

Eyes of Prey Study Guide

Eyes of Prey by John Sandford

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Plot Summary

Eyes of Prey is the third in the Prey series by bestselling author John Sandford. In this novel, Lucas Davenport is still reeling from the depression his last case left him with. To draw him out of this funk, Lucas's commander puts him on a case investigating the death of Stephanie Bekker, the wife of a pathologist thought to be involved in her death somehow. As Lucas becomes engrossed in the case, he finds himself drawn to a witness who has had the same experiences with depression. When this witness becomes the target of the killer, Lucas has more to lose than just a case. Eyes of Prey is another fast paced crime drama that pits Lucas against two criminals that will have him fighting for his own sanity.

Carlo Druze breaks into the home of Stephanie Bekker and kills her exactly as her husband instructed him to do. However, neither Druze nor Stephanie's husband, Michael Bekker, expected that she would not be alone. In the upstairs bathroom is Stephanie's lover. The lover comes downstairs and sees the killer. Shocked, the man runs away, giving Druze time to escape. The lover checks on Stephanie, decides she must be dead, and rushes back upstairs to dress. The lover erases all evidence of himself from Stephanie's home, leaves, and calls the police from a pay phone. Stephanie, however, was not dead. Stephanie struggles to reach the phone, but dies just inches from it.

Del, a narcotics officer and friend of Lucas Davenport, tells Lucas about the death of his cousin, Stephanie Bekker. Del would like Lucas to look into the case. Lucas resists, but is not able to give Del a definite answer because the pimp they are waiting for walks into the bar. The pimp pulls a knife when Lucas moves to arrest him, so Lucas beats him up, fueled by his anger at what the pimp did to Lucas's snitch. The following morning, Lucas learns that he will have to face an internal affairs interview for the beating.

Lucas's commander, Quentin Daniel, knows that Lucas has been suffering depression since his last case in which a suspect broke into his home and injured his infant daughter. Lucas assigns Lucas to the Bekker case, hoping the investigation will help draw him out of his depression. Lucas begins by investigating the husband, Michael Bekker, a pathologist at the local university who has a reputation of being obsessed with people who are dying. Bekker once worked on the oncology ward in the hopes of helping develop better ways of dealing with impending death. One of the oncologist tells Lucas he believes Bekker might have been involved in the deaths of one, maybe even two, of the patients. However, the doctor cannot prove anything, so charges were never brought against Bekker.

Bekker is aware that the police believe he is involved in his wife's death. Bekker does his best to pretend to be the grieving husband, but is anxious to move on. Bekker wants to sell the house Stephanie loved so much and buy a smaller condo, someplace more modern and luxurious. In the meantime, Bekker tries to minimize contact with Druze. However, Bekker has promised Druze he will kill Druze's boss, Elizabeth Armistead, in



payment for Druze's killing Stephanie. They have planned it out carefully. However, Bekker strays from the plan by killing Armistead earlier than planned.

At the house of Elizabeth Armistead, Lucas comes to investigate the murder. Lucas is introduced to Cassie Lasch, the woman who found the body. After their brief conversation, Lucas speaks to a neighbor. As Lucas leaves, he runs into a reporter who wants to make a deal with Lucas. The reporter wants advance information about the case in exchange for a favor. Lucas agrees and tells her that he believes the same person who killed Bekker killed Armistead.

Lucas convinces his boss, Quentin Daniel, to use the newspaper to convince Stephanie's lover, whom they have dubbed Loverboy, to give them more information beyond the letter he has already sent. There is a press conference and Lucas attends. Afterward, Lucas runs into his ex-lover, Jennifer. Lucas tells her he wants her to decide if they should continue their relationship and let him know what she thinks.

The following day, Lucas goes to the theater where Armistead worked and runs into Cassie. Cassie helps Lucas find the name of a person who called looking for free tickets from Armistead for the previous night's performance. Lucas calls the person and learns he was out of the country the night before and could not have called. Then, as Lucas and Cassie talk, Lucas sees an actor on stage. Cassie tells him it is Carlo Druze, one of the theater actors practicing a part of their current play. Cassie tells him Druze was in the theater all night the night before.

Lucas and his team receive a picture from Loverboy that appears to be a copy from an art book or calendar. The picture is Redon's Cyclops. Lucas takes a copy of this picture and tries to find out where Loverboy might have gotten it from. About the same time, Cassie calls Lucas. Lucas thinks about brushing her off, but instead he calls her back. They become lovers. Cassie tells Lucas that she once battled depression too. When Cassie shares her story with Lucas it helps him feel less insane.

Bekker is concerned about Stephanie's lover. Bekker does not want Loverboy to come forward and point fingers at Druze, who might then turn on Bekker. Bekker searches through Stephanie's things, making Druze look at hundreds of photographs in hopes of recognizing Loverboy. When this does not help, Bekker begins looking through Stephanie's personal papers. Eventually Bekker finds phone calls between Stephanie and a man named Philip George. George fits the description Druze gave to Bekker of Loverboy. Bekker tells Druze he has to kill George.

Druze, unhappy with the idea of committing a murder that was not part of the plan, flattens one of George's tires and waits for him in the parking lot of the university. When George comes out, Druze kills him with a blow to the head, then places him in his own car and drives him to an empty cabin, where he buries him in a marshy area beside a lake. Druze forgets to cut George's eyes as Bekker told him to do. However, Bekker knows that Druze has made this mistake when he has a hallucination in which George turns into a snake and stares at him. Bekker insists that he and Druze return to the



burial site and destroy George's eyes. They return and leave safely, unaware that a woman in an adjoining property has seen them.

Lucas goes to the site of George's burial and watches as the local cops recover George's body. When Lucas sees George's eyes, he knows that the same man who killed Bekker and Armistead killed George. However, when Lucas visits the home of George's wife, he realizes that George could not possibly be Loverboy. George knew nothing about art and he had a much higher voice than the man who made the 911 call. Lucas talks Daniel into allowing him to make another public appeal to Loverboy.

In the middle of the night, Lucas receives a call from a man claiming to be a doctor treating his daughter. Lucas takes the call and discovers that it is not a doctor, but rather Loverboy. Loverboy tells Lucas that he cannot come forward but that he wants to help. Loverboy gives Lucas a few more details about the killer and urges him to continue working on the case. Loverboy and Lucas arrange a way in which Lucas can alert Loverboy that he needs to hear from him again. Not long afterward, another woman is murdered.

Bekker convinces Druze that they need to kill another woman to make it look as though a serial killer is on the loose. Bekker tells Druze to pick a woman at random at a mall. Druze does, leaving the woman in her car in the mall parking lot. A young boy sees the murder, not aware of what he is seeing, and goes to the car to see what the woman is doing. The boy reports the murder and Lucas talks to him. The boy tells Lucas to watch a movie called Darkman. That night, Lucas watches the movie with Cassie. Cassie tells him that the Cyclops and the man in Darkman both resemble Carlo Druze.

Lucas puts out word to Loverboy that he needs to speak to him. While waiting for a response, Lucas continues to investigate. At the hospital connected with the university where Bekker works, Lucas is told that Bekker has been harassing an ALS patient, holding her nose closed so that she cannot breathe in order to watch her eyes in the moment of death. Lucas has the woman interviewed on tape. Lucas then arranges to have the bodies of the two cancer patients exhumed so that he can see if their eyes were cut. Lucas believes this is the best way to prove Bekker killed these children.

As Lucas is investigating, Bekker turns his attention to Cassie. Cassie has been seeing Lucas and Bekker is afraid she will identify Druze as the killer. Bekker ties Cassie up in her apartment and then brings Druze to see her. While Druze is attempting to speak to Cassie, Bekker shoots him in the head. Bekker then slices Cassie's throat. Lucas goes to Cassie's apartment with Sloan to check on her and they find the bodies. Lucas is devastated and has to be sedated.

The following day, Lucas puts all his energies into proving Bekker's guilt. After the exhumation proves that Bekker killed the two cancer patients, Lucas sets up a sting at the funeral parlor where Druze's body is. After Bekker comes in and cuts Druze's eyes, Lucas and his team announce their intention to arrest him. Del punches Bekker in revenge for his cousin's murder. Lucas then takes the sight on his gun and beats Bekker so badly on his face that he will forever be disfigured. The following day, Daniel tells



Lucas he has so many complaints pending in internal affairs that he could face charges. Daniel suggests Lucas retire. Lucas does, but leaves behind a list of clues that suggest the identity of Loverboy. Loverboy is Daniel.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Eyes of Prey is the third book in the Prey series by John Sandford. This book, like the two prior novels, features Lucas Davenport, a Minneapolis police detective. This novel picks up a short time after the previous novel with Lucas still dealing with the depression an injury to his infant daughter and the abandonment of his child and woman left him with.

Carlo Druze lets himself into the garage of the Bekker home, precisely following the instructions given to him by Michael Bekker. Druze silently enters the house through the breezeway between the garage and the kitchen. At the sink, Stephanie Bekker is thinking about her lover, who is at that moment taking a shower upstairs. Druze grabs a heavy bottle used as decoration on the kitchen table and begins to beat Stephanie about the head, trying to remember everything Michael Bekker told him to do. Bekker told Druze not to forget the eyes, so when the bottle breaks, Druze forces the sharp end into Stephanie's eyes. Suddenly the lover comes down the stairs and surprises Druze. The lover runs back upstairs, afraid for his own life. Druze takes the opportunity to flee the house.

The lover listens at the door before going back down to check on Stephanie. One look at all the blood on the floor and the lover realizes Stephanie must be dead. The lover goes back upstairs and begins to erase all traces that he was in the house. The lover cleans up his fingerprints and washes out the shower, including flushing the drain. The lover then takes the sheets from the bed. The lover leaves the house and calls 911 from a pay phone. Back at the house, Stephanie attempts to reach the phone to call the police, but she dies just inches from the phone at the same moment the paramedics enter the house.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The first chapter of the novel introduces the murder that will propel the rest of the novel. Carlo Druze enters the Bekker home on the orders of Michael Bekker and kills Bekker's wife. Druze has a deformed head, damaged when he was burned as a small child. This has caused him to have few friends in his life, so the reader gets the impression that Bekker is a good friend simply because he is the only friend Druze has. For Druze to murder for Bekker suggests a great friendship, but it leaves reader wondering what else Druze might get for this deal.

Stephanie has a lover, a fact that catches Druze by surprise. The lover is frightened when he sees what is happening, but quickly gets his emotions under control. This, and the methodical way in which he destroys all evidence of his presence in the house, suggests that he is a man who is either in law enforcement or who is of high



importance. The man is clearly afraid of being discovered having an affair. The reader is left wondering who this man is and what impact his identity might have on the case. Finally, the fact that Stephanie is still alive after being beaten makes her lover appear callous.



Chapters 2-3

Chapters 2-3 Summary

In chapter two, Lucas and Del are in a bar waiting for a pimp to show up. Lucas wants to arrest the pimp for cutting the face of one of his snitches. As they wait, Del tells Lucas about the murder of his cousin, Stephanie Bekker. Del thinks the husband had something to do with her death even though he was out of town at the time. Del wants Lucas to take a look at the case, but Lucas hesitates to agree. The pimp comes in. When Lucas approaches to arrest him, the pimp pulls a knife. Already angry, the knife pushes Lucas over the edge. Lucas beats the kid up until Del pulls him away.

In chapter three, Michael Bekker indulges in the prescription and illegal drugs he carries around in a cigarette case. Bekker is going to Stephanie's funeral, so he wants to appear grief stricken even though he is secretly elated. At the same time, Lucas meets with his commander, Quentin Daniel. Daniel is concerned about Lucas because he has been depressed since his last case went back, causing his infant daughter to be injured. Lucas's woman took the baby and left. To complicate things, the pimp has accused Lucas of police brutality, setting off an internal affairs investigation. Daniel now hopes to pull Lucas out of this funk by putting him on the Bekker case.

Lucas returns to his office and talks to Sloan, a fellow officer, about the Bekker case. Sloan tells Lucas that he has done some preliminary background work on Bekker. It turns out Bekker was in the military. Bekker's commander told Sloan that a couple of hookers died during Bekker's time in Vietnam. No one could ever prove Bekker was involved, but that was the general feel. Lucas wonders if Bekker killed Stephanie for insurance money, but Sloan tells him Stephanie recently changed her insurance and it will not pay out on a violent death for another two years. Not only this, but Bekker was out of town during the murder, suggesting if he were involved, he hired someone to do it.

Lucas goes to visit his friend Sister Mary Joseph, whom he still refers to as Elle Kruger. Lucas and Elle were friends as children and Elle remains one of his closest confidants. Elle is concerned for Lucas and suggests he visit a fellow psychiatrist, but Lucas refuses. Instead, Lucas asks for the name of someone at the university where Bekker works who can give him insight on Bekker. Before he leaves, Elle pushes Lucas to talk to Jennifer, the mother of his child, and push her into working on their relationship or ending it once and for all.

Chapters 2-3 Analysis

Lucas is introduced in these chapters. For readers who are not familiar with Lucas from previous novels, the author portrays his darker side in these chapters, showing he is a tough, no-nonsense kind of cop. However, there is a vulnerable side to Lucas that has



been injured by a previous case that went wrong and left his infant daughter injured. Lucas is suffering from depression as a result of this, showing the reader that even tough cops can be pushed to a mental breaking point. Lucas is a good cop, though, and his boss thinks he simply needs to focus on something outside himself, to give him purpose. To this end, the boss has assigned Lucas to the Bekker case, even though Lucas clearly does not agree that he is ready to take on such a big case.

Lucas beats a suspect in the second chapter of the book. This beating has two important purposes within the plot. First, this beating shows the reader that Lucas is a good cop, but he also has a temper and does not hesitate to lower himself to the behavior of a street thug when he thinks it is necessary. This is important because it shows a potential in Lucas that could return as the novel's plot continues to develop. The second important factor about this beating is the fact that it leads to an internal affairs investigation. Lucas is confident he will be cleared of the accusations against him, but this is something that will plague Lucas throughout the novel and lead to an unexpected end.



Chapters 4-6

Chapters 4-6 Summary

In chapter four, Bekker can feel the animosity of Stephanie's family at the funeral, especially from Del. As he sits through the ceremony, Bekker notices two cops watching him from the back. One of them Bekker recognizes as the cop investigating Stephanie's murder. The other he does not know, but he admires his expensive suit. Lucas thinks Bekker looks wooden and unnatural, unaware that it is PCP causing him to appear that way. Lucas spends the rest of the day putting the word out on his network of snitches, hoping to find the person Bekker hired to do the killing. Back at the office, Lucas learns Loverboy, the cop's nickname for Stephanie's lover and possible witness to her death, has sent them a note. The note describes the attack and the attacker. In a meeting with Daniel, Lucas learns that one of the less capable cops has been assigned to tracking down men who could possibly be Stephanie's lover. Lucas suggests that they use the press to contact Loverboy, to convince him to get them more information somehow, perhaps using the press to show him pictures to identify the attacker. Daniel hesitates even as Lucas suggests that they need to find Loverboy before Bekker.

In chapter five, Lucas is at home working on a new computer game he is designing. Lucas cannot stop thinking about Bekker and decides to go over the case file. Lucas finds some interesting facts in the file, including the fact that Loverboy cleaned the shower drain. Lucas calls the crime scene tech and asks about the sheets on the bed, learning they could not have been the sheets Stephanie and her lover made love on because they are too clean. Lucas leaves the house and goes in search of Poppy White, one of his snitches. Lucas finds him at a bowling alley. Unfortunately, Poppy has not heard anything about someone killing a white lady. Lucas goes in search of another snitch, Orville Proud. Lucas finds him at an illegal poker game. Orville tells Lucas that he has not heard anything, either. However, Orville has information on a guy who has a warehouse full of stolen televisions.

In chapter six, Bekker is high and dancing in the nude when he begins to have a nose bleed. Bekker takes more drugs to stop the bleeding before dressing and going to the university hospital. Bekker has been obsessed with the question of what happens to the soul when a person dies ever since his overly religious parents tried to convince him his soul would go to hell. To this end, Bekker has become fascinated with films taken at Nazis death camps by doctors experimenting on Jews. Bekker takes this idea to a new level at the hospital. There is a woman, Sybil, dying of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Bekker likes to hold her nose closed and watch her eyes as she fights for her life.

Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Lucas attends the funeral for Stephanie Bekker and notices how odd Bekker's behavior is. Lucas has no way of knowing at this point that Bekker's behavior comes from drug



use, but the reader has seen Bekker's use and wonders how long it will be before his drug addiction causes him to make a mistake. Lucas then begins searching for news on the man who was hired to kill Stephanie Bekker, but is disappointed that none of the usual suspects are bragging about a recent kill or spending an unusual amount of money. This suggests to Lucas, as the reader is already aware, that the killer is not just some hitman off the street.

Loverboy becomes an important element to the investigation in these chapters. Not only does Lucas take special note of how meticulously Loverboy cleans up the scene, but he believes the note Loverboy has sent the investigators proves he has a conscience. This leads Lucas to believe Loverboy has information that can help the case, causing him to suggest they use the press to reach out to him. This suggests that Loverboy will become a factor in the plot.

Bekker not only continues to display his out of control use of drugs to the reader, but also exposes his own mental illness. Bekker, raised by overzealous religious people, is obsessed with the question of what happens to the soul upon death. Bekker believes it is all in the eyes at the moment of death. To this end, Bekker begins cutting off the air supply to a woman unable to move or cry out in order to watch what happens in her eyes as she fights for air. This episode suggests to the reader a way in which the police might learn about Bekker's insanity, if only this poor woman can find a way to communicate.



Chapters 7-8

Chapters 7-8 Summary

In chapter seven, Daniel calls Lucas and tells him he has decided to go to the press about Loverboy, but that he cannot get the release ready until the following day. Lucas worries that this will not be soon enough. When Daniel hangs up, Lucas calls Elle's contact at the university, but this man directs him to Dr. Larry Merriam. When Lucas visits Merriam, a pediatric oncologist with the university, he learns that Merriam and Bekker worked together in an effort to find a way to handle death with their patients a little easier for the patient and their families. Merriam tells Lucas that the nurses on the ward call Bekker Dr. Death because of the joy he appears to show each time a patient dies. Merriam also confesses that he believes Bekker sped along the deaths of perhaps two cancer patients, but that he never had any proof and therefore could not go to the police with his suspicions. Finally, Lucas learns that Bekker still has access to the medical wards at the university hospital as part of his employment there.

Lucas goes to the medical examiner's office and talks to the investigator about Stephanie's death. The investigator feels as though the murder was meant to look like a drug addict had done it, but he feels this is not the case because the killer focused too single-mindedly on the face. It is also clear that the killer was there specifically to kill Stephanie because nothing in the house was disturbed. Stephanie also clearly had sex in the hours before her death, but it was consensual. Finally, it is believed that Stephanie lived for up to thirty minutes after the attack. Lucas thinks this could point to Loverboy as the killer, but his instincts tell him this is not true. Lucas goes back to the office and runs into Karl Barlow, a sergeant with internal affairs. Barlow wants to set up an interview for the investigation into the attack on the pimp, but Lucas does not have time to make an appointment.

In chapter eight, Bekker collects all of Stephanie's photographs and takes them to Druze in the hopes he can pick out the lover. Druze picks out a couple of possibles, but nothing certain. Druze puts pressure on Bekker to kill a woman named Armistead, his boss at the theater where he is an actor. Bekker hesitates, however, because the police are still investigating him. Druze is also concerned the lover will recognize him, so he agrees to remain in makeup at the theater as often as possible. Finally, Bekker tells Druze about an answering machine in a colleague's office they can use to communicate. Bekker returns home and thinks about the house filled with antiques that was Stephanie's pride and joy. Bekker cannot wait to sell the house and enjoy the half million he believes it is worth.

That night Bekker dresses in plain blue coveralls and collects a hammer he bought weeks ago. Bekker washes the hammer, hoping to rid it of any trace evidence that might connect it with his home. Bekker drives over to the home of Elizabeth Armistead and knocks on the door, claiming to be with the gas company. Bekker is early. Bekker was supposed to wait another hour or so to give Druze time to solidify his alibi. Bekker was



also supposed to call Druze when he left the house so that he could make a phone call to the theater claiming to be a critic wanting free tickets to the show. The ticket booth operator would have to call Armistead to confirm, establishing a last contact. However, Bekker figures it will work the same after Armistead is dead. When Armistead allows Bekker into the house, Bekker hits her over the head with the hammer. When Armistead is done, Bekker hits her several more times before using the claw to remove her eyes.

Chapters 7-8 Analysis

Lucas's boss agrees to contact Loverboy through the press because there is no other clear alternative, but continues to hesitate. This aggravates Lucas, but causes him no concern. However, the reader will recall this when the identity of Loverboy is revealed at the end of the novel. Lucas then learns that Bekker appears to show joy when people die at the hospital and that there is some thought that he killed two children on the cancer ward. This is just speculation, but it tells Lucas that Bekker acts inappropriately around death, suggesting he has the mentality necessary to plot the death of his wife.

Bekker, just as Lucas thought he might, is concerned about the identity of Loverboy. Bekker worries that Loverboy might recognize Druze and ruin all their plans. This suggests to the reader that Loverboy's life could be in danger should Bekker figure out who he is. At the same time, Bekker shows that he is not a stupid man when he arranges a way to communicate with Druze that does not require them revealing their relationship. However, the reader wonders if Bekker has thought about the possibility of someone finding these messages and establishing a relationship between them anyway.

Bekker kills a woman named Elizabeth Armistead, whom he has never met before. This reveals to the reader that Bekker and Druze have a deal in which each one kills someone the other wants dead, just like the plot of an old Hitchcock movie. This finally reveals Druze's motive for murder outside of the parameters of friendship. However, the reader wonders what impact this second murder will have on the investigation into Stephanie's death.



Chapters 9-11

Chapters 9-11 Summary

In chapter nine, Lucas is called to Elizabeth Armistead's home. When he arrives, Lucas learns the details of the killing. After looking at the body, Lucas talks to the woman who found the victim, Cassie Lasch. Cassie tells him that it was unusual for Elizabeth to not appear for a performance and she was concerned about her, especially after she failed to answer a call regarding some free tickets a critic was requesting. Lucas thanks Cassie and gives her his card. Lucas goes back out to the front door and finds a patrol cop talking to a neighbor. Lucas establishes that the woman disliked Elizabeth because of her profession. As Lucas leaves the house, the press tries to get him to make a statement, but he refuses. However, as Lucas is driving away, a reporter catches up with him and asks him to give her some information in exchange for a favor from her. Lucas agrees and tells her that Elizabeth Armistead was killed by the same man who killed Stephanie Bekker.

In chapter ten, there is a press conference regarding the Bekker and Armistead murders. During this press conference, the chief of investigations, Lester, not only gives information on the murders but asks that Loverboy come forward with any information he may have. After the press conference, Lucas runs into Jennifer, the mother of his child. Lucas and Jennifer argue, with Lucas telling her either they begin talking about their relationship or end it for good. Afterward, Lucas gives a series of interviews to various reporters. Finally, Lucas is free to go. Lucas goes to the theater where Armistead worked. Lucas finds Cassie in the ticket booth trying to find a piece of paper with the name of the man who called for free tickets the night before. Lucas helps her find it and then requests a phone to call the man. In the control booth, Lucas calls and learns the critic has been out of the country. As Lucas and Cassie flirt in the booth, Carlo Druze comes out on stage and begins juggling. Lucas looks at him, thinking there is something odd about his face but unable to see what it might be under the heavy stage makeup. Cassie tells him who the actor is and says that as far as she knows, Druze was in the theater all night the night before.

In chapter eleven, Bekker is becoming deeply concerned about Stephanie's lover. Bekker begins thinking of a trip he and Stephanie made to New York and how she was on the phone a surprising amount of time. Bekker checks the phone records and finds a number that is repeated several times during that time period. A quick call tells Bekker the number goes to Philip George, a law professor at the university, who fits Druze's description of the lover. Bekker meets with Druze and has him identify George from a university annual. Bekker then checks on George's schedule and orders Druze to kill him, giving him a plan he has worked out. Bekker then visits Sybil before returning home. When Bekker approaches his house, he finds Lucas walking along the street. Bekker invites Lucas in for coffee.



Chapters 9-11 Analysis

Lucas learns another woman has been killed, causing him to wonder if perhaps this new killer has nothing to do with Bekker after all. However, Lucas's instincts tell him that Bekker is still guilty somehow. In investigating this new murder, Lucas meets Cassie Lasch. There is an immediate attraction between the two that the reader wonders will blossom into something intimate. At the same time Lucas meets Cassie, he runs into his ex-lover. The pain is still fresh here and the reader can see it in the anger that overwhelms Lucas at the sight of her. The reader suspects a great deal of this anger has something to do with guilt.

Bekker believes he has identified Stephanie's lover. Bekker orders Druze to kill him, suggesting that Bekker is afraid of being caught and is therefore unwilling to commit the crime himself. This shows some of the cowardice in Bekker even as he plans the crime in unflinching detail. At the same time, Lucas sees Druze, but because of his heavy makeup, cannot see the scars on his face that resemble the odd appearance Loverboy described in his letter to the investigators. However, the reader hopes Lucas has a good memory and will recognize Druze at some point later in the plot.



Chapters 12-14

Chapters 12-14 Summary

In chapter twelve, Lucas has coffee with Bekker and talks to him about his wife. Lucas is surprised at Bekker's lack of compassion for his wife. Bekker explains that they were estranged, they just felt a divorce was pointless. Bekker tells Lucas he has no reason to have wanted his wife dead because he inherited nothing from her except the house, a house he cares deeply for but might have to sell because of the difficulties Del has caused in his life by accusing him of murder. Lucas promises to speak both to Del and the other cops, to make them stop harassing Bekker. Bekker then asks Lucas what he thinks happens to people when they die. Lucas says nothing, they simply stop existing. Lucas then asks to see Stephanie's bedroom, which Bekker happily allows. When Lucas leaves, he sneaks up to an outside window and watches as Bekker does a strange jig, suggesting to Lucas he is on drugs.

Del comes to Lucas's and they talk about a list of possible lovers for Stephanie Bekker, but none seem overwhelmingly possible. Del tells Lucas about a nurse Bekker was once involved with. They go to her apartment and talk to her about Bekker. The nurse, Cheryl, tells them Bekker was often violent and she suspects he was on drugs, including steroids. As they leave, Lucas notices that Cheryl appears attracted to Del and suggests that Del might encourage that attraction in order to learn anything else Cheryl might know.

In chapter thirteen, Lucas invites Cassie to his house. They make love and then talk. Cassie recognizes that Lucas is battling depression and shares her own struggle with depression, including an attempted suicide. The following morning, Bekker calls and invites Lucas to his home late that night. Lucas is reluctant, but agrees to go when Bekker tells him he has some evidence in the case. Bekker gives Lucas some theater tickets and American Express charges that suggest Stephanie attended multiple shows at the same theater where Armistead worked.

In chapter fourteen, Druze parks at the university beside George's car and lets the air out of one of his tires. As George is changing the tire, Druze hits him on the head with a knife sharpening steel. Druze quickly puts George in his car, puts George's car keys between the front tire and the curb, then drives away. Druze takes George to an empty cabin in Wisconsin that Bekker once looked at with his wife, and buries him in the marshy land behind the cabin. Druze forgets to take George's eyes, but decides what Bekker does not know cannot hurt him. Druze leaves a message for Bekker on the answering machine to let him know the crime is finished. Bekker goes to the university, walks through the buildings to the area where George parks, and drives his car to long term parking at the airport. Bekker then takes a cab to the theater where Druze works. Back at his home, in a drug induced hallucination, Bekker sees George's eyes and knows that Druze failed to cut them.



Chapters 12-14 Analysis

Lucas has coffee with Bekker and finds his lack of compassion for his wife uncanny. Despite Bekker's claims that he was no longer in love with his wife, Lucas continues to get bad vibes from him. This tells the reader that Lucas's instincts are right on target. This seems to be confirmed when Lucas interviews an ex-lover of Bekker's and hears basically the same thing from her. This meeting also confirms for Lucas that Bekker is a drug addict, something he has suspected. Important to the reader at this point is Lucas's insistence that Del flirt with this lover of Bekker's. Lucas apparently thinks that Cheryl is hiding something, but it also seems clear to the reader that Lucas believes a relationship would be good for Del, showing his compassion for his friend.

Lucas becomes involved with Cassie, a relationship that immediately shows importance when Cassie is able to share her story of depression with Lucas and help him talk out some of his problems, something he has been reluctant to do even with his close friend, Elle. The reader sees this relationship becoming important to Lucas, something that could make him vulnerable with the criminals he investigates. At the same time, Druze kills George even though he feels it is an unnecessary risk. However, Druze is deeply loyal to Bekker because Bekker is his only friend. The only problem is that Druze forgets to cut the eyes, causing Bekker some stress that could lead to him making a mistake.



Chapters 15-18

Chapters 15-18 Summary

In chapter fifteen, the police learned George has disappeared. The general consensus is that he is Loverboy. When Lucas learns what time George disappeared, he realizes that Bekker used him as an alibi. This causes Lucas to believe George is dead and Bekker knew he would be killed. As they discuss this, a cop comes in with a picture of a Cyclops staring over a hill at a woman. The picture has been sent by Loverboy. At home, Lucas makes some phone calls and finally gets an artist who tells him the painting is done by a French artist named Odilon Redon. The artist suggests that whoever sent the picture to the police knows something about art because Redon is somewhat obscure. Back at the office, Lucas coaches Del through a phone call to ask Cheryl on a date.

In chapter sixteen, Druze and Bekker meet in a parking lot and drive to George's grave in a rainstorm. Druze and Bekker dig up George's body and Bekker removes his eyes with a screwdriver. The two men carefully rebury him as the rain stops and leave. Across the way, a woman is sitting by her window and sees the car lights.

In chapter seventeen, Lucas goes to the site of George's burial and speaks with the local cops. When the cops take the body from the grave, Lucas can clearly see that the eyes have been removed. On the way home, Lucas calls the reporter, Carly, that he made a deal with and gives her details of the murder. Sloan and Lucas go to George's home to speak with his wife. Lucas checks out George's study to see if he has any art books. Not only does George not have art books, but Lucas discovers he is a tenor. This tells Lucas that he is not Loverboy because Loverboy's voice was not that high. As they leave the house, Lucas tells Sloan to send the crime lab boys back to Bekker's house and take footprint samples from the bathroom floor to prove George is not Loverboy. Later that night, while having dinner with Cassie, Lucas gets a call confirming George's footprints does not match the footprints found in Stephanie's bathroom.

In chapter eighteen, Lucas and Daniel cook up a plan to bust a warehouse full of stolen televisions in order to distract the public from the serial killer. Lucas then meets with Carly and convinces her to run a story that suggests Lucas has gone rogue, convinced that George was not Loverboy, in a ploy to force Loverboy to contact him. Lucas then visits Elle and asks her why the killer would take the eyes of his victims. Elle suggests that the killer does this because he is somehow tortured by the eyes. Elle also tells Lucas that the killer has most likely killed before. After that, Lucas calls it a day and goes to the theater to pick up Cassie. That night, Del calls and tells Lucas that Cheryl has told him that Bekker was cruel in bed, using her like a piece of furniture, but apparently showed little interest in sex.



Chapters 15-18 Analysis

The police receive a copy of Redon's Cyclops. This picture is supposed to represent Stephanie Bekker's killer, but Lucas cannot figure out how. However, it does give Lucas insight into Loverboy; specifically, the fact that he has some experience with art because Redon is somewhat obscure. This helps Lucas establish that George is not Loverboy after his body is found in Wisconsin.

Bekker reveals to the reader his deep obsession with eyes. Bekker believes he was once haunted by a woman he killed until he took her eyes. After that, Bekker has always taken the eyes of people for whose death he is responsible. This habit, as Elle later suggests to Lucas, could link Bekker to murders the police are not yet aware of. This brings to the mind of the reader the cancer patients Merriam mentioned to Lucas. Finally, Lucas sets up a way to get a message to Loverboy using the press. Lucas needs Loverboy to come forward and more perfectly describe the killer. This suggests to the reader that Loverboy is quickly becoming the key to solving this murder.



Chapters 19-22

Chapters 19-22 Summary

In chapter nineteen, Lucas gets a call from dispatch from someone claiming his child is sick. Lucas takes the call and discovers it has nothing to do with his child, but is Loverboy. Loverboy stays on the line for only two minutes to prevent Lucas from tracing the call. During this time, Loverboy tells Lucas to focus on Michael Bekker because Stephanie claimed he was cruel and was potentially dangerous. Loverboy then tells Lucas the next time he wants to speak that he should put an ad in the personals using the name Lucas Smith. When Lucas tells Daniel the following morning, Daniel tells him to concentrate on Bekker.

In chapter twenty, a detail of cops begin watching Bekker. However, Bekker is not easy to follow inside the university because of multiple buildings and confusing corridors. When Bekker enters the building that morning, he goes to a pay phone to call Druze. Druze tells him that Cassie has been talking about Lucas and the case, exposing the fact that she knows details of the case that are not public. Druze is afraid she will identify him to Lucas. Bekker suggests they might make Cassie disappear later. Right now, however, Bekker wants Druze to kill a random woman in order to throw police off their track. Bekker hangs up and returns to his office, noticing several students wearing shiny oxford shoes. Several hours later, one of the cops who followed Bekker talks to a reporter.

In chapter twenty-one, Lucas spends the rest of the evening reviewing the surveillance reports and then at home with Cassie. The following morning, Daniel tells Lucas someone has slipped it to the media that someone connected with the case is under surveillance. Bekker learns about it from Druze.

In chapter twenty-two, Druze arrives at a mall in a prosperous neighborhood and begins stalking women in the stores. However, when Druze follows a possible victim to her car, he finds she is parked in a highly visible area, making an attack impossible. Druze then moves his car to the back of the lot where he waits for a woman to walk to her car alone. Druze attacks a clerk from the Target as she attempts to get into her car, unaware of a teenager watching from the mall entrance. At the same time, Bekker decides to pay Lucas a visit at home and ask him to make the surveillance stop. However, Lucas reacts violently and throws Bekker off his property.

Chapters 19-22 Analysis

Loverboy calls Lucas as he wanted, but gives him little information. Loverboy controls his voice carefully, causing Lucas to wonder why. Loverboy also times his call carefully to keep Lucas from tracing it. All of this suggests to the reader that Loverboy is familiar

with police procedures, suggesting he is a cop or that he works with the police in some capacity.

Bekker is being watch by the police, but they are unable to follow him carefully in the university building, giving Bekker the opportunity to both call Druze and visit Sybil. Later Bekker learns he is being followed and decides to visit Lucas to make it stop. However, Lucas is not happy about his visit, humiliating Bekker. This suggests to the reader that Bekker could desire some sort of revenge against Lucas as the plot continues to develop.

Bekker instructs Druze to kill again in order to throw off the police. This suggest seems dangerous and unnecessary at this point in the investigation. Even Druze believes this is unnecessary, but he agrees to do it because he wants to make Bekker happy. Druze is desperate to keep this friendship strong because he does not want to lose the one person who has ever shown any interest in him. Druze kills a single mother, unaware that a teenager is watching from the mall entrance. The reader wonders if this witness will be able to finally identify Druze as the killer.



Chapters 23-25

Chapters 23-25 Summary

In chapter twenty-three, Lucas goes to the scene of the mall murder. While there, Lucas talks with the teenage boy who witnessed the murder. The boy tells Lucas that the killer had a way of walking that was similar to the main character in the movie *Darkman*. Lucas leaves the scene and drives to Cassie's apartment, but she is not home. Cassie is waiting for Lucas when he returns to his own home. They run together and then Lucas rents the film *Darkman* to watch with Cassie. After the movie is over, Lucas shows Cassie the picture of the Cyclops. Cassie identifies Carlo Druze as the killer, just as Lucas suspected she would. Lucas and Cassie go to the office at the theater and break into the personnel files. Lucas takes a headshot of Druze with the hope of having Loverboy identify him.

In chapter twenty-four, Lucas shows the picture of Druze to Daniel. They agree to put surveillance on Druze and to make a video of him to show the witness. Lucas also wants to put an ad in the personals to get Loverboy to contact him so they can arrange for Loverboy to identify Druze by viewing the pictures on the local educational channel in the middle of the night. Lucas then talks with the officer who interviewed Druze the night Armistead was killed and learns that Druze's alibi begins at seven, giving him a small window in which he could have killed her. Lucas goes to Druze's apartment and breaks in, checking the place out. Lucas finds a jacket in the closet that appears to be the same one Loverboy identified the killer wearing. Lucas takes a few pictures of that. Lucas also finds a sharpening steel in the kitchen cabinet. Back at Daniel's, Lucas gives him the pictures to add to the headshot they will show on television for Loverboy to identify.

As Lucas focuses on Druze, Bekker visits Sybil once again. Bekker notices that Sybil has the control for her word processor strapped to her head. Bekker believed that Sybil could not longer control her facial features well enough to work the processor, but discovers she has attempted to leave a message telling anyone who finds it that Michael Bekker killed her. Bekker erases the message and then prepares to kill Sybil. However, as Bekker is holding Sybil's nose closed, he hears a sound that frightens him away.

In chapter twenty-five, Lucas checks the paper to be sure his ad for Loverboy was printed properly. Lucas gets a call from Del, telling him that Cheryl believes Bekker has been paying inappropriate attention to a patient on her ward named Sybil. Lucas calls Dr. Merriam to ask about this and receives a call back asking him to come quickly to the hospital. When Lucas arrives, Merriam takes him to Sybil's room where Sybil is able to communicate her fear through a series of yes and no questions she answers with movement from her eyes. Lucas arranges to have Sybil testify on video. Lucas then asks Dr. Merriam if it is possible Bekker had access to the cancer patients after their deaths. Merriam says that could only have happened at the funeral home. Lucas asks



Elle if the killer could have missed doing the kids' eyes. Elle says no, but he may have done them after death.

Chapters 23-25 Analysis

Lucas finally identifies Stephanie's killer thanks to the kid at the mall who witnessed the clerk's murder without realizing what he was seeing. The kid tells Lucas the killer moved like Darkman. Lucas knows what the kid means and begins thinking about Carlo Druze. To this end, Lucas brings Cassie in and has her identify Druze. Now all Lucas needs is Loverboy to also identify him as the killer. The problem is, Loverboy remains a mystery and can only be contacted through an ad in the paper.

Lucas also begins to close in on Bekker when Cheryl tells Del that Bekker has been paying too much attention to her patient, Sybil. Lucas is able to speak to Sybil and learn that Bekker has been threatening to kill her. This not only gives Lucas cause to arrest Bekker, but it also makes him think about possible proof that Bekker killed those two cancer patients. Lucas asks Elle about the cancer patients and whether or not Bekker would have needed to cut their eyes. Elle agrees that he would have, so now all Lucas has to do is prove that this was done. The only problem is that it was not done at the hospital during the murder or the autopsy. Now Lucas has to prove that Bekker did it without knowing himself how or when Bekker would have been able to do it.



Chapters 26-28

Chapters 26-28 Summary

In chapter twenty-six, Bekker enters Druze's apartment building without the cops watching the building recognizing him. Bekker goes to Cassie's apartment and convinces her to let him in when he pretends to be delivering flowers. Bekker pulls a gun and tells Cassie he needs to hide out there until he can safely meet with Druze. Bekker ties Cassie up with tape and attaches her to her own bed. Cassie tries to escape, but finds the tape chokes her each time she struggles. At about the same time, Lucas tries to decide if he should visit Cassie or go to a funeral home to learn if it would be possible for someone to mutilate a corpse in their care. Lucas chooses the funeral home.

Bekker goes downstairs and convinces Druze to follow him to Cassie's apartment. Bekker tells Druze he needs to kill Cassie while Druze is at the theater. First, however, Bekker wants Druze to speak to her. As Druze turns Cassie's face so she can see him, Bekker shoots Druze in the head. Bekker leaves him as he falls, hoping his death will appear to be a suicide. Bekker then slices Cassie's throat, watching her eyes as she dies.

In chapter twenty-seven, Lucas learns that the funeral home employees check on bodies from time to time, but do not stay with them constantly in order to give family members space to grieve. The funeral director agrees that it would be possible for someone to mutilate a corpse in the funeral home. As Lucas leaves, Del calls and tells him that Druze failed to appear at the theater on time. Lucas asks Del to call Cassie's apartment to check on her as he rushes to the scene. When he arrives, Del and Lucas explain the situation to the apartment manager and she lets them into Cassie's apartment. Del finds the bodies. Lucas forces his way into the bedroom and becomes emotionally distraught. Sloan comes and takes Lucas home, calling Elle on the way. Elle arranges for Lucas to get a sedative in order to help him rest that night. When Lucas wakes, he discovers that Sloan sat watch over him all night to keep him from hurting himself.

In chapter twenty-eight, Lucas goes to see Daniel and pressures him into allowing Lucas to exhume the bodies of the two cancer patients. In his office, Lucas learns that Druze could not have committed suicide because there was no gun powder on his hands and the gun fell under the body. Lucas goes home, still working the case in his head. Jennifer is waiting for him. Lucas sends her away. In his spare bedroom, Lucas works the case over and over in his head. Lucas begins a list under Loverboy's name, focusing some of his rage on Loverboy because if he had come forward they could have arrest Druze sooner and maybe Cassie would still be alive. Finally, Lucas borrows some speed from Del and gets back to work, enlisting Sloan to help him.



Chapters 26-28 Analysis

Bekker manages to get past the cops watching Druze and enter his apartment building. Cassie also has an apartment there. Bekker kills both Druze and Cassie, believing that he is shutting them both up before they can point a finger in his direction. The reader also suspects that Bekker has targeted Cassie in order to get revenge on Lucas for humiliating him the day he went to his house to ask for help. Lucas is destroyed by Cassie's death, and the reader fears he will fall back into the depression that controlled him in the beginning of the book. However, Lucas is so filled with anger and hatred that he continues to focus on the case. Perhaps this focus will help him. The reader should note that Lucas is focused not only on Bekker, but on Loverboy. Lucas sees Loverboy as a coward who could have saved his own lover, Stephanie, if only he had been strong enough to realize she was still alive, rather than fear for his own reputation. Loverboy could have come forward later, saving Lucas the trouble of contacting him through newspaper ads and late night phone calls. Lucas believes Loverboy is a selfish person whose cowardice led to Cassie's death, leaving the reader convinced Lucas will not rest until he identifies Loverboy.



Chapters 29-32

Chapters 29-32 Summary

In chapter twenty-nine, Bekker wakes from a drug induced stupor and begins to clean himself up. In the mirror, Bekker sees Druze's face staring back at him. In fact, Bekker sees Druze in every shiny surface in the house. At the same time, Lucas has Sloan ask permission of the cancer patients' parents to allow their bodies to be exhumed. When they have permission, Lucas waits in the medical examiner's office for the results. Just as Lucas thought, both patients show evidence of having their eyes cut with a sharp instrument such as a box cutter or scalpel.

In chapter thirty, Lucas gets Elle's opinion of a plan he has concocted to catch Bekker. Afterward, Lucas works with Carly, the reporter, in creating Druze's face over his own. Lucas then drives around Bekker's street and walks near his office in order to convince Bekker that Druze is haunting him. As a direct result, Bekker calls the funeral home and learns the time and date of the viewing.

In chapter thirty-one, Lucas, Del, and Sloan sit in a room at the funeral home where they can watch Druze's body and any visitors he might have. The receptionist too is a cop working with them. When Bekker arrives, the receptionist shows him to the room where Druze is laid out and then takes a call from Sloan, leaving Bekker with the impression that he is not being watched. Bekker goes into the viewing room and approaches the casket, unaware that Lucas is watching through a hole in the wall. Bekker cuts both Druze's eyes with a scalpel. Del, Lucas, and Sloan come into the room. Lucas tells Bekker he is under arrest for the murders of the two cancer patients as well as Druze and Cassie. Del punches Bekker in the face in revenge for Stephanie. As Sloan pulls Del off of Bekker, Lucas attacks him with the sight on his gun, cutting Bekker's face with each blow. By the time Sloan is able to pull Lucas away, Bekker's face is a mass of cuts. When the paramedics roll Bekker out of the funeral home, he tells Lucas he should have killed him.

In chapter thirty-two, Lucas goes to Daniel's office for a meeting. Daniel tells Lucas that he has internal affairs on his case not only for the pimp, but also for the beating on Bekker, for breaking into Druze's apartment, and for slipping information to a reporter. Daniel tells Lucas he can fight the charges, but he would most likely not win. Daniel advises Lucas to resign. Lucas does. Before he leaves, Lucas throws a piece of paper at Daniel's trash basket. Outside, Lucas runs into Jennifer and their daughter, Sarah. Jennifer says she wants to work on their relationship. In his office, Daniel picks up the slip of paper and discovers a list of clues that led Lucas to figure out who Loverboy was. Included in these clues is a Redon calendar on the man's wall that was replaced with a weather calendar, the phone call in which Loverboy disguised his voice, suggesting Lucas knew him, and the meticulous way in which Loverboy cleaned all evidence of himself in Stephanie's house. Daniel realizes that Lucas knew Daniel was Loverboy.

Chapters 29-32 Analysis

Lucas ties Bekker to the deaths of the cancer patients when he discovers that their eyes had been cut, most likely at the funeral home. This gives Lucas an idea of how he can catch Bekker. Lucas sets Bekker up, convincing him that Druze is haunting him based on information Elle gives Lucas about the killer. This proves successful and Bekker is arrested. However, Lucas has been holding back a rage that now needs to be released. Lucas attacks Bekker and removes his beauty. This was foreshadowed in the opening pages of the books, as was the internal affairs investigation that would follow. Lucas is no longer interested in being a cop, however, and quickly retires. The reader thinks at first that Lucas has done this because of the charges against him, but quickly realizes that he has done it because he can no longer work for a coward. It turns out Lucas has known for a short time that his own boss, Quentin Daniel, is Loverboy. Lucas blames Loverboy for Cassie's death, which is most likely the larger reason Lucas so easily resigns.



Characters

Lucas Davenport

Lucas Davenport is a detective with the Minneapolis Police Department. Lucas is a good detective, but a recent case that went bad and left his daughter wounded has caused him to fall into a dark depression. In order to help Lucas work his way out of this depression, Lucas's commander, Quentin Daniel, assigns Lucas the Stephanie Bekker case. This case causes Lucas to focus and gives him a purpose. This purpose turns into an opportunity when Lucas meets Cassie, an actress who has also suffered from depression, and begins to pull out of himself with her help.

Lucas not only works for the police department, but he is also a game designer. Lucas began with board games as a way to relax. The board games have turned into computer games. Lucas has created a Civil War game that is played by hundreds of people on the Internet. Due to the success of his games, Lucas can afford to drive a Porsche and to live in a nice house. This sets Lucas apart from the rest of the cops on the police force. However, because of the close camaraderie of the job, very few cops openly resent Lucas because of his wealth.

In the end of the Bekker case, Lucas loses the girl who has been helping him on top of losing his girl and baby after the last case that devastated his home life. Lucas momentarily slips into a depression again, but is pulled out of this depression first because of the arrest of the man responsible and later because his ex makes a gesture toward reconciliation, bringing him his daughter. This is good timing, since just before seeing his daughter, Lucas is forced to resign from the police department because of too many complaints regarding his behavior.

Cassie Lasch

Cassie Lasch is an actress with the same community theater to which Carlo Druze belongs. Cassie is the one who found Elizabeth Armistead dead in her house. For this reason, Lucas is introduced to her at the crime scene. Later, Lucas comes across her at the theater and helps her find a piece of paper she is convinced is evidence in the murder. Lucas finds himself attracted to Cassie. In a day, Cassie and Lucas become lovers. They both know it will most likely not last long, but Cassie has suffered from the same depression Lucas is fighting and her story helps him pull out of the depression. Unfortunately, Cassie makes her relationship with Lucas public at the theater and Druze gets wind of it. Druze tells Bekker, who decides that Cassie has to die to keep from recognizing Druze as the killer. Bekker kills Druze in Cassie's apartment and then kills her, just moments before Lucas arrives to find the body.



Carlo Druze

Carlo Druze is an actor. Druze was badly burned as a small child and now has multiple disfiguring scars on his face. Druze meets Bekker in a bar and they discuss many things, including murder. Druze admits that he once killed a woman but was never caught. This causes Bekker to think about his need to be out from under his wife's thumb. Bekker and Druze make a deal in which Druze will kill Bekker's wife and, in exchange, Bekker will kill Druze's boss, Elizabeth Armistead. Unfortunately, when Druze kills Bekker's wife, she has a lover in the house with her. Bekker later orders Druze to kill Philip George, the man they both believe to be her lover. This leads to the cops finding the body quicker than they expected. To keep the cops busy, Bekker orders Druze to kill another woman to make it appear there is a serial killer on the loose. Druze likes Bekker, considers him the only friend he has ever had, and trusts him completely. Therefore, when Bekker invites him to Cassie's apartment and tells him to talk to her, Druze has no reason to fear Bekker. Bekker shoots Druze in the head, hoping to make it appear to be a suicide.

Michael Bekker

Michael Bekker is a pathologist who works for the local university. Bekker is drug addicted, taking a collection of prescription and illegal drugs that keep him high most of the time. Bekker met Druze at a bar and befriended him with the intention of having him kill his wife. Bekker dislikes his wife and wants the freedom of being without her. Bekker also wants the house which, thanks to his wife's eye for antiques, is worth nearly a half million dollars. However, the drugs make Bekker paranoid. Bekker continuously changes the plan, making Druze kill several more people in order to hide the fact that his wife's death was planned by him.

Bekker kills Elizabeth Armistead to please Druze and keep him quiet until the police stop focusing on Bekker as his wife's killer. However, Bekker manages to kill Armistead in such a way that it implicates Druze. When Druze kills Philip George, Bekker invites Lucas over to be his alibi. Bekker remains one step ahead of the investigation the entire time, until Druze dies. When Druze dies, Bekker knows he needs to take the eyes. Bekker is often haunted by the eyes of people for whose deaths he is responsible. Bekker goes to the funeral home to take Druze's eyes because he could not take them at the murder scene for fear of the police realizing Druze's death was not a suicide. When Bekker arrives at the funeral home, Lucas and two other cops are waiting for him. Lucas beats Bekker badly with the sight of his pistol, tearing up his beautiful face in revenge for what Bekker did to Cassie.

Stephanie Bekker

Stephanie Bekker is Michael Bekker's wife. Stephanie Bekker is in the kitchen washing dishes after spending the evening in bed with her lover. Stephanie is thinking about her lover, about the time they have just spent together, when Druze breaks into the house.



Stephanie is beaten over the head repeatedly. Stephanie's lover comes downstairs and finds the killer over her body, but does nothing. Druze runs out of the house. Stephanie is unconscious on the floor for a few minutes and then she attempts to call for help, but dies as she reaches for the phone. If Stephanie's lover had called for help immediately, she may have lived.

Philip George

Philip George is a law professor at the same university where Bekker works. Bekker finds calls from his wife to George on the phone bill and believes that George is her lover. Bekker orders Druze to kill George and hide his body on property behind a cabin in Wisconsin. Druze does as he is told, but forgets to take the eyes. Bekker insists on returning to the gravesite the following night to take the eyes so that George will not haunt him. However, on this return trip, the neighbors see Druze and Bekker's car leave the area. The body is found sooner than expected, turning up the heat on Bekker and Druze.

Sloan

Sloan is a cop who works with Lucas at the police department. Sloan apparently does not have a first name, at least not one he wants people to know, because even his wife claims not to know it. Sloan does a lot of the background work, looking at criminal histories of suspects and possible lovers Stephanie Bekker may have had. After Cassie is killed, Sloan takes Lucas home and stays with him all night to protect him from his own depression and the possibility of suicide. Later, when Michael Bekker is arrested, Sloan is with Lucas and stops him from beating Bekker.

Del

Del is a narcotics officer who often indulges in the same drugs he is supposed to be getting off the streets. Del and Lucas work together at the beginning of the novel to take down a pimp who wounded one of Lucas's snitches. During this meeting, Del tells Lucas how someone murdered his cousin, Stephanie Bekker, and that he believes her husband had something to do with it. Lucas promises to look into it and is later assigned to the case. Del helps Lucas investigate the case by getting involved with a nurse who was once one of Bekker's lovers. Ironically, this relationship blossoms into a real relationship, bringing Del out of the darkness of his drug addiction.

Loverboy

Loverboy is the nickname the cops use to discuss Stephanie Bekker's lover. This man was in the house when Stephanie Bekker was attacked by Druze. The cops have been able to establish that Loverboy cleaned all evidence of his presence from the house and left before calling 911 from a phone booth. Lucas concocts a strategy to contact



Loverboy through the press to help prevent his identity from becoming known. Lucas needs Loverboy to identify Druze as Stephanie's lover, but before he can, Cassie and Druze are killed. Lucas blames Loverboy for not coming forward. At the very end of the novel, the reader learns that Lucas has figured out who Loverboy is by a list of clues he has inadvertently left behind. Loverboy is Lucas's commander, Quentin Daniel.

Jennifer and Sarah

Jennifer is a reporter with whom Lucas has had a long term relationship with until recently. When Lucas and Jennifer's infant daughter, Sarah, is hurt by a suspect in one of Lucas's cases, Jennifer takes the baby and leaves. This causes Lucas to fall into a dark depression that he is struggling to overcome when this novel begins. Lucas cares deeply for his daughter and her mother. Lucas asks Jennifer to decide if she wants to come back to him or stay gone. At the end of the novel, Jennifer approaches Lucas and asks if they can begin talking to work on their relationship. This helps keep Lucas from falling into depression again after the death of a lover and his forced retirement from the police department.



Objects/Places

Cigarette Case

Michael Bekker carries around a cigarette case that is filled with the assortment of pills he is addicted to.

Heavy Bottle

Stephanie Bekker has a heavy bottle she found in Mexico that she uses to decorate the kitchen table. Bekker instructs Druze to use this bottle to kill Stephanie with.

Hammer

Bekker uses a brand new claw hammer to kill Elizabeth Armistead, helping the police to recognize immediately that he brought the weapon with him. This shows that the murder was premeditated and not a crime of passion.

Screwdriver

Bekker uses a screwdriver to take out George's eyes after his death and burial in order to keep him from haunting Bekker.

Answering Machine

Bekker uses the answering machine in a colleagues office to communicate with Druze. After Druze's death and Bekker's arrest, the police find the machine and recover messages between the two men, linking them both to four murders.

Eyes

Bekker is obsessed with the eyes of his victims. During the actual murder, Bekker studies the eyes for clues to what happens to a person's soul after death. After the murder, Bekker takes out the eyes so that the dead person will not haunt his drug induced hallucinations.

Tire Store Receipt

Lucas writes down clues to Loverboy's identity on the back of a tire store receipt. After Daniel tells Lucas he should retire, Lucas leaves the receipt in Daniel's office. Daniel reads the receipt and realizes that Lucas knows that Daniel is Loverboy.



Note from Loverboy

Loverboy sends a note to the police describing what happened the night Stephanie Bekker was murdered and what the killer looked like.

Cyclops Painting

Loverboy sends a picture of a painting by Redon titled Cyclops to the police, indicating that the Cyclops in the picture looks similar to how the killer of Stephanie Bekker looked.

Theater Tickets

Bekker gives Lucas some theater tickets that imply that Stephanie was dating someone either in the theater or who she often took to afternoon matinees at the theater where Elizabeth Armistead worked.

George's Car

Druze flattens a tire on George's car to make him vulnerable to attack. Later, Bekker comes and takes the car to long term parking at the airport to make it appear George left town.

Lucas's Porsche

Lucas drives a Porsche thanks to the money he makes as a game designer.

Lost River Theater

The Lost River Theater is the theater where Druze, Cassie, and Armistead work.



Themes

Drug Addiction

Michael Bekker is addicted to drugs. Bekker spends most of his days taking pill after pill, many of them mind altering pills that cause him to lose time out of the day. Bekker is a pathologist obsessed with death, obsessed with what happens to the soul at the moment of death. Bekker uses his drugs not only to keep himself calm and to appear normal in front of other people, but also to hallucinate and explore parts of the mind not always open to conscious adults. Bekker is a selfish, dark man who plots his wife's death as though he is asking a friend to pick up a case of beer. Bekker is falling apart, allowing the drugs to take over his life and destroy his health. However, Bekker is still lucid enough to plot murder in such a way that from a distance he appears innocent.

Del is also addicted to drugs. Del is a cop who has been working the narcotics division for many years. Due to his job, Del is forced to take certain drugs in order to win the trust of the criminals he is trying to bust. As a result, Del is just as dirty and often high as Bekker. The difference between Del and Bekker is that Del knows what he is, Del controls the amount of drugs he takes, and Del knows the difference between right and wrong. Del is a good man who is fighting to bring some justice into the world.

The author of the book introduces two different drug addicts and shows the reader two different sides of the addiction. Both men are often high and are often spoiling their own health and mental capabilities with these drugs. However, one man is a psychopath who orders the killing of his wife like he were ordering a pizza, while the other sees the difference between right and wrong and fights to bring justice for his cousin. These differences do not change the addiction both men suffer, but it brings some sympathy to both sides of the coin, making drug addiction a theme of the novel.

Friendship

Carlo Druze is a deformed man who is often ridiculed and discriminated against. As a result, Druze has never had any close friends. When Michael Bekker reaches out to Druze and begins forging a friendship, Druze is surprised and honored to be considered a friend by such an intelligent, good-looking man. Druze becomes a deeply loyal friend to Bekker, agreeing to do anything Bekker asks of him, including murder.

Lucas Davenport considers himself a solitary man. Lucas likes to work alone, he likes to have the freedom to do what he wants to do when he wants to do it. Lucas does not make friends easily. However, Lucas has a few very good friends. Lucas has known Elle Kruger since they were both kids. Elle is now a psychiatrist and a nun. Lucas often turns to Elle when he needs help on a case or when he simply needs someone to talk to. Elle comes to Lucas after Cassie's death, giving him the sedatives he needs to get through



the night. Elle also makes phone calls, bringing Jennifer to Lucas in a time when he desperately needs her.

Lucas also finds support in Cassie Lasch. Cassie is an actress that Lucas takes as a lover. Cassie has experience with the same form of depression Lucas is suffering, and her stories help him know that he is not alone, that he is not crazy. Lucas rarely lets people close to him, but Cassie somehow finds a way in. Lucas knows it will not last long, but Cassie is saving him from himself. Without this friendship, Lucas may never have found his way out of his depression, making friendship a theme of the novel.

Betrayal

Druze trusts his friend Bekker more than he has ever trusted anyone else. Druze believes that Bekker is his friend and will do only what is best for both of them. For this reason, Druze faithfully kills three people on Bekker's orders, even when he begins to question the reasoning of these murders. When Bekker tells Druze that he has taken Cassie hostage and that Druze needs to speak to her, to convince her to keep quiet, Druze trusts him. This proves to be a fatal mistake. Bekker shoots Druze in the head, an attack Druze never saw coming.

Lucas trusts his commander. Lucas has no reason to believe the men he works for would ever do anything to hurt him or break his trust. However, when Lucas becomes aware that the internal affairs officers are hot on his trail for a mild act of violence, Lucas begins to wonder what the real reason might be. Eventually Lucas realizes that his commander wants him out, wants him off the force. When Lucas meets with Daniel, he already knows the score. Daniel wants Lucas out because he is the one cop who can figure out that Daniel is Loverboy, a witness in the Stephanie Bekker murder case. What Daniel does not know is that Lucas figured it out long before their final confrontation.



Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person point of view. The narration moves from character to character, often focusing on the criminal, Michael Bekker, and the cop, Lucas Davenport. The multiple viewpoints allow the reader to see both the motives of the criminal as well as the procedures the cop uses to find the criminal. From the beginning of the novel, the reader knows that Bekker is the mastermind behind a group of murders, and Lucas Davenport knows it as well. However, Lucas does not know how Bekker has committed these murders, but the reader does. Therefore, it is entertaining for the reader to watch Lucas play catch up and find a way to arrest Bekker.

The point of view of this novel is common to its genre. What makes the point of view of this novel a little different is that the reader gets to see the criminal's actions from the first page of the novel, where in most mysteries the reader does not know for sure who the criminal is until the end of the book. This book also provides insight into the insanity that causes a man to do the things he does and suggests that this madness is only kept at bay by morality in the mind of the hero. The point of view of this novel works with its plot because it allows the reader to understand the motivations of two different men who are not quite as different as the reader might believe.

Setting

The novel is set in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota. This area is a large metropolis, much like Los Angeles or New York. The setting in this novel includes a university where the one of the main characters works. This university includes a hospital where doctors learn how to treat patients and where experiments are often done to find more efficient ways to treat patients. Due to this setting, the reader is able to follow Dr. Michael Bekker as he tortures a young patient in his desire to find out what happens to the soul at the moment of death.

The setting of this novel is similar to many big city locations that often appear in stories of this genre. Different in this book is the choice of setting it in Minnesota rather than Los Angeles or New York, which are popular locations for this genre. This location is also a large area, but there is also a sense of companionship in this location that is different from many other books set in large cities. There is a sense of the small town in this location. This novel also features a university in its setting. This offers a setting appropriate to the profession of one of the main characters and allows his fascination with eyes to be indulged in a logical location that readers can identify with. In this way, the setting of this novel is unique, but appropriate to the plot.



Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple, straight-forward English. The main characters in this novel are mostly educated people, with some having less than a college degree. The language, therefore, varies between street language filled with slang and proper, well worded dialogue. The novel deals with drugs and medical situations; therefore, it includes words that might not be immediately recognizable by some readers that refer to these situations. However, the language is not highly technical, and therefore the reader can easily decipher any unrecognizable words through the context in which they are used.

The language of this novel is appropriate to the characters who populate the book. The street cops often speak in informal language, using a great deal of slang and other words common to their occupation. Bekker, however, is highly educated, so much of his language is more formal, containing less slang. The book is not overly technical; therefore, the language as well is not highly technical. The language is appropriate to the plot and readers of all ages should have little trouble deciphering the author's intent.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty-two chapters. Many of the chapters are more than fifteen pages long. The novel is told in both exposition and dialogue. There are often long sections of internal dialogue in this novel, including moments in which Lucas is attempting to puzzle out a group or clues or when Bekker is having a drug-induced hallucination.

The novel contains one main plot that includes many subplots. The main plot begins with the murder of Stephanie Bekker and follows the investigation into her death as well as her husband's attempts to conceal his connection to the murder. Some of the subplots include Lucas's ongoing struggle with depression and his relationship with a material witness, Cassie Lasch. Each of the subplots intertwine within the main plot satisfactorily and all come to a gratifying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Carlo Druze was a stone killer."
Chap. 1, p. 1

"The thing called Stephanie Bekker heard the words 'Jesus Christ,' and then it was gone forever, leaving a single bloody handprint six inches below the Princess phone."
Chap. 1, p. 16

"Michael Bekker was beautiful."
Chap. 3, p. 31

"Bekker popped two MDMA's. Beauty broke into his jig."
Chap. 6, p. 72

"Tangled. And interesting. Without realizing it, Lucas began whistling, almost silently, under his breath."
Chap. 9, p. 115

"Druze was free of the tarbaby."
Chap. 14, p. 178

"The voice was from Star Wars, from Darth Vader. No contractions. No sloppy constructions. Scripted and pared to the bone."
Chap. 19, p. 227

"She didn't even like them much, but they were hers, no doubt about that."
Chap. 22, p. 254

"Barlow hadn't been good on the street. He was a control freak and didn't deal well with ambiguities—and the street was one large ambiguity."
Chap. 25, p. 293

"He didn't do it well, and he didn't do it quickly, but he did it: he cut Cassie's throat from ear to ear, and sat with her, holding her green eyes open with his fingers, as she died."
Chap. 26, p. 310

"The doctor's face was a mask of blood and curling, wounded flesh. Even Druze might have turned away, had he been alive to see it."
Chap. 31, p. 348

"He hadn't been able to weep since he was a child. Loverboy wished, sometimes, that he still knew how."
Chap. 32, p. 358



Topics for Discussion

Who is Lucas Davenport? Why is Lucas depressed when the novel begins? What happened during a previous case that accounts for his depression? What does Lucas do to treat his depression? Why does Lucas refuse to see a doctor about the depression? Why do you think the author chose to write about depression in this novel? How does Lucas eventually beat his symptoms? Is the reader left with the impression that Lucas's depression is gone for good? Explain.

Who is Carlo Druze? Why does Druze kill Stephanie Bekker? What does Druze expect to receive in return for this act? Does he? Why does Druze continue killing for Michael Bekker? What does Druze want from Bekker? Why does Druze turn to Bekker the way he does? Is there a flaw in Druze's personality that draws him to someone like Bekker? Is Druze a victim in this novel? Explain.

Who is Michael Bekker? Why does Bekker want his wife killed? Why does Bekker ask Druze to kill his wife? What is Bekker to give Druze in exchange? Does he? How does Bekker keep the cops from suspecting him in his wife's murder? Is Bekker insane? How much does Bekker's drug addiction have to do with his actions? Might Bekker be different without the drugs? Why does Bekker focus on the eyes? Where did this obsession come from?

Who is Loverboy? Why did he not do anything to help Stephanie Bekker? Could Loverboy have saved Stephanie's life? How? Why did Loverboy clean the house before he left? What was Loverboy trying to protect? Why does Loverboy try to help the cops? Why will Loverboy not reveal his identity? How does Lucas eventually find out who Loverboy is? What does Lucas do about it? What is your opinion of Lucas's actions?

Who is Jennifer? What role does she play in Lucas's life? Why does Lucas become angry with Jennifer? How does Lucas feel about Jennifer? Does Lucas want Jennifer back in his life? Why or why not? What ruined Lucas and Jennifer's relationship? Did Lucas have control over this situation? How has this situation affected Lucas's life?

Who is Cassie Lasch? What relationship does she have with Lucas? How does this relationship help Lucas? How does it hurt Lucas? Why is Cassie killed? What led up to this murder? What could have been done to prevent this death? Who is to blame for Cassie's death?

Discuss drug addiction. How many characters in this novel have drug addiction? Why do you think the author chose to use drug addiction in this novel? What impact does each character's use of drugs have on his choices, his motivations? In what way do drugs impact the development of the plot? Why does Lucas decide to use drugs? What result does Lucas get from this choice? Is this beneficial? Explain.