

Desolation Angels Study Guide

Desolation Angels by Jack Kerouac

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Plot Summary

Jack Kerouac writes many books that are autobiographical with thinly veiled references to famous cohorts such as Alan Ginsberg, Neal Cassady and William Burroughs. *Desolation Angels* follows the same pattern, detailing the rise of the poets of the Beat Generation.

Kerouac is Jack Duluo, a fire lookout on Desolation Peak in northwest Washington state. The job was a choice that Duluo made in order to give himself the opportunity to be silent, write, and uncover the truths of the universe. Much is written about discoveries made on the mountain and the realization that one cannot marry a life of solitude while having worthwhile experiences in the real world.

After the fire season is over, Duluo returns to San Francisco, heart of the Beat movement and current residence of his fellow poets. The group reunites for sprees of conversation and drunken mayhem before Duluo heads to his second most loved destination, Mexico. In Mexico, Duluo meets up with an old friend who is involved in philosophy and is a completely dependent on morphine to the point of being an invalid. The other poets join Duluo in Mexico, which both delights and saddens him. After the Beats have done a small tour of Mexico City, it is decided that it is time to go back on the road and go home to New York.

Back in New York, the famed poet Irwin convinces Duluo to make connections in the literary world and share the work that has been hidden in boxes and desk drawers from San Francisco to New York. Duluo finally acquiesces and his first novel, *On the Road*, is published.

As time goes on, each of the main poets gets published and realizes success they never thought attainable. The Beat Generation finally influences American culture in a way none thought was possible.

The story follows the poets through their individual trials, tribulations and triumphs as seen by Duluo. Torrid love affairs, mad international road trips, drug/alcohol fueled writing frenzies and self-realizations create memorable characters that are made even more memorable because the story is true.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 1 - 3

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

The main character, Jack Duluo, talks about his first encounter atop Desolation Peak. The author spends lazy afternoons observing hundreds of miles of snow covered rock all around. The mountains are all mentioned by name. Mount Hozomeen lies to the north, Mount Baker lies to the west, snowy Jack lies to the south, and the Cascade Ridge lies to the east. There is also a picturesque lake and Starvation Ridge, which are given no location or other significance.

Kerouac speaks of realizations regarding the inner blackness he refers to as the "Void". The Void is not what causes the author to complain, hurt, feel joy or yell, it is his own humanity. The realization hits the man while staring at the looming Mount Hozomeen. Therefore, Mount Hozomeen becomes the metaphor for the Void. Every time the character sees Mount Hozomeen, he sees the Void and begins to understand.

Kerouac travels to a job as a fire lookout in the Skagit Valley in northwest Washington. The intention is to be in solitude, come face to face with God or Tathgata, and discover the meaning of existence, suffering, and "going to and fro in vain". Instead, the author comes to face himself, no longer under the anesthesia of liquor and drugs that have been such an integral part in his life. There is no chance to "fake it" as one can while in society. The solitude, which will feed the author, also paralyzes him with boredom and brings his tenuous sanity to a new low. Lacking the courage to jump off the mountain, Kerouac takes long walks experiencing many emotions and moods, gnashing, tears, and the great remorse that came from murdering a mouse who had invaded the cabin plus the attempted murder of another. Kerouac has violated his Buddhist beliefs.

Realization comes. The Void is not disturbed by ups and downs. It does not cry or celebrate birthdays. It does not have funerals. Is Hozomeen prone to experiencing those things? Regardless of what the mountain does or does not experience, it will fall apart some day, as everything else does. The "Void" knows how to simply exist, to "be", but Kerouac does not. The author looks forward to the end of the job and solitude, longing for the liveliness if LA and Mexico City.

The author reminisces about the days of youth back in Lowell, Massachusetts. The simple pleasures of life that were taken for granted are now a cause for remorse. Kerouac misses his parents and wishes that he had shown more appreciation when he had the chance. The cabin in which Kerouac lives is no match for the homey kitchen where he spent afternoons of his youth at the round oval kitchen table, watching the sun slant through the windows while the cat licked its paw and there was always a snack of Ritz Brothers crackers and peanut butter on hand. Now, there is no such warmth and

comfort in the cabin with the small battered stove with the rusted pipe and the piece of wool stuck in the ceiling to keep the rats out. There are no more "Jack Bananasplits". At the end of the day, when dinner has been eaten and the dishes have been washed, there is nothing to do but wait to return to civilization.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

Kerouac has retired from society to uncover the reasons for his unhappiness and gloom. Desolation Peak is an apt place to console oneself, in part due to its name. The mountain views are refreshing and inspiring but also lonely. This loneliness is something Kerouac desires to be able to fulfill a deep need and to understand his humanity in all its forms.

The author attempts to shed the trappings of life including excesses in drugs and alcohol, which fueled him and quieted many of the questions longing to be answered. Kerouac's hopes are that in doing so, he will come face to face with God or Tathgata and have an epiphany about the nature of suffering and existence. The author has taken a job that will allow him to be secluded and therefore forced to look inside. The silence comforts the author as he stares out at Mount Hozomeen but it is also causing severe restlessness and unease.

The job, which lasts ninety days, has only one month left before Kerouac returns to the life of celebrity. The author assumes that the questions will be resolved by the time he leaves Desolation Peak. If not, the lifestyle to which the author will return will take over once more. Kerouac longs for the Chinatown section in LA, Mexico City and other travels.

Kerouac realizes that the time for appreciating his childhood is gone. Remorse fills the author as he recalls simpler days and simple pleasures. The stay on the mountain is taking a toll on Kerouac and civilization begins to regain its appeal.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 4 - 7

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 4 - 7 Summary

Kerouac describes sunsets and nightfall with eloquent language, wondering how it would be possible to induce speech from Mount Hozomeen before the night comes and the North Star begins to twinkle in its various colors. Everything is seen from the window above a desk where Kerouac spends days writing, smoking, and reading pitiful pulp magazines. The wait to return to civilization is too long.

The author retells a degrading and insulting dream that ruined the peaceful atmosphere of the previous night. Mrs. Kerouac entrusts the remaining household money to Deni Bleu to buy a steak while her husband is on his deathbed in the other room. Kerouac doesn't understand why Deni should get the money instead of him but the decision has been made. The boys leave the house and negotiate the way into downtown Brooklyn to visit the butcher shop. It is apparent that Deni has no intention of doing Mrs. Kerouac's bidding and although the steak is ordered at the butcher shop, the butcher is shortchanged. The boys never go back home but instead end up going in another direction. The dream flashes forward to Kerouac's stint in the Army. Deni Bleu is gone and so is the money. People scream at Kerouac that his mother is in an insane asylum and his father is dead. Kerouac is confused and too disoriented to be angry or bitter and simply follows along with the orders given by superiors.

In an effort to make amends with Mrs. Kerouac, the author writes a letter stating that he will always be available when she is in need, even if she is 3,000 miles away living with ill kin.

The author relays that a poem is driving him to madness.

At 8:00 every night, all those who have jobs as fire lookouts on the various mountains link up to their radios and shares questions, comments and thoughts of the day. Everything from arranging to go home to men discussing how to keep an oven hot enough to bake muffins, the lookouts use this time to assuage the inevitable loneliness.

After the nightly conversation, Kerouac relays a daydream in which he is riding on a train with only a beautiful blond and an old woman. The old woman sleeps and Kerouac plays out a fantasy in which he overtakes the blonde woman who really wants him and is eager to please.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 4 - 7 Analysis

Loneliness heightens Kerouac's already astute observations. Although the author is in the middle of this experience, he acts as if disconnected, an observer in this life as opposed to being a participant. The author's tendency to be objective in his own life is both a blessing and a curse. This objectivity or disconnectedness is a blessing in that the beauty and foibles of all things is apparent, yet not allowing oneself to be a part of it is a tragedy and a curse.

Kerouac's past grief, anger and regret inundates him through a disturbing dream. The dream details many feelings of uselessness and confusion, starting with Mr. Kerouac's dying days when nothing could be done to save him to his mother's illness. The retelling of Kerouac's Army days relate that the entire time he was enlisted, the sense of conflict and stupidity he feels is overwhelming to the point of paralysis. In writing to Mrs. Kerouac, the author hopes to let her know that he can be trusted and although the current living situation may prove otherwise, Kerouac will always be there for his mother.

The poem, typical of Kerouac's drug induced hazes, makes little if any sense. A stream of consciousness rambling that suggests the humans are a tiny part of the all there is.

Loneliness and boredom encourage mindless conversation with strangers who have little in common but spend their time consoling each other through small talk. Kerouac indulges in his fantasies and wishes that he were in London with his friend Bull Hubbard while realizing that his life is full of many characters who are merely passing through.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 8 - 13

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 8 - 13 Summary

Kerouac recalls learning how to roll cigarettes in substandard paper during days in the Army. A sergeant gave the recruits notebooks of paper in which to record the presence of various aircraft. The paper was often used for rolling cigarettes. Kerouac yells out for the arrival of the men who carry the supplies. The author jots a one-line poem about his eyes.

Kerouac whiles away the nighttime hours by playing a made up version of solitaire based on baseball. Invented by Kerouac and cousin Lionel, the two main teams are the Pittsburgh Plymouths and the New York Chevies. The author goes into great detail about the game in play, naming all the key players, their positions, and scores. Kerouac shows the depths of his childhood imagination through this game, still pleased about this invention.

In seeking to just "be", Kerouac often glosses over or ignores news and issues many people would find titillating or disturbing. The presence of the mice, rats, and scrawny fawns are curious to him, yet they are fed boiled potatoes.

The mist evokes Kerouac's imagination and enables him to weave fantasies and wisdom through the haze that surrounds him. Kerouac has grown restless. As the day of leaving grows near, the author reviews plans to visit old friends and familiar haunts but finally decides that the best plan is no plan.

Kerouac spends the bright morning writing, barely affected by the news of a murder that took place. The only thought that takes place is of Mrs. Kerouac and how she will take the news. Kerouac observes the morning, the misty lake like a mirror and the mop drying on the rock outside. Although tired from the nightlong animal sounds, the author will go on with the day as usual.

The outhouse is a small wooden structure overlooking a boulder and creeks below. Kerouac thrives on the images he imagines exist in the fog, almost expecting to see two giggling dharma bums in repetitive conversation. Hanshan wrote poems about places like these a thousand years ago. Kerouac thinks he sees Hanshan but then sees only the creek.

The author daydreams of places to go once the ninety-day job is finished. Kerouac will visit old friends, perhaps sleep in someone's yard one night and a hotel room in Chinatown the next. There are many places to see like San Francisco and Berkeley with no real destination until Mexico City.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 8 - 13 Analysis

Kerouac sees himself as an innovator and one who can make due with things at hand. Yet, the author wants more convenience and ease when it is possible.

Kerouac observes, and perhaps curses, his eyes. Kerouac shows the depths of his childhood imagination through this game, still pleased about this invention. In seeking to just "be", Kerouac often glosses over or ignores news and issues many people would find titillating or disturbing. The presence of the mice, rats, and scrawny fawns are curious to him, yet they are fed boiled potatoes.

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Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 14 - 19

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 14 - 19 Summary

The only book to read on Desolation Peak is "The God That Failed", a tome written by ex-communists who quit the party when "they recognized its totalitarian beastliness". The book leaves Kerouac wanting something else, something not as depressing or conspiratorial. In looking for something else, Kerouac turns to the nightly lookout radio conversations.

Kerouac shares the only truth he has ever heard. Spoken by Buddha, the truth was that what Buddha said was neither true nor untrue. Kerouac can appreciate this and other teachings such as the infinity of the inner Buddha and how each person should reach beyond self and into the all there is to find enlightenment.

Kerouac devotes the entire chapter to a single poem. The poem details a foretelling of the trip to San Francisco on the midnight train, with the only items in his possession being a sleeping bag and a bottle of wine.

Kerouac is bored with the surroundings at Desolation Peak and continues to dream of San Francisco. The dream entails the events of the arrival and where the author will go once he reaches the city. The first night will be spent in a yard in Berkeley. The next day, Kerouac plans to visit an old friend who lives in a house in the housing projects located in a ghetto. The friend, Simon, lives with a younger brother whom he managed to save from a certain future as a juvenile delinquent. Lazarus, the younger brother, only wants to know what dreams Kerouac has had and to hear the meaning of it all. Kerouac intends to buy a lot of food, enter Simon's unlocked house and wait until the brothers get home. Then Kerouac will ask to stay for a few days. The author may also take a trip to North Beach to find a close friend named Cody.

Kerouac wakes from a dream and goes about the task of gathering snow to fill the tin washtub located in the cabin. The shovel used to gather the snow is gone from its usual spot and Kerouac must look for it. While looking for the shovel, which is found down over the side of the cliff, Kerouac takes time to observe the perfect brightness of the snow, the absence of animals and stirring of the fir trees. The author doubts that the mountains have had dreams.

Kerouac lets thoughts run to the future days in San Francisco. The author intends to buy a quart of Christian Brothers Port and take it back to a hotel room. Once there, the author will pour half of the bottle into a one-pint flask to make it easy to carry around the city. Chinatown is the main target for Kerouac's meanderings, focus on roasted ducks hanging in the windows of shops and watching the happy Chinese children at play. After



a refill of wine, Kerouac explores the rest of the city building up an appetite for a midnight feast. Fisherman's Wharf and Skid Row are sites to visit, the latter being the best place to finish off the wine while leaning in a doorway among men who are homeless, drunk, or both. After indulging in a feast of various Chinese delicacies served on silver stemmed platters, Kerouac tries to decide whether to write a letter to "beloved Ma", go to bed, or go out to find the gang and get drunk.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 14 - 19 Analysis

Kerouac longs for release from any responsibility. Wandering through Chinatown gives the author a sense of freedom, which is greatly cherished. Kerouac's wandering is not without purpose. The sights and sounds of the city are ripe for the eventual retelling to future readers and listeners in the beat community.

Although Kerouac likes to think of himself as somewhat of an anarchist or revolutionary, at least in the literary sense, delving too deep into politics bores him. The author has found sense in Buddhism and goes to great lengths to live in it as much as possible. Surprise is always Kerouac's reaction when others can't see this truth.

Kerouac embraces the uniqueness and beat history in each city the train will pass through. The author revels in the part he will play in each location as the train makes its way to the final destination of San Francisco.

Kerouac is prone to escapism through dreams. Although the author seems to embrace being a free spirit, he tends to surround himself with people who give the illusion of safety and adventure.

Kerouac seems to be more at peace with the surroundings. The author appreciates the serene lake that conjures all memories of enchanted waters in storybooks read as a child. The firs grace the mountainside and the author takes in their beauty. While the author is isolated from society, he surmises that it is still Saturday afternoon all over the world.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 20 - 24

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 20 - 24 Summary

Kerouac wakes from a dream in the middle of the night. A former lover, Maggie Cassidy, fills the author's thoughts. Maggie is the one woman that Kerouac might have married. What would the author's life be like if he had married Maggie? A "little ramshackle Irish rose cottage" in New England would be the family home. Kerouac would work as a "bebaseballhatted brakeman" in the cold New England night. Maggie's daughters would live in the cottage and altogether, they would be a family. Kerouac wonders if Maggie is too old for him. Would there ever be one who loves him?

Kerouac sits cross-legged on the top of Desolation Peak and takes time to enjoy the sight of the golden half moon and its reflection on the lake. Along with enjoying the peace, Kerouac takes time to meditate and ask for enlightenment and immortal understanding of existence. The thought of a "mental nature" existing - a knowing that everything existed before he was born and will continue to exist after the author has died, is both confusing and empowering to Kerouac. The author realizes that everything is tied to a "Golden Eternity" and that this eternity is the place where all humanity is born and shall return.

Kerouac remains outside to view the Northern Lights and lay on his back to view them upside down. The mountains appear to be great bubbles hanging from the sky, illuminated by the brightly colored streaks of the Lights. It is then that the author believes he is having his first "awakening". As the author falls asleep in his bed, he recalls the violets that grew in the Kerouac's' back yard when he was 11-years-old.

Kerouac's loneliness brings back memories of an old lover who may have made a suitable wife. The thoughts linger and the night only increases Kerouac's desire. The author begins to wonder if the lifestyle he has chosen will ever allow for a "normal" existence, something he desires and fears.

Kerouac reminisces about the Sundays of yesteryear. The family went to church, dressed in Sunday best. In more recent years, Mrs. Kerouac would cook bacon and eggs for Jack. The TV would not be turned on because there was nothing worthwhile to watch on Sundays. The author muses what people would be doing in North Carolina, Mexico City, Bavaria, and Moscow. On Desolation Peak, there is only silence and boredom.

Kerouac observes a green alpine caterpillar as it crawls and searches along branches, hanging upside down like an anteater in search of prey. Kerouac blows on the caterpillar to gauge its response and perceives that it is hanging its head in mourning. After



blowing on the caterpillar a second time and watching it curl in unto itself, Kerouac leaves it to explore, thinking that it's too upside down. The caterpillar clings to its sphere and Kerouac muses that both he and the caterpillar must be mad. Will the journey to San Francisco leave him feeling as mad and sad as the caterpillar?

Autumn begins to show its face on Desolation Peak. Kerouac is happy to see the heat of the summer move away due to the west wind and to feel and smell the first hints of autumn. The Indian Plateau in Mexico will be even cooler than it is on the Peak, with skies "filled with clouds like the beards of patriarchs". Kerouac sees himself as one of those patriarchs, standing on top of the plateau in a flowing robe on a green hill of gold.

Fall brings back thoughts of activities that take place in cooler weather. Kerouac recalls with fondness The World Series, the scratchy radio bringing the voice of the Midwestern radio announcer across the airwaves. The arrival of football, the shelves of wine in stores along the mainline of the California Railroad, and travels of hitchhikers and hobos all bring a sense of wistfulness. Also with the fall comes the promise of snow and the return to San Francisco. In keeping with the Golden Eternity, Kerouac knows that Desolation Peak will look the same on the way down as it did on the way up; it will look the same as it did in those photos from twenty years before with the mountains as they always were and the snow that lies in the same formation.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 20 - 24 Analysis

Kerouac continually seeks enlightenment and understanding from "The Power", which the author may refer to as God or more likely, a Buddhist prophet such as Buddha or Tathagata. A small piece of understanding leads Kerouac to believe that he is only a small part of the Golden Eternity. He always has been and will always be.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 25 - 27

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 25 - 27 Summary

The cabin holds the debris of a hundred hours of living on the Desolation Peak. Kerouac lists many items that were left for him as well as the things that were packed to bring along to aid the author's survival including a cowboy book that he finds distasteful enough to throw away. Kerouac reminisces about a special pea green soup made by a friend during a camping trip at Potrero Meadows. Some of the canned food in the cabin is still good despite being left by previous lookouts. There is much in the way of supplies that Kerouac disdains and leaves on the shelves to rot or takes outside to feed to the deer. Although Kerouac's basic needs are taken care of, the author longs for an ice cream soda and a filet mignon.

Kerouac recalls a sweet world that is bitter to the taste. Sarah Vaughn sings on the radio as the colored maid Lula cries. Kerouac has sex with Lula on Sunday mornings in the meadows and pine barrens of North Carolina. The author is reminded of a bug he sees on the floor of the cabin, which thrashes in mortal agony then walks off and is reborn.

The author studies his reflection in the black window of the cabin, mentally recording a rugged face man in a dirty ragged shirt, in need of a shave, naming all the features of the human face. Behind the reflection is infinite darkness. Despite the darkness, the author has a twinkle in his eye and he sings bawdy songs about the moon in Dublin, vodka, and sad Mexico. Kerouac waxes poetic about the papers strewn across the desk under the black window.

Kerouac receives an urgent call on the radio from the Ranger. There has been lightning spotted on a nearby mountain. Jack assures the Ranger that the sky is cloudless and the night is clear. The other lookouts on nearby mountains exchange weather conditions and hope that if their mountain hasn't been hit yet, that it will not be in the storm's path. With two fires already started on mountains as far as thirty miles away, Kerouac finds that he is somewhat concerned yet more curious. The author paces the yard, noting that the wind has picked up and creates more bad news for those trying to put out the fires. Desolation Peak is still safe but Old Jack has become nearly obliterated by clouds.

Thinking about the poems written by previous lookouts, Kerouac becomes energized, almost as if he were the one being struck repeatedly by the lightning. The door to the cabin feels energized, as if it were alive. Regardless of what happens or does not happen throughout the night, Kerouac is determined to enjoy every minute of it.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 25 - 27 Analysis

Kerouac is a list maker. Each item the author lists holds an analogy or memory that either stirs or antagonizes him. Inevitably, the musings return to a place in Mexico. This time is it a restaurant where the author can order filet mignon, pastries, and strong coffee.

Kerouac's mind wanders in the night as he puts off working on the project strewn across the desk. The sight of the papers drives him into a reverie about photographs and old movies. Surely, the Golden Eternity amuses itself with movies.

Although Kerouac was waiting most of the season for something interesting to happen, the author greets the oncoming storm with some trepidation. The lightning begins to strike other mountains, starting two fires but the fires are nearly thirty miles away and aren't close enough to be of any great concern. As the night grows on, Kerouac becomes energized not only by the oncoming storm and slight possibility that Desolation Peak might also have a fire but by the thoughts and words of the lookouts who came before.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 28 - 31

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 28 - 31 Summary

The storm worsens as the night deepens. The author is intent on seeing any small flame that the lightning might cause and after a long period of sitting and staring out the black window, images of fires begin to pop up everywhere. The electricity pops and cracks. After a while, Kerouac realizes that the visions are simply illusions and goes to bed.

The next morning possessed a gray sky from which rain continues to fall. Kerouac peers out the window and sees a brown patch that had burned the night before. Luckily, the rain put it out and held promise that other fires would not be allowed to exist.

The wind off of Mount Hozomeen has a definite feel of winter to it, although it is the middle of August. Kerouac marks the date on the calendar. The author enjoys the nip in the air and takes care in assessing chores that should be taken care of before leaving the mountain. The outhouse door hinge is loose and part of the chimney has been knocked over. Kerouac does not fix these things on that day.

The electric shock of lightning reminds Kerouac of his friend Cody's wife. Evelyn, the wife, has great disdain for Kerouac and has no problem showing it. When Evelyn disapproves of Kerouac's conversation or character around her daughter, Evelyn shoots Kerouac an electrified look equal to lightning. Kerouac ignores her.

Kerouac waylays boredom by preparing a traditional spicy Chinese dish learned from a friend. Memories flood back of the author with his father in Lowell, a man named Chin Lee and a red brick wall facing a Chinese restaurant. Kerouac takes delight in repeating, "Chinee dinner always velly good".

Kerouac dreams of many women. In one dream, his hand lays upon a woman's flesh, neither acting nor reacting to her, simply being. A woman who was the author's wife says something nasty and storms off to the toilet while Kerouac sits and wonders why he is doomed to always love women who hate him in return. Waking up in the cabin on the mountain seems like a saving grace.

The author makes note of the date: August 22. The date has importance for a variety of reasons. It was the day that Kerouac ran annual games or marbles and derbies as a child back in Lowell. It was the date of the Paris liberation in 1944. It was also the date Kerouac married his first wife. The marriage was a spur of the moment event, taking place in a judge's chambers. Kerouac was incarcerated at the time and the judge permitted the marriage because there was a belief that Kerouac's fiancée was pregnant.

Mr. Kerouac would not speak to Jack nor bail him out, so the man had to spend his wedding night in jail.

August also brings about the smells of fall, which Kerouac relishes. This year, however, instead of experiencing the "Augustcool" of yesteryear, "Augustcold" is present on Desolation Peak.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 28 - 31 Analysis

The unsure situation of the night and the storm keep Kerouac awake for some time. The next morning, when the author awakes, he is relieved to see rain. The worst of the storm is over. The author surveys the ground but does not make it clear if this is a common action or one perpetrated by the storm and possible wind damage.

The electricity in the air reminds Kerouac of his friend Cody's wife. The wife, Evelyn, hates Kerouac. Kerouac has played a large part in Cody's life and may not be the best source of friendship. Kerouac is certainly not the best role model for a child. Cody apparently places great value on Jack, perhaps spawning jealousy in Evelyn. At this point, it is unclear to what length the Kerouac and Cody relationship extends. Sensing Cody's pleasure at his visit, Kerouac ignores Evelyn as if she were invisible.

Kerouac never ceases to amuse himself. Memories of childhood and early adulthood travel with him everywhere, adding a new color or nuance to current activities.

Kerouac suffers from the same fate as many - wanting something one cannot have. If the author manages to get the thing he cannot have, the illusion is soon broken and Kerouac regrets the choice he has made. Waking up in the cabin means one more day without the responsibility of making a decision.

Kerouac is an odd collection of juxtaposed images wrapped into one human form. The author easily reminisces about childhood games and easily segues into a temporary release from jail in order to be married.

The author tends to make unusual references to common objects, such as the smell of an opening door. Collectively, the sights, smells, sounds, textures and tastes of the oncoming autumn convince the author that the season is about to change.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 32 - 34

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 32 - 34 Summary

Kerouac muses that the Forest Service is nothing but a front for a totalitarian government who severely restricts the movements of people when they visit the nation's forests. It is also a front for the lumber interests who work "in cooperation" with the Forest Service to log out trees year after year, using the precious trees for items such as toilet paper. What America doesn't use, nature burns. How did nature handle deforestation a million years ago?

Kerouac contemplates the "bottomless horror" of the world and recalls the times he took long "depression walks", like the night the author's father died or the time Kerouac was so depressed and stressed that he called Madeleine Watson to ask for a date because he wanted to marry the young woman. Scared and puzzled, Madeleine surely thought Kerouac was crazy.

The bottomless horror is also related to New York City where it's easy to be homeless unless you're a millionaire. In Mexico City, children work too hard into the late night. In Lowell, there are gypsies and empty storefronts. In Frisco, there are unconcerned Italians buying cigars and paranoiac negroes. North Carolina has its little red brick alleys. The bottomless horror exists everywhere. Compassion is really only sad understanding. Yet, in thinking about those things, Kerouac becomes one with the Void and goes into a trance. That state of being is the closest thing man has to purity.

The lookouts sign on to the radio for the day, each using a unique but simple code. The voices remind Kerouac of his days at Columbia, when the norm was to sleep until 3 P.M. every day and wander aimlessly during the times when the author should have been in class. With the record for cutting the most classes in one semester, Kerouac left Columbia. The memories still haunt the author who pictures himself wandering through the pyramids and ruins of ancient buildings.

Kerouac lives in an apartment with Ma Kerouac in Richmond Hill. October is a favorite time of year for the author who delights in staying up late making lattes. A trip to Lowell dressed in typical New York City style turns heads. What is fashionable in New York is considered strange and even effeminate in Lowell. The author gets his fill of childhood memories and goes back to New York.

Kerouac arrives on Broadway at 10 P.M. and immediately goes to the liquor store to buy a pint of wine. Walking the streets, breathing in the fall air and hearing the noises of the great ships in the channel nearby give Kerouac a sense of pleasure. Seeing an old lover with her new husband and friends makes the author turn away. Still, the wildness of the

New York Streets makes him glad to be home. Kerouac goes to Greenwich Village to a hep bar called Montmartre and makes the acquaintance of a man who calls himself "the greatest jazz pianist in America".

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 32 - 34 Analysis

Kerouac loves to be melodramatic. The "bottomless horror" in society allows the author to reach a sense of peace in being but does not over ride the sense of horror and sadness of poor living conditions of the downtrodden and unenlightened.

As usual, Kerouac sees himself as a dispossessed soul. The longing for an academic life where he could seek answers and explore his literary sense turned out to be a pipe dream that ended all too quickly. Kerouac still has dreams although cannot remember the classes that were attended or the professors who taught them.

Kerouac sees Lowell as gloomy and archaic. New Yorkers appear to be on permanent holiday and the energy fills the poet. Accidentally seeing an old lover and her new novelist husband makes Kerouac turn away. It seems that the presence of the literary success in the husband makes Kerouac feel inferior, as if the old lover has moved up in the world while Kerouac is still just plain old Jack.

Kerouac assumes that all of sad and tender October will be tied up in one neat package. The author intends to inform God that he understands and is ready for more.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 35 - 40

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 35 - 40 Summary

The previous lightning storm that occurred not far from Desolation Peak didn't cause much damage because it was followed by rains that banked the fires or put them out altogether. Messages across the radio let Kerouac know that there are more lightning storms in the air that are not accompanied by rain or the promise of rain. Smoke billows from various points, the high winds masking the fire's true point of origin or direction. All one can do is wait.

Voices across the radio claim fires as if they were possessions. Kerouac notes a sense of jealousy over "owning" a fire and the disappointment if one fire is mistakenly attributed to another then reassigned. Much talk exists about location and who will be the one to fly over the mountains and valleys to determine what is real and what is illusion. Kerouac relates that everything is an illusion and is of no real purpose. There are only three more weeks until Kerouac can leave and head to Mexico.

Kerouac contemplates the human habit of making something out of nothing. The concept of Maya, which in Sanskrit means being fooled into believing the reality, which is not really real. The simplicity of life is too simplistic for the human mind, which desires to make it more difficult and to invent reality where there is none. If 400 naked Nagas should climb Desolation Peak and emerge from the woods, it would not surprise Kerouac. The Nagas may say that they were told that the Divine was to be found on the mountain and since Kerouac was alone, he must be the Buddha. Kerouac sees no point in arguing and sits in "diamond silence".

Kerouac awakes to a morning in Lightning Gorge that is so beautiful it must be a dream. Slowly, each sense is filled with the scene surrounding the author. Orange golden loveliness fills the eye, while the porches of the ear balance to understand sounds. In the silence of the morning, save for the sounds of nature, Kerouac realizes that there is nothing to write about and everything to write about. Even with all knowing, people choose to not see or see what is not there. When will they wake up? All creatures should wake up!

Kerouac has a fondness for word association and for inventing new words to fit his stream of consciousness writing style. While the words often make little sense, the meaning often comes through in the end. In this section, the words speak of removing tarnish and shedding outward and extraneous accoutrements.

Kerouac is fascinated and besotted by the oncoming night. As the moon appears, the author describes it as a female calling it the Lord and Master Lesbian King. The moon



asks if it is worth her coming to the night. The sun eventually retreats and the moon takes this as a victory. No one and nothing attends her as she rises higher and higher into the sky, revealing all the imperfections and scars collected over time. The west is a veil, made of purple and blue ink, while the south begins to surrender its daylight and the north is still lavender lace.

Kerouac finds a bear stool outside the cabin. With no traces of the animal left, the author muses about the animal's power and longevity in the mountains and the world at large. The bear gets respect from other creatures and yet still respects the sky as the early morning comes on. Life goes on but the bear is unaffected, always on the outskirts pawing and making its way through unknown territories.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 35 - 40 Analysis

Kerouac is amused by the seriousness in which the fire lookouts claim their fires. It is obvious that the lookouts are of the career variety having spent most of their lives on the various mountains monitoring nature. The fires themselves are not amusing, just the attitudes of the lookouts who know it is too soon to take action.

Even if humanity knew and respected Maya, the learned behaviors of youth and ancestry would have humans behaving the same way until the earth was no more. The nature of the mind may see something as being true but may not accept it into practice. Sometimes it's best to just be silent.

As enlightened as Kerouac aims to be, the simple pleasures of nature are still an enchanting presence. At times, there is nothing to say and yet everything to say. Kerouac wants each creature to wake up and realize the truth, the Maya.

Kerouac's use of speech can be brilliant, confusing or pure nonsense. In this case, there is much nonsense but a few snippets of wisdom. In shedding outward things, such as weapons, skin and clothes, one will have to face the reality of self.

Kerouac reveres the moon, as did many cultures before him. The author describes the moon as the goddess of golden light, ready to rule and triumph over the night. In the end, the author reveals the human nature in the moon's actions, stating, "The moon is a piece of me".

The author admires the bear for its immense power and strength. The animal could easily crush the head and spine of the author, although man often thinks himself more powerful than the forest animal. The bear has survived thousands of years in these unknown territories and has seen it all yet remains on the outskirts, ever watchful.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 41 - 47

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 41 - 47 Summary

Kerouac dreams of being in Cody's kitchen foraging for food. Cody's two young sons in the dream comment on Kerouac's noisemaking while he searches and the author is compared to a rat. Evelyn comes home and makes a disapproving remark about Kerouac's choice of food.

The dream switches to Frisco. Kerouac peruses the wine selection in the stores and happens to see a newspaper story about reformatory boys in Washington, D.C. The boys had committed crimes because they were smitten with a girl who flaunted herself in front of them, using feminine wiles to get what she wants. The girl is a tease. In Kerouac's eyes, the girl is a bitch who will most likely end up getting pregnant and being taken care of for the rest of her life.

The dream switches again to Frisco. This time the city appears in its 19th century form with wooden houses and underground caves. Kerouac wakes and wonders if it is wise to try and remember one's dreams.

Kerouac talks about Blacky Blake, an old timer the author met at fire school. Blacky is a profound man, a ranger of the Glacier District who has seen it all. At sixty years old, Blacky is set to retire in a year. Kerouac sees Blacky as big and sad, destined to become lost in the real world when the fire station calls no more. Blacky was recommended to Kerouac by Jarry Wagner, a fire look out who had been blackballed by the FBI after an investigation into Wagner's supposed leftist activities. Blacky is incensed by the action, saying that Jarry was a good firefighter and a good man. The whole situation is ridiculous to Blacky who vows to speak his mind as he always has, with no fear of being investigated. In Japan, Jarry sits with his shaved head, meditating and chanting under teahouse pines. Buddha is present and true everywhere.

Sunday brings about more memories of family and days gone by. Kerouac's Aunt Jeanne would cook a good meal of spaghetti with rich sauce and lots of garlic. After, there would be delicious coffee and dessert while the men sat in their shirtsleeves, smoking and indulging in conversation. There were winter afternoons when Kerouac would take long walks in blizzards before supper or play the Jim Hamilton Football Game with his father and Billy Artaud. At that time, there was a happy human satisfaction.

Five days of cold and rain leave Kerouac with a severe case of cabin fever. Boredom taunts the author, the torture especially severe since there are only five more days left



until the fire season is over for another year. Kerouac is sick of himself and finds that the Desolation Adventure has brought him to the abyss of nothingness.

The last full day on Desolation Peak arrives. Chipmunks peck at the rind of bacon discarded in the yard; flying creatures pick at blueberries in the grass. Kerouac realizes that the blueberries belong to the creatures and not him. While Kerouac views the blueberries as morsels, surely the creatures must regard them as watermelon.

Thoughts of Jarry Wagner return, reminding Kerouac how Jarry taught him to climb mountains and prepare to live in the wilderness. The author lusts for real world objects such as telephones, rumpled couches, and thick rugs made to please the toes. Kerouac also misses the whores who scream for hot water.

Kerouac closes all the windows and sits inside the cabin with the sun streaming in from the open door as the only light. The author examines his bronzed face and determines that it is growing old. Yet all the strife leading up to the Golden Eternity has been worth it. The afternoon is absolutely silent and Kerouac observes the firs and creatures readying for the snow to come. Soon no clock will tick and no man will yearn.

Kerouac measures what will be left behind, including feces. The knowing and serenity gained on Desolation Peak will also remain behind, to a certain degree. These things have little value in society. Kerouac begins the journey home.

Book I, Part I - Desolation in Solitude: Chapters 41 - 47 Analysis

Kerouac seeks Evelyn's approval, which never comes. As often as the author attempts or pretends to ignore Evelyn, it never works. Kerouac is jealous of what Cody has with Evelyn. The author blames the reformatory boys for being weak yet understands how hormones work. The woman can be blamed for her actions but, in the end, who is the smart one?

Kerouac admires Blacky for his vast knowledge and dedication to the mountains and valleys prone to fire. Blacky has a character that Kerouac admires. Blacky is honest and forthright yet carries a restlessness that leads him back to the mountain year after year.

Like Jarry, Kerouac knows that Buddha is everywhere and although the author has never seen God, The Void, Tathgata or any sign of Truth, it is there. Kerouac longs for the warmth of family and the togetherness of those long gone Sunday afternoons. With such horror in the world, it is hard to believe that the author was once happy.

Kerouac's self-loathing has taken the forefront, compounding the restlessness and urgency to return to Frisco. In Frisco, Kerouac will have more meaning. Life on Desolation Peak is drawing to a close and Kerouac's anxiety to return to society increases. It has been too long since the author experienced hot water and women.

The oncoming winter brings silence and a sense of completion. Kerouac readies for the journey to come. While many men yearn for love, Kerouac only wants an ice cream cone.

Kerouac feels as if he has gained all the knowing that the mountains can impart. All the words that could be spoken or written have dried up and there is nothing more to say.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 48

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 48 Summary

There is more fantasizing about the return to Frisco. Kerouac is eager to share enlightenment with his friends but realizes that the enlightenment of solitude has little place in the civilized world. The friends have their own enlightenments to share and revelations to reveal.

Kerouac bares his soul, confessing in great detail the murder of the mouse that attempted to eat the package of pea soup stored in a cupboard inside the cabin. A second mouse was also killed but a third was spared. The latter eventually died by the rat who was also in residence. Kerouac feels that since his soul has been tainted with blood, heaven is no longer an option.

Kerouac bids goodbye to the cabin and Desolation Peak. Mount Hozomeen will be seen no more. Although the author feels that the once mythical has now become ordinary or at least explainable, genuflection seems to be a proper way to end the journey. Kerouac feels no real emotion as the descent down the side of the mountain begins. The author shares that he has fallen in love with God.

Kerouac misjudges the length of time it will take to trek down the mountain to the waiting ferry. The five-mile walk takes much longer than the allotted two hours. The author's shoes are threadbare, the soles practically gone. Rocks cut into the cardboard inserts. It strikes Kerouac as ironic that the King of Desolation Peak can't even make it down his own mountain.

Fred, the ranger who is filling in as the operator of the ferry waits for Kerouac to arrive. After an hour, Fred searches for the would-be passenger. Eventually, the moon makes its presence known.

Kerouac deduces that the best way to get down the mountain is to propel oneself with arms and body, counting on the feet for balance. Rocks twist ankles yet the author cannot stop. The world awaits!

The last 100 yards seem impossible to overcome. The author begins to cry in frustration and pain. Kerouac can see the boat as Fred waits. Somehow, the author's knees keep lifting and feet keep walking despite blisters and blood. Kerouac doesn't want Fred to see the tears. It is obvious that the author has been crying but Fred makes no comments.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 48 Analysis

Kerouac realizes that the enlightenment found on Desolation Peak may not be the only enlightenment and accepts that the friends in Frisco may have other needs. The murder of the mouse has caused great trauma, leaving Kerouac wishing there was a way to undo the deed. The author believes that there is blood on his angel wings and that there is no way to right the wrong.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 49 - 52

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 49 - 52 Summary

Duluoz's lack of emotion comes from being so completely immersed in his surroundings and believing that all that can be learned from Mount Hozomeen and Desolation Peak has been learned.

The hike down the mountain is five miles long. Fred's boat can be seen 7 miles offshore. Duluoz is convinced that the trek down to the bottom won't be difficult. Duluoz soon finds that his estimations are way off base. Along the way, Duluoz turns an ankle and watches as the soles of his shoes finally give way. Pain and sweat overcome Duluoz as he tries to make it down the mountain while watching Fred who is watching for him.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 49 - 52 Analysis

The end of the climb down Desolation Peak brings exhaustion and relief. Kerouac has proven a new level of strength and fortitude in completing a task that seemed impossible.

The author shows that even when things seem to be the most dismal, there is a way to complete the journey. Against all odds and pain, Kerouac carries on.

Kerouac is filled with frustration and agony - both mental and physical. The climb down the mountain is much harder than the author expected. Was it so hard going to the top? Attempts to enjoy the scenery and the last moments of solitude are quashed by the amount of pain in Kerouac's feet. The author begins to think the journey will never end.

Fred's quiet demeanor is a comfort. Although Kerouac seeks company, it is not necessary for him to jump back into society full force. Fred talks for a while, mostly to comfort the bedraggled passenger.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 53 - 57

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 53 - 57 Summary

In Kerouac's eyes, Fred is like a guardian angel and savior wrapped up in one. Never was a sweeter man born. Fred has big, sad eyes and a quiet demeanor that can lead into unbreakable trances. Everyone loves Fred, whose job is to monitor campfires.

Kerouac approaches. Fred takes the author's heavy rucksack and hauls it on board, sensing Kerouac's exhaustion. The author climbs aboard and bathes his wounded feet.

Fred shouts over the engine, content to share sightings of deer with Kerouac, who shows every one of the 63 days the author spent on Desolation Peak. Kerouac returns the small talk with stories of the bear and strange birds that kept him company. There is a rumor that there are coyotes on Crater Mountain, the one watched over by Pat.

Fred suggests meeting up with Pat Garton, lookout on Crater Mountain. Kerouac will stay behind at the float while Fred makes the two-hour trip. Kerouac busies himself inside the structure, remembering that there is a place where cigarettes come in packages, and radios still play glorious American music.

Fred returns to the float with Pat in tow. Pat is as glad to be off the mountain as Kerouac. The journey down the mountain proved equally exhausting and traumatic for Pat, whose rucksack weighed a hundred pounds. The sack became too much and was carried part way by a kindly passerby.

The men chat and eat. Pat wears the same blank look that curses all men of solitude. Pat confides to Kerouac and Fred that he will never be a fire lookout again. Kerouac says he understands but privately muses that Pat is 19; he is 34, and Fred is 50 but obviously the strongest of the group. There is still more road to conquer and it is time to say goodbye to Fred. Kerouac shoulders Pat's rucksack and the men set off for the next stop.

The men make it to the dock in time to catch the boat that will take them to land. A short ride gets them to the next drop off where they'll meet Charley. Charley will take them back to the ranger station where all will be settled and finished.

Kerouac still carries Pat's sack and while walking remembers the funny stories told over the radio. No one made Kerouac laugh more than Pat. Yet Kerouac muses how the boy's voice doesn't match the face next to him.



Charley seems confused by Kerouac's attempts at conversation. The author thinks it may be the presence of various accents in his voice - French Canadian, New York, Boston and a few other locales make an interesting mix. Charley drops the men off at the ranger station bunkhouse. Kerouac already feels the pressures of the non-solitary world pressing in upon him.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 53 - 57 Analysis

The lookouts and rangers have their own language. The men relate as if family, each story containing its own meaning and nuance.

Kerouac acts as if it has been a hundred years since the voluntary removal from society. Every small thing incites joy and is to be examined closely and thoroughly. Kerouac feels slightly redeemed when Pat shows even more wear and tear from the trip. Kerouac is strong and wants to help the young man. Goodness prevails upon the author to carry Pat's rucksack. This is a small attempt at repentance.

Charley is a friendly man who has limits about spending too much time with people. Kerouac, eager to be back in society, remembers that things are much different than on the mountain top. Everything has a different dynamic that the author may not have missed.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 58 - 62

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 58 - 62 Summary

Charley directs Kerouac and Pat to settle into a deserted bunkhouse. Charley asks Kerouac to build a big fire then sets about chopping wood in the half-dark using perfect aim and great strength. Pat goes to the kitchen to re-heat beef stew for dinner. After dinner, Charley retires to his trailer, Pat falls fast asleep, and Kerouac who has insomnia, sits outside to smoke in the Indian summer night.

Kerouac collects his paychecks, pays the food tab at the grocery store, and indulges in an ice cream cone. Sitting in a chair next to the grass, Kerouac tried to read the Seattle Times for baseball scores but the paper is too new and the smell of ink makes him sick.

As Kerouac prepares to leave the ranger station, rangers announce that there is a new fire. Kerouac is asked to go but declines. The rangers persist but Kerouac can't do it. The author readies himself to leave.

The author bids goodbye to Charley and Pat, saying adios and hasta la vista. Charley asks Kerouac to send a picture postcard once he arrives in Mexico. Kerouac is surprised at the request, assuming that he will never see either man again. The author agrees and, months later, sends the postcard although he never learned Charley's last name.

Kerouac starts walking down the road, attempting not to limp at least while in sight of the other men. Along the way, the author runs across Phil Carter, the man who usually operates the ferryboat that picks up the men at the end of the season. Phil is driving the wrong way down the road but stops to say hello. In the passenger seat sits Mr. Winter, the man who built the cabin in which Kerouac lived during the stay on Desolation Peak. Kerouac praises Mr. Winter's work before clomping off into the near darkness.

Kerouac manages to get a ride with three men. The men throw question after question at Kerouac for a long time before complete silence ensues. Kerouac is very happy to be back on the Road and admires every little cottage, tree and meadow while the wind blows in his face. The small towns always look the same from Washington to Mexico, reminding Kerouac to protect his rucksack that was once almost run over by a crazy driver careening off the road.

Kerouac gets into a town outside Sedro-Woolley determined to make the first stop a shop where he can buy new shoes. After that, the author will find a bank to cash some of the paychecks and turn the others into traveler's checks for the trip. The teller at the bank is a delicate redhead. While waiting for the checks, Kerouac dreams of having her.

The author knows the girl loves him and returns the feelings. They could be together. The line of agitated customers grows long and Kerouac breaks from the daydream.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 58 - 62 Analysis

After all the planning and desperation to get off Desolation Peak, Kerouac begins to regret the return to society. While restlessness dictates most of Kerouac's actions, the refusal to fight the new fire has just as much to do with exhaustion and physical injury. The author begins to wonder how to make the long journey to San Francisco.

Kerouac, in the state of simply being, has no problem ending relationships and moving on. Charley's request to stay in touch surprises the author and leaves him feeling warm but puzzled.

Kerouac has a great fondness for Phil. Meeting Mr. Winter was a nice surprise. The compliments paid to Mr. Winter were sincere. With all the time in the world up on Desolation Peak, Kerouac had spent many hours admiring the strength of the cabin and its owner's handiwork.

Kerouac delights in meeting new people but the three men are strange and wary. Answering so many questions is tiring for the author and he wishes to ask some of his own. The silence is welcomed.

The author has instantaneous love affairs with many, both mental and physical. Some are identified as lust but most are considered love. The recipients are sometimes smitten, sometimes eager to flee.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 63

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 63 Summary

Kerouac goes to a bar to have a drink. An old man sits down near Kerouac, and the author is fascinated enough to watch him. The man trembles and shakes as he retrieves a crumpled dollar bill from his wallet. The old man is ignored by the bartender while Kerouac finishes the second drink. Kerouac decides that the soul does not need alcohol. Instead, new shoes seem to be the right thing.

A blond kid picks up Kerouac and agrees to take him a few miles. The kid, who desperately wanted to play football, shared woes of an ulcer condition that kept him out of the game. Wrestling replaced football and gave the men something to discuss. Kerouac refers to himself as the "Blackmask Champeen" referring to his own wrestling days. The boy drops the author off and Kerouac feels sorry for the loneliness.

An old man is the next driver to stop. Kerouac is unsure of trusting the 80-year-old driver but decides to rely on karma to protect him. Surprisingly, the old man, a farmer, drives incredibly fast and is a good companion. The car stops at the man's farm, where Kerouac is able to catch a ride on an equipment truck. The driver of this truck is also a good companion, sharing stories of uprooting his family to live in Central America for a couple of years, allowing the children to receive a bit of worldly education. The travels continued, with the man and his family returning to Washington the week prior.

After being deposited on a semi-dismal main street in a small town, Kerouac decides to treat himself to a decent meal in the local luncheonette. The waitress doesn't seem to care that Kerouac is present and his usual charm does nothing to melt her cold exterior. Kerouac notices that the only one who grabs her attention is the rich man with plans to go to Las Vegas. Kerouac determines that the return to the bottom of the mountain is official.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapter 63 Analysis

The experience with the old man at the bar is enlightening. Kerouac wants to help but feels that it would be an intrusion. In some ways, the author fears that he may be looking at his own future.

Kerouac shows a sensitive side regarding the boy. Once feeling displaced himself, the author can understand the boy's unfulfilled dreams. The old man turns out to be a pleasant surprise and seems to be representative of kind farming men all over. The last

man was a source of fascination for the author, making him realize that having a family doesn't mean giving up the dreams of living in Mexico or anywhere else in the world. The girl in the luncheonette does some damage to Kerouac's ego, as she doesn't fall prey to his charms. Transparent in her actions toward the Las Vegas bound customer makes Kerouac jealous and a little sad.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 64 - 68

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 64 - 68 Summary

A hitchhiking sailor passes by as Kerouac stands in the hot sun waiting for a ride. An interested face pulls up in a car, offering the author a ride. The driver is "some kind of secret fag, which means goodhearted" and Kerouac accepts. The author speaks up for the sailor who also needs a ride and the three men drive to Seattle. The talk of the navy bores Kerouac who takes the time to rest. The sailor gets dropped off, and then Kerouac asks to be let out at Washington University, feigning interest but really wanting to check out the scene. The scene confuses the author, who feels as if everyone is speaking Chinese. A bus takes Kerouac into downtown Seattle where he is reminded of the Seattle from childhood phantom detective books.

Downtown is the right medicine. The people wandering the streets are hep and there is excitement in the air. Kerouac is lured into a bar featuring the big Friday night fight, where the beer is cold and the crowd rowdy. As the evening wears on, Kerouac decides that in the room full of people, he has the brains and they have the brawn. A New York boy would be crazy to get into a bar fight in Seattle. A hotel room on Skid Row seems like a better option.

Hotel Stevens is the place Kerouac chooses to lay his head. \$1.75 a night is expensive for one night in Skid Row but the room is clean and the author is tired. Kerouac intends to stay in for the rest of the night but becomes restless. First is a trip to a nearby store to buy a bottle of wine and a newspaper. Kerouac is distracted by a restaurant/bar still showing the fight. Men stand at a newsstand ogling magazines with naked women who show almost everything they have. Kerouac disdains the men's behavior but looks anyway.

After spending an hour and a half at the hotel drinking wine, Kerouac feels the need to get out again. The author and the wine go down to Skid Row where there's nobody. Kerouac drinks the wine then moseys on down to the burlesque show.

The burlesque show starts with two clowns telling jokes. The clowns are a part of the show, often involving the dancing girls in their act. The dancers range from a Spanish Lolita to an old man doing a sorry rendition of a hot foot tap dance to Kitty O'Grady, a green-eyed redhead that is supposed to bring the house down.

Kitty O'Grady is pretty but will probably end up as a caricature of herself on a street in Baltimore. Kerouac is reminded of WC Fields who said, "Ain't you an old Follies girl?"



The crowd livens up even more when one clown announces the next act - a girl known only as Naughty Sarina. The dancer enters like a cat to the ragdown jazz drag, a witch without a broom who slinks and bumps to the music.

Naughty Sarina takes the floor. Living up to her name, the dancer writhes on the floor, assuming a coitus position. The act teases and torments the men in the audience who have no chance of ever capturing the minx with the secret blank eyes. Kerouac fantasizes about taking Sarina to bed but knows it will never happen. In the end, the world makes no sense and Kerouac refuses to try to understand.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 64 - 68 Analysis

Kerouac shows a keen interest in every person who offers a ride. There is no prejudice regarding the driver's obvious homosexuality. Anyone who can fascinate or tell stories is worth knowing. Nothing else matters.

The Seattle scene is just what the doctor ordered for the author. Unsure of where to go, Kerouac is drawn into the bar. The bartender regards him respectfully and the author feels at home, drawn in by the excitement of the big fight. Knowing when to leave the party is crucial and the author knows it's time to go home.

There is no reason to sleep when there are things that one can do while in the city. Kerouac proves this by reversing the many decisions to go to bed then going out to find something or someone in the night.

Kerouac delights in watching the crowd almost as watching the show. The author pulls for a guy who might get lucky with one of the girls; feels pity for the old tap dancer; and is amused by the clowns.

While men admire dancers in their youth, Kerouac feels pity for them when the beauty has faded, and the career has been long over. What once was seductive will become pathetic.

The author allows himself to be amused at the dancers and their wannabe paramours. Getting drawn in is always the peril and the author is smitten with Naughty Sarina. Leaving the dancer and the improbable dream behind, Kerouac returns to the night and dreams about desolation.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 69 - 72

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 69 - 72 Summary

A Chinese restaurant beckons, and Kerouac answers. The waitresses watch as the author gets lost in the joy of chow mein noodles, realizing that he will sleep alone tonight. Who would want to sleep with him anyway? At age 34, with dirty jeans and wine on his teeth, Kerouac muses that he's not the most desirable man on earth. Not any more. However, there have been many women, including two wives and hundreds of lovers, "everyone of em betrayed or screwed in some way by me".

Sleep comes but it is a fitful sleep because of the city noises that come through the window of the Skid Row hotel room. Thoughts of Frisco come almost constantly and Kerouac has to admit to himself that it will be impossible to hitchhike with battered and blistered feet. A bus is the answer and for once, Kerouac has enough money to pay for it.

The morning brings about a craving for a proper breakfast. The author is impressed by the cook at a self-serve luncheonette who is as clean as a pin and kind. Kerouac views him as "a real believing man who won't let the night discourage him". The author is happy with the sunny side up eggs and newspaper reporting on Mickey Mantle.

The return from Desolation Peak has heightened the senses of the author who notices every small thing about Seattle. Characters on the streets amuse and fascinate the author as he makes the journey to the bus station to buy a ticket. Once the ticket is purchased, Kerouac goes to a soda fountain to kill time, indulging in a milkshake and hot chocolate. Behind the counter is a pretty, young blond woman who is left to tend to the soda fountain alone while customers pour in, making demands, shredding the poor girl's nerves to pieces. The clerk in the drug store ignores the girl who is on the brink of hysterics, particularly when there is no catsup to be found. Customers are getting angry and Kerouac contemplates helping the young woman sort the whole mess out but decides against it. The author notices that nobody notices the girl because nobody cares. In the end, Kerouac pays the bill and heads for the bus.

The bus pulls out of Seattle and heads south toward Portland. Kerouac rests comfortably in the back seat with cigarettes and a newspaper. A student learns that the author speaks Spanish and begins to relay his woes with women. Kerouac decides that if he were Sultan, the world could be arranged to be something better.

The bus trip takes Kerouac into examining the regret that he should have spent more time praying and repenting while living on Desolation Peak. Back in the real world, the



author is confused as to what to do. After traveling through various cities, San Francisco Bay finally appears on the horizon.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 69 - 72 Analysis

Kerouac continues to exhibit a fickle personality that is prone to despair. Psychiatrists refer to it as "schizoid tendencies" but Kerouac sees it as his piece in the world as well as the source of creativity. The author wants and wants but when he gets what he wants, he no longer wants it.

The kind man in the restaurant is representative of Kerouac's mother who is always kind and ready to prepare any meal her beloved son desires. This remembrance of home lifts Kerouac's spirits and enables him to move forward.

Kerouac collects characters to use in books and poetry, which is part of what made him so famous. Empathy for the young waitress nearly overwhelms the author, who knows that the right thing to do would be to jump in and save the day. Why is the drug store clerk ignoring the girl as a nervous breakdown approaches? Kerouac's desire for removal of responsibility leaves the girl to her own devices.

Wanting to be left alone on the bus is a pipe dream for Kerouac. Instead of simply reading the newspaper, the author is besieged with the problems of others. Kerouac seems to be constantly out of his comfort zone or in a state of realization that dreams are never the same as reality.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 73 - 76

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 73 - 76 Summary

Kerouac muses that the Oakland-Bay Bridge is the thing that matters most, carrying passengers over ferries and waters that seem to be talking to you. Seeing the rooftops of Frisco are what make the author excited and eager to believe. As the streets roll by one by one, the author knows that out there somewhere are his long lost friends.

San Francisco has a scene different from any other city. Things happen everywhere and every person is interesting, from the Longtail Charley Joe from LA to Minnie O'Pearl who is a lesbian singer to the Negro baggage handlers of the Greyhound Company, dressed perfectly in perfect neckties and collars. The sight of such perfection leads Kerouac to decide that a haircut is in order and that it can be done at the hotel with a small pair of aluminum scissors carried in the rucksack. Thoughts of hitting the Cellar, a hot jazz club, brighten Kerouac's mood. All summer the author has provided his own jazz, singing on the mountaintop but nothing beats the jazz club where the author can hear the perfect beat of a sweet tenor saxophone.

Kerouac chooses the Bell Hotel for the night. The hotel is located in Chinatown, across from a playground. The author cuts his hair, cleans up, and gets ready to hit the town.

Kerouac commiserates with a bum at the crossing at Columbia and Kearney while the men refuse to wait for the light to change. Both men are from New York and understand that no one waits. "When we cross streets in New York, we cross'em!"

Steep wooden steps lead down to the Cellar that features a bar and a bandstand. Kerouac's favorites are in the house doing a sound check. The author is fascinated by the bandleader's ideas about music but has heard them all. A young girl approaches the author and relays that a mutual friend is in need of help because he has no money. Kerouac agrees to find and help the man.

Another visit to a Chinese restaurant occupies Kerouac until it's time to go back to the Cellar. It's still early when the meal is over, so the author decides to roam the streets of Chinatown enjoying pretty pink neons, faces in store windows, and the sight of Pagodas. With more time to kill, Kerouac returns to the hotel where he attempts to meditate and is left staring at the ceiling.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 73 - 76 Analysis

The sight of the beloved San Francisco has rejuvenated the author's need to see old friends and find new adventures. Kerouac doesn't want to make an entrance while his appearance is ragged and unkempt. Thoughts of friends at the Cellar make the author almost joyful, as does the knowledge that a favorite sax player will surely be in the house, ready to please.

Even with the excitement of going to hear real jazz, Kerouac notices small details like a blinking clock, dark carpet, and a calendar of a Chinese girl.

Even though Kerouac has just returned to town, he is approached with a cry for help regarding a New York friend and comrade. Always caring what happens to friends, the author agrees to do what he can for the man. A stroll through Chinatown is the fruition of some of the dreams on Desolation Peak.



Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 77 - 78

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 77 - 78 Summary

The Cellar is ready for action but the music has not started. Kerouac knows no one in the bar, which is unusual, so he steps out to wait on the sidewalk. Two friends approach from different directions and the three go to another bar to discuss poetry and death. Eventually, the men head back to the Cellar for some jazz. The author delights in describing the musicians, particularly the trumpet player whom Kerouac says "has a face like everybody you've ever known and seen on the street in your generation". People dance and mingle, moving from person to person while the drums beat. One girl, Gia, enters the room and recognizes Kerouac as a friend of Irwin's. The girl, who is the daughter of a deceased Spanish anthropologist Kerouac admires, is cool, elegant, and oddly out of place.

Kerouac steps away from the noise to call Irwin and finds Raphael, the friend with no money. Intentions to get together go awry and promises are made to meet up the next day.

The Cellar gets louder and so crazy that Kerouac and some friends decide to bail out. One of the friends tells the author that his close friend Cody will be around in the morning. Kerouac calls Raphael and the men plan to meet for brunch. The men go their separate ways and Kerouac goes back to the hotel to sleep.

Kerouac oversleeps and is late for brunch. A mad rush to make up for lost time ensues. On the way to brunch, Kerouac runs into friend and poet Irwin Garden, a bearded poet Kerouac thinks of as a Jewish prophet. Kerouac tells Irwin of his plans and the pair set off once more. Irwin tells Kerouac that he and his lover, Simon, are headed to Europe. Irwin invites Jack along, offering to spend his inheritance to play for the trip. Kerouac has money also and agrees.

Many members of "the gang" are assembled for brunch but others, whose presence is desired, didn't know of the plans and therefore couldn't attend. The group goes to a local coffee shop where everyone shows up eventually. Raphael enters first, with Cody not far behind.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 77 - 78 Analysis

Finding no kindred spirits at the Cellar is a great disappointment for Kerouac. However, some friends do show up and things begin to appear a bit brighter. The author finds out

that Cody, his closest friend and someone Kerouac fiercely admires, will be at a friend's house for brunch. Kerouac's dreams are coming true.

Things begin to come together in a fluid motion, just as Kerouac hoped they would. Irwin is an important part of the group and one of Kerouac's closest friends. Both men are excited to see Cody, an enigmatic man and one of the few who has a job and family. Kerouac is obsessed with Cody, always seeking his approval and guidance.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 79 - 82

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 79 - 82 Summary

Kerouac is curious about the redhead who entered the coffee shop with Cody. Irwin informs Kerouac that the girl had heard the group read their poetry in Seattle last winter and had driven down looking for a ball.

Raphael steals the stage, shrieking about losing all of his poetry in a Greyhound Bus terminal in Miami. The poet is inconsolable. Cody tries to convince his friends that this will be the year to clean up at the races and Irwin sits reading new poems at the table.

Kerouac asks Cody to drive up to Mill Valley to pick up old clothes and manuscripts. Cody agrees and during the drive, Kerouac notices that the old Cody is back and is pleased.

The friends visit with Kevin McLoch, a Buddhist and carpenter who lent Kerouac space in his garage so that manuscripts could be stored. Raphael and Cody don't get along and soon the dynamic of happiness has been tarnished.

Cody is a frequent guest at the McLoch house and is awed by its owner. Raphael picks at Cody, saying that his aunts had warned him about the man. McLoch keeps the peace simply by being peaceful. All wonder where to find their old friend Simon Darlovsky, a.k.a. "The Mad Russian". Penny sits and meditates through all the action and everyone else waits for something else to happen.

The group is invited to McLoch's main house where his wife prepares food for everyone. After lunch, Gregorian Chants are played on the stereo and people talk and drink. The afternoon takes the group back to the city, along with Kerouac's cherished belongings. Cody convinces the others to join him at the racetrack the next day. All agree to meet at Raphael's girl's place in the morning. Raphael invites them over to drink, planning to pack his things because he has decided to break up. Then he offers the girl to Kerouac, who declines.

Two established poets, Geoffrey Donald and Patrick McLearn enter the coffee shop where Irwin is still writing poetry. Kerouac believes that the two men hate all of them. The group discovers that Mademoiselle Magazine is interested in taking their photos. Cody declines to have his picture taken. The group offers the other two poets the opportunity to join in but the men refuse, saying that they already have a separate photo shoot later that night. Irwin is incensed as the group wasn't invited.

Simon joins the crowd, full of epiphanies about love and asks to give a long impromptu speech about love with observations, education from books and philosophers and guidance from higher beings. The group agrees since Simon is so enthusiastic.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 79 - 82 Analysis

Kerouac was ecstatic to see the old Cody back again, debating religion and poetry. The author seems a bit jealous to have to share Cody at first but the connection between friends will survive. The tension between Cody and Raphael is palpable and makes everyone uncomfortable. Kerouac, who insists all his friends love one another, tries to make it all better.

Oftentimes, members of the group rely on someone else to make something happen. Lack of motivation causes argument, boredom or separation. Reminiscing about old friends is always safe.

There is a great sense of community among the friends, someone always willing to feed and house whoever needs it. The group enjoys great food and drink and doesn't want to see it end. Some are reluctant to join Cody at the racetrack because he always loses. Kerouac is struck by Raphael's odd offering of his girlfriend and tells Raphael that Cody is the better choice as Cody loves her.

Part of the tension between the two established poets and the beats may be imagined. The men are all at different points in their careers, with different agendas and different dreams. There seems to be an odd kind of kinship, like estranged siblings.

Simon's enthusiasm amuses the group, partly due to his age, partly due to the complete truth of the ramblings. No one can ignore the diatribe, and Raphael is convinced that Simon is simply emulating Cody.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 83 - 85

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 83 - 85 Summary

The poets go to Simon's house where his little brother, Lazarus, is frying potatoes. Kerouac relays how Simon saved Lazarus from their mother and brothers who are mentally unstable and constantly in and out of mental institutions. Simon realizes that taking care of Lazarus is beyond his means, both physically and mentally but sending the little brother back to New York would be tragic.

Simon is annoyed that Lazarus forgot to go to the store and the brothers make a great production out of making a grocery list. Lazarus wanders off and is not seen for hours as he was "looking at pitchers".

One of the established poets has taken it upon himself to speak to a New York publisher on behalf of Kerouac. Kerouac is surprised and can't think of an appropriate way to say thank you. Two nights later, the poet invites Kerouac to a dinner party at the home of a woman who promotes poetry readings. One by one, Irwin and the others ask to be invited as well. The woman graciously says yes.

The group goes to Raphael's girlfriends where an orgy takes place. Raphael, not interested in participating, sits talking with Kerouac. Kerouac is surprised when Raphael insists that he take the silver crucifix that he was admiring. The two discuss the Diamond Sutra while the rest of the evening goes down hill. In the end, Raphael picks a fight with his girlfriend and everyone goes back to Simon's house where Lazarus begins to cook, Irwin sleeps, and a girl who loves Irwin cries because she can't have him. Kerouac offers himself instead and the girl accepts.

Kerouac wonders about the crucifix, the "thicks and thins" he will wear it through, and how Jesus would feel about all of it. Kerouac thinks he should ask Jesus if it's okay to wear it even if he still sins.

Cody enters the bedroom in the morning while Kerouac is still in bed with the girl from the night before. Cody is pleased to see the scene and says so. The plan for the day was for the group to go to the racetrack. Along the way, Cody and Kerouac try to explain God to Lazarus and get into a confusing discussion on God, the universe, and Buddhism.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 83 - 85 Analysis

Simon made great sacrifices by bringing Lazarus to San Francisco but feared for the boy's safety as well as his sanity. It would have been a matter of time before the 17 year old ended up in jail or a mental institution. The realization that he might have to send Lazarus back to New York brings about great sadness and relief to Simon.

Everyone loves Lazarus and looks after him. Lazarus is a smart boy, simply prone to blank stares and giving into the habit of asking everyone bizarre questions.

Kerouac is surprised by the poet's interest in his work and the fact that the time has come to elevate his own career. Irwin is Kerouac's champion and promotes him tirelessly. Kerouac is uncertain of the whole deal but realizes that it's necessary to investigate.

Raphael's gift of the crucifix shows a great deal of admiration toward Kerouac. At first, Kerouac refuses, not prepared to take such an elegant gift from the boy who lives in the ghetto. Kerouac finally accepts because it means so much to Raphael, then wonders if he is committing a greater sin by wearing it during every day sinning.

Lazarus is no more enlightened after the trip to the racetrack than he was before. Both Kerouac and Cody speak vehemently about their individual beliefs, tossing in what seem to be secret codes and gibberish that mean little.



Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 86 - 90

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 86 - 90 Summary

At one stop along the way, Lazarus is left behind. After a Chinese breakfast, Cody takes everyone to see his new girl, who has a figure that is "dead perfect". The woman's husband comes in and while Kerouac tries to make himself invisible behind a book, Cody is cool and doesn't care. The husband doesn't seem to care either.

Kerouac questions Cody about his dislike of Raphael and tries to patch it up so that all the friends can love one another. Kerouac asks Cody to try to see the good in Raphael.

A heated debate takes place over Cody's flawed method of choosing the winning horses for each race. Kerouac refuses to bet, leaving Cody and Raphael to figure it out although each has a different theory.

An old woman asks Cody to place a bet for her - Cody pays and she chooses the horse. If the horse wins, they split the purse 50/50. Cody agrees.

Through a series of trial and error bets, Cody and Raphael begin to win. Raphael breaks even but Cody is extremely successful, having recouped some of his losses. Cody announces that the money will go toward a new car.

Cody and Raphael are in agreement with the opinion that Kerouac should stop hanging out in Skid Row. Cody expresses disdain over Kerouac's need to analyze and wallow in misery. Why can't Kerouac enjoy what he has and embrace life?

Raphael and Kerouac are dropped off in Chinatown; Cody goes home to share his good fortune with Evelyn. Raphael and Kerouac changed their plans and went back to Simon's house. Irwin is in bed brooding over the fact that his "idea friends" don't always get along and in fact, some hate each other.

The next morning, Simon offers to go with Kerouac to visit the Buddhist Academy. The men set off with Simon insisting that if he can emulate Kerouac's actions, then there could be more beauty added to the world.

The men attempt to meet up with Paul, a former physicist who works as a janitor at the Buddhist Academy. Paul had been holding a manuscript for Kerouac during the months on Desolation Peak. Paul was away on a trip and the manuscript could not be found. Kerouac is directed to an office where he is greeted by a man in a suit, obviously someone in an official position at the Academy. The man says that Paul didn't leave a manuscript then tries to engage Kerouac in conversation. Kerouac declines the

invitation to the man's office that puzzles Raphael because the man knows about Irwin and poetry.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 86 - 90 Analysis

Kerouac admires Cody's obsession and way with women and often wonders how his friend can manage it. Those thoughts are taken over by Cody's dislike for Raphael, a fact that disturbs Kerouac's sense of order. Cody's agreement to give Raphael another chance is half-hearted.

Kerouac's removal from anything involving Cody is unusual. However, this was an argument no one could really win. In the end, the experience helped Cody and Raphael communicate in their own fractured way.

Cody takes the woman's bet most likely because the old lady resembled his own mother from Arkansas. Since Cody was winning, placing a \$2 bet for the woman would make them all happy and build good Karma. The horse lost but the good deed was done. With money in his pocket, Cody becomes more carefree and frivolous, dreaming of buying a Mercedes for the family car.

Kerouac feels slightly betrayed by the allegiance of Cody and Raphael but knows that he caused it. Cody enjoys money and life; Kerouac gives money little to regard and is fascinated with the Void and even death. A compromise will not be reached. Simon, still looking to find his place in the world, follows Kerouac like a lost puppy. Kerouac is an unwitting guru but enjoys the young man's company.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 91 - 95

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 91 - 95 Summary

Kerouac and friends make their way to the party thrown for them by Rose Wise Lazuli, a woman known for being involved in the San Francisco poetry movement. The guests have dinner and mingle with other poets and writers in the room, including the two men that have convinced Irwin of their hostility. After dinner is a poetry reading, which they all attend, arriving in a parade of cars.

Cody doesn't go to the poetry reading. The rest go to hear the featured poet, curious to see what the man has to say. In walks David D'Angeli, a friend of Kerouac's who shares his wit and fervent belief in God, the latter that spawned the nickname "The Priest". The men joke and intend to meet at a party later.

Kerouac listens carefully to the featured poet, disturbed by the fact that the poet pays great attention to form. Kerouac believes that in crafting a poem to adhere to form, creativity is lost.

The entire group attends an after party at somebody's mansion. Everyone makes too much noise and stays too late. Levesque, a penniless painter, joins the crowd.

The gang takes up residence on a cobblestone curb where they drink and make too much noise. The curb is abandoned when police arrive on the scene. The men take the booze and jump onto city buses where they continue the festive mood. Eventually, everyone ends up at Simon's where Kerouac sleeps in a sleeping bag, window open to the cool stars.

Kerouac takes Simon and Raphael on a walk through the area of the city that houses iron works and cement factories, eventually making their way to the railroad yard to visit Cody. Cody is done with work and the group goes to visit yet another new girl. Raphael borrows her and cons his friends into helping him move out of Sonya's apartment.

Raphael has been invited to stay at the home of Erhman, who also extended the invitation to Levesque the penniless painter. The home is beautiful and all are taken by the presence of a piano. Cody is annoyed that he may miss the races again Kerouac convinces Cody to try again the next day. Raphael sits at the piano, aimlessly striking keys until he stumbles upon a beautiful sonata of his own creation. The song captures the attention of everyone in the room and eventually makes some cry.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 91 - 95 Analysis

Rose is aware that she is not one of the young beat crowd that is changing the face of San Francisco but she's happy to play a part in supporting the young poets. Much like the fun aunt in the family, Rose feeds and encourages the poets to create and carry on and live the life. The poets adore her.

Cody doesn't like to be in situations where he is not in control. The other poets are eager for the experience, curious to see what the featured poet has to offer. Kerouac's fascination and admiration of David DeAngeli is charming and it is sure that Kerouac will be connecting with him more often.

The poets refuse to let society dictate their actions and attempt to prove it an any opportunity. One by one they get tired of the race around the city and go back to Simon's to sleep, wake up, and start all over again.

The audacity of the men is bold to the point of being humorous - they stay with people they just met and borrow cars from sick girls in apartments when they need to move furniture.

The home of Erhman is plush and lovely enough to amaze the group. All are entrance by its beauty. Cody pouts like a child because he missed the beginning of the races. Like a consoling parent, Kerouac tells him that there's always tomorrow.

Raphael surprises his friends by showing yet another side of his personality. Everyone is enchanted by the haunting melody that seems to come from a different place. For the first time, all are silent.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 96 - 100

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 96 - 100 Summary

The sonata even draws out the infirm Erhman from the bedroom. All agree that the music is beautiful and regret that they have to prepare for the photo shoot for Mademoiselle. In the photos, the poets act ridiculous and compare themselves to baseball greats Ty Cobb, Joe DiMaggio, and Lour Gehrig. Later, the poets connect with Ben Fagan whom Kerouac calls the greatest catcher of all time. Fagan is also a friend and former fire lookout.

Cody is at odds with Raphael again. In another attempt to cement their friendship, Kerouac suggests bringing Raphael to Cody's house for the weekend. The offer of booze seals the deal.

The group goes to the Cellar to see Brue Moore play the tenor saxophone. Kerouac is awed by Moore and the ability to keep every perfect beat even after he's been drinking as heavily as the people who came to listen. During the break, Moore sits with the author and Gia but rarely speaks. Moore saves the conversation for his horn.

Duluoze says all should be like David D'Angeli, practicing good intentions that speak to the universe. After the Cellar, there are various stops with everyone ending back at Simon's house. There is no privacy to be had, which begins to wear on the author. Cody is also annoyed with the group after they make a scene at the bus station. Duluoze prepares for the trek to Mexico.

Raphael takes Cody's advice and goes into a long detailed explanation of love to a blonde girl who leaves without a forwarding address. Cody is working on the train, the others impressed by his knowledge and the confidence he inspires in others. Kerouac and Cody argue over money again, unable to conclude that they will never be able to agree.

Raphael, Duluoze and Cody go to Cody's house for the weekend. Even though Cody approved Raphael's presence, he throws a tantrum because the younger poet made the trip. Duluoze gives Raphael his usual bed and decides to sleep outside under the stars.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 96 - 100 Analysis

The music from Raphael's soul is beautiful enough to bring a man away from his sickbed. There is sorrow when the music must stop. The poets don't care that they are

sabotaging their own careers by acting inappropriately at the wrong times. Their antics during the photo shoot and interview for Mademoiselle caused the magazine to leave the poets on the cutting room floor.

Cody is still trying to understand Raphael and Raphael is unintentionally making it difficult. While Cody withdraws, Raphael steps further into the limelight.

Kerouac shows open admiration toward those who pour their hearts and souls into their work. Moore plays jazz sax, which also impresses Kerouac. At times, the author expresses the desire to get inside Moore's head but Moore saves it all for the music. Familiarity breeds contempt for Duluoaz and Cody.

Raphael is impressionable and has not yet learned to refrain from sharing every idea he's ever had with anyone who will listen. Kerouac is disappointed that Cody has cast off the ways of poverty and suffering to search out a better life.

The choice to sleep outside seems to be an odd choice to Duluoaz's friends but it shouldn't be. Sleeping in the fresh air is always better for Duluoaz and in a small way, allowing him to separate from the rest of the world.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 101 - 102

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 101 - 102 Summary

Duluozi wakes to the sound of Cody and Evelyn's three children. Evelyn prepares a big breakfast for them all. Cody readies for work, Duluozi and the family eat, while Raphael broods. Raphael has not made a good impression.

Throughout the day, while Cody is at work, Duluozi plays magical games in the backyard with the children who adore him. After a grand dinner, Raphael and Cody watch TV while Evelyn and Duluozi have a conversation about religion. The pair eventually joins in on the television watching, soon to be interrupted by the arrival of Irwin, Simon, and Gia. All have come to say goodbye to Duluozi before he departs on another exciting adventure.

Cody takes Duluozi to the railroad yard to catch a freight train headed for LA and beyond. Duluozi is suddenly unsure about leaving but Cody reassures him and proceeds to give precise instructions about jumping a train. Duluozi drinks the night away and the next day boards a bus to Arizona, then Mexico.

Book I, Part II - Desolation in the World: Chapters 101 - 102 Analysis

Peace finally comes over the Pomeroy house via the TV set. The friends have changed the night into a laughing celebration. The arrival of Irwin, Simon and Gia only bring a slight surprise to those who also tend to show up at odd places at odd times. Irwin has instigated the trip, sad to see Duluozi go off on another adventure without him.

Cody wants to encourage Duluozi even when he doesn't understand the path on which his friend travels. Duluozi, always wanting to move ahead even before the last adventure has unfolded, has some reservations about Mexico but decides to go anyway because Desolation Peak has driven him to it.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 1 - 5

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 1 - 5 Summary

Duluo is out to prove that he is able to do nothing and still be a worthwhile artist. The short time spent "with the desolation angels, the poets and characters of the San Francisco Renaissance" were a breath of fresh air that cannot alter the course of his path. Did anyone ever give Rembrandt grief for painting all night instead of simply focusing on the work he performed in the day?

Duluo has chosen to spend the night in the desert when there is a break in the trip. Two squad cars surround Duluo as he walks through the desert under a full moon, looking for a place to sleep. The police are baffled that a man who has enough money to rent a bed would choose to sleep on the sand.

Mexico is the perfect place for an artist who can get cheap lodgings, good food, have fun on a Saturday night, and be able to stroll the streets at night without being approached by the police. However, Mexico also holds a sense of sadness, drear and darkness that is easily forgotten.

Duluo rents a rooftop adobe hut, above Bull Gaines, an expatriate and friend. Gaines, who is currently a recluse, shares his drug-riddled philosophies about artists and junkies having similar needs.

Duluo helps Gaines around the house, even empties the bucket the old man uses as a bedpan. Duluo sees Gaines as an "Old Guruish Oriental Minister of the Court temporarily taking drugs in a distant city". Duluo is also called upon to take Gaines to get the more morphine. Duluo respects Gaines for his friendship and reputation as a great thief.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 1 - 5 Analysis

The author makes a good point in that artists need to be able to do whatever they can in order to feed the muse. History shows us only a small part of an artist's life and deep down, Duluo knows that even Rembrandt was chastised for a sense of blind devotion to his art.

Duluo is frustrated by the fact that people can't understand the great need to sleep under the stars and endless search for peace. The author reflects on the fact that the good things are easy to remember, although the less the pleasant things are easier to

forget. Although Duluoze has known about Bull's drug addiction for many years, the condition of his friend is startling. Duluoze can see the man's point and appreciates his opinion but knows that Bull may be on the way out.

Duluoze reasons that it's better to help an old man rather than gloat in lounges and give into pointless excess. There is a sadness to see this old friend, who is infamous for stealing expensive overcoats, in a state of seemingly irreversible disrepair.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 6 - 11

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 6 - 11 Summary

A trip to the Chinese laundry is one of the few things Gaines agrees to do. After running many errands, Gaines and Duluoze take a cab but ask to be dropped off at a movie house a block away. Gaines wants no one to know where he lives.

Duluoze continues to spend some of his time taking care of Gaines. The rest of the time is spent in solitude on the roof, enjoying the moon, stars, and echoes of music that rise up from the street. During this time, Duluoze writes a novel, finishes another, and records an entire volume of poetry.

Duluoze reviews his life to this point, not pleased that his windowed mother is penniless, and he has the appearance of an escaped mental patient. The group of San Francisco friends calls him a "Zen Lunatic" or a "Drunken Lunatic".

Duluoze tends to wallow in self-pity and guilt, only exacerbated by his own actions that he refuses to correct until the answers to the questions of the universe have been answered. Duluoze has mixed feelings about Irwin's constant attentiveness and isn't sure that he wants the fellow poet to visit the rooftop apartment in Mexico.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 6 - 11 Analysis

Gaines has some reason to be paranoid since he is wanted by the police. However, being a recluse and overly secretive about the location of the apartment shows signs that paranoia has set in.

Duluoze is finally settling in and taking advantage of the culture and atmosphere he so desired. Gaines' presence is welcome in small doses, as long as there is time for Duluoze to contemplate the many things plaguing his mind.

Irwin Garden is an artist who chooses to be continually surrounded by friends. Garden is openly gay; Duluoze has no problem with it and notes that 60, 70, or 90% of artists are gay. However, the heterosexual artist should not feel threatened.

Duluoze is curious about the group's reaction to Gaines and wonders how the meeting will impact the more impressionable poets such as Raphael and Simon. Irwin is well traveled but the others are not. The trip to Mexico City strengthens the bond between Irwin and Duluoze.



Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 12 - 17

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 12 - 17 Summary

Irwin scolds Duluoze for wasting all of his precious time in Mexico by sitting on the rooftop day and night, writing poetry. The men argue and in the end, Irwin wins out by goading Duluoze into a trip to Mexico University.

The tour of the University and the city are a success. The group goes back to the new apartment and Gaines joins them for dinner, wearing one of the famed stolen jackets. Lazarus falls ill and takes the suggestion to try morphine because it cures all ills. The drug works.

The group has its best day when they take a trip to the Pyramids of Teotihuacán. Everyone is interested in the tales of the fire worshipers and the many anthills surrounding the entrance. Someone wonders if ants have hospitals.

Lazarus wanders off and spends hours scouring the interesting sites in nearby villages. At dusk, the group gathers to watch an Indian basketball game.

The poets have their first real night on the town. Club Bombay is a seedy bar where mariachi band plays and Mexican girls dance and grant other favors for three pesos (24 cents). Several of the men take advantage of the offering of whores, although Irwin wants no part of it. Soon after, Simon is diagnosed with gonorrhea and must take penicillin shots.

While walking down Redondas Street, which is the main street of nightlife, the men come upon a young man and his lover, a boy of about 12. Irwin decides that the group needs to talk to the boys to find out about gay life in Mexico City. The police closely watch the boys who appear to be homeless. After talking with the boys, the poets seek out the Mexican hipsters, most of which are of Italian and Cuban descent. Duluoze pities the hipsters because in America, the hipsters don't have to get up and go to work in the morning.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 12 - 17 Analysis

Irwin's rampage only fuels Duluoze's fire to be left in solitude although deep down, it is obvious that Irwin is right. Lazarus is fragile in the hands of his counterparts. The group watches out for him yet wants the boy to live all possible experiences. The mysticism of the Pyramids have the group thinking with like minds for the first time in many weeks.

The group fears for Lazarus' safety when it is discovered that the boy has wandered off again. Relieved to find Lazarus in one of the villages, the group heads home.

Irwin does not object to Simon taking a girl behind the curtain and his refusal to do so is based on the fact that the bar and private rooms are covered in filth. Duluo's worldliness pays off when he remembers to clean up after sex, where Simon's naiveté causes severe unpleasantness.

No one seems surprised to see the gay boys walking down the street together and even delight in their ability to be open about a relationship that would be taboo in America. While the group digs the Mexican hipsters, they realize that no one has it better than the American version of the same.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 18 - 23

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 18 - 23 Summary

Raphael hates Mexico City, referring to it as "a dirty rag somebody finally used to wipe up spit in the men's room". Raphael decides to go back to a fancy hotel in New York and heads back to the apartment to pack. His continuous rants cause great laughter in the group and Raphael rises to the occasion by becoming more and more outrageous.

Raphael gets his wish and stays in a fancy hotel for the night. The next day, Raphael boards a plane to Washington D.C. where he has been invited to stay at the home of the Poetry Consultant of the Library of Congress.

The next day is a mixture of serenity and excitement. The group takes out a boat for the afternoon, dreaming of gondolas and pretty women. In the evening, they play piggyback in the yard of a church, and then attend a fireworks display in honor of a national holiday.

Duluo is determined to return to his long nights of hot chocolate and sleeping under the stars. Irwin tries to convince Duluo that he needs to return to New York because it is time that the Beats influence America and that Duluo needs to contact publishers, get published, and be able to dance naked on his fan mail. Duluo considers this logic and agrees to return home.

It is decided that the best way to return to New York is to find someone who is willing to share expenses and drive from Mexico. A mobster look alike named Norman has placed such an ad and the poets buy in. With one passenger already contracted, six men cram into the car, rucksacks tied to the roof. The first leg of the trip proves to be miserable although Irwin and Norman try to entertain the others by singing various arias. The tension is broken when Norman announces that he needs help driving in the mountains and instructs everyone to lean in the appropriate direction each time he hits a curve.

The car stops in Texas on Thanksgiving Day. Needing to take a break, the group decides to spend the night. Norman and Tony (the other passenger) sleep in the car while the poets take their sleeping bags to the desert even though the temperature is below freezing. While the men have body warmth to make it through the night, Norman and Tony are the ones who can't stand the cold and make everyone get up to get back on the road.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 18 - 23 Analysis

Raphael's drama has become commonplace for the poets and at times, they even enjoy the rants. No one is surprised by Raphael's rash decisions but they are puzzled at some of the literary connections the boy has made. Is making those connections important to the group as a whole? The poets continue to prove that they are versatile in the choice of activities. Poetry is found everywhere.

Irwin's reasoning makes good sense to Duluo, even though the traditional limelight has never been appealing to him. By going back to the New York, Duluo is admitting that he has merit as a literary figure.

The idea seemed like a good one until the poets realized that they would be packed like sardines for the three days' drive. Norman and the other passenger seem to be a little off kilter but turn out all right. It might be a good trip after all. Traveling hobo-style pays off once again for the poets, who prove that they are resilient under any conditions.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 24 - 29

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 24 - 29 Summary

The trip goes into Memphis then onto West Virginia, where Norman announces that he can drive no longer. Duluoz is asked to drive although he doesn't know how. Norman insists and the car travels easily into Wheeling, where Duluoz buys a bottle to celebrate.

At last, the group hits the New Jersey turnpike, and the trip is nearly at an end. Duluoz rides in the back with Irwin and Simon who sleep. Duluoz thinks about their differences and what will happen to them all in the end.

The poets say goodbye to Norman and Tony, relieved to be back in Manhattan once more. Exhausted and bedraggled, Irwin takes them to an apartment rented by two girls with whom he was acquainted. The girls, both named Ruth, take pity on the men and take them in. All four men fall for one of the Ruths, who eventually ends up with Duluoz. The night ends with all six going into the Village to visit a friend of Simon's. Once again, all is right with the world.

The gang walks through the Village, in and around Washington Square Park. Ruth suggests to Duluoz that they go back to the apartment and listen to the soundtrack of *My Fair Lady* while the others go on. Simon is disappointed that Ruth did not choose him. Duluoz and Ruth return to the apartment to make love.

Duluoz and Ruth are smitten with each other. Irwin and Simon go to live with a rich scholar and Duluoz is still homeless. Ruth asks Duluoz to move into her apartment.

Life is blissful at the two Ruths' apartment. The other Ruth decides that she is in love with Duluoz and asks him to be her lover. Duluoz refuses but the woman persists. Finally, she gives up and takes a lover who must first ask for Duluoz's blessing.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 24 - 29 Analysis

The trip causes more strife and closeness in equal measure. Duluoz finds more abilities than he ever dreamed possible in taking control and experiencing the world by his own hand rather than that of others.

The impending end of the trip causes some sadness in Duluoz. The author is content to watch Irwin and Simon sleep with their roughed up hair and disheveled faces. Although the three don't agree on poetry, Duluoz realizes that he can love them anyway.

The poets are ever resilient and prove it by coming off a horrible trip, meeting girls and starting the celebration all over again. Somehow the poets end up with satisfactory and oftentimes, more than satisfactory living arrangements, often through the generosity of others. Duloz shows uncharacteristic restraint in not sleeping with his lover's roommate. For once, the affection he portrays seems genuine.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 30 - 36

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 30 - 36 Summary

Duluo examines the purpose and meaning of childbirth, finally deciding that it is a great disservice to the world to bear a child who begins life plummeting toward death.

Duluo finally takes Irwin's advice and begins making the rounds of publishing houses. Meeting with success, Duluo is given a monthly stipend against an advance. Duluo thinks it's time to marry Ruth and settle down in Connecticut. Ruth develops an ever-present rash because of Duluo.

The other Ruth confides in Duluo that she is in love with his close friend Julien. Ruth had shown no interest in Julien until he married and became a father. Duluo arranges for Ruth to join him in an evening at Julien's house. While Ruth is talking to Julien's wife and kids, Julien and Duluo skip out and go to a bar. Later that evening, Julien and Duluo go back to the two Ruths' apartment where Duluo's lover attacks him for being drunk.

Duluo stays with Julien and his wife, enjoying their hospitality. One evening, the entire gang, plus some other writers join in a TV watching party at Julien's. No one seems to get Julien's humor but Duluo and his wife who delight in someone who speaks his mind. However, the group is happy together once more. Duluo jokingly compliments Julien's wife on her beautiful legs. Julien informs Duluo if he makes a pass at Nessa, Julien will kill him.

Duluo meets one of Simon and Lazarus' mentally unstable brothers who manages to live in the real world. When the brother meets Duluo, he flees. Later Duluo discovers that he resembles yet another brother who lives in an institution.

Deni Bleu, Duluo's old roommate from the west coast arrives in New York, eager to rekindle an old friendship. Duluo goes along with Simon and Irwin on a lunch appointment to meet Salvador Dali. All the men are fascinated with Dali, not only for his work that is revolutionary, but also for his iconic role in society. The men become fast friends.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 30 - 36 Analysis

Duluo is so obsessed with death that he cannot share in the joy of children or anything of deep emotion for fear of loss.

Duluozy is beginning to see Cody's and Irwin's reasoning behind becoming published and sharing himself with the world. Is it time to settle down and be normal? As usual, Duluozy is caught in the middle of a love triangle. Trying to dissuade Ruth from pursuing Julien seems to make little difference. Duluozy's lover begins to show another side that is obviously tired of Duluozy's antics.

Duluozy continues to rely on the kindness of friends while other areas of his life continually need sorting out. The camaraderie of real men only goes so far. Duluozy is eager to meet Simon and Lazarus' brother and feels bad because there will never be an opportunity to become acquainted. Duluozy is thrilled with the return of Deni Bleu, with whom he shared many experiences.

The poets are beginning to enjoy their growing notoriety and being able to associate with people who were once out of their reach.



Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 37 - 39

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 37 - 39 Summary

Duluoze feels the need to get out of New York and goes to Washington D.C. to visit Raphael at the Poetry Consultant's posh house. Not realizing the terrible faux pas, Duluoze spends a couple of days with the famed poet's family. At one point, Duluoze realizes how completely inappropriate the trip was, even if it felt necessary to see Raphael. Duluoze vows to never invite himself anywhere ever again.

Raphael creates a reproduction of Michelangelo's David, which he promptly hangs over the fireplace in the poet's living room as the wife winces. Raphael doesn't think for a moment that the painting is less of a masterpiece than the original. The poet, Raphael and Duluoze discuss poetry and have a heated disagreement about the importance of form. Raphael and the poet leave Duluoze behind while they go to meet Carl Sandburg.

Some time after Raphael and Duluoze have returned to New York, the poet sends a package containing all the paintings and gifts the two men gave to the family. Duluoze realizes that this is a "Thank God you're gone" gesture. Having grown world weary, Duluoze plans a trip to see his mother. Along the way, Duluoze falls prey to a thief who steals the infamous rucksack that contains volumes of poetry, a copy of the newly written *Desolation Angels*, a copy of another finished novel, as well as everything he had been traveling with all this time. Duluoze is inconsolable. Through some miracle, a man tells Duluoze that his rucksack has been found and will be shipped to the Florida address. All is right with the world once more.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 37 - 39 Analysis

Duluoze realizes that not every home in America can be treated as a flophouse. While the poet was gracious and his family kind, Duluoze is horrified with himself over the incident which seems to have no resolution.

Raphael follows his muse, not always realizing that it may not be suitable for others. Duluoze is somewhat offended that the others think poetry without form can equal gibberish.

Duluoze perceives himself as nearly invincible in the great big world. The thought of someone stealing his belongings, thoughts and writings is more devastating than death.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 40 - 43

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 40 - 43 Summary

Duluoz relays the tale of his mother's life and all the sacrifices that were made on his behalf. Duluoz revels in the time he spent in Florida with his mother and sister. The holidays bring back memories of happy times and create new ones. As Duluoz prepares to return to New York after the beginning of the year, Mrs. Duluoz reminds him to stay away from Irwin and others because the friendship will undoubtedly destroy him.

Duluoz returns to New York where it is apparent that Raphael has been sleeping with his Ruth. This seems to make little difference as Duluoz moves back into the same bedroom. The poets are photographed for Life Magazine.

Raphael returns to making strange acquaintances when he paints a mural for a group of gangsters. Raphael is haughty and not afraid of the men, which automatically gains him respect. In some ways, Raphael is also a mobster. After the painting job, Raphael decides that he wants to "quit the poetry racket". The poets make the journey to meet William Carlos Williams, a hero and legend in literary circles.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 40 - 43 Analysis

Duluoz is never able to fully vocalize gratitude for his mother and although he tries to repay her in any way possible, it never seems to be enough.

Mrs. Duluoz fears that the other Beat poets are the reason her son takes certain actions and indulges in certain behaviors. As with most parents and children, Duluoz does not intend to give up his friends.

Duluoz seems to have returned to the former manner of dealing with relationships, in that they don't mean the world to him. There are other things to explore.

Raphael's audacity is mostly attributed to youth. The lifestyle of the gangsters is appealing and Raphael decides that it's time to live the high life. The Beats' notoriety continues to pay off as they are granted an audience with one of the world's greatest poets.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 44 - 48

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 44 - 48 Summary

Harry Garden, Irwin's father, drives the poets home from the visit at Williams' home. Harry, also a poet, plays host to the Beats. Raphael goes on a rampage, calling Duluoze a hypocrite for denouncing money but then refusing to spend anything.

Ruth tells Duluoze that her psychoanalyst has attributed the ongoing rash to his presence and asks him to move out. Duluoze spends one night at Julien's before getting a hotel downtown.

Duluoze buys food, is shortchanged, and resigns himself to typing the work written in Mexico while surviving on coffee.

Duluoze begins a mad love affair with a woman who shows empathy and buys the poet two hot dogs. The woman is pretty, with blonde hair and an air of elegance. The relationship proves serious to her when Duluoze is pulled away from a conversation with Ruth.

Duluoze admits that the relationship with Alyce is certain to last for years and that Irwin gave him a safe haven via the introduction.

Duluoze borrows \$225 from Irwin and heads to Rockefeller Center to get a passport. Duluoze and Irwin get into another discussion about God. Duluoze tells Irwin that a woman named Barbara is in love with him. Barbara appears on the scene, not deterred by the fact that Irwin is in love with Simon.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapters 44 - 48 Analysis

Raphael constantly calls people out for any misstep, ready to say that at least he can admit his shortcomings. Duluoze is sad about the end of the relationship with Ruth and slips back into his work. In an attempt to keep right with the world, Duluoze attempts to get money back from the store that shortchanged him. Not everyone believes in ultimate truth and since the clerk has gone home, there is no help for Duluoze.

The new lover feels the need to protect Duluoze from the big bad wolves in the world, especially now that he has become famous. The author almost surprises himself that the relationship with Alyce is healthy and loving.

Irwin is glad to lend money to Duluoz for the trip to Tangiers. The men discuss Duluoz's new love for Alyce and the fact that Alyce's friend is in love with Irwin. Although Irwin is openly gay, women still flock to him, only proving that he possesses a great charisma.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapter 49

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapter 49 Summary

There is a farewell party in Duluoz's honor on Saturday. Julien, Nessa and the kids join Duluoz and Alyce on board the S.S. Slovenia that is harbored at the Brooklyn Pier. The group spends the day celebrating Duluoz's last day in America. At dusk, Duluoz and Alyce are left alone again. After a nap, the pair goes into Brooklyn to a bar. Alyce wants to sail to Africa with Duluoz but knows it won't happen. Duluoz begins to tell Alyce that he sees horror everywhere and Alyce returns that he would not see such horror if he stayed with her.

Book II, Part I - Passing Through Mexico: Chapter 49 Analysis

Duluoz seems to have found a good mate in Alyce as she believes in him and the work, yet doesn't give in to the overdramatic musings that are part of Duluoz's nature. In some ways, Alyce reminds Duluoz of his mother, who does not fall into the trap of death and suffering that Duluoz tries to set.



Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 50 - 51

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 50 - 51 Summary

While on the S.S. Slovenia, Duluoz has a lot of time to ponder his next move. This trip seems to be Duluoz's "complete turningabout", changing a previous sense of adventure into complete nausea concerning the world at large. The melancholy increases as the ship enters into a turbulent storm, locking down everything for several days. Duluoz reasons that it would have been better to get a home where he could live with his mother, play with house pets, drink wine, and live quiet. The storm clears and the ship continues its journey to Africa.

The freighter was out to sea for ten days, slowly making its way to Africa. The long, drawn out trip allows Duluoz to write but also increases the disgust with the civilized world. An overdose of opium only adds to the melancholia and frustration. Duluoz decides that it's time to return to the U.S. and find a home.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 50 - 51 Analysis

Every time there is a turbulence that upsets Duluoz's world, no matter how minor, he wants to retreat from the world. For someone who seeks the ultimate experience, this running away never completely makes sense. The activity that awaits in Tangiers will surely revive the author but the solution may only be temporary.

Duluoz insists on living in a fantasy world where he can live in solitude, completely cut off from the world. Sharing his work with the public is a controversial subject, as Duluoz wishes to share his thoughts but takes little action to do so. The author must realize that completely cutting oneself off from the world is not completely possible since he has family and persistent friends.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 52

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 52 Summary

Duluoze puts fear to rest after the storm has passed. The rest of the voyage was smooth and exhilarating. The ship docked on a sunny afternoon in February 1957, revealing the long waited for white rooftops and sand. Spain is visible to the left as well as the hump that leads to the Rock of Gibraltar. Duluoze reviews history and biblical references to the land while the small harbor draws near.

Duluoze has come to Africa to visit a friend, Hubbard. Hubbard is a writer who comes from a family of means and has long suffered from drug addiction. The family sends Hubbard a monthly stipend off of which he can live, until the publication of "Nude Supper", "a book enough to make any mother pale", when the stipend is cut off.

When Duluoze sees Hubbard, the author is greeted with a pleasant surprise. Hubbard, who is 44, has been on a health kick and no longer suffers the appearance of one who is besieged by heroin. Duluoze calls Hubbard "Old Bull", relating him to Bull Gaines in Mexico, who is also a mutual friend.

Hubbard takes Duluoze on a walking tour through the streets, into the tenements, and finally, into a gay bar. Duluoze is shocked that Hubbard carries a switchblade but Hubbard says that a weapon is necessary to keep from being robbed or killed. Later, Duluoze meets Hubbard's new lover, a young man of 20 with a sad smile.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 52 Analysis

Duluoze falls back into seeking adventure as the boat docks in Africa, exhibiting more of his manic personality. "Old Bull" Hubbard is a thinly veiled version of William S. Burroughs, who is heir to the Burroughs adding machine family fortune. Upon the publication of Burroughs' most critically acclaimed, drug induced novel, Naked Lunch, the poet and author was disowned by the family. Burroughs, a.k.a. Hubbard, continues to live the life of a bisexual renegade writer in exile.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 53 - 54

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 53 - 54 Summary

Hubbard insists on spending the day on a boat on Tangiers Bay. The older man is energetic and describes the Tangiers scene in great detail, including the cafes of Arabs who are waiting to see the next crazy person attack passers by with a machete. Hubbard also warns Duluoze what cities to avoid while traveling the world; the same cities in which Hubbard was caught doing something illegal or inadvisable. Eventually, Hubbard grows tired and returns to his lover and latest book.

Hubbard provides a treat of majoun - candy made of honey, spices, and raw marijuana. The men spend the afternoon enjoying the high and talking about plans for their respective careers. Hubbard explains that much of his effort goes toward purging himself of an educated background and philosophies of a world that doesn't fit. Through this process, Hubbard believes that he will be able to purify himself to the level of the angels.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 53 - 54 Analysis

Duluoze is surprised by how uncivilized certain parts of Tangiers appear to be. Learning about the strange land is of interest to Duluoze, who also holds Hubbard in high esteem as some sort of literary genius.

Hubbard is often seen as mad, impetuous and irresponsible. While Duluoze seeks to emulate at least part of Hubbard's lifestyle and belief system, much of what Hubbard does is above and beyond Duluoze although it gives the younger poet food for thought.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 55

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 55 Summary

John Banks, a decadent English chap from Birmingham is the latest person to arrive on the scene. Referring to himself as an English gangster, Banks claims to have been a pirate who smuggled contraband into Tangiers. Hubbard has latched onto Banks, with the Englishman being one in a long list of raconteurs in Hubbard's address book.

Duluoze remembers how Irwin describes Hubbard as Sherlock Holmes' older brother, an elegant man who resides in London's SoHo, always ready to help the young detective solve difficult cases.

Hubbard begins to pine for Irwin, who is on the way to Tangiers from New York. Duluoze knows that Hubbard has been madly in love with Irwin for many years, although the author doesn't fully understand how the two men could ever fully express their love in a romantic sense. Hubbard seems devastated that Simon will be coming with Irwin, a sort of jealousy coming over him. Duluoze and Hubbard continue to smoke opium.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 55 Analysis

Duluoze is always amazed at the types of people Hubbard tends to latch onto in various parts of the world. Although Hubbard claims to want to be segregated from the rest of his family, the people he chooses have an air that suggests the same type of education and background.

Irwin has yet another admirer in Hubbard. Irwin's choice to be with Simon only strengthens Hubbard's desire and melancholy.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 56 - 58

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 56 - 58 Summary

Duluoz enjoys the anonymity of Tangiers and goes about the day almost completely unnoticed. It is a refreshing change from Mexico, where eyes are always upon him regardless of the activity. As time wears on, Duluoz has grown tired, not necessarily of Tangiers but of searching the world at large. By the time Irwin and Simon arrive, Duluoz has taken to seeking solitude in the rooftop apartment, reading incessantly and watching the stars.

Much to the dismay of Duluoz, Irwin wanted to see everything Tangiers had to offer. Since Bull was too tired to go out, it was up to Duluoz to go along with his friends, which he did with reluctance. Along the way, Irwin, Simon and Duluoz meet a group of denim-clad Arab teenagers who seemed to relate to the Beat Movement. The gang all went to a circus full of strange performances and untold delights.

Duluoz received his monthly stipend for *On the Road*, which was being typeset for publication at that time. The author was ready to board another ship bound for America via Paris and London. By this time, Duluoz was completely sick of the whole Beat Generation although it had not been officially named as such at that time. Irwin convinced Duluoz to join the party at Bulls' apartment, which was full of hepcat wannabes from Paris. Duluoz dreaded the thought that the whole culture he had helped to form was spreading all over the world, from universities to high schools. The "cool" possessed by Bull, Irwin and Simon was true and interesting; the "cool" possessed by the Parisians was rigid and forced, making them poseurs at best. A famous writer was at the party and offered to travel with Duluoz to Europe later in the week.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 56 - 58 Analysis

Duluoz returns to a state of depression when he is unable to find magic that will cure all his self-imposed ills. This depression comes about often, usually coinciding with the arrival of one of the other poets.

Although Duluoz is bored with Irwin, Simon and Hubbard, he is wise enough not to hurt anybody's feelings by saying so. The trip to the circus revived some of Duluoz's curiosity

and ability to have fun, in part because Irwin, Simon and the Arabian hipsters were all along for the ride.

Duluoz realizes that he helped to create a monster with the promotion of the Beat Generation and knows that it will all accelerate once Road is released. The urge to get away heightens.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 59 - 60

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 59 - 60 Summary

Duluoiz spends afternoons in Paris' Café Bonaparte, drinking and enjoying the sun. Beautiful women pass by but all seem to be in hurry to be somewhere else. Raphael appears one afternoon, exuberant and eager to explore the city and show Duluoiz what has been discovered so far. The two friends buy a bottle of cognac and meet with girls from England and Holland. The girls eventually shun the poets, annoyed by the fact that the poets don't want an entire season of love filled with flowers and passionate love notes. Raphael takes Duluoiz to meet Nanette, the Parisian with whom he has fallen in love in his usual way. Duluoiz sees Nanette as "an absolute trembling beauty" and takes some advantage when Raphael needs a translator. How does one fall in love if he can't even speak the same language? Duluoiz wants to get away and sneaks off to London.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapters 59 - 60 Analysis

Duluoiz is disappointed by being alone on the ship. The other passengers are intriguing but not enough to stave off the ever-present homesickness.

Duluoiz is slightly annoyed and yet pleased that Raphael has appeared on the Paris scene. The presence of more wannabe hipsters with a forced sense of cool irritates Duluoiz to the point of distraction. A night alone gives Duluoiz the chance to escape from the city he once loved.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 61

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 61 Summary

The English Bobbies, in their tall Bobby hats, attempt to deny a ragged Duluoze entrance to the country until he is able to prove status of American citizenship. After setting foot on English ground, Duluoze wanders through Chelsea in the foggy night. During the walk, Duluoze spots an old Scot who is the image of Julien in the future, right down to the habit of tweaking his moustache. In SoHo, a group of Moroccan hipsters approaches Duluoze. Duluoze has no idea how the kids recognized him in his ragged clothes carrying the huge rucksack. None of the latest group of admirers has started to write or publish but Duluoze predicts that when they do, the work will top that of the American academics.

Duluoze rents a room in Piccadilly Circus and recalls the first exploration of the English countryside during the Army years. England was a wonderful place then but now, tired and world weary, Duluoze heads back home to America.

Book II, Part II - Passing Through Tangiers, France and London: Chapter 61 Analysis

Duluoze attempts to sleep in English fields in haystacks and his appearance is that of a homeless bum. The Bobbies at the pier eye the author with suspicion and, in Duluoze's mind, compare him to Jack the Ripper. The bar scene in London is as Duluoze remembers but does not hold the same excitement as it did years ago.

The Moroccan teens fascinate Duluoze, who is initially annoyed by the admiration. Duluoze sees the boys as being the next wave of important writers. This experience is refreshing but not enough to make Duluoze want to stay in England. It's time to go home and Duluoze books passage.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 62 - 63

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 62 - 63 Summary

In the spring of 1957, Duluozi decides it's time to go back to Europe. On the ship, Duluozi is shunned for his inappropriate attire of jeans and a flannel shirt while others were in semi-formal clothes at dinner. Afraid of tarnishing the overall appearance of the dining room, Duluozi is relegated to the corner of the room where he eats dinner with three elderly Dutch schoolteachers and a 22 year old-girl strung out on speed. Duluozi is insulted but would rather eat in the galley, anyway.

It's back to New York for Duluozi. Soon after arriving, he heads south to retrieve his mother. With the assistance of the publisher's stipend, Duluozi can afford to move with his mother to a place in Berkeley. Packing the family furniture and years of Mrs. Duluozi's belongings reminds Jack that it's easier to travel with just a rucksack or a bag tied with string. Without a California address, Duluozi sends everything to Ben Fagan's cottage.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 62 - 63 Analysis

Duluozi only sees this as one more nail in the coffin in regards to being weary of society. Duluozi is amused, saddened and frustrated all at the same time because of his mother's furniture and boxes full of half-used items and things that will most likely be thrown out before the items are used. Ben Fagan houses some of Duluozi's things already and will gladly take possession of the items from Florida.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 64 - 67

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 64 - 67 Summary

Duluoze goes into great detail regarding the relationship with his mother. While Freud and others think such a close relationship is a cause for alarm, Duluoze sees it as paying homage to the woman who gave him life and took care of him ever since that day. Angie Duluoze is portrayed as a saintly woman who is utterly devoted to her family and doing everything she can to make sure everyone is well taken care of and happy.

Duluoze continues the defense of his mother, point out that her skirt was never torn in despair nor did she harp about the things he felt inclined to do. Duluoze declares a personal war with anyone who finds this situation unhealthy.

Duluoze knows that the trip cross country from Florida to California is going to be a horror. It has been hard on him, a relatively young man, in the past. What will it be like for the 62-year-old Angie Duluoze?

The first leg of the trip is to New Orleans, where the Duluozes will catch a Greyhound to El Paso, Texas. Sleeping on the bus is not a pleasant activity but Mrs. Duluoze solves that problem by prescribing three aspirins and a bottle of Coke. In New Orleans, the pair stretches their legs and walk to Bourbon Street and beyond. A saloon calls their name, and inside, Mrs. Duluoze meets a new friend at the bar who helps to while away the time.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 64 - 67 Analysis

Duluoze protests too much when it comes to the relationship with his mother. The apron strings are still tied a little too tight to really allow Duluoze to fly free, however, that is his doing, not that of Mrs. Duluoze. Duluoze relies heavily on his mother to act as a safety net.

Duluoze's defensive behavior toward the topic has basis in embarrassment and insecurity. Angie Duluoze seems to have spark of adventure inside her that Jack has never seen. Duluoze underestimates his mother at times. While it is obvious that she is a tough cookie, having started to work at the shoe factory at age 14, Duluoze worries about her reaction to the more modern world from which she has been removed. The new friendship at the bar does not make him less protective but does ease the tension a little.



Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 68 - 70

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 68 - 70 Summary

Mother and son enjoy a pint of whisky while the bus rolls on. Thirty hours after the departure in New Orleans, the bus arrives in El Paso. With a layover until morning, Duluoze gets a hotel suite where each can finally sleep in a bed again.

Duluoze wants to share the experience of Mexico with his mother, so they pay three cents and walk across the bridge that unites the U.S. and Mexico. Instantly, Angie Duluoze is smitten with the bright colors, sights and sounds of the country her son so loves. The highlight of the visit is a trip to the Church of Maria de Guadalupe, where Angie discovers that people in Mexico also believe in God. Taken by the people who kneel at the altar in repentance, Angie lights a candle for each as well as a candle for Mr. Duluoze.

Walking through the city, the Duluozes come upon an Indian man and his wife. Mrs. Duluoze attempts to speak to them in Quebecois French but gets no response. Jack explains that they just came in from the desert and never speak to people. Through more intent than communication, Mrs. Duluoze offers the cigarettes again, leaving the couple happy.

The back streets of Juarez offer many strange sights, including a fortuneteller who works with birds. Angie asks to see the future and is happy to hear that life is good and that she has a son who loves her.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 68 - 70 Analysis

Relief sets in as the first large piece of the journey falls behind the Duluozes. Sleep in a real bed will do wonders to rejuvenate the body and spirit.

Angie Duluoze represents the fact that most people don't see past their own culture and are not in tune with what others do elsewhere in the world. The naiveté and wonder Angie displays is charming and endearing.

Mrs. Duluoze shows that a good heart is appreciated anywhere in the world. The incident with the fortuneteller only serves to further illustrate her naiveté, which in comparison to Jack's, is quite refreshing.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 71 - 72

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 71 - 72 Summary

The poverty and conditions in Mexico alarm Angie. Jack relays the efforts the government is making to improve the lives of its residents and assures her that great strides have been made thus far.

Back on the bus, Angie tells Jack that she fears the mountains. Convinced that they are a portent of doom, she is nervous and slightly paranoid.

At last, the Duluoizes arrive in San Francisco. It is dawn and Jack is horrified that it looks so solemn and ugly. This is not the San Francisco that is at the heart of the Beat Generation! Where are the colors, the lights, the jazz, and the interesting people? No words can console Jack and take away Angie's first impression of her son's Shangri-la.

The only thing that appeases Jack every so slightly is that the criminals and thugs on the streets understand somehow and leave the pair alone. "But every evil dog in evildom understands it when he sees a man with his mother, so bless you all."

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 71 - 72 Analysis

It is apparent that somehow this belief, although never before spoken, was transferred to Jack. Jack's dream of sharing San Francisco with his mother has collapsed in one great pre-dawn moment of despair. No matter what happens after this morning, nothing will be able to eradicate those first horrible images from Angie's mind.



Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 73 - 74

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 73 - 74 Summary

From San Francisco to Fresno to Oakland, the Duloozes begin to see the end of the brutal three thousand mile journey. The family of two arrives in Berkeley at 2 A.M. and not knowing where else to go, Jack heads to Ben Fagan's cottage. As they approach the cottage, Jack notices that Ben's lights are on and from the yard can see his friend meditating and smiling. Ben is certainly an evolved spirit. Jack watches him for a few minutes, drinking in the peace that flows through the window. Jack knocks on the door and Ben answers.

After some routine greetings and chit chat, Ben leads the Duloozes to a hotel five blocks from the cottage. Angie settles in and Jack returns to the cottage with Ben to catch up on old times.

Although Angie likes Ben, she questions Jack about him. It seems peculiar to Angie that Ben is unmarried, has no children, and is happy living alone. Upon learning that Ben is Buddhist, Angie blurts, "You and your Buddhists! Why don't you stick to your own religion?"

The next morning, the Duloozes find a nice ground floor apartment with a flower garden. That night, Ben comes over and the trio christens the new apartment with an ample amount of whisky.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 73 - 74 Analysis

The arrival in Berkeley, and particularly at Ben Fagan's cottage, portrays a sort of homecoming for Dulooz. Guilt about waking Fagan at 2 A.M., particularly knowing that tomorrow is a workday, is eased when Dulooz sees Ben happily meditating through the window of the cottage. When Ben answers the door, he is gracious and does not question Jack about the time or the trip at all. Jack is happy to be home.

Jack is appreciative of Ben's friendship and the respect he shows toward Angie. Angie also likes Ben but has a hard time dealing with the inherent sense of mysticism that surrounds him.



Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 75 - 77

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 75 - 77 Summary

Just weeks after the arrival in Berkeley, Angie declares hatred for California. The presence of the mountains causes distress and Angie hates to be away from her daughter and friends in Florida. The furniture has not yet arrived and Angie is ready to make the return trip home.

Duluoze goes to the movies to escape the current situation at the apartment. When he returns home, Angie raves about how the Golden Gate Bridge is sinister, the mountains are laying in wait for something to happen, and she can't take a bath as she's afraid of falling and becoming injured. Jack laments, "Who asked to be born anyway?".

Jack agrees to help a friend move some items which will supplement his cash flow as well as relieve him of Angie for a while. Upon returning to the apartment, Jack sees that the furniture has arrived and that Angie and Ben are together, gleefully drinking wine. It is apparent that Angie doesn't want to unpack and in the end, there is no need. Three weeks later, the Duluozes are back in Florida.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 75 - 77 Analysis

The resemblances between mother and son become more obvious with each entry. Jack berates himself for thinking that his mother could live anywhere but Florida or the New York City area. The situation with Angie has escalated, and Jack knows that there is no resolution except to go back to Florida.

Angie's opinion has shifted from thinking he was a weirdo, to calling him an old "grandpaw" who doesn't act his age, to her obvious appreciation of having a drinking buddy. Jack is resigned.



Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 78 - 79

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 78 - 79 Summary

With plans to return to Florida underway, Jack spends one last evening getting drunk and high on peotl (peyote) in the back yard of the cottage. The evening is filled with silly talk and sweet remembrances. In some ways, this feels like a final goodbye.

Angie finally convinces Jack that it is time to give up all the death, suffering and Buddhist celebration. The only way to love, Angie says, is "quiet", among family. Ben and people like Irwin "Gazootsky" and the other friends don't know how to live! Jack needs to have fun, eat good food and sleep in a good bed. That's all there is.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 78 - 79 Analysis

Duluoaz asks everyone what to do about the horror of the void and perhaps gain insight into its meaning. Although some have answers, none has the right answer to ease Duluoaz's mind. As with every time Jack leaves, there must be a ceremony of sorts to conclude the relationship until and if they meet again.

Angie Duluoaz gives her son what she considers sage advice, in part for her own reassurances as well as Duluoaz's well-being.

It may be Jack's weariness or devotion to Angie that makes him stop and listen to the argument. Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, what Jack is looking for may have been in the backyard all the while.



Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 80 - 81

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 80 - 81 Summary

One of the main reasons Duluoz wanted to return to California was to be near Cody, who has little time for him. Even Evelyn won't interfere since Cody's behaviors are somewhat askew already. One day, Cody borrows ten dollars from Jack to buy pot. Later, when Jack tracks Cody down to recoup the money, Jack swears that Cody is an angel or archangel swathed in gold, diffused light. Then he muses, "A fine thing to be talking about angels in this day when common thieves smash the holy rosaries of their victims in the street."

Jack finally receives the first copy of *On the Road* and while opening the box, is visited by the core of the Beat Generation.

Despite all the mysticism and philosophy, the author notes that Cody still holds the faith of his childhood, back when he was an altar boy. Cody believes in Heaven and desperately wants to go. However, he also loves life too much to let it slip by un-lived. If the teachings are true, living life means that you've sinned and Heaven is no longer in the realm of possibility.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 80 - 81 Analysis

Evelyn fears that Cody is returning to the same wild ways as in the "Road" days and fears for his sanity. Cody seems to be living a dangerous life that can surely lead to no good end.

Jack shows little excitement about receiving the advance copies of *On The Road* but soars as he holds the heart of the Beats in his hands. Cody never sought approval as much as the others and even when he sought alternative answers, the faith of childhood still reigned supreme.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 81 - 83

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 81 - 83 Summary

For the first time when saying goodbye, Cody didn't look Jack in the eye. Instead, his eyes shifted away and Jack knew something was wrong. It came to fruition months later when Cody was arrested and sent to San Quentin for two years for offering undercover cops pot in exchange for a ride to the railroad yard. Those two years help Cody in many ways and Jack says that it's all due to karma. If Cody is locked up in San Quentin for his karma, what does karma have in store for Jack?

An earthquake heralds the beginning of the return trip to Florida where Jack finds a small apartment two blocks away from his sister. Angie is happy once more.

Jack claims that it's time to write another novel, this time defending another soul because he can no longer defend himself. A trip to Mexico seems to be the perfect start to this new life. Upon arriving, Jack goes to Bull's house only to find the window repaired and someone new living on the rooftop. A washer woman informs Jack that Gaines is dead.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapters 81 - 83 Analysis

The episode between Cody and Jack signaled the beginning of the end for the friends. Both had changed dramatically, and, while they would always be bound together in a soul connection, nothing would ever be the same. It might be better, it might be worse. Yet, it would never be the same.

The new novel about someone else is a departure and also a sad ending of sorts. Gaines' death is just one more sign that things are changing. The world moves forward a little more every day.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapter 84

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapter 84 Summary

Jack consoles himself by renting an expensive hotel room in Mexico City. In the middle of the night, Jack is awakened by the fact that the hotel room is rocking violently. At first, Jack thinks he's back on the ship then soon realizes that Mexico City is in the midst of a giant earthquake. Seeing the building across the street tumbling down, killing people, sends Jack into action. Protecting himself by hiding under the bed, Jack ponders how to return Bull to the living. Was it easy to die? Jack knows that Bull is trying to talk to him from beyond but the words cannot be heard.

Later, safely back in New York, Jack sits with Irwin, Simon, Raphael and Lazarus. All are famous writers now, more or less, but Jack has fallen into another depression. The Beats can't understand the sorrow when there is so much joy to be had. Jack lives with Angie in a house a few miles outside the city and has given in to living in the same house, experiencing a peaceful sorrow. Perhaps that is the best it gets. Jack muses, "A peaceful sorrow at home is the best I'll ever be able to offer the world, in the end, and so I told my Desolation Angels goodbye". Mexico City lost its life along with Bull Gaines. Jack has no need to go back to a place that now seems bleak and empty.

Book II, Part III - Passing Through America Again: Chapter 84 Analysis

Jack is back in New York, which seems to be where he truly belongs. The Beats have congregated in their usual formation, celebrating the successes of their poetry and of the culture they helped to bring to life. Jack has accepted that life will offer no more than what he has at this moment, and if the only thing he can offer the world is peaceful sorrow, then it's best to withdraw from his own life and live out his days alone.

This is the beginning of the downfall of Jack Kerouac. Obviously suffering from a form of mental illness, such as a bi-polar disorder, Jack cannot enjoy his success or the success of his comrades. Within the next decade, Jack will become a reclusive alcoholic who denounces nearly all of his most prized ideals. Even before his untimely death, the Desolation Angels were never the same.

Characters

Jack Dulouz

Jack Dulouz is the name used as a thin veil for the exploits of Jack Kerouac. Kerouac is a French-Canadian writer of poetry and prose, who made his first big splash in the literary world with "On the Road", a stream of consciousness novel that is purported to have kicked off the Beat Generation in the 1950s. All adventures recorded in this book are written in the manner of a journal. Kerouac changed the names of friends and popular figures but the attempt at veiling anybody's identity was a farce.

As a person, Dulouz is desperate and confused. One minute Dulouz wants nothing more than solitude; another minute the thought of being away from his friends and the liveliness of the city is too much to bear. Throughout the book, Dulouz goes from celebrating the grotesque and fascinating to believing that all is pointless because we're all going to die anyway. These moods are also helped along by a hefty supply of wine, whiskey, pot, opium and other drugs popular at the time. Psychiatrists used the term "schizoid" in referring to Dulouz but no one close to the man was convinced it was true.

Dulouz is extremely attached to his mother, a French Canadian who dotes on her only son. Dulouz's father died before the book really began but the presence of his wisdom as well as the many mistakes constantly affect Jack. Jack's mother often goes from living with her son to living with her married daughter or other relatives when the money has run out.

Dulouz cares more about enlightenment and understanding his adopted Buddhist culture more than almost anything else. Except for his mother and a couple of close friends, people drift in and out of Dulouz's life without much fanfare. A new relationship will consume all of Dulouz but it rarely lasts long. For a man who is on the brink of owning the literary world for that time, Dulouz is a fragmented nomad. The poems and thoughts shared with the reader are often complete gibberish. There are moments of inspired brilliance that make reading the drug induced stream of consciousness stuff easier to ignore. In the end, Jack Dulouz is a man who will live on through his books, lifestyle and legacy.

Irwin Garden

Irwin Garden is the fictitious name of Allan Ginsberg. Irwin becomes famous for the poem "Howl" which is one of the first poems to truly describe the Beat Generation to America at large. From the fame came notoriety as well as harsh criticism and banishment from the traditional literary community. Irwin is a pouty-lipped Jewish man with glasses, dark hair and a bushy beard. An accent is apparent in his voice, which is firm, distinct and often excited when he speaks of the work.



Irwin is interested in examining everything that the world has to offer. Known to take his clothes off at every opportunity, Irwin partakes in spur of the moment orgies and whatever else the gang recommends. One of Irwin's greatest dreams is to go to Europe and see first hand what "the Old World" has to offer.

Duluoz and Irwin have been friends since Duluoz was 17-years-old. The men travel together, experience life together, and share mad poetry. Duluoz says that he once thought of Irwin as a Jewish prophet, Jesus Christ reborn.

Irwin's interest in exploration leads him to participate in any interesting activity at hand, travel at will, and have mad affairs with men all over the world.

Raphael Urso

Raphael Urso is a poet with a touch of hyperactivity. Urso yells instead of speaking and gestures wildly with his hands in order to get a point across. An up and coming poet, Urso is smitten with the brilliance of Duluoz and Garden, eager to learn everything from the hep Beat gurus that run amok in San Francisco and the world.

Raphael can be enthusiastic to the point of being obnoxious or confrontational. Duluoz often runs interference for Urso, trying to explain away a particular action. Urso often surprises the group by coming up with a truly revolutionary poem or impromptu sonatas so beautiful that it brings grown men to tears.

Kerouac describes Urso as having a "crazy little pixy face" with a square head, Italian nose, pouty mouth, dark eyes, and black hair that is never combed. At 24, Urso is the youngest of the main group and his impish appearance only makes him appear younger.

Urso never has any money and is well-known for staying anywhere he will be welcome, from a girlfriend's house to the home of a poetic dignitary, to the house owned by Simon where everyone seems to stay.

Cody Pomeroy

Cody Pomeroy is really Neal Cassady's alter ego. Cody is probably Duluoz's closest friend, next to Irwin. Cody is tall and handsome, with more rugged features than Duluoz. Unlike most of the other poets, Cody is married with three children. However, marriage has no impact on Cody's extramarital affairs. Although Cody works as a brakeman on the railroad, he manages to participate in most of the group's antics. In some ways, Cody seems to regret that he can no longer take off across the country with Duluoz as he once did. In other ways, the solid foundation of family most likely saved his life.

Unlike many involved in the Beat Generation, Cody doesn't like to attend poetry readings. Not being in control of a situation is out of the question and Cody rarely puts himself into situations that may make him uncomfortable.

The relationship between Cody and Duluozi is complicated, more so for Duluozi, who utterly worships his former traveling partner. Duluozi's move back to San Francisco was arranged mainly so he could be near Cody.

Cody combines Buddhism with a stronger sense of Christianity to formulate his own moral code. The code, sometimes slightly flawed, seems to serve him well in the big picture.

Simon Darlovsky

Simon is a twenty-something poet who becomes an integral part of the Beats. Simon is the owner of a house in the San Francisco ghetto, the place where the group regularly takes refuge. Blond and boyishly handsome with a soft hawk nose and dark eyes, Simon idolizes Duluozi and Cody and makes attempts to fit in with the crowd by making long lavish outrageous speeches. Simon eventually becomes Irwin's lover.

Evelyn Pomeroy

Evelyn is Cody's wife and the mother of three children. Often a reluctant hostess to the Beats, Evelyn often seems unsure of her role in Cody's life.

Gia Valencia

Gia is one of the girls on the scene. Gia's deceased father is a "mad anthropologist sage" Duluozi admires. Gia has a low-pitched voice, loads of charm, and an elegance that makes her stand out from the crowd.

Richard de Chili

Richard de Chili is a homeless man who is an icon of Duluozi and friends. De Chili is a bum with some mental problems but is always friendly and amusing to be with in the late nights of San Francisco.

Mrs. Angie Duluozi

Angie is Duluozi's 62-year-old widowed mother. Angie spoils Jack and is happy to take care of him even if he insists on keeping company with friends that will surely destroy him. Having worked in a shoe factory for decades, Angie is retired and seems to float from place to place, particularly when there is no money to pay the rent.

Lazarus Darlovsky

Lazarus is Simon's 17-year-old brother who is watched over and educated by the Beat poets.

Ruth Heaper

Ruth is one of "the two Ruths" who rent an apartment in Manhattan. She is one of Duluo's lovers until she contracts a rash.

Rose Wise Lazuli

Rose is a 56-year-old wealthy woman who arranges poetry readings and a main force behind the San Francisco Renaissance.

Bull Gaines

Gaines is a 60-year-old morphine junkie who helps Duluo get an apartment in Mexico. Bull is an expatriate due to a former career as a New York coat thief.



Objects/Places

Desolation Peak

Desolation Peak is the mountain where Duluoz acts as fire lookout.

San Francisco

San Francisco is the heart of the Beat movement and backdrop for most of the novel.

Mount Hozomeen

Mount Hozomeen is a neighboring mountain to Desolation Peak, and a metaphor for the Void of the universe.

Old Jack

Old Jack is another mountain within view of Desolation Peak.

Chinatown

Chinatown is one of Duluoz's favorite places to wander and search for like-minded hipsters.

Mexico City

Mexico City is Duluoz's second favorite place after San Francisco. Mexico City is a place where Duluoz often secludes himself to write.

The Village

Greenwich Village in New York is the home of hep bars and like-minded renaissance people.

Florida

Florida is the eventual home for Angie Duluoz and a part-time home for Jack Duluoz.

The Cellar

The Cellar is Duluoz's favorite jazz bar in San Francisco.

Simon Darlovsky's House

Located in the heart of a housing development in the San Francisco ghetto, Simon's house is the place most used by the Beats.

Themes

Death

Throughout *Desolation Angels*, Kerouac's main obsession is suffering and death. The author examines death from many perspectives.

There is the death of the human body and how that death can affect the lives of those around the deceased. The main reference to this type of death regards Kerouac's father, who died at the family home in Brooklyn. Kerouac had returned home from his travels to help during his father's final days. Seeing his father had a severe impact on Kerouac, especially since the man who lay dying in the living room became repentant in the end. Before he died, Mr. Kerouac finally realized what he had missed out on in all the years he was away from home and how the poor treatment he heaped on Mrs. Kerouac was unjust.

Other references to death come from a more spiritual point of view. Many cultures believe that once one is born, one starts to die. If this is so, Kerouac asks, what's the point? Some of Kerouac's more pressing questions might be answered if the author was able to see beyond the now with enough surety to believe in an afterlife. Although Kerouac believes heavily in both Buddhism and Catholicism, the answers don't come.

Friendship

Friendship is one of the main components in *Desolation Angels*. Kerouac cannot seem to live without his closest friends, namely Cody, Irwin, Simon, and Raphael. The relationships between the poets are true, with each exploring all facets of the others' lives and loves, including the shortcomings that some try to hide from the world. Arguments, conflicts and jealousies are commonplace but in the end, the fervor for life, their love of each other, and the commitment to changing the face of literature and therefore America overrides any other issue.

Being prone to depression and necessary solitude, Kerouac often runs away to hide. For various reasons, these self-imposed episodes of exile never last long. Someone always appears on the scene, usually in an unplanned meeting. The other poets always manage to track Kerouac to places of reclusion, knowing that he will be happy to see them in the end. That friendship has saved Kerouac from many a dark night and propelled him to the level of success he achieved.

Spirituality

Spirituality plays a great part in *Desolation Angels*. Kerouac is a devout Buddhist, dedicating every day of his life to the pursuit of enlightenment. The months on *Desolation Peak* were designed to provide exile and solitude while Kerouac sorted out

some of the questions that plagued him. Mount Hozomeen played a big part as a metaphor for the great Void that Kerouac couldn't seem to comprehend. If life is made up of suffering and death, then what does the Void hold otherwise? The obsession with knowing colors everything Kerouac does, which often annoys his friends. The friends want to have fun, to live, and to experience life. They can't always understand Kerouac's point of view and often relate it to depression. Mrs. Kerouac can't understand why her son feels the need to go outside the family religion of Catholicism to find the answers when, as she puts it, there is nothing wrong with the religion he already has. The search for like-minded Buddhists only seems to cloud the picture, as many of the people Kerouac meets are happy.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in *Desolation Angels* is that of the author, Jack Kerouac. In first person, Kerouac relays nearly a year's adventures and travels while in the midst of a change in the face of literature in the 1950s. By using the first person, Kerouac is able to add a depth and character to a work that might otherwise seem forced or unrealistic. The personal experiences especially ring true, flavored by Kerouac's unusual use of descriptive language.

The downfall of the first person narrative is that Kerouac is prone to be disjointed in thought, often repeating stories already told or events that seem to be out of order so that the reader must return to previous chapters to make sense of the train of thought.

Setting

Kerouac is known for his travels to many cities and countries, often on whim. The novel begins on Desolation Peak, a mountain in the Skagit Valley in Washington State. Desolation Peak faces Mount Hozomeen, which is featured prominently in the first part of the book, as well as Old Jack, Crater Mountain, and others. From Desolation Peak, Kerouac travels to Seattle, and then returns to his beloved San Francisco.

While in San Francisco, Kerouac frequents Chinatown, Skid Row and various friends' houses, including the homes of Cody and Evelyn Pomeroy and Simon and Lazarus Darlovsky. Kerouac's favorite haunt in Frisco is The Cellar, a jazz bar that routinely fills up with fellow artists and hipsters.

Kerouac also travels to Mexico City, where he is often inspired by the culture and faces. There is always a rogue friend or two that lives in Mexico.

Europe and Tangiers play small parts in *Desolation Angels*, locations, which call to Kerouac either because friends request a visit (Tangiers), or the culture of the various cities are rich in literary history.

Greenwich Village is the eastern heart of the Beat Movement and almost half the novel takes place there. From Ruth Heaper's apartment to various friends' apartments to downtown jazz clubs, New York seems to be a great home to Duluo and New Jersey native Irwin Garden. References are also made to Lowell, Massachusetts where Kerouac was born, Brooklyn, and Florida.

Language and Meaning

The language in *Desolation Angels* is a mix of well-educated reasoning, generational slangs, and at times, utters nonsense. Kerouac and Burroughs were well-known for disjointed thinking, often putting words together just to hear the resulting sound. At times, these conglomerations are amusing and insightful, at other times, poems and sentences make no sense and any meaning that might have been underlying is lost.

For those readers who may not be familiar with Kerouac's work, *Desolation Angels* will be a new experience of stream of consciousness thought, poetry, prose, and realizations. Although *Desolation Angels* may be difficult to read at times, the result proves that Kerouac was indeed a revolutionary writer and thinker who, unfortunately, fell prey to the world at large.

Structure

Desolation Angels is written in first person, through the eyes of Jack Duluo, a.k.a. Jack Kerouac. The book is a thinly veiled account of the Kerouac's exploits during the rise of the Beat Generation. Readers will know many of the main characters in the book, regardless of aliases. The most important players are Irwin Garden (Alan Ginsberg); Simon Darlovsky (Peter Orlovsky); Bull Hubbard (William S. Burroughs) and Cody Pomeroy (Neal Cassady). Joyce Johnson, who is portrayed as Kerouac's love interest Alyce in the novel, wrote the introduction to the book.

The book consists of 186 chapters and 409 pages. Most of the chapters are one page in length, with the shortest being a small paragraph. At times, Kerouac will use a poem as a chapter. In true Kerouac style, the poems may not always make sense.

The main plot of the novel is that Duluo seeks to find enlightenment while on duty as a lookout on Desolation Peak in Washington state. Sixty-three days pass while Duluo is on the mountain, with little fanfare or activity. There is much talk about understanding the "Void" and the ultimate self. Duluo, like Kerouac, is Buddhist and therefore, the reader learns some of those ancient beliefs.

The *Desolation Angels* refers to the group most often identified as the core of the Beat Generation that took the literary world by storm in the 1950s. While there are many players, Duluo is closest to Irwin, Cody and Simon. The friendship with Bull Hubbard is strong but unlike the rest of the group, Hubbard resides in Tangiers that limits their exposure.

Throughout the novel, Duluo is on the brink of obsession with death. Human suffering needs a definition in Duluo's eyes. The other members of the group are more interested in experiencing life and creating literature and art and often try to cheer up Duluo without avail. Duluo also feels the need to explain the close relationship he maintains with his mother, whom he calls a saint. At the end of the novel, Duluo moves back in with her to live a quiet and peaceful life.

Quotes

My life is a vast and insane legend reaching everywhere without beginning or ending...
pg. 12

My life is a vast inconsequential epic with a thousand and a million characters - here they all come, as swiftly we roll east, as swiftly the earth rolls east.
pg. 13

We all stand on the sad earth throwing long shadows, breath cut with flesh.
pg. 33

I guess Sunday is God's looking glass.
pg. 34

My desk is littered with papers, beautiful to look at thru half closed eyes the delicate milky litter of papers piled, like some old dream of a picture of papers, like papers piled on a desk in a cartoon, like a realistic scene from an old Russian film...
pg. 40

...a kind of fit of madness like I'm subject to, I reall am a "madman bum and angel" - realizing that there is no place on earth where bottomless horror can be dispelled...
pg. 49

The moon - she come peekin over the hill like she was sneakin into the world...
pg. 60

I look up, there are the stars, just the same, desolation, and the angels below who don't know they are angels.
pg. 123

Because all these serious faces'll only drive you mad, the only truth is music...
pg. 132

It's the Beat Generation, beat and down in the world and like the old time lowdown and like in ancient civilizations the slave boatmen rowing galleys to a beat and servants spinning pottery to the beat.
pg 137

But it's only simple morning in the world, and the waitress only brings simple coffee, and all our excitements are simple and will end.
pg. 147

It's all too much, I feel wonderful and wild, I've found my friends and a great vibration of



living Joy and Poetry is running through us.
pg. 149

"Knowing it, He does it, dies on the cross. That was His Karma as Jesus. Dig what that means."
pg. 173

"The little pups of Mexico are so happy."
pg. 188

"Also, I've been a little envious of you being a cloud," says Irwin seriously.
pg. 193

"The world is a place of infinite charm! Give everybody love and they'll give it right back! I seen it!"
pg 194

"We all go to Heaven leaning on the arm of someone we helped."
(Cody) pg. 204

And sleep is delicious under the stars...
pg. 232

It's only in Mexico, in the sweetness and innocence, birth and death at all seem worthwhile...
pg. 248

"In many ways," he says, "there's a great resemblance between the dope fiend and the artist so called, they like to be alone and comfortable provided they have what they want."
(Bull Gaines) pg. 250

"When I pee'd in beds when I was a kid and tried to hide the sheets from my mother I knew it was all gonna be creepy!"
(Raphael) pg. 277

Those long droning runs across a state's afternoon with some of us sleeping, some of us talking, some of us eating sandwiches of despair.
pg. 289

"I wanna write about everything that happens behind every one of those windows."
(Duluoz) pg. 296

Gad, the greatest writer who ever lived will have to be a woman.
pg. 303

"When I meet Kirk Douglas I don't want to have to apologize."
(Raphael) pg. 323

A peaceful sorrow at home is the best I'll ever be able to offer the world, in the end, and
so I told my Desolation Angels goodbye.
pg. 409

Topics for Discussion

What might have been Kerouac's experience on Desolation Peak if there was a second lookout?

How would the story have changed if Duluoze had been in another climate or instructed to watch over a live target, such as sheep?

How might Duluoze have reacted if his post on Desolation Peak was one of those struck by lightning?

What would Duluoze have done to survive the isolation of winter on Desolation Peak?

How would Duluoze have reacted if Fred had left without him?

What might have happened if Duluoze went back on top of the mountain to help fight the latest unexpected fire?

How might the story have changed if Duluoze stayed in Mexico the first time?

Do you think that the publication of "On the Road" affected Duluoze's career positively or negatively? Why?

What kind of experiences might Cody have had while in prison?

Do you think that Duluoze will recant his farewell to the Desolation Angels? Why?