parade! This was Independence Day, and there was not an American flag to be seen!" (Chapter 5, pg. 70.)

"When the rain stopped around noon, Qwilleran half expected to see the Frantic Chicken pulling into the clearing; Clem never wasted an hour, never missed an opportunity to earn a dollar for his forthcoming marriage to Maryellen. She was a fine young woman, and she was getting a good man" (Chapter 6, pg. 85.)

"Emma Wimsey's story haunted him as he drove back to the cabin. As a journalist he was conditioned to scoff at supernatural tales, but as the daily companion of a Siamese who could sense danger and sometimes transmit such information, he had second thoughts. There was something in this north country- a kind of primeval force- that unsettled one's educated beliefs" (Chapter 6, pg. 94.)



"Clem didn't march in the parade Friday; he didn't show up for work yesterday; he didn't attend the reunion with his fiancée today. Maryellen's excuse was that Clem was out of town, but she wasn't very convincing" (Chapter 7, pg. 101.)

"Qwilleran touched his moustache tentatively. Clem was not 'out of town' as his father and fiancée had insisted" (Chapter 8, pg. 104.)

"It means that Clem's father should stop kidding himself and report the disappearance to the sheriff" (Chapter 8, pg. 106.)

"I seriously suspect that someone in the Mooseville area has put a curse on carpenters...It's no joke. Carpenters are dying and disappearing at an ungodly rate. Anyone who believes in UFOs should be able to accept the age-old mystique of the curse- an evil spirit exerting influence in an otherwise healthy community" (Chapter 9, pg. 113.)

"Then buy one at the lumberyard and tell them to put it on my bill, and hurry before they close. Let's get some slight amount of work done today!" (Chapter 10, pg. 124.)

"As a journalist he had always done ninety minutes' work for an hour's pay, and he deplored Iggy's laxity, even though the Klingenschoen estate was paying for it" (Chapter 10, pg. 129.)

"Koko, you and I are the only sane ones left. And it won't be long before I go off the deep end" (Chapter 10, pg. 131.)

"Fallen trees, vanishing builders, raccoons in the chimney, leaking sinks, birds' nests in the vents, spider bites on the seat! He was beginning to yearn for his dull apartment in Pickax" (Chapter 11, pg. 137.)

"I haven't figured it out yet, but it bothers me. The chicken operation was fully insured, I happen to know. Clem and his father weren't getting along together. My wife got that from her sister; it's her daughter that was going to marry Clem...I don't know. I keep trying to put two and two together, and I come up with six-and-a-half. Do you have any theories?" (Chapter 11, pg. 137-138.)

"I had a feeling I should come" (Chapter 13, pg. 162.)

"Qwilleran had faced life-and-death situations before- with a dogged resolve to survive or a numb resignation. Only where Koko and Yum Yum were concerned did he ever succumb to gut-wrenching worry. Now, with mounting anxiety, he wondered what would happen to them. Would Mildred adopt them? Would they miss him? Koko would adjust, but Yum Yum would stop eating; she was emotionally dependent on Qwilleran, and she would pine away" (Chapter 14, pg. 170.)

"Where's the new addition? It's gone!" (Chapter 14, pg. 183.)



"As he watched the rain cascading off the cabin roof, he thought, Iggy might have been injured when the roof of the east wing collapsed; he might have been killed; his body could be lying under the rubble; it might have been blown into the woods, along with sections of the roof and siding. Qwilleran realized he should investigate, but the rain deterred him, and he lacked ambition" (Chapter 15, pg. 183.)

"Koko struggled and yowled in protest as Qwilleran hauled him back and used his other hand to feel for the treasure. It was a shoe- a canvas shoe with shoelaces. Inside the shoe was a foot, and connected to the foot was a leg" (Chapter 15, pg. 187.)

"I have no idea. I would have preferred Mr. Small to be buried elsewhere, and I imagine your men feel the same way" (Chapter 16, pg. 191.)

"Three intelligent adults can't be outwitted by two cats who don't have university degrees and don't even have drivers' licenses" (Chapter 16, pg. 198.)

"The thought occurs to me that Mooseville might be in the grip of a serial killer- an out-and-out sociopath" (Chapter 17, pg. 203.)

"There's something I should tell you, Mr. Q. Certain local folks are talking about you this morning in a way I don't like. You're a great guy when you're giving the K money away, but get a little mud splashed on your trouser cuffs, and they're ready to trample you in the gutter" (Chapter 17, pg. 206.)

"Little Joe is Emma's granddaughter. Her real name is Joanna. Joanna Trupp. She doesn't have anything to do with the Wimsey or Huggins family- just keeps pretty much to herself. I don't know why. We've never given her any cause. All the relatives feel sorry for her. It's a sad case...Big Joe abused both his daughters sexually after his wife died. That's probably why the younger girl killed herself. She was only twelve. Did it with her daddy's gun. Big Joe was just no good! Everybody knew that. God knows every family tree has one branch that's unhealthy and withers away. I hope Little Joe makes it" (Chapter 17, pg. 212.)

"It's my guess that the murderer is a serial killer operating in Mooseville" (Chapter 18, pg. 219.)

"I didn't do it!... I didn't have nothin' to do with it!... Someone else did it! She stole my lipstick!...Louise!...A girl. She does...bad things...They're bad! Her daddy was a carpenter! He was a bad man!" (Chapter 18, pg. 225.)

"Ah! Now we come to the curious part. Little Joe didn't know she was killing. She had invented another self- another girl- to do the dirty work. No doubt it was the only way she could cope with her intolerable homelife. For years both she and her sister were sexually abused by their father. When the younger sister killed herself- out of desperation, guilt, self-loathing, or whatever- it must have triggered a murderous hate in Joanna. Shortly after, 'Louise' engineered the tailgate accident that killed Big Joe. Little Joe's twisted reasoning would go something like this: Big Joe was a carpenter; he was a



bad man; therefore all carpenters are bad men. It became the holy mission of 'Louise' to wipe them out, one by one" (Chapter 19, pg. 230-231.)

"I guess I offended him. He's temperamental, but we have to make allowances for genius, don't we? Koko was obsessed by the trap door long before Iggy was murdered and even before Clem disappeared, and it wasn't because of mice in the crawl space; he knew something abnormal was going to happen down there. Koko could teach Mrs. Ascott a thing or two" (Chapter 18, pg. 232.)



Topics for Discussion

What is the significance of Jim Qwilleran's moustache in "The Cat Who Went Underground?"

Why does Jim Qwilleran believe Koko has investigative skills?

What clues does Jim Qwilleran come across to help him solve the case of the carpenters' murderer?

Why does Little Joe kill carpenters when she is a carpenter herself?

Describe Jim Qwilleran's unpleasant summer at the lake in Mooseville.

What does Jim Qwilleran think about the Glinko operation and why?

What supernatural or paranormal elements play a role in this novel?