

# **The Coldest City Study Guide**

**The Coldest City by Antony Johnston**

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# Plot Summary

The following version of the novel was used to create this study guide: Johnston, Antony. *The Coldest City*. Oni Press, May 16, 2012.

The fall of the Berlin Wall marks the end of an era not only in Germany, but also in the spy business in *The Coldest City* by Antony Johnston. David Perceval, who has been M16's leading spy in Berlin for years, is shot dead the same night the wall comes down. Superior officers must piece together what happened to Perceval from the story of Lorraine Broughton, a female spy sent into Berlin only days before Perceval's death. Although Lorraine is sent by M16 to find a list compiled of all active spies in hopes of keeping it out of the hands of the Russians, Lorraine seems to have a mission of her own in mind.

It was after James Gascoine, the second agent in charge in Berlin was killed that Lorraine was employed to travel to Berlin and locate the list it was said that Gascoine had been carrying. The list, said to contain the names of all spies regardless of country, was compiled by a stasi spy with the codename SPYGLASS. It was believed Gascoine had gotten this list from SPYGLASS but no trace of it was found on his body.

In Berlin, Lorraine and Perceval butt heads almost immediately. He does not like that she is a woman and that she has both the intelligence and the nerve to talk back to him. He threatens to send her home several times, especially when she miscopies Gascoine's passport number when trying to pick up his body so that she postpones leaving Berlin and have longer to search for the list. Perceval talks Lorraine into helping SPYGLASS sneak from East Berlin into West Berlin but SPYGLASS is killed by a sniper. Meanwhile, Lorraine has met a French spy, Lasalle who shows her pictures of Perceval meeting with an assassin, the same man who shot SPYGLASS, before SPYGLASS was killed.

Lasalle tells Lorraine he believes Perceval is the leader of a ring of assassins for hire. It is this supposition that Lorraine takes to her superior officers to explain Perceval's death. They, however, think that Perceval was a double agent who was working with the Russians, a position that got him killed. With an unexpected twist at the end of the novel, the reader learns just how wrong M16 was about Perceval and Lorraine as well.



# Pages 1-32

## Summary

The opening series of scenes happen on the night of the falling of the Berlin Wall. A man laments that there will be no more secrets and that he and the person with whom he is speaking will be obsolete. The man is shot. A woman's shoe is included in the scene where he lays dead on the ground.

In the next scenes, Agent Lorraine Broughton flies to Century House in London so her superior officers can hear the story of the death of a fellow agent, David Perceval BER-1, in person. Lorraine claims she was not there when Perceval was killed. Her superior, H/BER, Eric Waddel, begins recording her story.

The story begins on October 28, 1989 when her superiors notify Lorraine that they believe KGB officer Yuri Bakhtin killed BER-2 James Gascoine in West Berlin. Bakhtin has gone missing as well but Waddel tells Lorraine that Bakhtin is not why they have called her in. He and C, the officer in command, are more interested in a list of the names and positions of every officer in Berlin, a list that Gascoine was supposed to be delivering to them. They want Lorraine to go into Berlin after the list because she will not be recognized by the KGB. They also admit they do not trust Perceval, who is looking for the list. C tells Lorraine that he does not care what it takes, he wants her to bring home the list.

Lorraine learns will be sent to Berlin under the cover of Gladys Lloyd, a lawyer, going to recover Gascoine's body for his family. Waddel tells Lorraine that she, he, C and Perceval were in on what she was trying to do.

In Berlin, Perceval picks Lorraine up at the airport himself. There is a man reading a newspaper who appears to be following them. Lorraine notes Perceval drives a VW Bug. He says that he drives it because he knows the German do not like being reminded of Hitler. Perceval lets Lorraine know right away that he does not like her and does not plan to recommend her for the job of BER-2. He gets angry when Lorraine suggests perhaps the Berlin Wall will not come down as soon of Perceval thinks it will.

Lorraine asks for a gun and Perceval suggests she did not need one even though his second officer had just been shot. Lorraine informs Perceval she does not want to be there anymore than he wants her there, but that she has been assigned to work there so he needs to deal with it. Perceval orders Lorraine out of his car without even telling her whom she should call to inquire about Gascoine's body.

The next day, October 29, Perceval apologizes to Lorraine. They go for a walk and Perceval introduces her to Emmett Kurzfeld, a man he says is from the company. He indicates that Kurzfeld knows everything about their assignment. They discuss the list. Lorraine indicates she believes it will show up on the black market. Kurzfeld asks about



the plan for SPYGLASS, Perceval says he has not decided on a plan yet. He admits to Lorraine alone there is no plan for SPYGLASS.

Back at Lorraine's interrogation, Waddel indicates that he should not be surprised that Perceval went to the CIA. Lorraine suggests Perceval cared only about his contacts in Berlin and believed she was an irritation to his cause. Waddel goes so far as to suggest that Lorraine was sold out by Perceval.

## Analysis

This novel is a graphic novel. For this reason, the illustrations tell the story just as much as the characters' conversations do. These illustrations allow the reader to see the characters' facial expressions and body positions to give input on their feelings. The illustrator also can draw the reader's attention to certain parts of the drawings by including a scene in one frame, and then zooming in on one aspect of that frame in the next frame such as on Page 20 where the illustrator uses this technique to draw the reader's attention to a man reading a newspaper, and then following Lorraine and Perceval when they leave the airport in Berlin.

The novel begins with a flashback to the night of the Perceval's death, the same night that the Berlin Wall fell. The rest of the story is told as a series of memories as Lorraine recounts the events that led up to Perceval's death. Sections of the illustrations that correspond with Lorraine's memories of what happened have a white background while those on November 11, 1989, when Lorraine is being questioned, have a black background to distinguish them. Because this novel is based on the time just days before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the day of its fall, the book can also be considered historical fiction.

Right away the reader is immersed in the life of the spy as the characters toss around codenames, suspicions about other spies and test each other for loyalty. Codenames include H/BER, C, BER-1, BER-2 and SPYGLASS. M16, for which these agents work, is part of the intelligence agency of the British. There is concern about Perceval's loyalties because he has been living in Berlin as a spy for so long. Waddel indicates he is not surprised to learn that Perceval had been working with the CIA. At the same time, Perceval seems to be feeling Lorraine out to see if she is trustworthy.

Lorraine and Perceval clash right away because Perceval is obviously not thrilled with being sent a female agent as a partner. His manner of speech to her is very detrimental. He starts out accusing her of wanting to fill the job as BER-2, a job for which he does not seem to think she would be suited. His statement "Perhaps they think I'll recommend you for the job. Perhaps you think that, too" (22) indicates that Perceval first wants to feel Lorraine out about her interest in the BER-2 position. He moves on to criticize the supervisors' plans to have Lorraine find the list with the cover of a civil service officer. Perceval additionally shows his disgust at having to work with a woman by warning her that she does not "know the first thing bloody thing about this city" (23) when she suggests the Berlin Wall may not come down as soon as Perceval thinks it



will. Perceval additionally refuses to give Lorraine a gun, indicating that he may not trust her with a gun. Perceval orders Lorraine out of his car when she smarts off to him because she wants to be taken to her hotel. Perceval says to Lorraine, "I am still head of this station, and I will not be lectured by a ... a bloody woman!" showing for certain his distaste for working with a woman.

Despite Perceval's distaste for working with a woman, Lorraine stands up to Perceval's bullying. Perceval questions how Lorraine knows where her hotel is located if she has never been to Berlin. She smarts off the him that "I can read a bloody map" (25). After she asks for a gun and is not allowed to have one, she tells him that she has been assigned to the project whether he likes it or not. "If you've got some kind of problem, you can bloody well stick it up your arse!" (25) she tells him, proof that she can play his game and will not allow him to bully her.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the way the illustrations and words work together to tell the story in a graphic novel. Discuss the way the illustrator uses things like frame sizes and zooming for emphasis.

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the immediate friction between Lorraine and Perceval. What do you think is at the bottom of this friction?

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the way the author uses foreign terms, slang terms and codenames to add to the tone of the spy novel.

## Vocabulary

debrief, authenticity, diplomatic, native, irritant



# Pages 33-61

## Summary

In Perceval's office, Lorraine gets Gascoine's passport number from Perceval. In her hotel, later, Lorraine watches the demonstrations surrounding the Berlin Wall on television. She then goes to a restaurant where she is hailed by Polish man. He tries to talk to her about her plans in Berlin but they are interrupted by a man claiming to know Lorraine. He indicates he is not surprised that he left her alone only for a moment and she already had a man flirting with her.

After the Polish man left, the new man introduces himself as Pierre Lasalle. He also tries to talk to Lorraine about why she is in Berlin. She gives him her cover story and he invites her to his restaurant for dinner. He tempts her by telling her that she would be surprised what secrets he hears in his restaurant. A man, possibly Perceval, is watching as Lasalle leaves Lorraine.

During her interrogation, Lorraine tells Waddel that Lasalle was the only contact she made in Berlin. She also indicates that Perceval had given her a way to stay in Berlin longer than she anticipated.

Lorraine continues her story with the events of October 30. When she goes to claim Gascoine's body Lorraine has the passport number wrong and is not allowed to take possession. Back in Perceval's office, Perceval is angry when Lorraine reports the passport number was wrong. He criticizes her for having written the number down wrong, she blames it on his writing. He tells her that the mistake will probably put off getting to take possession of the body for a week. When he suggests that it may cause them to suspect Gascoine was an officer, Lorraine warns him to be quiet. When they talk outside to keep from being overheard, Perceval tells Lorraine that he realizes she had bought herself some time with the mistake on the passport number. He threatens to send her home, but she reminds him that C wanted her there.

Since she will be there for a while, Perceval asks her to go to East Berlin with him so he can check on SPYGLASS. He tells Lorraine there is a dead letter box he needs to check that is in there. Lorraine turns Perceval down because of her date with Lasalle.

As Lorraine is eating with Lasalle a pedlar comes by trying to sell them what he calls collectibles. Lasalle runs him off but Lorraine goes after him. Outside, she asks the pedlar if he can easily go into East Berlin. She says she wants him to look for something but the reader does not learn for what she asks him. There are only frames where Lasalle watches them talking from inside the restaurant. Back inside the restaurant, Lorraine tells Lasalle that her father collects German war memorabilia. As the evening progresses, Lorraine seduces Lasalle. In his bedroom, she pulls a gun on him and demands to know why he has been following her.



Back in Lorraine's interrogation by Waddel, Lorraine learns that Lasalle was Henri Serlet, a DGSE officer. Lorraine asks how they already knew about Lasalle but Waddel would not tell her. He wants to learn her side of the story first.

## Analysis

Lorraine continues to show her intelligence as she finds a way to extend her visit to Berlin. She had suggested in her interrogation scene on Page 44 that Perceval had given her a way to extend her visit. The reader learns that Lorraine intentionally had Perceval write down Gascoine's passport number so that she could copy it incorrectly onto the papers needed to claim the body. She blames her mistake on Perceval's sloppy writing but Perceval is smart enough to pick up that Lorraine made the mistake intentionally.

Lorraine additionally keeps Perceval from saying anything in his office, which might be bugged, about Gascoine being an officer. She suggests to him that they go outside to talk instead of speaking about his position in the office.

Perceval continues to blame Lorraine's mistakes on the fact she is a woman. He is angry when he first learns that Lorraine copied the passport number wrong. He calls her a "stupid bloody woman" (48) indicating that she would not have made the mistake if she were a man. Again, Perceval threatens to send Lorraine away from Berlin reminding her again "This is my city, my station" (50).

Although Perceval continues to seem offended that he is working with a woman, Lorraine is able to use her feminine powers in her favor. For instance, because she is a woman, she can seduce Lasalle and get him into a position where she is in control of the situation. She shows she is observant because she has noticed that he has been following her. Even though she does not know Lasalle well, she knows him well enough to suspect he will have a gun hidden under his pillow for protection. She also realizes there is more to him than just a simple restaurant owner.

As Perceval tries to get Lorraine to go to East Berlin with him, he mentions to her a dead letter box there that the spies use to communicate with each other. Lorraine will later use this secret drop box for her own purposes.

What the author tells the reader in the course of the script is almost as important as what is not told, in particular in the scenes with the pedlar. Lorraine goes outside to talk to this man and the reader is not privy to what is said between Lorraine and the pedlar. It is assumed that she might be asking about the list she has been sent to find, an item she suspects might make its appearance on the black market, but it is never known for certain.

A variety of spy related terms with which the reader may not be familiar continue to be incorporated in the novel. For instance, GDR is an acronym that refers to the German Democratic Republic from East Germany. When Lorraine complains about the size of Perceval's office he indicates that if she wanted a fancy work space she should have





gone to the GDR. Meanwhile, DGSE is the acronym for the French intelligence agency, the agency for which Lorraine discovers Lasalle works. The term “frog” (52) that Perceval uses to refer to Lasalle is a common way to refer to a person from France. Another spy related term with which the reader might not be familiar is the word “stasi” (50). Perceval tells Lorraine that SPYGLASS is stasi meaning that he is a worker with East German state security.

## Discussion Question 1

Waddel has already told Lorraine they suspect that Perceval had been compromised as an agent. Do you get the sense that Lorraine’s higher ups suspect that she, too, has been compromised as an agent?

## Discussion Question 2

Even though Perceval clearly does not want to be working with a woman, Lorraine is clever in ways that he is not. Discuss the differences between the two.

## Discussion Question 3

Discuss the role of the pedlar in the novel. What do you think Lorraine has asked him to try to find for her?

## Vocabulary

urgency, colleague, deliberately, compromised, perish, ambitions, chivalry

## Pages 62-83

### Summary

Lasalle admits he knows who Lorraine is and calls her by her given name, not the code name she is using. He says that he is also interested in Gascoine's death. While Lorraine believes Gascoine was killed because of the list, Lasalle claims he was an Ice Man and was killed because of what he knew. He explains an Ice Man is a spy and assassin for hire. Lasalle thinks Gascoine had had enough of his job and wanted out. He guesses that Lorraine was talking to the pedlar about whatever item she thought Gascoine was carrying. He promises to look for a document but warns Lorraine that she may be in danger as well.

As they part, he warns her that being a spy is a man's job, just as she is about to show him what a man's job is, the story is interrupted when the text returns to the interrogation of Lorraine by Waddel. Waddel says the idea of Ice Men is ridiculous, just like Lorraine did at first, but Lorraine tells him that she changed her mind about the idea and thinks that Perceval was the leader.

Lorraine's story picks back up on Oct. 31 at Checkpoint Charlie. A guard there allows Lorraine to cross into East Germany even though she does not have a visitor's permit. She claims she is going to visit her grandparents. She is told she will be arrested if she is found not to be with her relatives and has not gone back into West Germany by 6 p.m.

The story returns to the interrogation where Waddel questions Lorraine about just happening to have a cover address with her in case she had to cross the border. He indicates they intentionally did not provide her with a cover but she indicated she thought it was worth the risk even though she did not get what she wanted from the pedlar she met there.

When Lorraine meets the pedlar, he claims Gascoine also asked him for help. Gascoine had wanted to pedlar to help defectors but the pedlar had refused. Because Lorraine is wanting to buy a product, he is interested. She tells the pedlar he will recognize what she wants if it surfaces. He is to bring it to her at Lasalle's bistro. Before she leaves, Lorraine asks the pedlar what he knows about Ice Men. He tells her he has only heard rumors.

In her next meeting with Perceval, Lorraine learns that Perceval is putting her in charge of getting SPYGLASS across the border into West Berlin. Even though she tries to resist, Perceval reminds her that he is in charge and that she is to do as he says. She refuses to take orders from him and leaves. He runs after her and apologizes, coercing her to help because it was SPYGLASS who wrote the list for which she is looking. If they had SPYGLASS they would have the information the list contained. Lorraine suggests they slip SPYGLASS out under the cover of the demonstrations.



The narration returns to scenes of Lorraine talking to Waddel, her interrogator. He criticizes her decision to go alone to East Berlin when she suspected that Perceval was running an assassin ring. She informs Waddel she did not realize that at the time but had put the pieces together. She tells him that it was when she was trying to get SPYGLASS across the border that she changed her mind about Bakhtin being on the way to Moscow with the list.

## Analysis

A type of spy different from anything Lorraine and her superiors have ever heard of is introduced in this section of the novel. While Lasalle knows nothing about any item in which Lorraine might be interested, he shares with Lorraine his information that it is believed that Gascoine was a member of a spy/assassin for hire ring known as Ice Men. Merkel, the peddler seems to verify proof of these Ice Men existing because he says that he has heard rumors about them. While Waddel indicates during his interrogation of Lorraine that he has never heard of Ice Men, Lorraine claims she believes that Perceval was the leader of the group, casting more doubt on Perceval's trustworthiness.

While Lorraine makes the claim she believes Perceval was the leader of this assassin for hire ring, she shares with her superiors how clever Perceval tried to be as he insisted that she be the one to go into West Berlin after SPYGLASS. He convinces her that it is in her best interests to see that SPYGLASS gets across the border since he was the one who compiled the list for which she is looking. If they have SPYGLASS, they will have the information on the list even if they never find the list.

Even though Lorraine has demonstrated to Perceval that threats do not frighten her, he tries against to threaten her when she balks at helping him with sneaking SPYGLASS across the border. He says to her "Now listen here woman. In case the chain of command still isn't clear to you, you work for the company and I am their number one on the ground. While you are in my city you will do as I say" (77) Lorraine takes his threat about as seriously as she took his former threats and reminds him she is there working for C, not for Perceval. Note the way that Perceval calls Lorraine "woman" (77) a derogatory reference that she is only a gender to him.

While Lasalle seems to agree that Lorraine is out of her league when it comes to playing the spy game, he tells her so in a less grating manner. "The game of spies is a man's job, Mademoiselle" (65) he says to her, at least using a respectful term when speaking to her. She offers to show him what a man's job is but the story line switches to her interrogation by Waddel, leaving the reader wondering what Lorraine thought was that man's job.

Remember that it is only Lorraine, Perceval, SPYGLASS and Merkel who know that Lorraine has made plans to use the demonstrators as a cover to get SPYGLASS out of West Berlin. This information will be important in the coming sections of the novel.



There is foreshadowing that while trying to get SPYGLASS out of West Berlin that Lorraine comes upon information indicating that Bakhtin, a KGB officer, was on his way to Moscow with the list they were hoping to keep out of Russian hands. She mentions to Waddel during her interrogation that her mind has been changed about Bakhtin's role in the scheme. It can be assumed she will share what she learned in the next series of frames.

The challenges in traveling between East and West Berlin highlight the distress caused by the Berlin Wall. There is protesting of the wall in East Berlin. Lorraine plans to take advantage of these crowds of demonstrators to get SPYGLASS out of East Berlin. While Lorraine's higher ups are upset that she has gone into East Berlin without their permission, Perceval is upset because she will not go back willingly to help him with his project.

## Discussion Question 1

Is it suspicious that Perceval wants to get Lorraine involved in the rescue of SPYGLASS even though that is not really part of her reason for being in Berlin? Why or why not?

## Discussion Question 2

Discuss the impact it would have on Perceval's credibility if it were discovered that he were the leader of a spy/assassin ring?

## Discussion Question 3

Why is so much emphasis put on Lorraine's act of crossing from West to East Berlin? Why did her superiors think she would not need to cross the border? Why does Perceval try to get her to cross the border despite her claims she does is not familiar with the area?

## Vocabulary

mercenaries, infamous, vulnerable, inevitable, viable, compensated, compromised, petrified, retort, purview



## Pages 84-102

### Summary

Lorraine continues her story on Nov. 4 when she goes into East Berlin to try to sneak SPYGLASS out. She leaves a scarf in a drop box to let SPYGLASS know the coast is clear. The pedlar has gotten Lorraine signs to help her and SPYGLASS blend in with the demonstrators as well as a gun, a Makarov, which the pedlar describes as a stasi gun. Lorraine leaves with SPYGLASS, telling the pedlar that she will see him later.

Instead of getting all the way to Checkpoint Charlie with the demonstrators as they had planned, SPYGLASS is shot and killed. Lorraine spots the sniper and kills him by pushing him over a stair banister. She returns to the house where the pedlar was told to wait in case there were any troubles. Lorraine tells him what happened to SPYGLASS and said that she would have to cross back into West Berlin using the sewer tunnel. It is while walking through this tunnel that she discovers Bakhtin's body. He had been shot recently.

Back in her interrogation, Lorraine tells Waddel that it was a last minute decision to use the sewer tunnel but that it had given her the opportunity to find Bakhtin's body. She indicates she did not tell Perceval about her discovery right away. She wanted to lie low but suggests that did not work out well for her.

### Analysis

It appears that someone who wanted SPYGLASS dead arranged for a sniper to be looking out for him in the crowd of demonstrators. One has to wonder about Perceval since he was one of the few people who knew how the man would be snuck out of East Berlin. Since more than one person was shot in the sniper attack, the reader has to wonder if perhaps Lorraine were a target in this attack as well.

Lorraine shows her cunning by arranging for the pedlar to get her a gun. This gun is a stasi gun, the kind that the pedlar says is easiest for him to get. The fact that this is the type of gun that Lorraine is given to carry will be significant later in the novel as well.

Lorraine uses a scarf to send SPYGLASS a sign that all is clear in the safe house. This act of leaving signs that would be unnoticed by other people is a tactic often used by spies.

Even though her project of getting SPYGLASS out of East Berlin does not end up the way that Lorraine had hoped it would, she does get some good information. She discovers the dead body of Bakhtin in the sewer tunnel and knows that he is not in the process of taking the list to the Russians as it had been feared.



The way the illustrator places the frames can help to influence the story. Notice, for instance, the way the vertical frames on Pages 90 and 91 move the reader's eyes across the scenes of the street demonstration to show how quickly this passes. The reader's eyes are stopped by the double wide vertical frame in which SPYGLASS' body lies on the pavement after he has been shot.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Why is it significant that Lorraine discovered Bakhtin's body in the sewer tunnel? What does this discovery mean?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why might Lorraine not want a gun associated with the stasi? Why would it be easier for the pedlar to get her this kind of gun?

## **Discussion Question 3**

Discuss the illustrations used in this section, especially those used in the fight scenes between Lorraine and the sniper. How does the story flow even with no conversation?

## **Vocabulary**

obtain, deliberately, sniper, relatively, confront



# Pages 103-130

## Summary

Nov. 5, the day after Lorraine tried to sneak SPYGLASS out of East Berlin, the police come to her hotel room to question her about the death. They accuse her of being a replacement for the spy that was killed the week before. When they ask Lorraine where she was at 2 p.m., a voice speaks up saying she was with him. It is Lasalle. He says they were together at his restaurant. Before the police leave, they warn Lorraine that if she has not left Berlin by the end of the week she will be extradited.

Lorraine admits to Lasalle that she wishes she had not had to go to try to get SPYGLASS free on her own. Lasalle shows her photos of Perceval talking to the man whom Lorraine killed, the one who shot SPYGLASS. Lorraine says the pictures do not prove that Perceval is the leader of the Ice Men because Perceval would not necessarily have had to use an assassin, as the KGB could have arrested him at any point. Lasalle points out the people in the photos are not KGB.

Back in her interrogation by Waddel, he questions Lorraine why she did not ask Lasalle about double agents. Lorraine indicates she did not think that was their problem. She argues she believes the photos that Lasalle showed her were legitimate and that it made sense that both SPYGLASS and Bakhtin were killed by Perceval. Waddel leads back into Lorraine's story by asking her how Perceval did react when he heard about the death of SPYGLASS.

Perceval is angry when he learned about the murder of SPYGLASS. He suspects that it was the pedlar whom Lorraine brought in who set up the murder. Kurzfeld additionally suggests that perhaps it was Lorraine who was the target of the sniper. Lorraine believes if she was, she would have been shot first. Perceval disagrees and argues that it appeared the person who hired the sniper did not want SPYGLASS to talk to them. Kurzfeld indicates that Moscow has sent them a message through the man's murder.

On Nov. 6, Lorraine gets a call from Lasalle saying he is cooking a secret recipe that he thinks will be of interest to Lorraine and her company. Before going to Lasalle's house Lorraine meets with Perceval. He tries to console Lorraine about the death of SPYGLASS by saying that they will never know exactly what happened. Lorraine drops a hint to Perceval that there were rubles in the pockets of the man she found in the tunnel and that the body was fresh. Perceval asks her not to dwell on the body and offers to give her a ride to Lasalle's house. Back in her interrogation, Lorraine tells Waddel she had lied about the rubles, but hoped it would make Perceval slip up in their discussion.

Instead of taking her all the way to Lasalle's house, Perceval drops her close and lets her walk. When Lorraine arrives, she discovers that Lasalle has been killed. She



searches his apartment finding the pictures he had shown her in a plastic bag in the toilet tank.

Back in the interrogation room Lorraine tells Waddel that the pictures showed that it was Bakhtin to whom Perceval was talking and that Perceval had given Bakhtin a package. To Waddel's dismay, Lorraine tells him that she burned the photos. He asks her to go on with her discussion but Lorraine says there is not much left to tell. She had laid low for the next few days hoping to find a new contact but located no one. It was on the 9th that Perceval was killed. Lorraine claims not to have been there when Perceval was killed but Kurzfeld comes into the room calling what she is telling Waddel "bullshit" (128). Kurzfeld tells Waddel that he was not with Perceval the night Perceval was killed because Perceval was meeting with Lorraine. Knowing she has no choice, Lorraine tells Waddel that she had been there when Perceval was killed but that there had been nothing she could do.

## Analysis

In this section, Lorraine learns for sure that while Waddel and C did not necessarily trust Perceval, they are also checking up on her. While Waddel was critical when he heard that Perceval had gone to Kurzfeld with the information about the list, they have apparently gone to Kurzfeld to check up on Lorraine's story. Lorraine has claimed from the beginning that she was not present at the scene when Perceval was killed. When Kurzfeld calls her story, Lorraine has to come up with another story quickly. She falls back on her nature as a woman and apologizes for lying but says there was nothing she could do to stop what happened to Perceval.

The nature of the tense atmosphere even in West Berlin is demonstrated by the way the police threaten Lorraine because they suspect her of having been involved with the murder of spyglass. It is almost as if these Berlin police have been given information by someone since they are able to connect her with the shooting and since they also suspect she has been sent to replace the spy killed the week before. It does not seem the police could have connected all of this information unless they had someone feeding them information. Even though Lasalle gives Lorraine an alibi, the Berlin police still warn Lorraine that she needs to be out of their city within a week. If not, she will be extradited, handed over to the authorities in East Berlin.

Lasalle is a character whom the reader has to wonder where his loyalties lie. He seems to appear at just the moment that Lorraine needs someone to back her up. For instance, he is the one who provides Lorraine with an alibi for the time period in which SPYGLASS was killed. It is almost uncanny how he shows up unannounced just when Lorraine needs him most.

Lasalle also shares with Lorraine the photos that show Perceval and Yerchenko talking together. He believes that it proves that Perceval is involved in a ring of assassins whom he calls Ice Men. His take is that Perceval has killed all of his targets because he





is trying to cover his tracks to keep his superior officers from finding out what he is doing.

After Lorraine discovers that Lasalle has been killed, she searches his room for the photos he showed her. Instead of taking them back to her superior officers for proof of Perceval's possible wrong doing, Lorraine burns the photos. Waddel must take her word that they ever existed.

When Lorraine goes to talk to Perceval because she feels bad about the death of SPYGLASS, Perceval is not as critical of her abilities as he generally is when she makes a mistake. Considering the way he acted when Lorraine miscopied Gascoine's passport number and when she went into East Berlin without permission, Perceval does not seem troubled that SPYGLASS is dead. Instead of calling her names and blaming the death on Lorraine, Perceval suggests that they will never know what happened and will just have to live with not knowing. It is a very laid back outlook for this man who is usually easily angered to take. It suggests that perhaps he is not completely unhappy that SPYGLASS is dead.

## Discussion Question 1

Why did Lorraine burn the photos of Perceval and the assassin instead of keeping them with her as proof of Perceval's wrong doing?

## Discussion Question 2

What do you think caused Lasalle to be a target of a murderer? Do you think his death was in connection with the photos he had? Why or why not?

## Discussion Question 3

Does it seem that Lorraine was hesitant in asking any of her contacts about the possibility of double agents? Why do you think this might have been?

## Vocabulary

extradite, notorious, collateral, parapet, consolation, conspicuous, legacy, incompetent



# Pages 131-171

## Summary

On Nov. 9 Lorraine receives a phone call from Perceval asking her to meet him in Westhafen. She takes her gun with her to the meeting. When Lorraine arrives at the place where she is to meet Perceval, there is a man already there with him. Lorraine overhears them talking about spies being obsolete. The other man's face is not shown. Perceval says that with the wall coming down, it is a good time for them to wipe the slate clean. There is only a gun seen when Perceval's companion tells him that he will not tell anyone their secrets if Perceval will not tell them. Lorraine stands over Perceval's body and comments that he did not deserve to die.

Back in her interrogation, Lorraine and Waddel compare their ideas about the cause of Perceval's death. Lorraine holds tight to the idea that Perceval was the leader of the Ice Men and was killed in order to keep him quiet about the group. Waddel, on the other hand, believes that Perceval lied about the existence of the list of spies and was covering his tracks in order to keep headquarters from discovering the lie. He even goes so far as to suggest that Perceval was a British double agent, known as STACHEL, who was working for the Russians. This comes up when Lorraine, after she has denied killing Perceval even after it is noted that he was killed with a Marakov the same type of gun she carried, blames Perceval's death on the Polish man she met in a bar. Waddel identifies that man as Aleksander Bremovych, a top runner for the KGB.

Even though Lorraine believes it makes no sense that the KGB would kill Perceval, Waddel thinks the photos that Lasalle had were proof that Perceval was STACHEL. He argues that Perceval and Bremovych were both trying to clean up after themselves and Bremovych beat Perceval to the finish. Since it appears there was no list, Lorraine is exasperated that she had to go to Berlin at all and get involved, but she is commended for forcing Perceval to reveal himself. Lorraine is told not to tell anyone about her mission and is advised to take some time off.

On Dec. 1, Lorraine travels, going through what had happened in the past several weeks in her head. She wears a disguise. In Berlin she takes a document from a letterbox. She removes her disguise before getting on a train. In a thought box in one of the frames her superiors discuss the necessity of promoting Lorraine because of what happened in Berlin. Meanwhile, in Lorraine's thoughts, there is a frame of Perceval asking someone why he came so quickly to Berlin when he knew the list did not exist. The man to whom he speaks, who appears to be Bremovych, admits that he is the one who killed Lasalle. Bremovych is apparently also the one who kills Perceval to keep him quiet.

In further frames in Lorraine's memory, more of the pictures that Lorraine had found in Lasalle's house show her meeting with Bremovych before Perceval was killed. At a train station in Warsaw, Lorraine gives the document she retrieved from the letterbox,



assumedly the list, to Bremovych. It is thrown in the trash. He tells her in Russian he is happy to see her again and calls her STACHEL.

## Analysis

When Kurzfeld suggests Lorraine might have been the one who killed Perceval, Lorraine gets defensive: "He was a misogynistic bullying prick, but I didn't want him dead!" (150) she tells him. Remember also that when Lorraine stood over Perceval's freshly dead body the night of his death, she commented to herself that he had not deserved to die. While this indicates that Lorraine did not necessarily want Perceval dead, the reader learns later in this section that it was Lorraine's Russian contact, Bremovych, who shot Perceval.

Lorraine continues to allow her superior officers to build a case against Perceval in their suspicions that he was covering up for himself because there was no list. They even pin the murder of Lasalle on Perceval even though Lorraine must be aware that he was murdered by Bremovych. Lasalle's murder gives Lorraine the chance to get the pictures from him that show her and Bremovych meeting together. These photos would have blown Lorraine's cover as the double agent.

Lorraine's superior officers are correct in thinking that Bremovych killed Perceval. They never guess the reason, however, deciding that Perceval was the British double agent STACHEL. Lorraine does not agree with them readily and stands by her idea that Perceval was instead to leader of the Ice Men. Her unwillingness to agree with her superiors readily is a scheme intended to throw them off course so that they do not suspect her role in the whole operation.

Even though Lorraine is a very strong female character, she falls back on her identity as a woman to keep her superior officers off guard when it comes to her true identity. She has shown her capability as a spy even though she is a woman in the past. Part of her strength is her ability to manipulate her gender role, making herself seem vulnerable and putting herself in the role the men seem to expect her to fill. She manages to look dismayed when her superior officers tell her that Perceval was STACHEL. She additionally claims not to understand Waddel's line of thinking when he tells her that he thinks there was never any list.

The illustrations become more important as the back story is told after Lorraine's formal interview by Waddel is complete. Square thought boxes indicate that Lorraine is thinking about snippets of conversation from the past weeks. Memories of the past week appear in gray scale instead of black and white to show that they are flashes back in time.

## Discussion Question 1

What is the significance of the list? Why do Lorraine and Bremovych throw away what appears to be a list at the end of the novel?



## Discussion Question 2

Do you think Perceval was involved in any wrong doing during his time in Berlin? Why or why not? Use examples from the book to support your answer.

## Discussion Question 3

What does it mean that Lorraine is STACHEL? How does this reshape your interpretation of the plot since the beginning of the novel?

## Vocabulary

obsolete, idealist, doling, scapegoat, blatant, fabricated, misogynistic, alibi



# Characters

## Lorraine Broughton

Lorraine Broughton is the main character of this novel. She is a spy working with M16. After the second agent in charge is killed in Berlin, Lorraine is sent in to try to find a list including the names of all spies from every agency. The idea is to keep that list out of the hands of the Russians.

For her job Lorraine is given the cover name Gladys Lloyd, with the story that she is a lawyer sent by the British to claim the remains of Gascoine, the agent who was killed. Perceval, the head officer in Berlin is obviously infuriated that he has been sent a woman with whom he is to work.

Despite the fact she is a woman, Lorraine quickly begins to gather her own information against Perceval in her attempt to find the list for which she has been hired to look. Although she pretends not to believe it herself, she allows her higher ups at M16 to believe that Perceval was the one who killed Gascoine and also had SPYGLASS killed. At the end of their deliberation of the information that Lorraine has brought to them, her superiors decide that Perceval was a double agent working for the Russians.

It turns out in the end of the novel that Lorraine is actually a double agent working for the Russians under the code name STACHEL. She is the one who arranged Perceval's death.

## David Perceval

David Perceval is the lead M16 agent working in Berlin during the Cold War. He is often referred to as BER-1. On the same day that the Berlin Wall fell, Perceval was killed by KGB agent Bremovych. It is suspected that both Perceval and Bremovych were trying to clean up after the lies they had told and Bremovych got to Perceval first.

Even though Perceval has served in Berlin for years, his superiors do not trust him. They believe he is lying to them about the presence of a list of spies that the Russians are trying to get their hands on. Because he has been in Berlin for so long, it is suspected that he is more concerned with protecting his contacts than doing real work for M16. It appears it is Perceval who ordered the murder of SPYGLASS, the man whom Perceval claimed to have compiled the list, and that he also arranged for Gascoine to be killed.

Perceval's character is unique because he is highly against the idea that he is having to work with a woman. He does not hide the fact that he believes Lorraine is an inferior spy based on her gender and that he does not want her working with him. His outlook is ironic since it turns out that it is Lorraine who outsmarts him by hiding her cover as a double agent for the Russians.



## Aleksander Bremovych

Aleksander Bremovych is identified by Waddel as one of the KGB's top runners. He is the man who tried to flirt with Lorraine in the bar before they were interrupted by Lasalle. Lorraine had guessed at that time that the man was Polish even though it turned out he was Russian.

When Waddel shows Lorraine pictures of men who possibly killed Perceval she identifies Bremovych as being the killer. Bremovych was the one who killed Perceval but he is also the one who later meets Lorraine in Russia where he calls her STACHEL, indicating that she is the British double agent.

In addition to killing Perceval, Bremovych also killed Lasalle because of the pictures that he had in his possession.

## Emmett Kurzfeld

Emmett Kurzfeld is the CIA agent with whom Perceval works closely in Berlin. Perceval's superior officers are not happy about Kurzfeld working with the CIA. Lorraine also is surprised when she arrives in Berlin to learn that Kurzfeld knows why she is in Berlin and has been made aware of the list.

At the end of the novel it is Kurzfeld whom Waddel brings in to contradict Lorraine's claim that she was not present at the scene the night that Perceval was killed. He says that he had intended to be with Perceval that night but Perceval had told him that he had a prearranged meeting with Lorraine.

## H/BER

Eric Waddel is referred to by the codename H/BER. He is the one who tells Lorraine that she will be sent to Berlin to look for the list. He later is the one who interrogates Lorraine about her part in Perceval's death. Even though he suspects Perceval might have been a double agent, Waddel is unable to blow Lorraine's cover as a double agent working for the Russians.

Waddel discounts Lorraine's story about Ice Men and Perceval as the leader of the group of assassins, and instead believes that Perceval killed because he was trying to cover up his lie that he had told about the list of spies.

## Yuri Bakhtin

Yuri Bakhtin is a KGB officer believed to have killed Gascoine so he could get the list naming all spies. Even though the superior officers at M16 believe that Bakhtin was taking the list to the Russians, Lorraine discovers his dead body in one of the sewer



tunnels running between East and West Berlin. M16 officials to believe that Perceval killed Bakhtin to cover up the fact there was no list.

## **Pierre Lasalle**

Pierre Lasalle is a French spy who befriends Lorraine in Berlin. His real name Henri Serlet. He is strangled by Bremovych. Lasalle pretends to be trying to help Lorraine but in reality he has photos that are condemning for both her and Perceval. Some of the photos show Perceval meeting with the man who shot SPYGLASS while others show Lorraine meeting with Bremovych.

## **SPYGLASS**

SPYGLASS is a stasi officer whom Perceval tells Lorraine has asked for help in crossing from East Berlin to West Berlin. It is SPYGLASS whom Perceval says has compiled the list of spies for which Lorraine is looking. In the short time that Lorraine and SPYGLASS are together he says nothing about a list. He is killed by a sniper as he and Lorraine try to blend in with a group of demonstrators to get out of East Berlin.

## **James Gascoine**

James Gascoine is the second officer in charge in Berlin. He is referred to as BER-2. Gascoine is killed before the action of the novel. It is believed that Perceval had some part in his death either because Gascoine knew there was actually no list of spies or because he had found out that Perceval was involved in an assassin ring.

## **Herr Merkel**

Herr Merkel is the pedlar whom Lorraine engages to help her find the list. This man also provides a safe house for SPYGLASS in East Berlin and gets a gun for Lorraine. He steals demonstration signs so that Lorraine and SPYGLASS can blend into the crowd of demonstrators when they try to sneak SPYGLASS out of East Berlin.

## **Ivan Yerchenko**

Ivan Yerchenko is the assassin who shoots SPYGLASS. Lorraine kills him when she pushes him over a stair railing in the building from which he had shot SPYGLASS. Because Lasalle has a picture of Perceval and Yerchenko meeting together it is believed that Perceval arranged for Yerchenko to kill SPYGLASS.

## C

C is the commander in charge at M16. He sits in with the initial meeting between Waddel and Lorraine as well as her later interrogation. C is the one who commands Lorraine to come back from West Berlin with the list regardless what she had to do to get it.





# Symbols and Symbolism

## The List

This list, which includes the names of all known spies, symbolizes Lorraine's purpose for being in Berlin.

## The Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall is a visual symbol of the division between East Berlin and West Berlin.

## VW Bug

This car is a symbol of German manufacturing. Perceval says that he drives it because the Germans do not like anything that reminds them of Hitler.

## Passport Number

Lorraine's incorrect copying of Gascoine's passport number symbolizes her attempt to buy herself extra time in Berlin.

## German War Memorabilia

Lorraine's mention of German war memorabilia symbolizes the cover stories that spies sometimes have to come up with on the fly to cover their true intentions. In this particular case, Lorraine uses her search for war memorabilia for her father in order to keep Lasalle from knowing why she wanted to talk to the pedlar.

## Demonstration Signs

These demonstration signs are symbols of Lorraine and SPYGLASS' desire to blend in with East Berlin residents who are protesting the wall.

## A Gun

This gun, which Lorraine gets from the pedlar, is a symbol of her ability to take care of herself regardless of what she is told by the men in charge to do. Perceval had refused to give Lorraine a gun, telling her that she did not need one. Instead of taking his word, Lorraine arranges to get one herself.



## **A Scarf**

This scarf is a symbol that the coast is clear for SPYGLASS to join Lorraine in the safe house.

## **The Letterbox**

This letterbox represents the secret means by which spies would send messages and communicate with one another.

## **Photos**

These photos represent incriminating information that Lasalle holds against both Lorraine and Perceval. He not only has pictures of Perceval talking to the assassin who killed SPYGLASS, he also has pictures of Lorraine talking to Bremovych.



# Settings

## The Bin

The bin in the room in which Lorraine is taken to in the Century House in London when Waddel calls her in to interrogate her about her part in Perceval's death. It is assumed that this bin is some sort of interrogation room.

## West Berlin

West Berlin is the part of Berlin to which Lorraine is sent to look for the list. West Berlin is the part of Berlin in which Lorraine spent most of her time.

## East Berlin

East Berlin is the part of Berlin to which Lorraine must travel in order to meet with the pedlar. Perceval forces Lorraine to visit East Berlin again in order to help SPYGLASS escape. It is in East Berlin that SPYGLASS is shot by the sniper.

## Tempelhof Airport, Berlin

It is at the Tempelhof Airport in Berlin that Lorraine first meets Perceval. It is also here that she first notices that Lasalle is following her.

## Checkpoint Charlie

Checkpoint Charlie is the place where Lorraine crosses from West to East Berlin.

## Westhafen

Westhafen is the place where Perceval asks Lorraine to meet him on the night the Berlin Wall falls. It is at this place that he is shot.



# Themes and Motifs

## Role of History

This novel's placement during the days surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall gives the reader not only some idea what life was like in that time period but also what it was like to be a spy at the end of the Cold War. Before the end of the cold war, spies were busy trying to secure sensitive information that could help their governments. The novel describes the difficulties in East and West Berlin, as well as the difficulties spies had in passing information from one side to the other. When the wall falls, a visible symbol of the end of the Cold War, the spies fear their usefulness is coming to an end.

Lorraine's reason for being sent to Berlin is to get a piece of sensitive information, a list containing the names of all spies working in Berlin, for M16. The intent is to keep this list out of Russian hands because the lives of the spies would be in danger if it were discovered they were working to uncover information about the Russian government. At the time, of course, it is not known that Lorraine is working as a double agent for the Russians.

One of the projects with which Lorraine is asked to help while she is in Berlin is the defection of SPYGLASS across the border. Perceval suggests they try a new procedure, perhaps using a hearse and coffin to transport him but Lorraine suggests they try to blend in with the people protesting the wall. The need to make an elaborate cover demonstrates how difficult it was to get from one side of the wall to the other, especially if a person wanted to do so illegally. After SPYGLASS is shot, Lorraine has to sneak back into West Berlin through sewer tunnels.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and end of the Cold War indicates a major change in the landscape of Germany. As Perceval talks about the wall coming down, he indicates he believes that spies will become obsolete. This change in the governmental state of Germany will cause a decreased need for spies to uncover state secrets. Perceval fears that if the Cold War is deemed over, he will no longer have a job.

## Strength of the Female Spy

Lorraine uses a variety of her character strengths, like her intelligence and nerve; as well as her weaknesses, like the opinion of her male colleagues that a female spy is not as good as a male, in order to distract everyone from her real purpose in Berlin. Lorraine is immediately disliked and distrusted by Perceval because she is a woman. Any time he believes she has made a mistake he blames it on her being a female. He does not take into account that Lorraine is a better spy than he because she uses both her strengths and weaknesses to her benefit.

Lorraine first uses Perceval's mistrust of her as a female to her benefit. When trying to retrieve Gascoine's body, Lorraine has Perceval write down the passport number for her



so that she can copy it wrong onto the forms requesting the body. When Perceval learns of her mistake he first criticizes her and curses her but later realizes she used him and his messy handwriting as a way to stay in the city longer. Because she wrote down the number wrong, she will have to wait at least a week for the body to be released. She can blame her error on Perceval's messy handwriting.

Later, Lorraine is able to get into East Berlin more easily perhaps because she is a female. She lies to the officers at Checkpoint Charlie and tells them she did not know she was going to be able to visit her grandparents in time to get a visitor's pass. Beforehand, she had prepared herself with a safe house in East Berlin even though her superior officers had not given her this information. They did not think she had any business going into East Berlin. The entire trip is a cover to see the pedlar who has promised to help her look for the list. Lorraine is successful in meeting with this pedlar not only because she decides what information she does and does not have but also because since she is a woman, she does not appear to be a threat. She is allowed to go and visit her "grandparents" with no interference.

Lorraine also uses her allure as a female in order to get what she needs. From the time her plane landed in Berlin, Lorraine noticed that Lasalle had been following her. When he introduces himself at the bar she takes advantage of his friendliness to get the best of him. When they are alone in his room, she pulls a gun from under his pillow and threatens to shoot him if he does not tell her why he is following her.

Similarly, Lorraine uses her vulnerability as a woman to get others to open up to her. She does this with Waddel when they try to determine why Perceval was killed. She at first lied and said she was not with Perceval when he died but then later admits that she was there. She seems truly distressed when she tells her superiors that there was nothing she could do to keep Perceval alive. Later, when Waddel begins telling Lorraine the reasons why he believes Perceval was killed, Lorraine acts as if she cannot believe his line of reasoning. This ruse on her part keeps Waddel and others from guessing that Lorraine would be cunning enough to play the role of a double agent. They instead believe Perceval was this agent.

## Role of Graphics

The size, placement and color of the illustrations in this graphic novel work to tell Lorraine's story as much as the text does. The size of the illustrations can be used for emphasis of certain frames while the placement on the page of these frames also indicates importance. The color of the illustrations and pages on which they appear indicates where the particular scenes appear in the time line of the novel. Also important is zooming from frame to frame because this technique draws the reader's attention to important aspects of particular frames.

One of the most noteworthy uses of frame size and placement comes on Page 143 where Waddel's face and pointing hand dwarfs Lorraine's face as he tells her that he does not think there ever was a list. The size of Waddel illustrates the force of his



statement. Another use of frame size for emphasis is seen on Page 123 where Lorraine finds Lasalle strangled.

The background colors of the frames in the novel are significant because they indicate whether a page of frames in part of Lorraine's interrogation by Waddel or her back story. The pages that have a white background are part of Lorraine's back story while those with black backgrounds are part of the interrogation. Later on in the novel that frames that appear in grayscale, on Page 167 for instance, indicate those frames are playing over in Lorraine's memory.

The illustrator's act of zooming in on particular parts of a frame is used to put emphasis on that particular piece of the image. For instance, when Lorraine meets Perceval at the airport on Page 20, one of the frames is a picture of Lorraine and Perceval walking through the crowd. A member of the crowd is a man reading a newspaper. In the next frame, there is a close up of this man reading a newspaper. This act of zooming in on the man indicates that he is of importance.

## Use of Spy Jargon

The use of spy jargon makes the reader feel as if he is immersed in this novel of espionage and secrets. Codenames, cover stories and safe houses dominate the written part of the story. There are also a good deal of acronyms with which the reader might not be familiar used to identify the different types of spies that contribute to this novel.

Codenames are particularly important to spies. The head man over the operations in Berlin is called H/BER while the man in charge of M16 operations in its entirety is simply C. C's real name is never revealed but the reader learns that H/BER is Eric Waddel. BER-1 is David Perceval, the lead agent in Berlin, while BER-2 was the second agent in charge in Berlin. SPYGLASS is the name of the agent who is said to have compiled the list of spies working in Berlin. STACHEL is Lorraine's codename when working for the Russians.

When Lorraine is sent to Berlin, she is sent with a cover story. She acts as Gladys Lloyd, a lawyer, in order to use the cover story that she is in Berlin only to claim Gascoine's body. Despite this cover, Lasalle, recognizes that Lorraine is an agent with M16. He tells her that her cover is a bad one.

Finally, there are a good deal of acronyms used to identify the different types of spies in this novel. A double agent is a spy who is working for two different agencies. Lorraine, for instance, is a double agent working with both the British and the Russians. The KGB is the security agency for Russia. It was these spies who were on their own territory in East Berlin. Stasi are spies who work for the secret police in East Germany. SPYGLASS was said to be a member of the Stasi. Lasalle is a member of the DGSE, the intelligence agency for the French while Kurzfeld is a member of the CIA, the American intelligence agency.



## Story Twists

Assassins for hire, lies about a list, and murders to cover the trail of a double agent are all possibilities thrown out during the course of this novel to explain why people associated with Lorraine and the list she hopes to find keep getting killed. In the end, it turns out M16 is completely wrong in its belief that Perceval, the officer in charge was STACHEL and that he had lied about the list of spies. It is only until the last few pages, when additional information is given, that the reader can see how the pieces fit together.

The list which is said to contain the names of all spies working in Berlin is at the center of one of the theories the superiors at M16 likes when it comes to explaining Perceval's death. They say there was no list at all and that Perceval had to kill people to cover up his lie. In the end, they reason that he was killed by Russian spy Bremovych as they both tried to clean up their tracks in Berlin. Waddel comes to the decision that Perceval was actually STACHEL, a British double agent working for the Russians.

The story that Lorraine tries to sell to Waddel is that Perceval was the leader of ring of assassins for hire. She reasons, with the help of Lasalle, that Gascoine was killed because he had found out about the ring, called the Ice Men, and threatened to go public with the information. She also assumes that Perceval had hired someone to kill SPYGLASS. She believes it was for this reason that no backup was given to help her get him out of East Berlin safely.

Meanwhile, Lorraine was working as a double agent for the Russians all along. She got what appears to be a list, which might have been a distraction because it is placed in the trash can by Bremovych. Bremovych is the one who killed Perceval, who was also apparently working with Bremovych though he was not STACHEL. It is also Bremovych who killed Lasalle because Lasalle had pictures of Bremovych and Lorraine meeting together.

# Styles

## Point of View

Because this is a graphic novel, the dialogue is told from the first person point of view of the character who is speaking. In this particular novel, Lorraine, Waddel and Perceval are among the central character so he does most of the speaking. Also because this is a graphic novel, the story is not entirely told through the words, but also through the illustrations. Readers have the benefits of being able to see the characters' facial expressions to help them determine exactly what a character might be feeling. Frame sizes can also be used for the emphasis of emotions. For instance, on page 143 when Waddel tells Lorraine he does not think there ever was a list, his profile and pointing finger dominates the page while Lorraine's fear is demonstrated by the small slice of the bottom of the page to which she is allotted.

## Language and Meaning

One way in which the language of this novel is important is the emphasis on British terms, slang and spy jargon. Since this novel takes place in Berlin and England, it makes sense that British references would be made in the writing. For instance, when Waddel talks about the runner having taken the list to Russia he indicates he would have done it quickly by using the reference to the board game Monopoly "do not pass go, do not collect two hundred pounds" (16). In this instance instead of using the American "dollars" the British term "pound" is employed. Another uniquely British term is the frequent use of the word "bloody" as a curse word. For instance Waddel describes Perceval as being "A right royal pain in the arse. And a bloody good spy" (19). The term "arse" (19) is used often, a British for "ass."

Spy jargon and slang is also used to make the reader feel as if he is in the crux of the story. All the agents have codenames. These include: H/BER, BER-I, SPYGLASS and STACHEL. The term "the package" is used to describe whatever the focus of an agent's job is whether that package is a person or an item. Additionally, characters are given cover names and stories to keep their real identities from being revealed. Perceval in particular uses a good deal of slang in his speech. For instance, he refers to the Germans as "Jerry" (23) and the Frenchman Lasalle as "the Frog" (52).

There are additionally phrases and sentences in German as Lorraine attempts to communicate with the people in Berlin. These phrases are often not terribly important to the storyline as the speaker generally turns out to also know English and speak to Lorraine in that language. Also included at the end of the novel is a phrase in Russian as Lorraine meets Bremovych. The meaning of this phrase can be induced by the friendly handshake shared by Lorraine and Bremovych. The main point of the phrase is that Bremovych calls Lorraine STACHEL, identifying her as the British double agent.



## Structure

Perceval is shot as the Berlin Wall comes down. The next scenes are Lorraine being interrogated by Waddel after Perceval's death. Waddel encourages Lorraine to tell her story, from the beginning. This story is interrupted in several places by scenes from the interrogation as Waddel questions what Lorraine tells him or tries to interpret her story.

The action rises as Lorraine describes how Perceval fought her presence in Berlin from the first time they met until his insistence that she help get SPYGLASS from East Berlin to West Berlin. The action begins to rise as SPYGLASS is shot. This rise continues through the story of the deaths of Lasalle and Perceval to the point that Lorraine admits she was with Perceval when he was killed. The climax comes as she apologizes for her lie and the falling action as she describes what happened. The denouement comes when Waddel leaves Lorraine alone after he has finished interrogating her and tells her that she is to tell no one what happened.

Lorraine's memories in the following scenes lead to another rise in action of the author and illustrator shares details with the reader that he had not known before. A second sharp climax comes when Bremovych calls Lorraine by the codename STACHEL.



## Quotes

Some of them are saying there'll be no more secrets, from now on. But you and I both know that's not true."

-- Perceval (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Just before he is shot, Perceval shares with Kurzfeld that he has heard that spies will not be needed any longer after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He assures himself, and Kurzfeld, that there will still be secrets.

BER-2 was running an agent codenamed SPYGLASS, a stasi officer. His most recent gift was a list. Gascoine was delivering that list to us when he was killed."

-- Waddel (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Lorraine's superior officer explains to her the situation under which BER-2, Gascoine, was killed. It is this list that Lorraine is being sent to attempt to locate and intercept from the Russians.

That's because you don't know the first bloody thing about this city, so don't try and pretend you do."

-- Perceval (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Perceval snaps at Lorraine when she suggests that the Berlin Wall may not come down as soon as he thinks that it will. He is insistent that she knows nothing about Berlin or the situation there because she has not lived there like he has.

You stupid bloody woman! You wrote 16 where it should have been 78."

-- Perceval (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Perceval is critical when he sees that Lorraine has written down Gascoine's passport number wrong when she filled out the papers to claim his body. It is not until later that he realizes that Lorraine intentionally wrote down the wrong numbers so that she could delay her stay in Berlin.

It's a total bust. There was a sniper waiting. 'Herr Schmidt' is dead."

-- Lorraine (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** When Lorraine returns to the safe house she tells the pedlar that SPYGLASS, the stasi spy, was killed. There was a sniper who shot the spy as they tried to blend in with demonstrators to reach Checkpoint Charlie.

On the contrary, the wall drowned out everything else that night. Until you messaged, we didn't even know BER-1 was dead."

-- Waddel (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Because there was so much media coverage of the Berlin Wall falling,



H/BER tells Lorraine that he had heard nothing of Perceval's death until he got the message from Lorraine.

Still it's a good opportunity to wipe the slate clean. Who's going to care about state secrets, double agents, all of that, when the Kremlin collapses?"

-- Perceval (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Perceval seems to be trying to get some information from Kurzfeld when he suggests to him that with the Berlin Wall falling, it was a good time to wipe the slate clean of any mistakes they had made or lies they had told.

The Pole, in the bar, the one who chatted me up. It was him!"

-- Lorraine (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Lorraine pins Perceval's murder on a Polish man who tried to talk to her in the bar one of the first nights she was in Berlin.

It's been known for some time that Bremovych was running a British double, codename STACHEL. We just didn't know who it was."

-- Waddel (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Waddel tells Lorraine about the British double agent who was working for the Russian under the context that he believes it was Perceval who employed as this agent.

We asked Perceval to come home several times, you know. Every time he resisted, insisting he wanted to stay in Berlin. Because of Thatcher? Or was that a smokescreen?"

-- Waddel (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** Perceval's refusal to come home to Berlin even when he was given the opportunity makes Waddel suspicious that he had some reason he wanted to stay in Berlin. Waddel does not entirely buy that Perceval did not want to come home because England had a female prime minister.

Your mission never took place. This conversation, and the one Emmett and I are about to have with C, never happened."

-- Waddel (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** After Waddel finishes his interrogation of Lorraine, he tells her that they are never to speak of her mission in Berlin again.

Rad vas viidyet snova ...STACHEL."

-- Aleks (The Coldest City)

**Importance:** When Aleks greets Lorraine by the codename of STACHEL, the reader realizes she has been working as a double agent for the Russians.