

# **Dead Sleep Study Guide**

## **Dead Sleep by Greg Iles**

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## Plot Summary

DEAD SLEEP is a mystery thriller that follows photojournalist Jordan Glass as she investigates the disappearance of her twin sister, Jane, who she believes is the victim of a serial kidnapper and possible serial murderer. Working alongside the FBI, Glass is able to identify the murderer and narrowly escapes becoming a victim herself. As she unravels the mystery she not only learns that her sister is alive, but also discovers the truth about the apparent disappearance of her father several years before.

While in Hong Kong, Glass attends an art exhibition of anonymous paintings of nude women in poses that seem to show them sleeping or possibly dead. She is stunned to find one of the paintings seems to depict her missing sister. Convinced the unknown painter must be involved with her sister's disappearance, Glass flies to New York City to confront the art dealer Christopher Wingate, who represents the anonymous artist. Wingate is killed in a mysterious fire that is set while Glass is visiting him, however. She then teams up with FBI agent John Kaiser to investigate.

Using the FBI's forensic analysis methods, the investigators are able to match the models in the "Sleeping Women" paintings to a series of women who have disappeared in New Orleans and New York. Glass and Kaiser grow closer together as their investigation continues.

Analysis of brush hairs found in the paintings leads them to Roger Wheaton, an art professor in New Orleans and three of his students. Glass becomes a crucial part of the investigation as FBI agents use her resemblance to her sister to try to flush out the killer from among the four main suspects. Things do not go exactly as planned, however, as none of the suspects seem to be startled by her appearance, and all seem to be potentially involved in the disappearances. As two of the suspects are ruled out and one seems to become a kidnapping victim herself, it suddenly becomes clear that the least likely suspect, Roger Wheaton, is probably the killer.

Before the investigators can act, however, Glass herself is kidnapped and drugged by Wheaton, who reveals that he is indeed the painter of the "Sleeping Women" paintings, and that the models were kidnapped and murdered by him. Glass manages to escape from Wheaton with the help of Kaiser and the FBI. In the dramatic conclusion, she learns her sister is alive and that her kidnapping was part of an elaborate revenge plot connected to Marcel de Becque, a former friend of Jonathan Glass, their father. De Becque has been protecting Jane Glass in Thailand after her escape from the killer. The novel ends as Jane Glass is reunited with her husband and children who believe she is dead, and Jordan Glass embarks on a relationship with John Kaiser.



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 introduces the main character, Jordan Glass. She is a professional photographer specializing in war photography who has recently won the Pulitzer Prize. She is the daughter of Jonathan Glass, himself a war photographer and twice winner of the Pulitzer, who disappeared in Cambodia when Jordan was a girl. Jonathan's last photograph is of a Cambodian soldier pointing his gun at his camera. Jordan Glass feels a close connection to her father, whose body was never found and who is presumed dead. She carries and uses his old Nikon camera.

Jordan Glass makes reference to another death that has "crashed into" her family and deeply affected her, resulting in an eventual collapse and hospitalization. Following this, she decides to stop photographing people and work on a book on photos of weather.

Work on this book takes her to Hong Kong to photograph monsoons. While there, she visits an art museum where one of the exhibits features paintings of nude women by an anonymous artists. The women are depicted in poses where they are apparently asleep, but Glass learns from the exhibit materials that some believe they are supposed to be shown in death. Some of the paintings have sold for millions of dollars. She also learns that the artist, while unknown, is represented by an agent in New York named Christopher Wingate.

Glass moves through the exhibit in a room full of men, feeling self-conscious. The men all seem to be looking at her strangely and talking about her as she looks at the nude paintings. She soon understands why, because as she moves toward one of them and the men surrounding it move away, she sees her own face and body depicted as one of the dead women.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

Iles almost immediately introduces the event that sets the whole plot of the book in motion in this chapter and sets the tone for the rest of the book with the dramatic discovery of the painting of Jane Glass by her sister. In this chapter and the next are some of the few times in the book where the reader is directly addressed about past events as the previous year's happenings are described by Glass and the reader is brought up to date. The remainder of the novel is told in the present tense.

The mystery of the Sleeping Women paintings is also introduced. Whether the women in the portraits are sleeping or actually dead as they pose is a question not fully revealed until the final chapters of the book.



# Chapters 2-3

## Chapters 2-3 Summary

Glass explains that just over a year previously, her twin sister, Jane, disappeared while running near her home in New Orleans. Glass had rushed to New Orleans to help the investigation of the apparent kidnapping, but despite the FBI calling in its special Investigative Support Unit, no leads were found. Her sister is presumed dead.

Glass feels she is dead, too, because twelve hours prior to hearing about her sister's disappearance she had become severely disoriented while on assignment in a war zone in Sarajevo and had nearly been shot. In retrospect, she thinks this was the moment her sister was killed. Glass also explains that she had never had any similar feeling about her father and that she feels he is still alive somewhere.

Now, standing before her own image, she realizes that the painting is of her twin sister and that the painter must have something to do with her death. The other paintings, too, may be related to a string of unsolved disappearances of women from New Orleans. She is overwhelmed and runs from the gallery, but her photographer's instinct stops her and she returns. Pulling a small camera from her bag, she takes as many pictures of the paintings as she can before a museum guard tries to stop her. She knees the guard and escapes the museum, making her way back to her hotel and quickly to the airport.

While on a plane for New York City, Glass begins to drink and takes some tranquilizers to calm herself. She calls Daniel Baxter, the FBI agent who had worked on her sister's disappearance. She explains to him what she has seen and her theory that the other paintings may be of the other kidnapping victims. Baxter tells her he will arrange to have her fly to Washington, D.C. to speak with him.

Glass also calls a friend, Ron Epstein, a reporter in New York, to have him find out how to contact Christopher Wingate, the exclusive art dealer who represents the anonymous painter of the dead women. Epstein promises to find out how to reach Wingate, whose number is not listed. The tranquilizers begin to take effect, and Glass sleeps through the rest of the flight.

As Chapter 3 begins, Glass arrives in New York and calls Wingate. To her surprise, Wingate has heard of her and agrees to meet her at his apartment above his gallery in the Chelsea section of New York. She does not tell Wingate why she wants to see him. Unsure of his involvement with the painter, Glass stops and buys a can of mace spray. As she approaches the gallery, she dons a pair of large sunglasses to hide her face.

Wingate buzzes her into his gallery and shows her up to his apartment, where a large, open crate stands with a painting partly showing inside. Glass peeks at the painting in the crate. It is another nude of a apparently dead woman by the anonymous artist.



Wingate praises Glass and her photography work, telling her he could make her a lot of money by marketing her properly. Glass is not interested and turns the conversation to the painting in the crate. Wingate shows it to her, and Glass makes note of the face. She does not recognize it among the faces of the New Orleans kidnapping victims she has seen.

She presses him about the women in the paintings and Wingate scoffs at her belief that the paintings are of dead bodies. He believes they are live models. At this moment, Glass removes her large sunglasses and reveals her full face to Wingate. He immediately recognizes her face from one of the paintings and is slightly startled, thinking she is playing a joke on him. She explains that the painting is of her missing twin.

Glass continues to question him. Wingate explains he has a standing bid from a Japanese collector named Takagi for any of the artist's work. Glass asks him more questions about the artist, how he receives the paintings and how he pays the artist. Wingate explains it is all done by "blind drops." The canvases appear in his gallery and he leaves payment in public places, he tells her, but is reluctant to tell her more.

Glass tries to get him to tell her all he knows by threatening to tell the FBI about his involvement. Wingate is not disturbed, thinking that the publicity will make the painting he has worth even more money. When Glass reminds him that the FBI would probably seize the painting as evidence, Wingate becomes threatening, approaching her with a hammer in hand. She sprays him in the face with the mace spray and runs but is knocked out by someone unseen.

When she wakes, she is aware of heavy smoke in the apartment. Wingate is screaming in pain from the mace spray. She tries to save him from the building fire by leading him to a fire escape, but he insists on returning to try to save the painting. Glass saves herself by dropping from a fire escape into an alley. In the alley, she sees a dark figure moving toward her and runs the opposite way towards the sound of approaching sirens. Wingate does not escape.

## Chapters 2-3 Analysis

Iles continues to provide background for the plot in Chapter 2 by describing the disappearance of Jane Glass and hinting at some of the troubled background between Jordan and her sister. Jordan Glass' resourcefulness and quick action are shown in her rapid response to the confusing and disturbing situation in which she finds herself. Even in the midst of turmoil she is able to maintain her composure and think clearly. This trait will surface throughout the book, most notably at the end when Glass is trying to escape from her kidnapper. Iles also sets the stage for Glass' transformation as a character by describing the low point she has only recently emerged from and by displaying her abuse of alcohol and prescription drugs as an escape mechanism.



Christopher Wingate is introduced in Chapter 3 and just as quickly killed off in a dramatic blaze. He seems to know more than he is willing to tell about his connection to the Sleeping Women artist and his knowledge of the possible kidnappings and murders. His sudden death allows these mysteries to go unsolved for much of the novel until near the end when Wingate's crucial role in Jane's disappearance is revealed.



# Chapters 4-5

## Chapters 4-5 Summary

At the front of the building, the police and fire crews have roped off the street from spectators. Pretending to be a reporter, Glass takes photographs of the people in the crowd, thinking one of them might be the person who hit her and started the fire. She sees someone in a black cap moving toward her in the crowd but cannot see a face. Holding her camera high, she takes a photo in the direction of the person and quickly leaves the scene in a taxi.

Glass flies to Washington, D.C. to meet with the FBI and is taken from the airport to its headquarters in Quantico, Virginia. There she meets with Daniel Baxter and is introduced to Dr. Arthur Lenz, a forensic psychiatrist. Baxter explains to her that they know about the fire at Wingate's gallery and that she was there, because they had been watching the place since she had phoned from the plane about the paintings. Furthermore, the agent who was watching the gallery, Fred Coates, is found dead in his car across the street, his throat cut.

Glass tells them she has pictures of the crowd outside the building. She will give it to them, she says, but she wants some information first. He shows her a photo of the most recent New Orleans kidnapping victim, and Glass recognizes her from the painting at Wingate's apartment. He also tells her that another woman disappeared in New Orleans just an hour before. Her disappearance matches the others believed taken by the same kidnapper. Because of the times of the fire and the kidnapping, they realize that the same person could not have done both. Lenz proposes the theory that someone in New Orleans kidnaps the women and someone in New York paints them.

Lenz and Baxter ask Glass if she will help them in the investigation by posing as an FBI agent while they question suspects. Her exact likeness to one of the victims might surprise and unsettle a suspect, they explain. She agrees, but only on the condition that she be given full involvement in the investigation and be told everything. Baxter agrees, reluctantly. Glass tells them she intends to fly to New Orleans to talk with her sister's husband to tell him what has happened. They try to caution her against it, but she is adamant. They arrange for an FBI jet to fly her and Dr. Lenz to New Orleans.

At the beginning of Chapter 5, Glass and Lenz are alone on the FBI jet on their way to New Orleans. Lenz asks if he might interview Glass, hoping to get some insight into her twin sister. Glass is hesitant and skeptical, but Lenz persists, gently. Glass tells him about their childhood growing up in Oxford, Mississippi. Their father was rarely home, traveling the world as a war photographer. Despite his frequent absence, Glass felt closest to her father, while her sister was closer to their mother. After their father's disappearance, their mother began to drink heavily.





They were both smart girls, but while Jane got good grades, became head cheerleader and went on to college, Jordan dropped out of school and began to support the family by taking portraits using equipment left behind by her father. As a teen, she had an affair with a young teacher which erupted in scandal. The teacher committed suicide and Jordan left for New Orleans and began her dangerous career as a war photojournalist. Meanwhile, her sister led a "safe" life, marrying a wealthy lawyer and raising two children in New Orleans. Jordan was once engaged, she tells Lenz, but her fiance, also a war correspondent, was killed while on assignment.

Lenz tells Glass that the agent in charge of the investigation in New Orleans is named John Kaiser, a somewhat rebellious agent who chose to remain a regular agent rather than keep a promotion to a higher job. As they speak, Lenz receives a phone call that the body of the latest victim has been found. This surprises them because the killer has not allowed any of the other bodies to be found. Lenz theorizes that the killer is trying to confuse the investigators by changing his method.

## Chapters 4-5 Analysis

Once again in Chapter 4, Glass calls upon her skills as a quick-thinking photojournalist to gather evidence at the scene of the deadly arson fire that killed Wingate. Although the photos she takes do not provide any crucial evidence in the end, she shrewdly uses the film as a bargaining chip in negotiating with the FBI to include her in the investigation. This not only serves the plot narrative, but is a necessity of the first person present tense narrative, which usually requires that the narrator be present for all the action that is described. By placing Glass in the center of the investigation, the author is able to expand the narrative.

Chapter 5 is almost purely expository. Consisting mainly of a conversation between Glass and Dr. Lenz, it does not advance the action of the plot except to move the main character to New Orleans where most of the rest of the action will take place. The main purpose of the conversation is to provide background for Jordan Glass by having her describe her childhood and her relationship with her sister. It also introduces the possibility that Glass is hiding something traumatic in her past, which will be resolved in a later chapter.



# Chapters 6-7

## Chapters 6-7 Summary

In New Orleans, Glass visits the new FBI headquarters building near Lake Pontchartrain. There she meets Agent John Kaiser, an attractive man in his mid-40s. Kaiser asks her to have lunch with him outside the headquarters so he can talk to her without interference from Dr. Lenz, with whom he has had disagreements. They go to a picnic area near the lake and hold a discussion about the case. Kaiser tells Glass his ideas about the case. He thinks the kidnapping victims may still be alive, partly because no bodies have been found.

Kaiser asks Glass about a phone call she received about eight months after her sister's disappearance that she reported during the initial investigation. She describes being awakened by the call. She heard a woman's voice call her by name and ask for help. The woman also said "Daddy's alive." Then a man's voice came on the line and said something in French and then in English, and hung up. Kaiser tells Glass he believes the call may have been from her sister. The FBI had traced the call to a train station in Thailand.

Glass learns that Kaiser was an Army Ranger in Vietnam. She asks him why he left a higher job at Quantico for his current position. He tells her the story of losing his composure during an interview of a serial killer when he attacked the man and nearly killed him. Their conversation is interrupted by a cell phone call from Baxter at Quantico. An urgent video conference has been set up and he wants Kaiser and Glass to attend.

As Chapter 7 begins, they have returned to the FBI office. Kaiser introduces Glass to Special Agent in Charge, Patrick Bowles. The meeting takes place in Bowles' office, along with Dr. Lenz, with Baxter appearing by video. The FBI has arranged for eight of the paintings to be shipped to Washington, D.C. for analysis, he tells the group, and will be sending teams to examine six that are held in Asia. The remaining five paintings, he explains, are owned by a man named Marcel de Becque, an international fugitive living in the Cayman Islands who has refused to send his paintings or allow a forensic team to visit. Instead, he has agreed to allow someone to come to his home on Grand Cayman and photograph his paintings on the condition that the photographer be Jordan Glass and that she come alone.

The group is stunned that de Becque seems to know Glass is working on the case. They debate whether de Becque is involved in the kidnappings or the fire in New York and the danger of sending Glass to take the photos. Glass volunteers to go, and Baxter agrees to send her. Kaiser is reluctant, however, sensing that the situation may be too dangerous for her to go alone. Glass is adamant, and Baxter says he will make arrangements for the following day. To protect Glass, an agent named Wendy Travis is assigned to stay with her.

## Chapters 6-7 Analysis

Chapter 6 introduces John Kaiser, who is to become Glass' romantic interest. In another chapter made up primarily of expository dialogue, Kaiser and Glass size one another up as they reveal more about their backgrounds. The mysterious phone call received months prior by Glass from Thailand is first mentioned, an event that deepens the mystery and hints at the truth about the fate of Jane Glass.

Chapter 7 introduces the strange character of Marcel de Becque, a collector of Sleeping Women paintings. De Becque seems an unlikely suspect but is definitely connected to the case somehow. His actual role as an anonymous benefactor to Jane and Jordan Glass is not yet known to Jordan, and he is initially depicted as somewhat sinister.



# Chapters 8-9

## Chapters 8-9 Summary

Glass has made arrangements to stay with her brother-in-law, Jane's husband, Marc Lacour. Apprehensive about her visit, she spends the day shopping for gifts for her niece, Lyn and nephew, Henry. Travis accompanies her and from her Glass learns more about Kaiser's background. Glass senses that Travis is very attracted to Kaiser.

Lacour lives in a wealthy part of New Orleans in a very large house. He meets her happily at the door while Agent Travis remains outside on watch. Lacour tells Glass that he has told his young children that their mother is dead because they were having a difficult time coping with her disappearance. Glass tells Marc about the phone call, of which he had been unaware. He decides that even though Jane may still be alive, he felt he had to do something to allow his children to move on.

Glass meets the children and they warm to her. She stays through a relaxing dinner and helps put them to bed. After they have gone to bed, Marc and Jordan continue talking and Marc breaks down in tears. He embraces Jordan and begins to kiss her. Glass pulls away and he pleads with her to let him pretend that she is Jane, her twin. She refuses and starts to leave. Lacour remarks that it would not be the first time she pretended to be Jane, which angers her. She leaves the house, and Agent Travis is there to meet her. Travis offers to let her come to her apartment to stay and Glass accepts. On the way, she receives a call from Baxter who tells her about the arrangements to meet de Becque. She will fly by FBI jet the next day. Additionally, de Becque has allowed her to bring one assistant to help with lighting. The FBI will send Kaiser for protection, posing as her assistant.

Glass and Kaiser are on an FBI plane bound for Grand Cayman Island as Chapter 9 begins. As they fly, Glass mulls over the remark made by Lacour earlier about how she had sometimes pretended to be her sister. She recalls a time as a teenager when her sister was dating a wealthy, popular boy in high school. Posing as Jane, Jordan meets the boy alone and has sex with him. Her sister is furious when she discovers what she has done, and this event contributes to years of tension between the women, a tension that had been lifting over the years up until Jane's disappearance.

Glass and Kaiser discuss why de Becque might want to see her in particular. They know de Becque once lived in Vietnam and wonder if there is some Asian connection to the mystery. Kaiser and Glass are driven to de Becque's elegant estate, which is decorated with fine art. de Becque is a courteous and charming man who welcomes them to his house. Glass is attracted to a display of original photographs of the Vietnam War period. She recognizes the work of several war photographers as she looks over the pictures. She is suddenly stunned by one of the photos which shows a picture of her father.



## Chapters 8-9 Analysis

Chapter 8 delves into Glass' emotional character as the figures of her brother-in-law, niece and nephew are introduced and shown dealing with the grief over the disappearance of Jane. Glass displays a maternal side of her character. More is learned about agent Wendy Travis, with whom Glass forms an awkward relationship at first, but which will be transformed into mutual respect later in the book.

Chapter 9 includes a long section where Glass recounts an event from her early life where she seduces her sister's boyfriend by pretending to be Jane. This episode complicates the relationship between the sister characters but also contributes to establishing Jordan's motivation. It reveals an apparent vindictive character flaw in the main character, one that she is able to begin to overcome by the end of the story. The remainder of the chapter introduces Marcel de Becque and partially reveals his connection to Jordan.



# Chapters 10-11

## Chapters 10-11 Summary

De Becque surprises Jordan by telling her that he was a close friend of her father's. He promises to answer her questions but suggests she photograph his paintings first. She does, with Kaiser fumbling as he pretends to be her lighting assistant. Afterward, Kaiser reveals to de Becque that he is an FBI agent, and he and Glass ask de Becque about her father. De Becque seems to confirm that her father is dead but suggests that he did not die where and when everybody thinks. He speculates that he may have escaped and lived in Thailand, where he was reportedly sighted, most recently in 1980, eight years after his disappearance.

Kaiser changes the subject to the Sleeping Women paintings. They ask de Becque about his attraction to them and whether he believes the paintings are of dead women. He replies that he does not know but feels they are great art.

The conversation returns to the subject of Jordan's father. She asks de Becque what he was like, probing for possible reasons why he would not have returned to the US. De Becque answers cryptically. He asks Jordan what she hopes to accomplish through the investigation and whether she believes her sister is dead or alive. She replies she is not sure. De Becque offers to let Jordan stay with him, for her safety. Kaiser replies that she will be well protected, and they leave the estate.

On the plane home, Glass and Kaiser discuss de Becque's possible involvement in the kidnappings. They wonder if the women in the paintings might be held alive in Asia somewhere, possibly as sex slaves. Glass offers her opinion that the women are being painted in natural light, and they postulate that the killer must have an outdoor location like a courtyard in which to paint them privately.

Kaiser receives a phone call from an FBI lab. They have discovered brush hairs in some of the paintings that come from a very specific and expensive kind of brush not widely available. Some of the brushes were purchased by the art department at Tulane University, in New Orleans.

Chapter 11 takes place in the conference room at the FBI headquarters in New Orleans. The connection to Tulane has yielded four suspects who use the special brushes, and the investigative team has gathered to learn about them. The first is Roger Wheaton, a respected and well-known artist who teaches at the school. Wheaton is known for his repeated nature paintings of the same subject, a particular clearing. He is originally from the Northeast and a former Marine with a distinguished military record. He has a rare disease called scleroderma that makes him especially susceptible to cold, which damages the tissue in his extremities. As a result, he wears gloves and works without any air conditioning in his studio.



The second suspect is named Leon Gaines, a violent ex-con from New York who paints pictures of his girlfriends. The third suspect is named Frank Smith, a wealthy, attractive man who paints nude men. The fourth suspect is a woman named Thalia Laveau who comes from a poor Louisiana family in the Bayou. The team makes plans to interview the suspects the following day at their homes or studios. At an arranged signal, Glass will enter the interview posing as an FBI photographer. The plan is to observe the suspects' reactions to her to see if they recognize her or are confused by her resemblance to Jane.

## Chapters 10-11 Analysis

Chapter 10 elaborates on what Marcel de Becque knows about the disappearances of Jonathan and Jane Glass. De Becque is wary in his responses to the queries of Jordan Glass and Kaiser but makes definite hints that neither Jonathan nor Jane died as most expected. These hints turn out to be true, but Iles does not have de Becque reveal too much at this point in order to keep de Becque a mysterious figure. Speculation remains in the minds of the investigators that de Becque is perhaps directly involved.

Chapter 11 marks a turning point as forensic clues in the paintings establish a connection to New Orleans and four artists associated with the brushes used to paint the nude women. The format of a meeting of the investigators provides a simple straightforward framework for Iles to quickly present important details about the main suspects.



# Chapters 12-13

## Chapters 12-13 Summary

Following the meeting, Kaiser and Glass arrange to meet for dinner. They discuss the plan for the suspect interviews. He asks her to carry a gun with her, and the discussion turns to her experience as a war photographer and his experience in Vietnam. They have both seen some horrific things and find they share a bond over this. Each has had difficult relationships in the past where their partners did not understand the nature of their work. The conversation begins to turn more intimate as they become more attracted to one another, but Glass cuts it short as Kaiser is about to suggest something. She asks that they wait and see what happens. Kaiser agrees and leaves the restaurant. Glass leaves with Agent Travis, who appears to be upset about the situation, but acts professionally.

Chapter 13 opens as Kaiser and Dr. Lenz are about to enter Wheaton's studio to interview him. Glass waits outside in a surveillance van with Baxter, listening to them through a transmitter for the signal for her to enter. They listen as Kaiser and Lenz interrogate Wheaton, who is calm and assured in his replies. They ask him his opinion of his three graduate students. Kaiser asks about his record as a Marine in Vietnam, where he once stopped two soldiers from raping a Vietnamese girl and pressed for their prosecution. They discuss his terminal disease, to which Wheaton is resigned.

At the signal, Glass enters the studio posing as the photographer. Wheaton is cordial and flattering to Glass, but shows no sign of having seen her before. Glass is impressed by the enormous, room-sized painting that Wheaton works on while he speaks, and the two carry on a brief conversation. As the interview winds down, Lenz asks Wheaton if either Smith or Laveau ever painted nude women. He replies that Smith only paints nude men, and that Laveau no longer painted nude women but had earlier in her career.

## Chapters 12-13 Analysis

Chapter 12 is another chapter made up of conversation between Kaiser and Glass during which the foundation for a romantic connection is laid. The relationship between Glass and her protector, Agent Travis, is made even more awkward when Kaiser asks Travis to leave him alone with Glass during their conversation. Kaiser and Glass acknowledge their attraction to one another but leave further action until later.

Chapter 13 marks the beginning of the section of the novel with most of the action in the investigation, as the plan to use Jordan Glass as a surprise tactic goes into effect. The first suspect interviewed is Wheaton, who is first presented as a sympathetic character with whom Jordan feels a kind of connection. Iles is misleading the reader slightly in this first introduction of Wheaton and introducing the possibility that Glass' judgment of character may not be completely accurate.





# Chapters 14-15

## Chapters 14-15 Summary

Leon Gaines is the next suspect to be interviewed. On the way to his house in the FBI surveillance van, Kaiser, Lenz and Glass learn from agents watching his rundown house that he is arguing violently with his girlfriend, Linda Knapp. They decide to take a stronger approach than with Wheaton.

Gaines is reluctant to cooperate with Kaiser and Lenz in their questioning, but when Kaiser threatens to have his house searched and possibly send Gaines back to prison, he grudgingly answers their questions. They learn he has great respect for Wheaton, but despises Frank Smith, whom he dismisses as a homosexual. He expresses a crude desire for Thalia Laveau. When Glass enters the house, Gaines makes some crude sexual remarks to her but shows no sign of having seen her before. After a violent scene between Gaines and his girlfriend, the agents take the girlfriend away to a shelter and leave Gaines behind. Lenz expresses his belief that Gaines is not involved and reiterates his theory that there are more than one person responsible for the crimes. The team prepares to visit Frank Smith.

As Chapter 15 begins, the team is approaching Frank Smith's home. Smith is attractive, sophisticated and wealthy. He is openly gay. He lives in a large house with a courtyard and is wary about being questioned but is polite. When Glass enters, he seems to recognize her. He tells her he once saw her at a party in San Francisco and is an admirer of her work. Glass admits that he is correct and explains her sister was one of the crime victims. He becomes friendly toward her and invites her to return to his home for a visit.

## Chapters 14-15 Analysis

Two more of the suspects are introduced in Chapters 14 and 15. Leon Gaines immediately seems to be the most likely suspect, as an ex-con with a visibly violent streak. Les is again misleading the reader for the sake of deepening the mystery, however, by presenting an obvious suspect. Gaines' suspicious behavior will continue in later chapters as the investigation continues. Frank Smith seems at first to share something in common with the Sleeping Women killer in that he paints nudes, but only of men. He is the only suspect who recognizes Jordan Glass, but it is left open whether his story of how he knows her is the truth or not.



# Chapters 16-17

## Chapters 16-17 Summary

On the way to visit Thalia Laveau, Glass convinces the FBI agents that she should go in question her alone. They agree reluctantly and fit her with a transmitter to record the conversation. Laveau lives in a rooming house apartment. Glass knocks on the door and when Laveau answers it warily, she explains about her missing sister and why she has come. Laveau invites her inside.

Glass asks Laveau about her whereabouts during the last disappearance and other related questions. She finds herself opening up to Laveau, who is sympathetic to the loss of her sister. Glass eventually becomes so comfortable speaking about the incident that she suddenly tells Laveau about an event when she was raped by several soldiers while on a photo assignment. Laveau is moved by her story and the two strike up an immediate bond. After talking for another half hour, Glass leaves and finds Kaiser outside waiting for her. He has heard her revelation about the rape over the transmitter and wants to comfort her, but she resists. She pointedly tells him that she is certain Laveau is not involved.

Chapter 17 describes a meeting with Glass, Kaiser, Lenz, Baxter and Bowles where they go over the events of the day and assess what they know about the suspects. Their scheme did not come off exactly as planned, as Glass' presence did not noticeably upset anyone. Only Smith had recognized her, they note, claiming it was from a party years before.

Kaiser is convinced one of the four artists is involved. Glass brings up the possibility that one of them is involved but may not know it, owing to split personality. Dr. Lenz does not dismiss the idea of Multiple Personality Disorder but says it is uncommon among serial killers. It is most often caused by some kind of childhood trauma, he tells the team and they discuss what they know about the childhoods of the four suspects. Nothing obviously traumatic is known, although it is mentioned that Wheaton's mother left his family when he was a boy. After the meeting, Kaiser tells Glass he has arranged for Agent Travis to take the hotel room next to hers for protection. Glass suggestively asks Kaiser to come visit her in her room later that night.

## Chapters 16-17 Analysis

Iles maintains interest in the plot by steering it in a direction not foreseen by the investigators. In this case, their plan to surprise the suspects with the appearance of Jordan Glass has not played out as they expect, and they agree to change tactics. Glass is allowed to question Laveau alone, and as a result more is learned about her background as she finds herself willing to talk to the woman about her traumatic rape.

This revelation provides a chance to display John Kaiser's character in his reaction to Glass.

Following the interviews of the main suspects, Iles summarizes what is known and maps out the next section of the narrative in a chapter made up of a meeting of the investigators. A bit more about Wheaton's background is learned—information that will prove to be important, but incomplete.



# Chapters 18-19

## Chapters 18-19 Summary

Kaiser wakes Glass in her hotel room late that night with a phone call and she invites him up to her room. They fall into an intimate conversation, with Kaiser telling her how his marriage ended and Glass confiding she would like to have a family. They begin to kiss and are getting even more intimate when they are interrupted by a phone call. Somehow Baxter has deduced that Kaiser is in Glass' hotel room and is calling to tell him that Thalia Levau has disappeared.

They rush to the Emergency Operation Center, a complex office of specialists working on the kidnappings. Kaiser and Glass learn that Laveau evaded FBI surveillance to protect her lesbian lover with whom she had a date. When she did not appear, her lover notified the police. She also provided alibis for Laveau for many of the known disappearances. They decide to step up their aerial investigation of the Tulane University area looking for courtyards where the painter might work.

In Chapter 19, the investigators return to interview Wheaton and Smith once again. They find Wheaton living in an expensive home lent to him by a former Tulane student. They confront him with the fact that they know he has made several long visits to Frank Smith and ask him if the two are lovers, which he denies. They ask him about his childhood, probing for any history of abuse. This he also denies. They ask him about his students, and he tells them he has noticed Gaines making unwelcome advances toward Laveau and even following her. They press him once again on whether he is homosexual, and he replies that his disease has made him impotent, so the question is "academic."

At the home of Frank Smith, it is again decided that Glass will question him alone while wearing a transmitter. Smith has not yet heard the news and is shocked when Glass tells him Laveau is missing.

Glass asks Smith about the visits he received from Wheaton. She tells him they learned from Juan, his servant, that the two of them argued loudly sometimes. Smith refuses to tell what the arguments were about but insists they have nothing to do with the investigation. He confirms that Wheaton is gay but denies they are lovers. Glass persists in asking about the arguments and goes so far as to promise not to reveal the reasons to the FBI if he will tell her. She removes her transmitter and shows him as a sign of good faith.

With that, Smith tells her that Wheaton has asked Smith to help him commit suicide by overdosing on insulin, which causes a coma and death. Smith had refused and they argued about it. Afterward, Glass walks along the street, waiting for the FBI agents to catch up with her. She assures them that what Smith told her had nothing to do with the



investigation and tells Kaiser she believes Wheaton and Smith are innocent. She wants to walk alone, she says, and Kaiser sends Agent Travis with her for protection.

## Chapters 18-19 Analysis

Sexual tension is added to the thrilling undertone of the remainder of the book as Kaiser and Glass are interrupted in their first sexual encounter to respond to the disappearance of Laveau, who has become an apparent victim of the kidnapper.

In Chapter 19, Glass learns privately from Smith that Wheaton has asked Smith to help him commit suicide by use of an overdose of insulin. The investigators try to get Glass to reveal this information to them, but she does not, saying she is certain it has no bearing on the case. Her assumption that Wheaton is not the killer may be clouding her judgment, Iles seems to be suggesting. As it happens, Wheaton uses overdoses of insulin to immobilize his models while he paints them in a comatose state. The implication is that this information shared by Smith might indeed have led to a quicker resolution of the case and possibly avoided Glass herself from becoming a victim of Wheaton. Iles seems to hinge her fate on this one lapse in judgment.



# Chapters 20-21

## Chapters 20-21 Summary

Glass walks along the Mississippi River with Agent Travis. As they walk, they talk about the investigation and Travis lets slip that the victim whose body they had found had been raped. This stuns Glass because she had not been told. She is angry at Kaiser and the others for keeping information from her.

As they walk, they are suddenly approached by a man who raises a gun at them. Glass yells and Agent Travis throws herself between Glass and the man. She is hit by a gunshot. Kaiser appears and yells for Glass to get down, but the man shoots Kaiser in the leg. He puts the gun to Glass' head and tells her he is going to rape her before taking her to the man who will paint her. From behind him, Agent Travis manages to lift herself up and shoot the man. In a rage, he staggers back and shoots Travis again, killing her. He then falls from the walkway into the river, calling for help.

Glass wants to save him because he knows who the killer is, but he drifts too far from the shore. instinctively, she pulls out a camera and takes several pictures of his face as he floats away. As he does, he calls to her "Your sister's alive!" (p. 265) He drowns and his body drifts away.

From Glass' photo, a suspect is identified. The investigators and a forensic team visit the apartment where he lived. The apartment has been thoroughly cleaned as if they were expected. On the kitchen counter are photographs of eleven of the kidnap victims lined up neatly, including one of Jane Glass. Kaiser, who is still working as he recovers from the gunshot wound in his leg, shows the photo to Glass for her to identify. She notices that the photo does not show the scars on Jane's arms she received as a child. the picture is not of Jane, but of Jordan. On the back is the phone number for Wingate's gallery in New York. She realizes that Wingate was somehow involved in choosing the kidnap victims and that he had chosen Jordan, not her sister.

## Chapters 20-21 Analysis

Glass' trust in Kaiser is challenged in Chapter 20 when she learns he has withheld some information from her. She learns this as she and Wendy Travis converse as they walk along the river front. Iles takes a quick twist in this chapter as Glass and Travis are suddenly attacked in an attempt to kidnap Glass. Travis dies protecting her, and Kaiser displays his concern and trustworthiness by popping up to save Glass.

Glass' instinct to photograph the dying attacker as he floats away in the river provides a turning point when he is identified from her photo in the following chapter. Before dying, he seems to confirm that Jordan's sister is alive. The mystery seems to begin to clear when a connection is made in Chapter 21 between the attacker, Wingate and de Becque. The true nature of their connection is not yet understood, however.



# Chapters 22-23

## Chapters 22-23 Summary

Kaiser and Glass drive across Lake Pontchartrain to Kaiser's suburban home. His leg hurts him badly, and she encourages him to rest on his bed. As they discuss the days events, they once again begin to kiss, ending in a bout of active, passionate sex. Afterward, Kaiser begins looking through some computer-enhanced images of some the Sleeping Women painter's earliest paintings, which were done in an abstract style. From these, he thinks he recognizes a victim from ten years previous who was taken in New York. Certain of his connection, he tells Glass it means the kidnapper first started his crime spree much earlier than thought.

The connection to New York is confirmed in Chapter 23, as six of the eight unknown women in the paintings are identified as victims who disappeared in New York between 1979 and 1984. Between that time and the resumption of the kidnappings in New Orleans was a gap of 15 years. Kaiser receives word that the man who shot Travis and tried to kidnap Glass has been identified. He was named Conrad Hoffman, an ex-con from New Jersey. It is discovered that he was once in Sing Sing Prison at the same time as Leon Gaines, and that both were out of prison at the time of the kidnappings in New York.

On learning this, the investigators turn their full attention to Leon Gaines as a suspect. The surveillance unit has followed him to a Wal-Mart store. At his home, they discover that his girlfriend, Knapp, who has returned to him, is nearly dead. He has beaten her into a stupor. Meanwhile, at the Wal-Mart, Gaines has apparently eluded his FBI trackers.

## Chapters 22-23 Analysis

Kaiser and Glass finally complete their intimate connection in Chapter 22, cementing their romantic involvement. In Chapter 23, a connection is made to New York City when the faces of more of the Sleeping Women are identified as victims who disappeared from there 15 years previously. The time frame seems to confirm Leon Gaines as a prime suspect as he was in prison in New York at the some time and place as Hoffman, the man who tried to kidnap Jordan. Iles reinforces this interpretation by having Gaines violently attack his girlfriend and then elude the FBI in an apparent attempt to escape capture.



# Chapters 24-25

## Chapters 24-25 Summary

The FBI descends on the Wal-Mart store searching for Gaines. Reviewing the surveillance tapes at the store, they discover he has donned a disguise inside and left without being noticed, stealing a car in the parking lot. Kaiser, who is at the store with Glass, gets a cell phone call from Wheaton, who informs him that Gaines has come to the Tulane campus and is holding hostages in part of the art building.

They rush to the scene and see Gaines in an upstairs window, brandishing a gun which is pointed at Wheaton, who has offered himself as a hostage. Wheaton tries to take the gun from Gaines but cannot. He escapes the building, but Gaines takes two female students hostage threatening to kill them if he is not allowed to leave safely. Wheaton tells the investigators that Gaines claims he is being framed for the kidnappings, but that he had nothing to do with them. The SWAT team has arrived, and Wheaton pleads that Gaines not be harmed, but Gaines is killed by a sniper.

Wheaton wants to go home and asks Glass if she will go to his studio and get his keys. She agrees, and with an FBI agents named Aldridge, she goes into the room where Wheaton has been working on his enormous painting. Once inside, Wheaton appears. He seems different to Glass.

Wheaton walks calmly up to Aldridge and shocks him with a stun gun, then turns it on Glass. As she loses consciousness, she is aware of him carrying her out. Glass regains consciousness as Chapter 25 opens. She is naked, in a bathtub full of warm water. The tub is in a conservatory, a room with glass walls and ceiling. Also in the tub is Thalia Laveau. She appears dead. Wheaton is standing nearby, painting. He speaks to her.

Laveau is comatose, he tells her, from an overdose of insulin. Glass sees Laveau has an IV tube in her arm, and notices there is one in her own arm, too. Wheaton has only sedated her, though, wanting to keep her alive for a time. Glass can barely move. As she speaks with Wheaton, she realizes her theory about the killer having multiple personalities is correct, as Wheaton refers to himself as a different person. He tells her that Roger Wheaton was trying to kill him with his rare disease. He explains that he kills women to release them from the curse of being female and paints them to celebrate this release. He explains that Hoffman set up the studio where they are so he can make the paintings. Looking around, Glass sees a sack of sugary junk food and an ice cooler. Similar items were found at Hoffman's apartment, she remembers, and she thinks to herself they must belong to him. Glass tries to provoke Wheaton, hoping his other personality might arise and help her. This angers him, and he injects more sedative into her IV to knock her out.





## Chapters 24-25 Analysis

The rapidly developing action-packed push to the end of the novel begins in Chapter 24 with Gaines in a hostage standoff with the FBI on the Tulane campus. Wheaton seems to show himself to be selfless and heroic when he offers himself as a hostage, but in a vital twist, he is shown to actually be the person the investigators have been after all along when he stuns Glass with a stun gun and carries her away.

Chapter 25 resolves many of the unanswered questions raised by the plot. Thalia Laveau is indeed a victim of the serial kidnapper, and it is Wheaton who is responsible for the kidnappings. The question of whether the women are alive or dead in the paintings is answered. They are alive, but comatose beyond revival. Glass' theory that the killer may have multiple personalities is shown to be correct, and Wheaton's motivation to paint the dying women is revealed.



# Chapters 26-27

## Chapters 26-27 Summary

It is night when Glass awakens. She hears Wheaton sobbing somewhere, but when she turns on the tap to the tub he does not respond to the noise. She is able to get out of the tub but is uncertain how to escape. She begins to form a plan and moves the cooler, which still has some ice in it, and the junk food closer to the tub. As she hears Wheaton approach, she gets back in the tub and pretends to be unconscious. She hears him talking to himself as he changes her IV bag and injects it with more sedatives. She passes out. She awakens in daylight. Wheaton is painting.

In Chapter 27, Wheaton tells Glass about his childhood. His mother did not leave him; she was killed by his father and left for Wheaton to bury. This event is what created his separate personality. Later, after the first few *Sleeping Women* paintings he met Hoffman, who began to help him. He tells Glass that his victims, including his sister, are buried under the house they were in now. Her sister, he tells her, nearly escaped, but Hoffman caught her outside and killed her when she fought him.

The phone rings inside and Wheaton leaves the conservatory. Immediately, Glass runs cold water into the tub and pours in some of the ice from the cooler. She stuffs twinkies and pop-tarts into her mouth from the bag of junk food and is back in the tub when Wheaton returns, looking disturbed. Nobody was at the other end of the phone, he says. He has to leave. He tells her he is going to give her more sedatives first to knock her out, but instead he injects her IV with insulin. This is what Glass has prepared for, hoping the sugar in her system will counteract it.

As Wheaton approaches the tub, she reaches out and grabs his wrists, pulling his hands and arms into the frigid water. His rare disease makes this extremely painful, and he screams in agony. They struggle and Wheaton slips and falls completely into the cold tub of water. Glass begins to lose consciousness as she tries to run. As she slips away, she is aware of a swarm of people entering the house and sees John Kaiser's face over her. She gasps out the word "sugar."

## Chapters 26-27 Analysis

Glass' ordeal continues in Chapter 26 as she forms a plan to escape. She learns from Wheaton the true story of what happened to his mother and is told that her sister is actually dead. She seems to accept this, but it hardens her resolve to escape. She once again shows her resourcefulness by making use of what she finds to form her escape plan. She uses what she has learned about Wheaton to unnerve him in an attempt to possibly provide her an opportunity to escape. The anonymous phone call that comes to the studio alarms Wheaton and suggests to the reader that the house is possibly under FBI surveillance.

Chapter 27 is the peak of the action in the story, as Glass is able to avoid being killed by Wheaton long enough for the FBI to rescue her.



# Chapters 28-29

## Chapters 28-29 Summary

Glass awakens in the hospital. She learns from Kaiser that Wheaton was killed by the SWAT team and that some bodies had been found beneath the house where she was rescued. None had been identified yet, he tells her. Kaiser also informs her that they have been invited once again to visit de Becque.

At his mansion, de Becque reveals the truth behind his relationship with her father. Her father was shot by the soldier in his famous picture, he tells her, but survived, although he suffered some brain damage. He lived the remainder of his life on de Becque's plantation in Thailand, not always able to remember his past. When he died, de Becque promised that he would look after his daughters. This he had done, partly by paying anonymously for Jane's college education.

De Becque and Wingate had a falling out over one of the Sleeping Women paintings, he explains, and in an act of revenge, Wingate sent word to Hoffman to kidnap Jordan Glass for the next painting. Hoffman nabbed Jane instead.

Most importantly, de Becque tells them, Jane did escape from Wheaton and Hoffman and is alive. She has been living on his estate in Thailand, but de Becque has brought her to his estate her in the Bahamas. In a dramatic scene, Jane enters and the sisters are reunited.

Chapter 29 concludes the book. Jane and Jordan are approaching Jane's home where her husband and children still do not know Jane is alive. They are reunited in a tearful scene. Jane leaves the family and meets John Kaiser outside the house. They drive off together.

## Chapters 28-29 Analysis

The final two chapters resolve most of the rest of the unanswered questions raised by the plot. Chapter 28 provides the resolution to the kidnapping investigation, while Chapter 29 provides personal resolution for the main character.

The question of Jane's fate is delayed even more as Jordan is told upon awakening in the hospital that no identification of the bodies found beneath Wheaton's studio have been made. They jet away at once to the mansion of Marcel de Becque, who turns out to be the one person alive who can provide the rest of the answers they seek. In one long dialogue, de Becque reveals what happened to Jonathan Glass in his final days, putting to rest Jordan's apprehension about abandonment and her uncertainty about his death. He unravels the complex plot for revenge that led to the kidnapping of Jane as directed by Wingate. Most importantly, de Becque reveals the truth about Jane, that she is alive and has been under his protection.

The final chapter provides personal resolution for Jordan as she reunites with her sister and returns her to her family. The final scene appears to validate Jane's life choices in Jordan's eyes, where she was once almost scornful of her sister for choosing married life over her own independence. Glass' transformation seems complete as she rides away with Kaiser, possibly to start a family of her own.



# Characters

## Jordan Glass

The main character in DEAD SLEEP is Jordan Glass, a successful war photojournalist. She is 39, fit and attractive. Glass was once engaged to another war correspondent who was killed on assignment. She has suffered several other traumatic events in her life, beginning with the disappearance of her father as a girl. An affair with a teacher as a teen ends in scandal when they are discovered and the teacher kills himself. Later, as an adult, Glass is brutally raped by soldiers while on a photo assignment. When her twin sister disappears without a trace, she suffers a breakdown and is struggling to recover as the novel opens.

Glass is aggressive and independent in her pursuit for the truth behind her sister's disappearance. She is highly intelligent and at times seems to be several steps ahead of the FBI investigators with whom she is working. She is resourceful and able to think clearly under pressure, a trait that has served her well as a war photojournalist, and one which she relies on to help escape from the serial killer Wheaton at the end of the novel. While her career as a photojournalist has made use of her talents, it has also hardened her to the sight of human suffering and made it difficult for her to relate to anyone who has not had similar experiences. She finds a sympathetic companion in FBI agent John Kaiser, whose own work has exposed him to a similar environment.

## John Kaiser

John Kaiser is an FBI agent based in New Orleans. He is highly regarded among his colleagues but also has a reputation for being unorthodox in his methods. He is attractive and is widely admired by the female agents with whom he works. His appearance is more relaxed than his fellow agents', with his long hair and more casual clothes. He is divorced.

Kaiser is working as a field agent, even though he previously held a higher position in the FBI. He left his former job to take the lower position after he lost his composure during an interview of a serial killer who showed pride in his horrendous attacks on children. Kaiser attacked the interviewee, injuring him seriously, and as a result chooses to take a demotion to work in the field and avoid that kind of situation.

Kaiser is attracted to Jordan Glass at once, and their relationship strengthens when they learn they share a common background of being exposed to human depredation and suffering. He is respectful of her difficult situation and shows restraint in allowing her to take the lead in advancing their intimacy. At the same time, Kaiser is protective of Glass and is fortunately following her when she is attacked in a kidnapping attempt. Kaiser is wounded in that attack but shows great physical toughness in continuing on with the investigation despite his injury.



## Roger Wheaton

Roger Wheaton is a well known artist and art professor at Tulane University in New Orleans. He is also the anonymous painter of the "Sleeping Women" portraits and a deranged serial killer.

As a young boy, Wheaton shows artistic promise and is encouraged by his mother, who poses for him in secret to avoid the scorn of her husband, Wheaton's father. When Wheaton's father discovers her posing for him nude, he kills her in a rage and makes the young Wheaton bury the body. As a result of this trauma, Wheaton develops a second personality that controls his life and embarks on the series of murders while keeping the knowledge of the murders from the weaker side of his personality.

Wheaton has the help of an accomplice who kidnaps his victims, all of them women. Wheaton then induces coma in the women by giving them an overdose of insulin. While comatose, he poses them in a secret studio and paints their portraits before finally killing them and having his accomplice bury them beneath the studio. Wheaton's warped mind imagines that he is performing a service for these women by releasing them from a kind of bondage of subservience to men, such as the relationship he saw between his own parents.

Wheaton suffers from a rare disease that affects his extremities and makes them highly susceptible to cold. As a result, he always works without air conditioning and with gloves. Jordan Glass uses cold water to disable Wheaton during her attempt to escape from his studio.

## Leon Gaines

Leon Gaines is a brilliant but brutish art student of Roger Wheaton's. An ex-con with a violent temper, Gaines seems to be the prime suspect in the serial killings owing to his background. Believing he is about to be framed for murders he did not commit, Gaines eludes FBI surveillance and tries to flee. He is cornered on the Tulane University campus, where he takes hostages in an attempt to negotiate an escape. He is killed by an FBI sniper in the incident.

## Frank Smith

Frank Smith is another of Wheaton's talented students and one of the main suspects in the kidnapping mystery. Smith comes from a wealthy background and is openly gay, specializing in homoerotic nude portraits of men. He lives in a large open house in New Orleans and is a close friend and admirer of Wheaton's. Smith's confidence and sophistication seem to impress Glass, with whom he gets along well.



## Thalia Laveau

Thalia Laveau is the third talented student of Wheaton's and one of the main suspects in the murders, despite the investigators believing that the killer is most likely a man. Glass and Laveau develop an almost instant bond when Glass is sent to interrogate her about the kidnappings, and Glass finds herself opening up to Laveau in ways she does not with others. Suspicion is cast upon Laveau when she eludes FBI surveillance and disappears. It is soon learned that she has evaded the FBI in order to protect the identity of her lesbian lover, however, and that she has disappeared because she has become the latest victim of Roger Wheaton.

## Jane Glass/Lacour

Jane Glass is Jordan Glass' twin sister. Growing up alongside Jordan in Oxford, Mississippi, Jane follows a more traditionally female path in life while Jordan is more of a tomboy. She becomes estranged from Jordan after an incident where Jordan vindictively seduces Jane's boyfriend while pretending to be Jane. As adults, Jane attempts to reconcile with Jordan, however, and the two are beginning to repair their relationship when Jane is kidnapped by Wheaton's accomplice and taken to Wheaton.

Jane is able to overpower Wheaton's accomplice and escape, although Wheaton does not know about her escape, assuming that she has been killed and buried by his helper. Jane is then taken in by Marcel de Becque, a former friend of Jonathan Glass, Jane's father, and kept safely in Thailand until her return to New Orleans after the completion of the investigation.

## Marcel de Becque

Marcel de Becque is a wealthy French man who once befriended Jonathan Glass, the father of Jordan and Jane Glass. Jonathan Glass is badly wounded in the head while on assignment in Viet Nam and Cambodia, and de Becque takes him in and allows him to live on his plantation in Thailand. The two become friends, and de Becque makes a promise to look after Glass' two daughters.

De Becque is also a collector of "Sleeping Women" paintings, which he acquires from the art dealer Christopher Wingate. When Wingate crosses de Becque in a deal for one of the paintings, de Becque takes revenge on Wingate by scuttling a real estate deal of his. Wingate retaliates by pointing Wheaton's accomplice toward Jordan Glass as the next kidnap victim.

De Becque's role in the kidnappings and murders is murky, but he is eventually shown to be a protector of Jordan and Jane Glass.





## Wendy Travis

Wendy Travis is an FBI agent assigned to protect Jordan Glass while Jordan is alone in New Orleans. Travis is in love with John Kaiser, which initially creates some awkwardness with Jordan Glass as Glass and Kaiser grow closer together. Travis is killed while protecting Glass during a kidnapping attempt.

## Daniel Baxter

An FBI agent who initially worked on the disappearance of Jane Glass and who Jordan Glass first contacts when she sees the painting of her missing sister.

## Dr. Arthur Lenz

A forensic psychologist who works for the FBI. Lenz's theory that the kidnappings and murders are performed by separate people turns out to be true.

## Jonathan Glass

A Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist and the father of Jordan and Jane Glass, Jonathan Glass disappears while on assignment in Viet Nam. The last picture he is known to have taken is of a Cambodian soldier pointing a gun at him.

Glass is wounded in the head during this episode and is taken to the plantation of Marcel de Becque to recover, where he lives out his final days only sometimes able to recall his family and former life.

## Christopher Wingate

Wingate is a New York City art dealer who represents the anonymous painter of the "Sleeping Women." Although he tells Jordan Glass he has very little knowledge about who the painter is or whether the women in the portraits are truly sleeping or actually dead, Glass suspects he knows more than he is telling. Wingate is killed in an arson fire in his gallery apartment, a fire that nearly takes the life of Jordan Glass as well. It is Wingate's attempt at revenge toward Marcel de Becque that sets off the chain of events ending in Jane and Jordan's kidnappings.

## Marc Lacour

Marc Lacour is the wealthy lawyer husband of Jane Glass. He lives in an exclusive neighborhood of New Orleans. Marc believes his wife Jane is dead after her disappearance.



## **Lyn and Henry Lacour**

The children of Jane and Marc Lacour. They have been told by their father that their mother is dead but are confused when Jordan Glass arrives, mistaking her for their missing mother.

## **Conrad Hoffman**

Roger Wheaton's accomplice in the kidnappings and murders. Hoffman kidnaps and rapes the women, then delivers them to Wheaton, who drugs them and paints them.

## **Ron Epstein**

A reporter in New York City who helps Jordan Glass track down Christopher Wingate.

## **Fred Coates**

An FBI agent who is killed while watching the gallery of Christopher Wingate.

## **Bill Granger**

An FBI agent in New Orleans who is assigned to the serial kidnapping cases.



# Objects/Places

## New Orleans

The largest city in Louisiana, located at the mouth of the Mississippi River on the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the kidnappings and murders take place in New Orleans.

## Tulane University

A major university in New Orleans. The four main suspects in the kidnappings are all connected to Tulane; the killer Roger Wheaton is an art professor there.

## Hong Kong

A large Chinese city formerly controlled by the British. Glass is visiting Hong Kong to work on a photography book about weather when she sees the Sleeping Women art exhibit.

## Washington, D.C.

The capital of the United States. Glass flies into Washington to visit with the FBI about her sister's kidnapping case.

## Grand Cayman Island

An island in the Caribbean where the mysterious Marcel de Becque has a large mansion and art collection. Kaiser and Glass visit the island to learn what they can from de Becque.

## Quantico, Virginia

Also called "Quantico," it is the location of the national headquarters for the FBI.

## Wheaton's Studio

A special studio set up by Wheaton's accomplice Hoffman where he drugs his victims and paints their portraits. Hoffman also buries their bodies beneath the studio.

## **Thailand**

An Asian country where de Becque has a plantation and where Jonathan Glass lives his final days. It is also where Jane Glass lives for a time after her disappearance.

## **Cambodia**

An Asian country near Viet Nam where Jonathan Glass is last known to have been working before his disappearance.

## **The FBI**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, a national law enforcement agency that handles kidnapping cases.



# Themes

## Separation and Abandonment

Abandonment and separation are treated as a major theme in *DEAD SLEEP*. Jordan Glass' father disappears while on assignment as a photojournalist when Jordan is a girl. He is presumed dead, as the last photo he takes is of a Cambodian soldier pointing a gun at him. Jordan Glass grows up unsure of as to whether he is dead and secretly believes he may not have died. If he did survive, however, she wonders why he does not return to his family in Mississippi. When Jordan's twin sister, Jane, disappears with no trace, she has a similar experience of feeling she is somehow still alive. This becomes the source of the character's drive to solve her sister's apparent kidnapping.

How each character reacts to separation and abandonment is a related theme that Iles threads through the novel. Glass never fully lets go of the idea that her father is alive, and she holds the same hope when her sister disappears. This uncertainty drives her to the brink of a mental breakdown and the abuse of drugs and alcohol. She is eventually able to overcome these reactions and solve the mystery. Marc Lacour, Jane's husband, has a different reaction to Jane's disappearance. His method for dealing with the uncertainty is to assume she is dead. This gives him something to believe in at least so he can move on. At the extreme end of the spectrum is the serial killer Roger Wheaton's reaction to the loss of his mother when she is killed by his father in front of him. The trauma creates a separate personality within his mind that eventually leads Wheaton to kidnap and kill women.

## Gender Roles and Sexuality

Iles uses the theme of gender, gender roles and sexuality as a recurring part of the story line in *DEAD SLEEP*. The character Jordan Glass is a successful war photojournalist, an occupation held mostly by men. She has never married and lives independently. She is not coy about sex and is even sexually aggressive at times with John Kaiser, her love interest in the novel.

Iles contrasts the character of Jordan Glass with that of her twin sister, Jane. While Jordan is a tomboy as a girl and eventually takes on the role of breadwinner for the family when their father disappears, Jane follows a more traditional path for girls by becoming a cheerleader, joining a college sorority, getting married and having a family. This difference creates some tension between the sisters.

Homosexuality is also examined as part of this theme. As an aggressive woman in a man's profession, Glass is sometimes taken to be a lesbian, she reveals. Two of the four main suspects in the kidnappings are openly gay and one, the killer, is secretly homosexual. Iles presents the homosexual aspect of these three characters in different ways. The lesbian character Thalia Laveau is presented sympathetically and is one of



the few characters Jordan Glass is able to relate to effectively. The two gay male suspects, Frank Smith and Roger Wheaton, are starkly contrasted in their homosexuality. Smith is comfortable and confident in his sexuality, while Wheaton's gay background is presented as part of his failure to adjust properly to the loss of his mother and is treated as an indicating characteristic of a serial killer.

Iles also contrasts the heterosexual traits of John Kaiser and one of the suspects, Leon Gaines. While Gaines is a brutishly violent and sexually aggressive character, Kaiser maintains a respectful distance from Glass, allowing her to set the pace in the development of their sexual relations.

## Dual Personalities

The serial killer in *DEAD SLEEP* turns out to be suffering from multiple personality disorder, a condition where one person exhibits completely distinct personalities at different times. Roger Wheaton, traumatized as a boy, has developed this disorder as a coping mechanism, but one side of his personality is deranged and leads him to kidnap and murder women with the idea that he is somehow saving them from sexual bondage. This aggressive side of Wheaton's is contrasted with the more gentle artistic side that appears to be well adjusted and comfortable despite a sometimes debilitating disease.

The character of Jordan Glass has many parallels to that of Wheaton. She does not have multiple personalities, but she does have an identical twin sister with a seemingly quite different personality. While Jordan, like Wheaton's dominant "evil" side, is aggressive and independent, Jane is more traditionally submissive, at least in Jordan's eyes. Jane, like Wheaton's "good" side, seems to be comfortable with herself and the choices she has made, however.

Jordan and the "evil" Wheaton share other things in common. They both capture images of human suffering and death, Jordan as a war photojournalist and Wheaton as he paints portraits of his dying victims. Both are scornful of their "weaker" sides, Wheaton of his homosexual softer personality, Jordan of her sister who chose to become a cheerleader and sorority girl while she embarked on a career.

Wheaton is unable to reconcile his two sides, however, which leads to violence and his ultimate destruction. Jordan is able to realize that she has true admiration for her sister and that they are inextricably linked. By the end of the novel, the two twins have reunited and Jordan's recovery is nearly complete.

# Style

## Point of View

DEAD SLEEP is written from the point of view of Jordan Glass, who narrates the story in the first person and the present tense. Glass is a successful and independent woman, and her outlook tempers the action throughout the book. At her insistence, she takes an active role in the investigation of her sister's disappearance. Her direct involvement provides the point of view on the progress of the investigation. As the novel opens, Glass reveals that she is recovering from the shock of having lost her sister and that she is driven to solve the case.

As the narrative moves forward and more is learned about Jordan Glass' background, her point of view comes into sharper focus. It is learned that she was once brutally raped, which casts in a new light her drive to solve the kidnappings rapes and murders being perpetrated by the unknown criminals. Her motivation to help her sister is also illuminated as their tumultuous past is described.

Glass undergoes a kind of transformation over the course of the novel as she is able to resolve many of the mysteries that have plagued her and begins to come to grips with the trauma she has endured. In the final pages, her point of view has shifted from being a completely independent person to one willing to share with and rely on others to help find happiness.

## Setting

The novel is published in 2001, and takes place in the present day. Most of the action in DEAD SLEEP takes place in the American city of New Orleans, which is located at the delta of the Mississippi River where it meets the Gulf of Mexico. Iles is clearly familiar with the city and includes several local neighborhoods and businesses in the story. He also attaches some of the plot points to features unique to New Orleans, such as the thick cover of trees that makes aerial surveillance difficult. Within New Orleans, much of the story is centered around the Tulane University campus where the four main suspects work and attend school. It is in this area that Wheaton, the serial killer, has set up a studio where he takes his victims.

Secondary settings for the story are Hong Kong, where Jordan Glass first encounters the "Sleeping Women" paintings; New York City, where she confronts the art dealer Christopher Wingate; Washington D.C., at the headquarters of the FBI, and Grand Cayman Island, at the mansion of the mysterious Marcel de Becque. Also figuring into the story are the settings of Viet Nam and Cambodia, where Jonathan Glass disappeared, and Thailand, where Jonathan Glass spent his last days and where Jane Glass is held safely by de Becque. Also described is Oxford, Mississippi, the college town where Jane and Jordan Glass are raised.



## Language and Meaning

Iles hits the ground running in *DEAD SLEEP*, using the first person present tense to create a rapidly moving narrative that rarely slows down. The novel is narrated by the main character, Jordan Glass, and told from her point of view. Most of the exposition of the backgrounds of the characters and the advancement of the narrative is done in dialogue. This is an expedient way to keep the plot moving along quickly.

Writing in the first person presents some limitations to the author, however. The narrator must be present for all the action in order to witness it for the reader, and the internal thoughts of the other characters cannot be described except aloud in conversation. This sometimes makes for dialogue that seems stretched out beyond what normal conversation might be, and characters occasionally speak in long paragraphs when more exposition is required.

Iles uses colorful language and frank talk that is sometimes laced with expletives. This type of dialogue accentuates the tough, no-nonsense approach of a police investigation in a largely male setting. Glass, a woman, does not shy away from this environment, and the rough language serves to further define her character.

Iles frequently mentions specific product brands and businesses in his descriptions of the setting, adding authenticity to the narrative by placing it in the "real" world.

## Structure

Iles divides the novel into 29 fairly short chapters, each describing a separate episode. The novel is written entirely in the present tense; Iles uses the first two chapters to bring the reader up to date with the events that have led up to the present time, including the main character's occupational background and the disappearance of her sister that has indirectly led her to be where she is at the beginning of the book.

The next section of the book outlines Jordan Glass' initial investigation into the Sleeping Women paintings in New York and Washington D.C. and her initial contact with the FBI in New Orleans. The main FBI characters are introduced in this section. The central portion of the novel focuses on the investigation itself and the FBI's surveillance and interrogation of four main suspects. The final section of the book moves rapidly as the suspects are narrowed down and the criminal is revealed. The book ends with a short chapter that culminates in a dramatic reunion.

Interspersed among the chapters that advance the story line are chapters that consist mostly of meetings among the investigators where expository background information is summarized and the next steps outlined. Iles also includes several chapters that are made up of conversations between characters where personal background is revealed.





## Quotes

"I stopped shooting people six months ago, just after I won the Pulitzer Prize. People were always my gift, but they were wearing me down long before I won the prize. Still, I kept shooting them, in some blind quest that I didn't even know I was on." Chapter 1, p. 1

"This was not a painting but a mirror. The face looking back at me from the wall was my own. The body, too, mine: my feet, hips, breasts, my shoulders and neck." Chapter 1, p. 8

"It turned out that Jane was fifth in a rapidly growing group of missing women, all from the New Orleans area. Not one corpse had been found, so all the women were classified as victims of what the FBI called a 'serial kidnapper.' This was the worst sort of euphemism. Not one relative had received a ransom note, and in the eyes of every cop I spoke to, I saw the grim unspoken truth: every one of those women was presumed dead." Chapter 2, p. 9

"We're dealing with at least one highly organized personality. A man who has kidnapped and probably killed twelve women without a trace. You may be on his radar. We don't know. We do know you're about to enter his territory. Be very careful, Ms. Glass." Chapter 4, p. 52

"I took crazy risks, had some close calls. Word got back to my agency. They begged me to slow down, so I did. I slowed down so much that I couldn't get out of bed. I was sleeping around the clock. When I finally came out of that, I couldn't sleep at all. I had to have prescription drugs just to close my eyes without seeing Jane being raped, tied hand and foot in some dark room." Chapter 5, p. 63

"Monsieur de Becque has made a very unusual proposition. He personally told me that he would allow his Sleeping Women - that's how he refers to them, as though they're real women - he would allow them to be photographed - not forensically examined, mind you - but only if the photographer was Jordan Glass." Chapter 7, p. 91

"Kaiser, it seems, is the resident hunk of the office. All the assistants and secretaries flirt shamelessly with him, but he has never asked one for a date, patted a rump, or even squeezed a shoulder, which impresses Agent Wendy to no end." Chapter 8, p. 100

"Wheaton is but an inch shorter than Kaiser, who stands six-three. He has wiry arms but large hands with long fingers, and shoulders only slightly bowed by age." Chapter 13, p. 177

"Frank Smith hasn't taken his eyes off of me, and I'm eerily certain that he has seen me before. Me or my sister. That possibility closes my throat and brings sweat to my face." Chapter 15, p. 201



"Kaiser knocks softly to keep from alerting Wendy next door. I check the peephole to make sure it's him, then quietly open the door. he steps inside, then smiles and sets two sweating Coke cans on the desk. He opens one and hands it to me." Chapter 18, p. 227

"Probing private lives has never been my thing. All photojournalism is essentially exploitative, but in photography the act of invasion is mitigated by the wonderful speed of light, which lets you intrude from a distance. " Chapter 19, p. 253

"Wendy tenses, watching the bearded man, the glances over her shoulder as he passes. While she watches him, the man in the Polo shirt brings up his right arm, and polished nickel gleams in the rain. I shout a warning to Wendy, and before the sound fades she's in front of me, her hand flying under her jacket to the pistol holstered there." Chapter 20, p. 262

"With the slowness of nightmares, I scrabble at the right cuff of my jeans, reaching for the pistol John gave me, but Wheaton jerks his end of the drop cloth and my right foot flies out from under me, spilling me onto the floor. As my hand closes on the butt of the .38, a vicious wasp stings my neck, and my arms begin jerking spastically. The room blurs, fades, then returns. I fell myself rising toward the skylight, and I wonder if I'm dying until I begin to move laterally and realize Wheaton is carrying me." Chapter 24, p. 318

"With a scream of desperation I explode out of the water, hands extended like claws. His eyes bulge in terror, and he tries to wheel backward, but I have him by the wrists. He roars and tries to fight, but his feet haven't enough purchase on the wet floor to allow him to use his weight against me. With all my weight, I jerk both his hands down into the icy water." Chapter 27, p. 353

"For eighteen months Jane has lived in suspended animation, imprisoned by a man who saved her life, a desolate bird in a gilded cage. All that time, I trudged alone through a dark tunnel, burdened by guilt, haunted by loss, feeling hope die. A metaphor for my life, really: a lone woman lost in a tunnel with a camera, bearing witness to what happens in the dark, even as the darkness seeps into her. But today... Today I emerge into the light." Chapter 29, p. 372



## Topics for Discussion

Iles writes in the first person, present tense. What limitations does this place on his narrative? What advantages does it present?

How does Iles present and address the subject of sexuality in the characters he creates?

What techniques are used by Iles to move the plot along rapidly?

How does Iles create tension and anticipation in the novel? Is he effective in this?

What motivates the main character of Jordan Glass?

Iles seems to intentionally mislead his readers at times. Why do you think he does this? Does he accomplish his goal?

The plot of DEAD SLEEP is very complex. Does it hold together?

How does Jordan Glass transform as a character?