

The City & the City Study Guide

The City & the City by China Miéville

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

The City & the City Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Chapter 1.....	5
Chapter 2.....	6
Chapter 3.....	8
Chapter 4.....	9
Chapter 5.....	10
Chapter 6.....	12
Chapter 7.....	13
Chapter 8.....	14
Chapter 9.....	16
Chapter 10.....	17
Chapter 11.....	18
Chapter 12.....	19
Chapter 13.....	20
Chapter 14.....	22
Chapter 15.....	23
Chapter 16.....	24
Chapter 17.....	25
Chapter 18.....	26
Chapter 19.....	27
Chapter 20.....	28
Chapter 21.....	29
Chapter 22.....	30



[Chapter 23..... 31](#)

[Chapter 24..... 32](#)

[Chapter 25..... 33](#)

[Chapter 26..... 34](#)

[Chapter 27..... 35](#)

[Chapter 28..... 36](#)

[Chapter 29..... 37](#)

[Characters..... 38](#)

[Objects/Places..... 41](#)

[Themes..... 43](#)

[Style..... 45](#)

[Quotes..... 47](#)

[Topics for Discussion..... 49](#)



Plot Summary

"The City & the City" is a novel by the New York Times best-selling author China Mieville. The story follows Inspector Tyador Borlu of the Extreme Crime Squad in the European city of Beszel, as he investigates the murder of a woman dumped in one of the town's riskier neighborhoods. Beszel shares a border crossing with the city of Ul Qoma. With political and cultural unrest between the two cities, the people of one city have to "unsee" anything occurring in the other city, even when the streets or areas of the cities overlap each other.

As the investigation continues, Inspector Borlu is able to identify the dead woman as a Canadian earning her Ph.D. at an archeological dig in the opposing city of Ul Qoma. It is an anonymous phone call that leads Tyador to uncovering the identity of woman. As the investigation continues, twists and turns lead Tyador to join forces with his counterpart in Ul Qoma. The Ph.D. student seems to have an obsession with a secret city between the two cities, known as Orciny.

One of the politicians leverages the student's desire to uncover the secret city to get her to steal artifacts from the dig site. When she finds out that it is simply a cover up for an American corporation to profit, they have her killed and dump her body. Even after the mystery is solved, people in the city and the other city "unsee" what they saw as chaos erupted and the truth is uncovered.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Inspector Tyador Borlu is at the scene of a crime. Four teens have called in finding a dead body of a woman, underneath a mattress. The police find a small amount of drugs on the teens when they are searched. When the Inspector questions the teens, they report seeing a van near the scene, but can't remember what time they saw it.

When the medical examiner, Stepen Shukman, and his assistant Hamd Hamzinic arrive, Shukman certifies the death of the woman. After the police photographers finish with their pictures, he rolls her over to see cut marks on her face, and says this is her cause of death. Shukman also says the woman has been dead for approximately twelve hours and that she wasn't murdered where they found the body.

Naustin, a detective, says he thinks she's probably a hooker because of her heavy makeup and the fact that she is naked. Corwi, however, points out that the woman has nicer hair than her own hair. Corwi says she worked this neighborhood for a few years before and that nice hair is not high on the list for the hookers and drug addicts that frequent the area.

As they are loading the body into the van, the Inspector notices an old woman on the street. She looks at him as if she has something to say.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The implication is that someone murdered the woman somewhere else and then dumped her body where the police find it. The police assume the killer wants the woman's body to be found because he or she placed it in a location that is popular for gangs, teens and drug addicts to hang out. Another implication is the woman is someone from a middle or upper class area of town. Her body is dumped in a bad neighborhood to make it look as if something happened to her here, so as to elude police from finding the real killer.

The old woman that is staring at the Inspector seems to know some information. It foreshadows the Inspector speaking with the old woman to find out what she knows. She likely saw or heard something when the killer was dumping the body. The information the old woman provides can lead the police to the killer.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The Inspector calls Naustin to make sure they are checking the bed mattress they found the woman underneath for trace evidence while the Inspector is riding the tram into downtown. The Inspector returns to his office in downtown Beszel. Yaszek calls the Inspector. Yaszek and Naustin were questioning the teens.

Yaszek mentions that Naustin used brute force with one of the teens. Yaszek says that one of the girls says she saw a van drive around the skate park. Then, the teen girl says the van sped off. When she tells the teen boys about the van, they go to check it out and find the dead body. The girl says the van was gray but doesn't know the make. Yaszek agrees to have the girl look at pictures of van to try to identify the make and model.

Borlu and Corwi show the airbrushed picture around to hookers, hoodlums and the other people milling around in the neighborhood. Corwi tells Borlu about those they question that she knows. Borlu takes notes. Nobody recognizes the dead woman, so at two in the morning, they leave.

Borlu goes down to the morgue. Shukman says he emailed Borlu the report, but goes over what he found out about the dead woman, which they call Fulana Detail, which is the equivalent of a Jane Doe in Beszel. Shukman says she is twenty-four or twenty-five years old. Her cause of death is four stab wounds to her chest, but that it wasn't from a knife, but some other sharp object. He says she has some abrasion, including marks on her head they found after shaving off her hair.

He says the body has a lot of dirt and rust on it. it also shows signs of drag marks, as if she were dragged to the place where they found her. Hamzinic starts to say something but then shuts his mouth.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The teenage girl seeing the van circle around the skate park and then speed off suggests that whoever was in the van is responsible for dumping the dead woman there. At ten o'clock that night, Borlu and Corwi return to the area where the body was found. Corwi says she didn't get any information from her contacts in the neighborhood during her earlier canvass. Now, they have a photo of the woman to question people.

The fact that nobody recognizes the woman indicates that she is not from the neighborhood where she was found. If the woman lived or worked in that area, then at least one person would recognize her from the photo the police are brandishing.



It seems as if Hamzinic disagrees with Shukman, or has something to add to Shukman's report. Because Hamzinic doesn't want to disrespect his boss, he thinks better of telling Borlu in Shukman's presence. This foreshadows Hamzinic catching up with Borlu later to give Borlu his opinion on the murder.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Borlu sees the posters of the Detail Fulana all over the city, even in his own neighborhood, which is far from the crime scene. While Borlu is walking to his office, Yaszek calls to say they found the van the teen girl saw speed away from where the body was.

Borlu arrives at the scene in a cab. Yaszek shows him the VW van, which is off-white. She shows him there are traces of blood in the back that they have sent to the lab for testing. The van is also full of trash and junk. By the next morning, they have the name of the van owner and confirmation that the blood in the back of the van belongs to the victim.

Borlu goes to question the van owner, Mikyael Khurusch. Khurusch has a record and one of his arrests is for soliciting an undercover cop acting as a prostitute. Borlu and the other cops pick Khurusch up from his work and bring him back to the station to interview him. When they tell Khurusch he is there about his van, he claims it was stolen three days prior.

When they tell him there was a murder, he says that he was attending a Gambler's Anonymous meeting and that he went home with one of the women from the meeting. Khurusch also says that all of the junk they found in his van is not his.

Chapter 3 Analysis

The police place posters of the Detail Fulana outside of the area where she was found to see if someone recognizes her from somewhere else. Especially since nobody in the neighborhood where she was found seems to recognize her, it suggests that she doesn't live or work in that area. Khurusch seems genuinely surprised that his van is connected to a murder. While it seems as if Khurusch's alibi will check out, it can be someone that knows Khurusch that stole his van and then used it in the commission of a murder. The person could be framing Khurusch for the murder, or it might be another criminal that Khurusch has had contact with over the years.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

After a thorough investigation of the van, the lab techs don't find anything else that connects Khurusch to Fulana, except for Fulana's hair and blood. Borlu receives an anonymous phone call at his desk. Borlu can tell that the call is long distance and suspects the call is from UI Qoma. The caller says that he knows the identity of the Detail Fulana and that he saw her picture on the posters.

The caller also says that he is only calling because her death can also lead to his own death. The caller also says she lived in UI Qoma but was in Beszel. He says that Borlu should speak with the cells and the radicals because one of those people will know who she is. During the conversation, Borlu is writing down notes. The caller also calls Fulana, Marya.

As Borlu leaves his office, he calls the historian, Sariska. Sometimes he calls her for sex, but other times he calls her to discuss his difficult cases. That night, at three in the morning, Borlu is drunk and still thinking about the conversation he had with the anonymous caller. Borlu calls Corwi's voice mail and tells her that he's been thinking about the types of people that try to hide their identities and suggests Corwi talk to the Kook Squad. He also says he won't be in the office so to call his cell phone if she needs him. Then, Borlu calls to leave a message for an admin, Taskin Cerush, to find out what he has to do to send a case to the Oversight Committee.

Chapter 4 Analysis

The anonymous caller suggests that Fulana's name is Marya. He is also dropping hints to Borlu on where Borlu can find out additional information on the dead woman. Specifically, the caller implies that the murder has a political motive. The caller is suggesting that it has to do with extremist groups. What the caller seems to be suggesting is that the woman might have been a double agent because he says that she went everywhere and had to know everything.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Later that day, Corwi calls Borlu to meet her. She tells Borlu that his theory is correct and that she found a building that is a unificationist HQ, which is a group of extremists. When Borlu arrives to meet Corwi, she introduces him to a man, Pall Drodin. Borlu asks Drodin if he is with Breach, which seems to be similar to "big brother" or an Internal Affairs. Drodin points out an abandoned factory where he says people come and go.

Drodin takes them into his office, which is Beszqoma Solidarity Front. It's one of the extremist groups that work on the Besz side against the extremist groups that work on the Ul Qoma side. When they show Drodin Fulana's picture, he says he met her three years ago and that she was going by the name Byela Mar, which they all recognize as a fake name. Drodin says her accent made her sound English or American.

Drodin says she was there for a few weeks. She would use their library to research the history of the cities. He said she would also talk to him about their campaigns, which relate to their brothers and sisters that are in prison here and in Ul Qoma. Drodin says the woman was causing problems so he had to kick her out.

Drodin says Byela was interested in Orciny, which is a third secret city that sits between Beszel and Ul Qoma, and is ground that the two cities fight over owning. Orciny is a city of fantasy, a fable, but the problem is that some people do think it exists. Borlu asks if she is a folklorist, but Drodin says he doesn't know, but keeps insisting she was dangerous. Borlu asks Drodin if the woman was breaching, but Drodin says he doesn't know that either. Drodin also says she mentioned that she was officially going to Ul Qoma to live.

Borlu takes Corwi to eat at an Ul Qoma café on the Beszel side of the city. She asks Borlu if he thinks it is Breach that is responsible for the woman's death. Borlu says it seems like it is the case, and suggests handing the case over to the Oversight Committee for further investigation. When Borlu returns to the office, Cerush tells him she's in contact with the Oversight Committee, but to expect to wait at least a few days to talk with them because the Ul Qoma, Besz dispute is not a rush issue to them at the moment.

Late the next day, Corwi comes into Borlu's office with a file in her hand. She has the victim's file she has obtained from Ul Qoma. It has pictures of the woman alive, the picture of her dead in the morgue, her aliases and her real name.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Borlu plants the seed with Corwi on who he thinks the Fulana is. Once he does this, Corwi uses her investigative skills to hunt down the clues and the details. Her

investigation leads her to Pall Drodin, who is able to give them some background information on his interactions with the Fulana. Drodin suggests that there was something dangerous about the Fulana's nature and the way that she provoked people into having arguments with her about the city of Orciny.

The inference is that Corwi finds a file on the Fulana because she was being watched by Breach. It implies that the woman was a double agent, so she was working for both the Ul Qoman side and the Beszel side of the political fight. The city of Orciny has biblical symbolism. Similar to the Gaza strip, two opposing countries are fighting over a piece of land. In this case, however, the strip of land might or might not exist.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Borlu stands before the Oversight Committee, which are twenty-one representatives from UI Qoma and twenty-one representatives from Besz. He hands out the file on the Fulana, who is Mahalia Geary. Geary is an American and PhD student who was assigned to an archeological dig in UI Qoma. Her educational status is what allowed her to cross the borders between UI Qoma and Besz so easily.

After Borlu goes over the comings and goings of Geary, including a speech she gave about Orciny at a conference in Beszel, one of the Congressman says that Borlu has not proved breach. Borlu thinks about an accident he witnessed as a child, when a van from UI Qoma crashes into a Besz store and pedestrian. Breach arrives on the scene to deal with the border perforation. The Congressman goes on to question if Borlu has spoken to Geary's friends, colleagues and parents.

The Congressman says it seems as if Borlu is anxious to turn this case over, but questions how he has come to the conclusion that it is breach. Another Congressman speaks up to say that Geary was living in UI Qoma and winds up dead in Beszel, and therefore it is an obvious breach they will be handing over to Breach. They dismiss Borlu from the meeting and say they will be in contact with him soon.

Corwi meets Borlu outside of the meeting room. He tells her what happened. As they leave, Borlu tells Corwi that Fulana won't be their problem for much longer.

Chapter 6 Analysis

UI Qoma and Beszel represent opposing forces. Ironically, representatives from the two opposing sides work together on a political level on the Oversight Committee. This committee reviews situations and cases to see if there is sufficient evidence for the case to be considered a breach between the two sides, so that the matter is then turned over to Breach.

Borlu receives some opposition from the representatives about turning the Mahalia Geary case over to Breach. Borlu feels sure that the case will go to Breach, and even shares this sentiment with Corwi. It seems as if there is some foreshadowing that the opposite will occur and that Corwi and Borlu will have to continue to investigate the case. The investigation will take them into a dangerous and dark world and might even put their own lives in jeopardy.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Corwi and Borlu are waiting in the airport to pick up Geary's parents on their flight from Canada. Corwi says she spoke with Mahalia's supervisor on the dig. The woman, Nancy, verifies that Mahalia was a student working on the dig and that she went missing. When Corwi sends the photo to Nancy, Nancy verifies it is Mahalia Geary. Nancy says she was a great student and can't believe she was murdered.

The Gearys emerge from the plane. Borlu addresses them in English, and then Corwi and Borlu drive the Gearys to see their daughter's body. As they drive, Borlu thinks that they will have to stay with the Gearys everywhere so that they don't breach. Normal visitors have to undergo training and then pass an exam to receive a visa, so that they know the differences between Beszel and Ul Qoma. When they arrive at the morgue and view their daughter, the parents confirm that it is Mahalia Geary.

A U.S. representative, Thacker, joins the Gearys, Borlu and Corwi for lunch. Mr. Geary insists he wants to go to Ul Qoma to talk with his daughter's friends and see where she worked. Borlu says they are working on the paperwork to allow them to cross the border. When Mrs. Geary asks when they can speak to Breach about the case, the U.S. representative starts to explain what Breach is, but he wants Corwi and Borlu to leave so he can do it in American terms without offending anyone in their presence.

Thacker explains about Breach. The Gearys talk about the two cities and the third city that their daughter was so interested in studying. Mrs. Geary says Mahalia was a little stressed lately, but that she didn't want to come home for a visit because she was close to making a breakthrough in her work. Mr. Geary mentions Mahalia was receiving resistance of her work from First Qoma.

After they drop the Gearys off at their hotel, Corwi tells Borlu that it's Qoma First, which is the group equivalent to the Beszel group True Citizens.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Mrs. Geary suggests that Mahalia was close to proving something about the secret city of Orciny. This could be the motive for her murder. Mr. Geary suggests that there was a political motive to her murder because some man said something to Mahalia about her work at a conference—First Qoma. Borlu sees a situation where Mahalia Geary had rubbed both sides of the opposition the wrong way, which means that either side can be responsible for her murder.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Borlu calls Isabelle Nancy, who is Mahalia's professor and supervisor on the dig. Professor Nancy seems a little surprised Borlu is trying to question her, because she assumes and asks if he isn't invoking Breach. Borlu explains that it is likely Breach will pick up the case but he's just doing some last minute work. When Borlu mentions Mahalia's study of Orciny, the professor says absolutely not, that this is an archaeology department.

The professor goes on to explain that the dig Mahalia was working on is in artifacts that predate Ul Qoma and Beszel. She says she was surprised when Mahalia came to her for her PhD work because Mahalia used to be a Bowdenite. A Bowdenite is someone who believes in the third city, Orciny, after an author David Bowden, who writes of a secret colony that still exists between Ul Qoma and Beszel. Mahalia assured Professor Nancy that this was in her past.

Borlu conducts some online research based on his conversation with Professor Nancy. He finds the book *Between the City and the City* by David Bowden. Everything else the professor told him, Borlu fact checks online as well. While he's researching, one of the officers guarding the Gearys calls Borlu to tell him that Mr. Geary breached. The officer is being escorted by Breach to see Mr. Geary because Breach captured him.

When Borlu arrives at the airport, Mr. Geary is in a cell. Mrs. Geary is saying they poisoned her husband, but the guard that escorted Mrs. Geary says Breach did something to him. Breach is deporting Mr. Geary and Mrs. Geary insists she wants to go with her husband. Mrs. Geary says that Mahalia was afraid and that both sides hated her. She says Mr. Geary was going to investigate.

They load the still unconscious Mr. Geary onto the plane with Mrs. Geary. Borlu assures Mrs. Geary he will let her know of any new information they find. As Borlu is loading their luggage into the overhead compartment, he steals the paper of a True Citizens address, which is where Mr. Geary was going to investigate his daughter's murder when he was captured by Breach.

Chapter 8 Analysis

The need for Mahalia to get her hands on the artifacts of the dig, because she was responsible for brushing the dirt off the artifacts they take out of the ground, suggests that Mahalia believed there is a connection between the dig and Orciny. Mahalia had to make the professor believe she had given up her studies and beliefs on Orciny because otherwise the professor would not have supervised Mahalia for her PhD work

Mr. and Mrs. Geary seem to know more about their daughter's murder than they first admit. Mrs. Geary ends up admitting that Mahalia was afraid because her work had attracted negative attention from Beszel and UI Qoma. The Gearys want to be a part of the investigation, so Mr. Geary takes on the role of investigator.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

As they drive to the True Citizen address, Corwi argues with Borlu about why they are doing this when Breach is taking over the case in a few days. They encounter a group of men and one woman outside of the building. The men seem resistance at first, but when they mention Mahalia Geary, one of the men suggests that she was a spy.

A lawyer shows up for the True Citizens. He knows who Borlu is and tells him to leave. The lawyer also suggests that Mahalia Geary was a UI Qoma spy. Borlu asks how they know who she is because the newspapers haven't printed her real name yet. This question goes unanswered.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Borlu suggests that one of the congressman, Syedr, is responsible for the murder and the subsequent cover up. Borlu definitely thinks that there is political motive for Mahalia's death. The problem is that he seems to be putting himself and Corwi in danger by continuing the investigation. Borlu suggests that they should continue the investigation because the more information they can hand over to the Breach, the better. This is simply a cover story that Borlu feeds to Corwi because he wants to continue the investigation on his own.

If Borlu is correct and there is corruption in the government and subsequently Breach, then continuing the investigation will help Borlu get to the root of the problem, he will uncover the true motive for Mahalia's death. In the process, he might be able to stop some of the corruption as well.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

The next morning, Gadlem leaves a note on Borlu's desk to come see him immediately. He asks about what happened with the Gearys. Gadlem also tells Borlu that the Oversight Committee is not invoking Breach so that he still has to work on the case. Gadlem says they sent a letter saying that new evidence has come to light, which is why they are refusing to take the case. Additionally, they send along a VCR tape for Borlu.

The videotape shows Khurusch's van leaving Bezel to Ul Qoma and then coming back again—legally—the night before Mahalia Geary's body was found. Since the passage of the vehicle across the borders was legal, with proper paperwork, a breach was not committed. Gadlem tells Borlu that it is a mutual investigation now, so Borlu is going to Ul Qoma to help with the murder investigation.

When Borlu tries to convince the Comissar to allow Corwi to accompany him, Gadlem says Syedr called him about them approaching the group of thugs. Borlu calls the admin, but all she knows is a bunch of the Congressman are pissed about the case not going to Breach and Syedr is happy. Borlu goes home to pack, including a copy of the illegal book *Between the City and the City* he ordered. He calls Corwi, who is angry that she is no longer on the case. They decide to continue an unauthorized investigation for the few days Borlu has left before he leaves.

Chapter 10 Analysis

The new evidence proves that there wasn't a breach. The van legally crossed the border and then legally crossed back over again. Ironically, Breach admits that the murder is an illegal act, but since the crossing of the van over the border and back again was legal, with the appropriate paperwork, the committee finds that no breach was committed. Corwi and Borlu agree to continue the investigation. This foreshadows the police uncovering additional clues that lead to the conclusion of the case.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Borlu and Corwi go to question Khurusch about why he didn't tell them about his double entry pass. They get him to admit that he left it in his van, which is illegal, and that the thief that stole his van also got his pass. Borlu pulls Corwi aside. He tells her he's going to take Khurusch in to try to get him to tell the truth. In the meantime, he wants her to find out all of the vans that were stolen on the same night as Khurusch's van was.

At two in the morning, Corwi and Borlu meet again. Corwi says out of the thirteen vans stolen, three had passes to go back and forth across the border. Two of the vans showed up the next morning dumped. All three, including Khurusch's had previous violations for keeping their passes inside the vehicle, which is illegal. Borlu points out that three out of the thirteen vans having border passes is a high statistic.

Borlu points out that thief is someone who has access to the pass records. The first two vans are stolen and dumped because both owners learned not to leave their passes in the vehicle after their first violation. Khurusch's van was used because he had left the papers inside the vehicle.

Chapter 11 Analysis

The implication is that the thief knows Khurusch well enough to know he had a double entry pass, and that he was dumb enough to leave it in his van. They knew when they stole the van that they would also obtain the pass, which would make it easier to commit the murder on one side of the border, dump the body on the other side and then return again without looking suspicious or attracting any attention.

Borlu and Corwi realize that they don't know who they can trust because the murder looks like an inside job. To make matters worse, Borlu is on his way to a foreign city, an enemy city, which heightens the amount of danger he is in.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

A driver takes Borlu to the border. The border guard asks Borlu numerous questions about his visit, even though Borlu has official paperwork that states his reason for crossing into UI Qoma. Borlu thinks how ironic it is because if he were a tourist, the questions wouldn't be nearly as hard. The Inspector from UI Qoma arrives and introduces himself as Qussim Dhatt. They go through Copula Hall, which is the official building between the two cities, and where Borlu gave his presentation to the committee. A driver then takes Dhatt and Borlu to Borlu's hotel. On the drive, Dhatt admits that he was just assigned the case a few days prior because they thought it was going to Breach.

Dhatt also says they interviewed Mahalia Geary's fellow students. They all thought she had just gone off on vacation for a few days. Her best friend, Yolanda Rodriguez, however, was so distraught that she was crying, screaming, falling down and could barely speak to the cops. She said she had some local who could take care of her. The boy Yolanda was referring to called Dhatt and says he hasn't seen Yolanda in a few days. The two Inspectors conclude that Yolanda Rodriguez is now missing too.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Even though Borlu is a policeman, he is not recognized on official duty in UI Qoma because it is not his jurisdiction. This means that Borlu is there more as a consultant to the UI Qoma police than he is a policeman himself. Yolanda Rodriguez's reaction to finding out about Mahalia's murder suggests that Yolanda is privy to the same information that Mahalia knew. Now that Yolanda is missing too, it is a presumption that she has met the same fate as Mahalia for the information the girls knew.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Borlu calls Corwi to fill her in on the details. They established a code before he left so they could talk freely on the phone in case someone is listening. He tells her the police took his gun away at the station, he says he got to look at Mahalia and Yolanda's rooms. Nothing interesting in Mahalia's and Yolanda's computer is gone.

On his third call, Borlu gets through to Dhatt. Dhatt says they aren't going to the dig tonight, but first thing the following morning, Dhatt says he is sending over all their notes and photographs by courier so Borlu can work in his hotel room tonight. Later, after reading and watching TV, Borlu wanders to Bol Ye'an, which is the dig Mahalia and Yolanda were working with Professor Nancy.

A militiya officer questions Borlu's presence. The policeman starts swearing when he finds out that Borlu is a Beszelan policeman. The police allow Borlu to go, but escort him back to his hotel. When Dhatt picks Borlu up the next morning, all he says is that he wishes Borlu hadn't done that last night. The Inspectors talk to the man in charge of the dig, but he only knows Mahalia by reputation and doesn't know Yolanda at all. As they are walking to Professor Nancy's office, David Bowden introduces himself to the Inspectors.

David Bowden ends up being the supervisor for doctoral student Yolanda Rodriguez. The Inspectors tell David Bowden that Yolanda seems to be missing. They question Professor Nancy. She says everyone knew Mahalia from her making a scene at the conference in Beszel.

Professor Nancy escorts the Inspectors to the site of the dig and introduces them to the students working there. When one of the students talks to the inspectors, she mentions she thought they were there to say something happened to Yolanda because she and Mahalia were into strange stuff. The inspectors mention Orciny, and the student says Orciny and other stuff. The other students they interview all seem to say the same things.

Borlu points out to Dhatt that he thinks it's strange that none of the students brought up Breach. As they are leaving, one of the security guards approaches them and asks if they found anything out about Mahalia. He says he knew Mahalia to say hi and bye.

Chapter 13 Analysis

In a twist of irony, David Bowden happens to be the supervisor for one of the missing girls, Yolanda Rodriguez. This could explain why Mahalia and Yolanda were best friends—because they share an interest in Bowden. There is an implication that Yolanda and Mahalia were working with Bowden on Orciny.

The student the inspectors interview suggests that Yolanda and Mahalia were into something else that could have gotten them into trouble—something other than Orciny. It is suspicious that the security guard inserts himself into the investigation. People who insert themselves into an investigation have a tendency to be involved with the crime.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Sitting in a teahouse, Dhatt mentions that they need to set standards for questioning people. He also verifies that the guard, Tsueh, has an alibi for the time of Mahalia's murder. Dhatt suggests there are two perps. Dhatt asks Borlu what led him to finding out Mahalia's identity. Borlu admits it was a phone call from UI Qoma, and that he thinks it was from a unificationist.

Dhatt drives them to the unificationist's hangout and bangs on the door. Dhatt tells the five people inside that he knows a call was made from this house to Borlu. He makes them go around the table and say, "Inspector, I have something to tell you." One of the boy's voices sounds familiar, but Borlu urges Dhatt to leave. After Dhatt drops Borlu off, Borlu calls Corwi and asks her to get any information she can on Dhatt.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Dhatt plans to trace phone records from UI Qoma to Borlu's office. This will lead them to the anonymous tipster. Borlu urges Dhatt to back off from questioning the unifs because Borlu is not sure of anything that has to do with the phone call he received. Borlu is having doubts about Dhatt, which suggests that Borlu thinks Dhatt might be involved in the murders. This is why Borlu wants Corwi to find background information about Dhatt.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Dhatt and Borlu take the metro to Bowden's flat to question him. Bowden says he was home when Mahalia was murdered and they can see if his neighbor heard him pattering around inside. They ask why he lives in Ul Qoma and he says because the artifacts are in Ul Qoman soil. When they ask if anyone had a problem with Yolanda, Bowden says no.

He says Mahalia had a tendency to piss people off, but that Yolanda was sweet. He says Yolanda was not studying Orciny with him. The Inspectors find out that Bowden's apartment was broken into a few weeks prior but that nothing was stolen.

Chapter 15 Analysis

All of the clues seem to link back to Bowden. While the Inspectors do not think Bowden is necessarily involved in the murder and the disappearances, it suggests that something bad is happening to those studying Orciny. If the Inspectors add Bowden's burglary to their ongoing investigation, it can lead to them uncovering additional clues as to who is behind the murder and what the motive is.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Borlu reads Mahalia's chapters that Professor Nancy had sent to him. He doesn't find them to be of any interest so he reads Bowden's book instead. Later, while sleeping, Borlu's cell phone rings. It is Jaris, which is one of the unis from the house—the one that Borlu sounded like the anonymous caller.

Jaris thanks Borlu for not outing him to Dhatt. He goes on to tell Borlu that Mahalia told him that she found Orciny. He says that they killed her to keep her quiet—to keep anyone from finding out that they exist. He says he is in danger now too and that this is his goodbye call in honor of Mahalia's memory. Jaris hangs up. Borlu tries to call him back but the number is blocked.

Borlu calls Mrs. Geary. She denies that Mahalia was seeing anyone. She does say that both the Beszel side and Ul Qoma sides hated Mahalia and they were both after her. the next morning, Dhatt calls Borlu and tells him to get up because someone sent a bomb.

Chapter 16 Analysis

The theory that everyone who knows about Orciny is dying or going missing is proving to be true. Now that Bowden, Dhatt and Borlu know about Orciny, their lives are in danger too. It could be that someone sent a bomb to Bowden, which is why Dhatt calls to get Borlu out of bed to help with the investigation.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

When they arrive at the dig site, the Inspectors find out that is the guard Tsueh that detected the package with the bomb. Since the bomb is defused, the Inspectors look at it and see that the parcel is addressed to David Bowden. Professor Nancy arrives and the head of the guards joins them.

After Tsueh leaves, the Inspectors ask the head of the guards if Tsueh and Geary were friends. The guard says no. the Inspectors also ask why none of the students mention breach. The head of the guards and Professor Nancy say it's because they are all guilty of it because the dig, in some spots, is in crosshatch, areas that belong to both Beszel and Ul Qoma. Dhatt gets a call saying the guards they sent to Bowden's say he is gone, even though he knew about the bomb and that the officers were going to retrieve him.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Tsueh indirectly said that he and Geary were friends. It is odd that he would say this when everyone else says that Geary would never give Tsueh the time of day. Ironically, the guard the Inspectors suspect might be involved with the murder is the one that identifies a bomb wrapped in a parcel, even though he doesn't have any formal training to recognize a bomb. Additionally, the pieces are coming together in logical order. It is logical that Bowden's life is now in danger since he is the third person connected to Orciny. The fact that Bowden is missing suggests that the killer got to Bowden when they realized that the bomb was uncovered, and before the police could come to escort Bowden away.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Dhatt thinks Borlu is hiding his conversation with Jaris, and angry that Borlu didn't tell him about Jaris's phone call. Borlu accuses Dhatt of withholding information from him—specifically the information the head guard is providing Dhatt as a mole. Dhatt says the guard doesn't know anything and Borlu tells Dhatt about his conversation with Jaris.

Dhatt and Borlu go to a local bar for a few drinks and then Dhatt takes Borlu home for dinner. Borlu stays longer than he plans with Dhatt and his wife. When he leaves, he convinces Dhatt to allow him to walk home. Borlu takes the route that takes him right past his own house. Since he lives in a crosshatch area, the street is split in half so that it is half Beszel and half UI Qoma. When he returns to his hotel, he schedules a five o'clock wakeup call.

The next morning, Borlu goes down to the hotel desk and asks the woman to print a message for him that says to come quick and not to call. Then, Borlu goes outside and pays an UI Qoma man for his clothes. He walks toward the dig and finds one of the street children to deliver the message for him. Borlu watches as Tsueh emerges from the dig area. Borlu follows him. When Tsueh reaches the door of an apartment, Borlu pushes him inside and slams the door. The young woman standing inside the apartment is Yolanda Rodriguez.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Ironically, Dhatt and Borlu are working the same investigation, yet their cultures still have them protecting what they know from each other. It seems to be a subconscious withholding of information, rather than a malicious or intentional one. Since it is something that is ingrained in both men, they have to make conscious efforts to start sharing more of what they know with other in order to reach their common goal, which is to solve the case.

In spite of their conversation, Borlu betrays Dhatt once again. Borlu suspects that Tsueh is somehow involved with the missing girl, Yolanda Rodriguez. This causes Borlu to send a message to Tsueh and then follow Tsueh so that he leads Borlu directly to Yolanda Rodriguez. Once Borlu is able to question Yolanda, he can work to solve Mahalia's murder and possibly find David Bowden.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Borlu and Tsueh struggle and fight inside of the apartment; Borlu tells Yolanda that he isn't with the militsya and that he wants to help her. Borlu says he figured out Tsueh was helping Yolanda when Tsueh started asking him about the investigation. Yolanda says that they killed Mahalia and they will kill her. When Borlu asks who they are, Yolanda says the third place, between the city and the city.

Yolanda claims that they got to Dr. Bowden too. Yolanda says that Mahalia was contacted by the Orcinians after Mahalia made a fuss at the conference. Yolanda tells Borlu that she doesn't know where Orciny is or how Mahalia found it, just that there are access points. Yolanda says they sent a letter to Mahalia and then they would send letters back and forth between each other.

The items the students are finding at the dig are Orcinian property. Yolanda says underground is their storage room and that the Orcinians were there before Beszel and Ul Qoma, before the split and before the joining of the two cities around Orciny. Mahalia sensed something was wrong, however, during the last two weeks of her life, which is why she stopped attending meetings and going to the dig site.

Borlu says that Yolanda should walk across the street, so that she is in Beszel and then Breach can pick her up. Yolanda says she doesn't want to do that because she believes that Orciny and Breach are one in the same.

Chapter 19 Analysis

The pieces of the investigation are starting to come together. Borlu is able to track down Yolanda. He is also able to uncover what Yolanda knows about Mahalia, Bowden and Orciny. Ironically, Yolanda connects Orciny with Breach. This is interesting because both are highly secret societies. While one, Orciny, represents what is supposed to be a city, and Breach represents an entity or agency of the government, it is possible that the two are one in the same. Since nobody knows much about either Orciny or Breach, the two can be the same entity.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Borlu convinces Tsueh to stay with Yolanda to protect her. He also convinces Yolanda that she has to trust him to get her to Beszel so that he can use his contacts there to keep her safe and get her away from all of this. Borlu goes downstairs to some empty apartments to watch outside before he leaves. He crawls out the window, walks to the street and blends in with the other pedestrians.

He turns his cell phone back on and all of the messages are from Dhatt. Borlu calls Dhatt and tells him that there is a lot going on, that he's found Yolanda and arranges for Dhatt to meet him in a public square. Borlu watches Dhatt for an hour to make sure nobody is following him, or that Dhatt isn't giving signals to anybody else, before Borlu approaches Dhatt in the public square. Borlu refuses to tell Dhatt where Yolanda is and tells Dhatt that they have to get Yolanda out of Ul Qoma and over to Beszel so that they can help Yolanda. Eventually, Dhatt agrees to help Borlu.

Borlu and Dhatt walk around the city for hours because both are afraid to return to the hotel or to Dhatt's house. Eventually, they go into a bar, where Borlu calls Corwi to wake her up in the middle of the night. He tells her that he is coming home and bringing two officers with him. He asks her to arrange an offbeat hotel room and to keep everything to herself.

She says someone has been calling for him. Borlu figures out it is Bowden. He gives Corwi the cell number for Dhatt's wife's phone and tells her to have him call there the next time he calls. Corwi disconnects or the phone line ends.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Borlu spends a great deal of time observing outside of the apartment building to make sure that nobody is watching him or following him. Ironically, Borlu chooses to trust Dhatt with the majority of the information Yolanda told him. Since Borlu doesn't know who is involved in the conspiracy and who isn't, he is taking a risk. On the other hand, Borlu needs Dhatt's help to get Yolanda across the border, so Borlu doesn't really have a choice but to trust Dhatt and enlist his help.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Borlu and Dhatt go into Dhatt's office the next morning. They don't want to arouse suspicion by breaking routine. Dhatt gives Borlu his wife's cell phone. Every time it rings, they jump, but the calls turn out to be for Dhatt's wife. When Borlu and Dhatt leave for lunch, Bowden calls the cell phone.

Borlu tells Bowden he can help him get out. He also says they found Yolanda. Bowden says he'll call the phone every few hours to find out when they are crossing the border. Corwi calls to say everything is set up and she'll be his designated driver at the border. Borlu convinces Dhatt to get a cop uniform for him, Yolanda and Bowden so they can all hide in plain sight as they cross the border together.

The next morning, on one of Bowden's scheduled calls, Borlu tells him if he wants out to meet them at Copula Hall tonight at seven. Borlu spends the day taking a taxi cab around town, sightseeing with the driver to see if anyone is watching or following him. Borlu then goes to the park where he arranged to meet Yolanda. Dhatt picks them up outside in an unmarked police car.

They change into the police uniforms on the drive. As Yolanda and Borlu are walking through Copula Hall, Borlu sees what he thinks is Corwi waiting on the other side—the Beszel side. Dhatt is looking over his shoulder at a man that is approaching them. Borlu turns around to walk back toward the man that turns out to be Bowden. Bowden dangles a gun out in front of him. There are shots and Borlu sees Yolanda bleeding on the ground and Dhatt lying over her body trying to protect her. When Borlu looks back at where he thinks he saw Corwi, someone is pointing a rifle at them.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Someone knows Borlu is crossing the border with Yolanda and Bowden and at what time. This is how the shooter finds them and ends up shooting Yolanda which implies that it is an inside job. On the other hand, it could be that the all-knowing Orcinians were able to listen in on the phone calls to cell phone and retrieved the information this way.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

As the sniper continues to fire shots, Borlu makes it to Bowden and gets him safely down on the ground. Dhatt yells that he's shot but okay. Yolanda is dead from a shot to the head. Borlu manages to see Corwi at the other side looking confused as the sniper gets away. Borlu runs to Dhatt's car, trying to follow the shooter that is running on Beszel streets, while Borlu drives on Ul Qoma streets that cross.

Borlu stops and jumps out of the car at a point of crosshatch. When Borlu spots the shooter, Borlu feels as if he recognizes the sniper but doesn't know from where. Right before the sniper reaches a street in Beszel that someone from Ul Qoma can never go, Borlu shoots the sniper with Bowden's gun. Figures emerge in black clothing and the word breach is whispered into Borlu's ear as they take him away.

Chapter 22 Analysis

The killer is someone that Borlu knows. Unfortunately, Borlu can't place him by the time he shoots the sniper. In his haste to take down the sniper, Borlu ends up breaching. This is ironic because Borlu has spent his entire life avoiding breach at all costs and circumstances. In another twist of irony, Borlu has sworn to uphold the law and now is the one that is breaking the law.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Borlu wakes up in a room on a bed. He is dressed in gray clothing. A man, followed by a woman and a younger man enter the room. Borlu introduces himself and the man introduces himself as Breach. Borlu and Breach discuss that the sniper was one of the men from the True Citizens building that he and Corwi went to in Beszel. Breach says Dhatt is recovering and that Yolanda is dead.

After Borlu eats, the same trio returns to question him, about Orciny. Borlu explains the entire case and investigation to them. When he is done, Breach keeps pushing Borlu to tell them what he knows about Orciny and how it is connected to the investigation. Then, they show Borlu the film on Bowden and Dhatt's interviews. Borlu says Mahalia is the only one that knew about Orciny and that she kept notes. Borlu says they didn't find her notes but that he knows where they are.

Chapter 23 Analysis

The sniper and Borlu both shot bullets from one city into another, which seems as if it is breach. Since the sniper shot his bullets through Copula Hall, it is not considered breach. Because Borlu shot his bullets from Ul Qoma into Beszel, it is considered breach. Something Yolanda said to Borlu makes him realize where Mahalia is hiding the notes about Orciny that she doesn't want anyone to see or find. Borlu can use this as a bargaining chip to allow Breach to let him go in exchange for the information Breach seeks on Orciny. It's ironic that Breach wants the information on Orciny because the breach guy keeps insisting that Orciny doesn't exist.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Borlu stays up half the night watching interrogation video of Corwi and the two women he dates back in Beszel. He also watches the interrogation videos of the comrades of Yorjavic, the man Borlu killed. The next morning, Breach escorts Borlu out of the building. The man, who says his name is Ashil, tells Borlu not to run or shout.

As they proceed to their destination, Ashil walks Borlu through crosshatched streets, so that in one step they leave UI Qoma and step into Beszel. Then, they step back and return to UI Qoma. The final destination is the college library. Borlu retrieves the copy of *Between the City and the City* from the shelves. When he opens it, they can see Mahalia's notes written in the margins and along the pages.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Ashil is playing mind games with Borlu. He is illustrating what a fine line there is between the two cities. Ashil is also illustrating his power as Breach because neither people from Beszel nor those from UI Qoma can do anything to Borlu as long as he is with Ashil. In a way, Breach is symbolic of Orciny because it the place and the people that have to go "unseen" by those that do not belong there.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

Ashil brings Borlu color copies of the book Mahalia was using as her notebook. Borlu debates with the members of Breach that Orciny can exist in the go-between of the cities, just as Breach operates in its unseen and secret world. During one such debate, Borlu insists that they have to go to the dig. Only Ashil agrees to accompany Borlu there.

Buidze, the head guard, ends up escorting Ashil and Borlu to the storage room, where they lock up the artifacts from the dig. Borlu asks when is the last time Mahalia was responsible for locking it, and Buidze admits it was the night she disappeared. Borlu asks if Mahalia offered to lock up more than when it was just her turn, and if she went for walks in the park on the other side before having to walk back through the storage room to leave the dig.

Ashil and Borlu go out to the park area and notice that it is a crosshatch area. Borlu says Mahalia was stealing objects that were dug up in the early time of the dig. She would bring them out here and drop them somewhere in the Ul Qoma portion of the park. Someone on the Beszel side would come by at some point and retrieve the item. Borlu points out that this is breach.

When Ashil locks Borlu back in his room, Borlu rereads Mahalia's notes. He has a realization and calls to the camera to bring Ashil. Borlu tells Ashil he needs the Internet. After conducting some research, Borlu tells Ashil that Mahalia stopped believing in Orciny and this is the motive for her murder.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Borlu puts himself in Mahalia's shoes. When he does this, Borlu is able to figure out how Mahalia was smuggling artifacts to the Orcinians. After reviewing Mahalia's notes from a fresh perspective, Borlu figures out that Mahalia had changed her mind about Orciny existed. This is what ultimately gets her killed. Whoever wanted her to steal the artifacts for them was no longer receiving the artifacts when Mahalia figured out that they were lying about being Orcinians because she no longer believed in the existence of Orciny.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Ashil keeps insisting to Borlu that the investigation about him committing breach.

Ashil keeps saying the investigation is about Borlu's breach so that is on the record that he is not actively investigating Mahalia's murder case or the existence of Orciny. Ashil obtains the sign-in sheet for the dig, which says when someone was responsible for locking up the storage room. They cross reference the dates where Mahalia changed days with someone else. They are able to place the sniper and Syedr for each of these dates, so they rule them out as Mahalia's contact.

This is when Borlu realizes that there is a Chamber of Commerce event for each of the three dates when Mahalia changed times for locking up the storage room. They cross reference this with the list of companies that received contracts that night and narrow it down to a company CEO for Sear and Core. This is when Borlu realizes that this company is the one getting Mahalia to supply them with the artifacts. She thinks they are Orciny. When she finds out they aren't they have her killed.

Ashil receives word that two buses of refugees have crashed, creating breach. This, in turn, causes chaos between the two cities, almost inciting a war. When they find out that the site of the crash is where Sears and Core is they conclude the crash is a decoy.

Chapter 26 Analysis

One of the Congressman is in cahoots with Sears and Core. This explains why Sears and Core keeps receiving contracts from the cities. Sears and Core is fronting themselves as Orciny so that Mahalia will supply them with the artifacts. Since the company is not a company from UI Qoma or Beszel, they can sell the artifacts to make money, as long as they do so outside of these two cities. Now, they have created a bus crash to create breach, and thus tie up the attention of Breach, the police and even standard citizens so that they can escape.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

Ashil and Borlu try to get through the streets, but there is so much chaos Ashil ends up stealing a random car to get them to the company building faster. When they get to the building, they make their way to the roof, where Mikhel Buric, the Social Democrat and opposition to Syedr on the Chamber of Commerce. He's trying to escape in the helicopter from the Sear and Core building rooftop. He seems to have a bunch of True Citizens that armed trying to help him escape, even though Buric and the True Citizens are on opposing sides of the political war. Ashil tries to arrest Buric for breach, but Buric states his name is Ian Croft.

A shootout ensues. Buric gets shot. Ashil gets shot. Croft jumps into the helicopter and flies off with the pilot, while Borlu crouches over to see to Ashil's wounds. Ashil calls in more of Breach to assist him.

Chapter 27 Analysis

It seems that the politicians were using political power for financial gain. In addition, Buric was using the fact that the two cities are at odds with another as a cover for his scheme. Ultimately, he thought he was smarter than a college student, but it was Mahalia that ended up outsmarting Buric, which is why Buric had her killed.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

Breach picks up Ashil to take him to the hospital. Borlu takes Ashil's phone to call Dhatt. He gets Dhatt to find out where Bowden is. Dhatt calls Borlu back and says Bowden is near Copula Hall, but they don't know if he is Beszel or Ul Qoma, so nobody will touch him or arrest him. On his drive to Copula Hall, Borlu calls Corwi to tell her to meet him there. When Borlu arrives, he can Bowden pacing and Corwi and Dhatt standing on each of their respective sides. Bowden has some sort of ancient weapon in his hand and Borlu tries to get Bowden to admit which city he is in. Bowden doesn't.

Borlu continues to talk to Bowden. Essentially, Borlu gets Bowden to admit that he was in cahoots with Buric, Sears and Core, and Yaj, the sniper. It was Bowden who convinced Mahalia to steal the artifacts for Orciny and Bowden who had to kill her when she discovered he was lying. Yaj dumped Mahalia's body and it never would have been found except that Bowden was working off an old map of the city—one before the skate park was built. Since Bowden won't admit to being in one city over the other, he says he is in either city, so this allows Borlu to arrest him in his authority as a pseudo-Breach avatar.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Bowden was the starting point of the entire plot. Mahalia was just a token in the plan. when she finds out the truth, however, Bowden has to kill her to keep her quiet. Ironically, an historian, Bowden, was using a map that was outdated, which means that when they went to dump the body, a new skate park was built where an old iron factory used to be. Because Borlu arrests Bowden under Breach authority, this foreshadows Borlu becoming a Breach avatar now.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

The night of the riots is swept under the rug by both cities. There were casualties on both sides, however. After turning Bowden into Breach, Borlu was locked back in his cell. The next three days, the door was unlocked. Borlu spends time with Ashil during his recovery.

Ashil mentions that Bowden was a student in both cities. He also says as an outsider, it gave Bowden a chance to truly determine how to walk the line between the two cities. Ashil won't tell Borlu where Bowden is now. Ashil does mention that everyone that is now in Breach came from somewhere else.

While Ashil won't allow Borlu to say goodbye to anyone, he does allow Borlu to dictate letters for a Breach avatar to write letters to Dhatt, Corwi and Borlu's two girlfriends.

Chapter 29 Analysis

The implication is that Borlu's "punishment" is to become a Breach avatar. Borlu also steps in and out of the shadows where Dhatt and Corwi are to say his silent goodbyes to them. Tyador Borlu of the Beszel Extreme Crime Squad is gone and Tye, avatar of Breach, is here.



Characters

Inspector Tyador Borlu

Inspector Tyador Borlu is the main character of the novel. He is in charge of the investigation of the murder victim found in the beginning of the novel. Borlu enlists the help of Lizbyet Corwi because she is familiar with the neighborhood where the body is dumped from when she was a street cop.

Borlu is not married. He does, however, have two lovers. He sees each of the women when he has time and when it suits him. While one of the women is simply for pleasure, the other woman is someone he shares an intellectual and sexual level. Borlu has an inner struggle with good and evil. Because he is from Beszel, he is taught that anything that has to do with UI Qoma is evil.

Borlu continuously skirts the edge of the law to solve the case. He keeps information from his counterpart in UI Qoma because Borlu isn't sure who he can trust in the conspiracy and who he cannot trust.

Lizbyet Corwi

Lizbyet Corwi is a smart young woman. The Inspector has worked with her a couple of different times. She is at the murder scene with the Inspector when the novel first opens. Because Corwi worked the streets as a police officer where the body is found, Borlu enlists Corwi to help him in the investigation.

Little by little, as Borlu uncovers clue after clue, he has Corwi conduct research for him. Corwi is also the one that contacts people to provide them with the information she and Corwi need to solve the murder investigation. Prior to Borlu leaving for UI Qoma, Corwi works out a secret code system with Borlu so that they can talk on the phone without anyone listening in being able to tell what they are talking about.

Corwi is standing on the Beszel side of the border when Borlu tries to cross over with Yolanda. She pulls her weapon to try to help Borlu when the sniper starts shooting at them. Corwi receives a goodbye letter from Borlu when he becomes part of Breach. She also spots Borlu while she's sitting at a café. She salutes him with a goodbye.

Bardo Naustin

Bardo Naustin is one of the police officers. He is at the crime scene when Borlu arrives to look at the dead body of the woman. When Naustin interviews suspects or people that can offer information on the case, he takes a rough approach. He roughs up Mikyael Khurusch when they pick him up for questioning in the dead woman's murder.



Stepen Shukman

Stepen Shukman is the medical examiner. When he arrives at the crime scene, he certifies the death of the woman. Shukman makes statements that his assistant writes down for the report.

Hamd Hamzinic

Hamd Hamzinic is Stepen Shukman's assistant. Hamzinic accompanies Shukman to the crime scene. Hamzinic takes notes on everything Shukman is saying while inspecting the dead woman's body.

Commisar Gadlem

Commisar Gadlem is Inspector Borlu's boss. Gadlem is soft spoken has gentle mannerisms. He is not a subtle man, but allows Borlu to run his investigations the way Borlu wants to run them.

Mikyael Khurusch

The inspector traces the van back to its owners, Mikyael Khurusch. The Inspector brings Mikyael Khurusch in for questioning in the murder case. Eventually, Mikyael Khurusch admits that he left his border papers in the van, so when the van was stolen, his papers were stolen as well. Mikyael Khurusch is the primary suspect in the murder, but is cleared as the investigation continues.

Aikam Tsueh

Aikam Tsueh is one of the security guards that works at the archeological dig site. He approaches the Inspectors to find out what they know about Mahalia, which makes him look suspicious. Aikam Tsueh turns out to be Yolanda Rodriguez's boyfriend, so he is asking about Mahalia to try to keep Yolanda safe. While following Tsueh, Borlu is able to locate Yolanda.

Mahalia Geary

Mahalia Geary is the dead woman that starts the entire investigation. She is a Ph.D. student that is working at the archeological dig. She also believes in the secret city of Orciny. Mahalia once made a scene at a conference in Beszel. Originally, Mahalia is from Canada but has studied in both cities.

It turns out that Mahalia was stealing artifacts from the dig. She was burying them in a park in one of the crosshatches on the Ul Qoma side. Someone was then picking up the



objects to give to the American corporation that was selling the artifacts for profit. When Mahalia found out that she wasn't returning the artifacts to Orciny, the rightful owners, the corporation and some politicians involved with the scam had her killed.

David Bowden

David Bowden is the author of the book about Orciny. He also turns out to be a professor working at the same college that Mahalia and Yolanda attend in Ul Qoma. David Bowden is also Yolanda's advisor for her PhD. work. It turns out that David Bowden is responsible for killing Mahalia because he was in cahoots with the congressman and the American corporation that was stealing and selling the artifacts.

Yolanda Rodriguez

Yolanda Rodriguez is Mahalia's best friend. She believes in Orciny. When Yolanda finds out that Mahalia is dead, Yolanda goes into hiding. When Yolanda is trying to sneak across the border with Borlu, a sniper shoots her in the head and kills her.

Mr. Geary

Mr. Geary is Mahalia Geary's father. He comes with his wife to Beszel after his daughter's death. Mr. Geary winds up in Breach, so they deport him back to Canada.

Qussim Dhatt

Qussim Dhatt is the Inspector that works in Ul Qoma. Dhatt works with Borlu to try to solve the murder case. Dhatt ends up being injured by the sniper when he's trying to cross the border with Borlu and Yolanda.



Objects/Places

Beszel

Beszel is the city that borders on UI Qoma. Beszel is somewhere in Europe, but the author never states exactly what country the city is. Beszel is the city where Borlu is from and the city where the dead woman's body is found when the novel first opens. Citizens of Beszel, by law, are not allowed to "see" people, places or items that are in UI Qoma.

UI Qoma

UI Qoma is the city that borders on Beszel. UI Qoma is somewhere in Europe, but the author never states exactly what country the city is. UI Qoma is the city where Dhatt is from and the city where the archeological dig is that Mahalia is working on as a student. Citizens of UI Qoma, by law, are not allowed to "see" people, places or items that are in Beszel.

Orciny

Orciny is a mythological city. For those that believe in Orciny, the location of the city is believed to be somewhere in between Beszel and UI Qoma. It is the city that David Bowden writes about in his novel and that leads Mahalia to believe the secret city and its inhabitants exist.

Skate Park

The skate park is in Beszel. It is where the three teens are hanging out at the beginning of the novel when they see the van dump the dead woman's body. The skate park did not exist on Bowden's map of the city, so it was unexpected when they went to Beszel to dump Mahalia's body.

Van

The van is what the teenagers saw drive away after dumping the woman's body. It turns out to be a VW van that belongs to Mikyael Khurusch. The police end up finding the abandoned van in a parking lot and the van has traces of Mahalia Geary's blood and hair in it.



Border Pass

The border is a set of documents that allow vehicles to pass over the border between Beszel and UI Qoma. The border pass is not supposed to be stored inside of the vehicle overnight. Because Mikyael Khurusch stores his border pass in the vehicle overnight, the border is stolen when the van is stolen.

Copula Hall

Copula Hall is the government building that sits on the border between UI Qoma and Beszel. It is the border crossing where people have to show their paperwork to cross from one city to the other. Inside of Copula Hall is also where Borlu had to meet with the committee to try to convince them to take the Geary case on as Breach.

Archeological Dig Site

The archeological dig site is where Mahalia Geary and Yolanda Rodriguez were working as part of their PhD studies. Tsueh worked at the archeological dig as a security guard. The items being excavated from the dig were believed to be artifacts from Orciny.

Hideout Apartment

When Yolanda thinks she's in danger she goes to a hideout apartment. It is in a rundown part of UI Qoma. It is an apartment where Yolanda can hide from whoever killed Mahalia and it is where Borlu rescues Yolanda to try to take her across the border to Beszel.

Between the City and the City

"Between the City and the City" is the book by David Bowden. "Between the City and the City" describes the secret city of Orciny. In Mahalia's copy of the book, Borlu finds Mahalia's notes that leads him to the answers he needs to solve the case.



Themes

Culture

The primary plot throughout the entire novel is about the cultural differences between the two cities of Beszel and Ul Qoma. Additionally, the plot is about the dividing line, or the boundaries, between these two cultures that share so many areas of the country. While the cultures of these two cities have numerous differences, they also have similarities because both cultures were founded on the same basis.

Events that took place in history have molded and shaped the cultures of each city. War has bred hate between the people of the two cities. Primarily, the politicians that represent Beszel and Ul Qoma have fostered this hate and beefed up the dividing line by creating laws that dictate that citizens of one country have to "unsee" citizens, objects and places of another country.

The Breach agency is another aspect that exacerbates the cultural differences and the divide between these two cities. Having an agency that punishes those citizens that "breach" the boundaries that have been set by each of these cities perpetuates the divide that exists between Beszel and Ul Qoma.

Good versus Evil

Another primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. Each of the characters experiences an inner struggle with good versus evil. To the citizens of Beszel, Ul Qoma represents evil, and to the citizens of Ul Qoma Beszel represents evil.

Borlu struggles with the good and evil of involving Ul Qoma authorities in the murder investigation of Mahalia Geary. Because Borlu was born and raised in Beszel, he sees crossing into Ul Qoma as crossing into enemy territory. In response to wanting to wash his hands of having to deal with Ul Qoma at all, Borlu tries to pawn the Geary case off to Breach. In a way, Borlu even feels guilty about talking to the anonymous caller because Borlu suspects that the call is coming from the "enemy territory" of Ul Qoma.

The murder of Mahalia Geary is an aspect of evil that all of the characters process and deal with throughout the novel. It is her murder that sparks the series of events that follow and the uncovering of the secrets that each holds about what is behind her murder. Additionally, the politicians and the citizens of each city try to avoid evil, so they have a tendency to hide or sugarcoat the evil events that place. For example, when chaos ensues at the end of the novel, neither country tells the truth about what happened, but instead creates a cover story as to what took place.

Mental States

Another primary theme that runs throughout the novel is mental states. The divide of the two cities seems to wreak havoc on the mental states of the citizens that reside in each city. The politics of the cities forces the citizens to pretend as if they don't see things that are standing right in front of them.

Additionally, the Breach agency creates a constant state of fear in the citizens of Beszel and UI Qoma. In everyday life, people in each city live in a constant state of worry that they are going to do something that is considered to be breach. Since Breach is such a secret agency and nobody truly knows what happens to the people that get picked up by Breach, citizens in both cities are never at peace as they go through the routine of their daily lives.

Style

Point of View

"The City & the City" is written in the third person point of view, from the perspective of author. The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time after the murder. The past represents the time leading up to the separation of the two cities—Beszel and Ul Qoma.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with each of the characters. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the head, thoughts and inner struggles that each of the characters are experiencing as it pertains to the plot. The point of view also allows the author to inject his own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in the two cities of Beszel and Ul Qoma during the 21st century. The novel covers the few weeks following the murder of Mahalia Gary. The main characters are involved in the murder investigation.

The setting of "The City & the City" works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware of the logistics, political beliefs and cultures of the two cities. However, as events unfold, the separation of the two cities is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into 29 chapters. The length of each chapter ranges from 10 pages to 20 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in exposition and with some dialogue. The narrator injects his own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing his opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

"The City & the City" contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is the struggle of human beings in choosing between good and evil. One subplot is culture. Another subplot is mental states.



Quotes

"Got any contacts here still?"
Chap. 1, p. 10

"What was she hit with? In the head?"
Chap. 2, p. 22

"Picked it up, stashed it, dumped it, and the van with it."
Chap.3, p. 32

"She went everywhere. All the underground. Both sides, must have done. She wanted to go everywhere because she needed to know everything. And she did. That's all."
Chap. 4, p. 35

"We were right."
Chap. 5, p. 57

"For goodness' sake, the young woman's in Ul Qoma, disappears urns up dead in Beszel. I can hardly think of a more clear-cut case."
Chap. 6, p. 67

"She'd been studying it all for years, since she first read some book about the cities."
Chap. 7, p. 80

"They all hated her, because of what she was doing. What she knew."
Chap. 8, p. 96

"Ul Qoma seems to have been more congenial for her, after all, didn't it?"
Chap. 9, p. 103

"We've been screwed, sir."
Chap. 10, p. 111

"It's a very inside job."
Chap. 11, p. 123



"Yolanda Rodriguez has disappeared."
Chap. 12, p. 138

"Yeah. And other stuff. But yeah, Orciny."
Chap. 13, p. 151

"Inspector, I have something to tell you."
Chap. 14, p. 163

"There is some speculation that someone is targeting people who've been investigating Orciny."
Chap. 15, p. 173

"Some sent a bomb."
Chap. 16, p. 179

"Yeah, and he knew about the bomb. But he's gone."
Chap. 17, p. 188

"I want to help you, Yolanda."
Chap. 18, p. 202

"I think Orciny is the name Breach calls itself."
Chap. 19, p. 211

"Boss, someone's been calling for you. Asking what's going on with the investigation."
Chap. 20, p. 220

"Yolanda's...Light, Tyador, she's shot, she's down..."
Chap. 21, p. 231

"Breach."
Chap.22, p. 238

Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Tyador Borlu? Why does he keep the anonymous caller a secret from everyone, including his own colleagues? Do you think his attitude changes toward UI Qoma and its people after his visit there? What do you think happens to Borlu after he becomes a Breach agent?

Discuss the relationship between Borlu and Dhatt. Are they equal partners in the case, or do you think Dhatt exerts authority over Borlu? Does Dhatt believe Borlu knows more about the case than he is telling Dhatt? Why does Borlu feel the need to protect Yolanda? How does Dhatt feel about Borlu? How does Borlu feel about Dhatt? How do Borlu's feelings change after the incident at Copula Hall? What does Dhatt do about it? What happens to Dhatt?

Who was Mahalia Geary? Why does she choose to live in UI Qoma? How do you think Mahalia discovered the truth about Orciny? What role does Mahalia play in proving who the real murderer is?

Who is Lizbyet Corwi? Why do you think she puts her own career on the line to help Corwi? Do you think she knows Corwi is joining Breach?

Discuss the murder of Mahalia Geary. What impact do the deaths have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?

Discuss the culture of each of the cities—UI Qoma and Beszel. What impact does the culture have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?

What do you think happens to the artifacts from the archeological dig? Do you think the American corporation and the Congressman are ever indicted for their role in stealing the artifacts? Do you think the theft is just another thing UI Qoma and Beszel sweep under the rug?