

'F' Is for Fugitive: A Kinsey Millhone Mystery Study Guide

**'F' Is for Fugitive: A Kinsey Millhone Mystery by Sue
Grafton**

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



Contents

'F' Is for Fugitive: A Kinsey Millhone Mystery Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1-2.....	6
Chapters 3-4.....	8
Chapters 5-7.....	10
Chapters 8-10.....	12
Chapters 11-13.....	14
Chapters 14-16.....	16
Chapters 17-19.....	18
Chapters 20-21.....	20
Chapters 22-23.....	22
Chapter 24.....	24
Chapter 25 and Epilogue.....	26
Characters.....	28
Objects/Places.....	32
Themes.....	34
Style.....	37
Quotes.....	39
Topics for Discussion.....	41



Plot Summary

F is for Fugitive is the sixth in Sue Grafton's alphabet series starring private investigator Kinsey Millhone. In this novel, Kinsey is hired by a dying man to prove his son is innocent of the murder he pleaded guilty to seventeen years before. Kinsey travels to the small town of Floral Beach to investigate the murder, quickly discovering that there are as many suspects as there are men in town. As Kinsey continues her investigation, she learns things about family and herself that she never would have discovered without the help of the dysfunctional Fowler family. F is for Fugitive is another great detective story that will entertain even those reader's new to the alphabet series.

Royce Fowler and his daughter, Ann, visit Kinsey Millhone in her newly-rebuilt offices with a case that, on the surface, appears to have been solved seventeen years ago. Bailey Fowler, Royce's son, pleaded guilty to the murder of his ex-girlfriend, Jean Timberlake, and was sentenced to six years in prison. Before he had served a year, Bailey escaped and has been a fugitive ever since. Last month, Bailey was found when he was erroneously arrested in a case of mistaken identity. Now Bailey faces his original six years and up to another two years for the escape charge. Royce does not believe his son is guilty and wants Kinsey to prove it. To add to the pressure, Royce is dying of cancer and wants Kinsey to prove his son innocent before he dies.

Kinsey takes the case and immediately travels to Floral Beach. Kinsey is to stay at the Ocean Street Motel, a business owned by the Fowler family. Her first night there, Kinsey meets Ori Fowler, a woman who has suffered diabetes all her life and has, as a result, become a narcissistic hypochondriac. As a result of her parents' ailments, Ann has had to quit her job to care for them and the hotel. Kinsey can see the strain on Ann and finds herself grateful to be an orphan.

Kinsey begins her investigation by visiting Bailey's new lawyer, where she learns that Bailey took a plea deal to avoid a longer sentence, but that he claimed innocence all along. Kinsey also learns that Jean was pregnant at the time of her death, but Bailey says it was not his. From there, Kinsey goes to the high school Jean attended and collects a list of names of her school mates. Kinsey then talks to the principal, Dwight Shales, but Shales refuses to give her any information until he can speak to the school's lawyer. Finally, Kinsey visits Bailey in jail. Bailey is of little help because he is deeply depressed by his current circumstances. Bailey does tell Kinsey, however, that Jean was searching for her birth father's identity at the time of her death.

That night, Kinsey goes to a local bar and meets Tap Granger, Bailey's old friend and partner in crime. Tap tells Kinsey about some of the crimes he and Bailey committed together, including the fact that at the time of her death, Jean was holding more than forty thousand dollars for them, but that the money never surfaced. It sounds like a motive for murder to Kinsey, but Tap does not believe it is. Then Tap leaves without saying goodbye. Kinsey sees him the next day when he comes into the courthouse in a mask and carrying a gun, intent on freeing Bailey. Bailey escapes, but Tap is killed on his way out of the courthouse. When Kinsey returns to the bar that afternoon, she learns



that Tap got a phone call before he left the night before. Kinsey wonders if that person got Tap to help Bailey escape.

Kinsey speaks to Shana Timberlake, Jean's mother, and learns that she never knew Jean was looking for her father and never saw any reason to tell her who he was. Kinsey speaks with several other people and learns about Jean's promiscuity. Soon Kinsey finds herself wondering if Jean was killed by the married man she was rumored to be seeing. While mulling over all she has learned, Kinsey has dinner with Dwight Shales, learning about his wife's fight with multiple sclerosis and his friendship with Shana Timberlake. At the end of the meal, Ann arrives at the restaurant and seems annoyed to find Kinsey eating with her old boss.

A short time later, Kinsey returns to the high school where Dwight Shales gives her Jean's file. In the file, Kinsey learns that Ann, one of the school counselors, had several meetings with Jean. When Kinsey asks Ann about this, Ann says it was mostly in regard to Jean's frequent absences. Using the information from her school records, Kinsey goes to the courthouse and gets a copy of Jean's birth certificate. On the certificate, Kinsey learns that the local doctor and owner of the Eucalyptus Mineral Springs delivered the baby. Kinsey goes to speak to him and has a run in with his wife. That night, Kinsey is attempting to sleep at the hotel and gets a threatening phone call, this on top of having discovered that someone broke into her room the night before. Suddenly Kinsey is finding it very difficult to get any sleep.

Kinsey has returned to Shana's home several times to speak to her and has been unable to find her at home. Kinsey finds a card in Shana's trash arranging a meeting somewhere called the Sanctuary. First Kinsey assumes the meeting place is the church, but then realizes it must be at the spa. Kinsey returns to speak with Dr. Dunne, confirming her impression that Dunne is Jean's father. Dunne swears, however, that Shana never showed up for their meeting. That night, Kinsey returns under cover of darkness and finds Shana's body. Before Kinsey can leave and call the police, Dunne's wife finds her. Dunne's wife attempts to force Kinsey to stay at gunpoint, but Kinsey is able to get the better of her and run away.

Kinsey makes her way toward town and finds herself on the cliff above the apartment where Jean and her mother lived before Jean's death. There are stairs leading up to a private home where Kinsey finds herself standing. Kinsey can see Dwight Shales through the windows and decides to seek his help. Dwight allows Kinsey inside. Kinsey asks Dwight about the stairs and by his answer, realizes he was the married man with whom Jean was having an affair. Dwight admits it, but swears he was not the father of the baby and that he did not kill Jean. Kinsey believes him. As they talk, Ann calls, angry and demanding Kinsey return to the motel.

Something about Ann's behavior makes Kinsey begin to wonder who would benefit from Ori's death more than Ann. Ori died of an allergic reaction that most people in town blamed on Bailey. Kinsey thinks otherwise. Kinsey returns to the hotel and sneaks into Ann's room. There Kinsey finds salt rock like that used in Tap's gun as well as statements for an investment in exactly the same amount that Bailey and Tap entrusted



to Jean. Unknown to Kinsey, Ann has been sitting in bed watching her search the room. Ann points a gun at Kinsey and tells her she will kill her and claim trespass. First, however, Ann confesses to all the murders, claiming she killed Jean to protect Dwight and killed Shana to keep her away from Dwight. Ann is planning to kill Kinsey for the same reason, but her father interrupts. During the ensuing struggle over the gun, Ann is shot in the foot. Ann is subsequently arrested and charged with the murders of Ori Fowler and Shana Timberlake.



Chapters 1-2

Chapters 1-2 Summary

Kinsey Millhone is in Floral Beach, California, investigating the death of Jean Timberlake. Kinsey was hired by Royce Fowler and his daughter Ann. Royce is dying of cancer and wants to prove his son, Bailey, innocent of the murder before he dies. Seventeen years ago, Bailey pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to six years in prison. However, Bailey escaped less than a year into the sentence and has been on the run until a few weeks ago. Bailey was arrested in Los Angeles in a case of mistaken identity. Bailey was let go, but a detective ran his prints anyway and discovered the warrant. Now Bailey is back in San Luis Obispo awaiting arraignment on the escape charge.

Kinsey takes the case, not for a need for money but because she needs to be busy. Kinsey's apartment was blown up and she was badly injured during her last case. Kinsey is now living with her landlord, Henry Pitts. Henry has a habit of taking care of Kinsey, something she resents. Kinsey was orphaned as a small child and has trained herself not to need anyone. After going for a run, Kinsey spends the night going through old news clippings dealing with Jean's death and Bailey's arrest. Some of the recent articles describe Bailey's life since escaping from jail, how he kept out of trouble and worked for twelve years for the same company. The following morning, Kinsey drives out to Floral Beach and goes directly to the Ocean Street Motel, the Fowler family's business and her new home for the duration of the case.

Chapters 1-2 Analysis

Both Kinsey and the case are introduced in these first chapters. Kinsey Millhone is a private investigator whose home and office were destroyed during a previous case. Kinsey was also injured during that case and therefore has not taken any more cases for a while. When Royce Fowler, a sick old man, comes and asks her to investigate a case that seems as though it has already been solved, Kinsey jumps at the chance to get back to work. At the same time, Kinsey has been living with her landlord who likes to take care of her. Kinsey hates to be taken care of and complains to him for doing her laundry and making her meals. Kinsey was orphaned as a child and has grown up with the belief she does not need anyone, including her kind landlord. This is important because it introduces to the reader Kinsey's fierce independence and her strength, suggesting she can take care of herself no matter what happens.

The case that Royce Fowler hires Kinsey to investigate is the death of Jean Timberlake seventeen years ago. Royce's son, Bailey, pleaded guilty to the murder, but now claims to be innocent. Royce, who is dying of cancer, wants Kinsey to prove Bailey innocent before he dies. Bailey was arrested in a case of mistaken identity and a check of his fingerprints discovered his real identity. However, in the seventeen years that Bailey



was on the run he kept out of trouble, suggesting that Bailey is a good person who got caught up in something that was bigger than he could handle. This is all the reader knows about Bailey at this point, but based on Bailey's lack of trouble in the past seventeen years and his father's faith in him, the reader gets the impression that he is not a cold blooded murderer.



Chapters 3-4

Chapters 3-4 Summary

The Fowlers live in an apartment behind the main desk. When Kinsey arrives, no one is at the desk, but Ann is nearby and invites her into the apartment. Kinsey is introduced to Ori Fowler, Royce's wife, a diabetic who also suffers from arthritis and is something of a hypochondriac. Ann leaves Kinsey alone with Ori while she goes to put on water for tea. Kinsey asks Ori about Bailey and learns that Bailey got involved with someone named Tap Granger with whom he committed some robberies. Ori also tells Kinsey that Bailey dated Jean Timberlake before going to jail on a robbery charge and that Jean worked both at the Ocean Street Motel and the Eucalyptus Mineral Springs. The phone rings, distracting Ori, so Kinsey goes to speak to Ann. Ann tells her that Royce has set up an appointment for Kinsey with Bailey's new attorney. Ann prepares to check her mother's blood sugar, so Kinsey quickly suggests that she get settled in her room. It takes the two women time to decide which room to put Kinsey in, forcing Kinsey to watch as Ann injects her mother with insulin, making Kinsey sick to her stomach.

Kinsey drives into San Luis Obispo to visit Jack Clemson, Bailey's attorney. There is no secretary in Clemson's office, but Clemson himself comes out of his office to greet Kinsey. Clemson tells Kinsey that Bailey has arrived in San Luis Obispo from Los Angeles and that he has arranged for her to go see him later that afternoon. Clemson then tells Kinsey about the original case. Bailey had just gotten out of jail on a robbery charge after robbing a gas station with another boy named Tap Granger. Bailey had gotten burned on that case, electing to go to trial rather than take a plea deal and he got one to ten years. As a result, Bailey chose to take a plea in the murder case to avoid life. However, despite the plea, that judge gave Bailey the maximum sentence. Once he arrived at the federal prison, Bailey took the first opportunity to escape, unwilling to spend even six years in prison.

Before Bailey went to jail on the robbery charge, he and Jean had dated. When he was released, Bailey and Jean began seeing each other again. The night she died, Jean and Bailey had been out bar hopping. Sometime around midnight, according to an eyewitness, Bailey and Jean arrived on the beach outside the Ocean Street Motel. Bailey swears he and Jean had a fight and he went back to the motel, leaving Jean alone, but alive. Jean was found the next morning, strangled with a belt that turned out to belong to Bailey. It also turns out that Jean was pregnant at the time of her death, but Bailey swears the baby is not his.

Chapters 3-4 Analysis

Kinsey meets Ori Fowler, Royce's wife. Ori is a sickly woman who likes being the center of attention. Ori only wants to talk about her ailments. Kinsey cannot even get her to talk about Bailey. Ann takes care of Ori, something that is not appreciated as it should be.



Kinsey watches Ann and finds herself grateful to be an orphan. At the same time, Kinsey reveals one chink in her armor. Kinsey is uncomfortable around needles and nearly becomes ill as she watches Ann first test her mother's blood sugar and then inject her with insulin. Besides the clear flaw to Kinsey's character, and thus the chink that makes her more human, the care of Ori introduces to the reader the means by which Ori takes care of her diabetes and the person responsible for the injections. This knowledge seems insignificant at the moment, but it will become more important as the plot continues to develop.

Kinsey goes to visit Bailey's lawyer and learns more details about Bailey's murder case. Bailey is not an angel; he was in jail once before. Due to being disillusioned from his previous experiences with the judicial system, Bailey chose to take a plea deal in Jean's murder rather than face the possibility of spending the rest of his life in jail. This explains to the reader why Bailey would plead guilty even though he swears that he is innocent. However, Bailey got more years than he was hoping for and escaped the first chance he got. Bailey's escape does not help make him look any more innocent, but again the reader sees that Bailey is a young, naïve guy who made a mistake.

Jean was found strangled on the beach, where Bailey admits to leaving her, with his belt around her neck. Kinsey looks at the evidence objectively and asserts that anyone could have killed Jean after Bailey left her on the beach. However, Bailey was seen with her around midnight, close to the time the coroner established as the time of death; therefore, it seemed the prosecution had a good case against Bailey. Kinsey, for the first time since taking the case, feels as though she might be able to find evidence proving Bailey's innocence. The facts of the case help inject some hope into the plot and it also gives Kinsey a place to begin her investigation, which she will begin in the following chapters.



Chapters 5-7

Chapters 5-7 Summary

With time to kill, Kinsey decides to go to the high school. Kinsey stops in the school's library and looks through the group of yearbooks that cover the years Jean attended the school. Kinsey finds only a few pictures of Jean, each one showing a reclusive, sober girl. Kinsey makes a list of Jean's classmates, hoping to interview people who knew her in order to get a better feel for the circumstances of her life. Kinsey then goes to the principal's office. The principal, Dwight Shales, is the same principal who was at the school seventeen years ago when Jean attended the school. Kinsey introduces herself and asks if he remembers Jean. Shales refuses to speak about Jean or offer any information about her until he can clear it with the school's lawyer. After meeting with Shales, Kinsey goes to the jail to see Bailey. Bailey appears despondent, too depressed to discuss the case with Kinsey. However, he does tell Kinsey that Jean was looking for her father at the time of her death. Bailey also says that Jean was upset about her pregnancy because the father was a married man and Jean knew he would not be happy to learn about the baby.

Kinsey stops at the gas station where Tap Granger works. Kinsey and Tap talk briefly about her car. Kinsey does not tell Tap who she is. Back at the motel, Ann joins Kinsey for a glass of wine. Ann tells Kinsey how her parents met while her father was traveling cross country on the trains. Ori's parents did not want her to marry Royce, but in a single act of defiance, Ori ran away with Royce. The young couple came to Floral Beach where Royce built the motel. After dinner, Kinsey goes down to the local bar to see if she can run into Shana Timberlake, Jean's mother. Kinsey sits at the bar next to an older man who turns out to be Pearl, the owner of the bar. Kinsey and Pearl talk for a little while, watching two women dance. Pearl tells Kinsey that one of the women is Shana Timberlake. Kinsey is surprised by Shana's youthful appearance.

Tap Granger comes into the bar and sits beside Kinsey. Pearl teases Tap, joking about his short lived career as a robber with Bailey. Kinsey asks Tap about those days and he admits that he and Bailey robbed quite a few places, accumulating a little over forty thousand dollars. Bailey gave Jean the money to hold while he was in jail and after Jean's death, the money just disappeared. Kinsey wonders if Bailey took the money, but Tap denies it, believing that Jean hid the money and the location died with her. As they talk, Kinsey also learns that Tap cleaned up his act and now is married with four children and one on the way. Tap gets up to use the bathroom but never comes back. When Kinsey asks the bartender, Daisy, where he went, she says he got a phone call and rushed off.



Chapters 5-7 Analysis

Several more characters are introduced in these chapters. First is Dwight Shales. Dwight is the principal of the school Jean attended. Shales is authoritative and cautious, refusing to allow Kinsey any information on Jean until he speaks with the school's lawyer. This suggests that Dwight is the kind of person who does everything by the book. Bailey is also seen in these chapters, a depressed man who has become resigned to the idea of spending the rest of his life in jail even though he did not do anything wrong. Tap Granger seems a lot like Bailey. Once a small time crook, Tap is now a family man who likes to talk about the old days, but is really a mundane, straight-laced husband and father. Finally, Pearl is introduced here. Pearl is the owner of the only bar in town. Pearl is crude, tough, and outgoing.

Kinsey learns the names of some of Jean's classmates, foreshadowing an attempt later in the novel to locate some of them and find out more about Jean's life in the months before her death. Kinsey also learns that Jean was involved with a married man and that she was afraid her lover would not be pleased with her pregnancy. Jean was also looking for her father. This gives Kinsey two possible suspects. First, a married man who would do anything to keep the community from learning he was having an affair with a teenager. Second, there is a father who kept his identity secret for seventeen years who might not have wanted to be exposed. Kinsey also finds out that Bailey and Tap had more than forty thousand dollars that they entrusted Jean to hide for them. This also gives Kinsey a possible motive for murder. Perhaps the killer was after the hidden money. However, Tap insists the money was hidden so well that its location died with Jean. The reader wonders, however, if this money might not make an appearance later in the novel.



Chapters 8-10

Chapters 8-10 Summary

Kinsey takes Royce to the Municipal Court to watch Bailey's arraignment. When they arrive, Kinsey drops Royce off and then parks her car, running into Jack Clemson on her way into the courthouse. Clemson tells Kinsey that Bailey's best option will be if Kinsey comes up with something that proves his innocence. Kinsey watches Clemson go and finds Royce waiting for her in the coffee shop. Together they make their way to the courtroom. There are reporters everywhere, but none seem to recognize the frail old man with Kinsey as Bailey's father. In the courtroom, Kinsey watches the people around her, interested to see Shana Timberlake make an appearance, as well as Pearl and his son, the eyewitness who saw Bailey and Jean together at the beach at midnight on the night Jean died. Seconds before Bailey is to be arraigned, a man in a mask wielding a shotgun erupts into the courtroom. The man fires the gun into the ceiling, shattering a light fixture and showering the spectators with glass. The man fires again, covering the room with a white substance that Kinsey later recognizes as rock salt. The man then calls for Bailey to leave. Bailey takes off, followed by the gunman. Kinsey, who had been protecting Royce on the floor, springs out the door. The masked man turns out to be Tap Granger. Tap is killed by the deputies.

Back at the motel, Kinsey puts Royce to bed. A short time later, the motel is overrun with well meaning neighbors and friends. Kinsey meets Reverend Haws, the pastor of the local Baptist church, and his wife. Kinsey is overwhelmed by the crowd and sneaks off to her room. Before she can sneak out of the motel, Reverend Haws catches her in the hallway. Kinsey is put off by Haws' pushiness, refusing to accept any of his invitations to get together. Finally Kinsey is able to get away, immediately making her way to the Eucalyptus Mineral Springs, a spa and hotel where Jean worked before her death. Kinsey takes a quick look around, noticing that all the hot tubs have names like serenity or meditation. At the main building, Kinsey goes to the reception desk where she speaks to a large blond woman. Kinsey requests information on Jean Timberlake, but the woman insists she needs to speak to Dr. Dunne and he is unavailable. Kinsey leaves her card but gets the impression that Dr. Dunne will never get her message.

Kinsey goes to Pearl's after leaving the springs and finds Daisy setting up for the day. Kinsey asks her about the call Tap got the night before and learns that the caller was someone unfamiliar and that the voice sounded slurred, like the person had had a stroke. Kinsey wonders if the caller put Tap up to Bailey's escape and if Bailey was meant to be killed as well. Kinsey then takes out the list of names she made at the high school and asks Daisy if any of the people are still in the area. Daisy picks one and tells Kinsey he would be the most likely to have any information for her. Kinsey discovers the man, Dr. Poletti, is a dentist with an office nearby. Kinsey speaks to him for a few minutes and learns that Jean was promiscuous and that most of the guys at school had a thing with her at one time or another, including him. When Kinsey asks if Dr. Poletti knows who the father of Jean's baby was, he claims to not have a clue.



Chapters 8-10 Analysis

Tap barges into the courtroom with shotgun shells filled with rock salt and helps Bailey escape. Tap is killed on the way out. Kinsey wonders if the phone call Tap got at Pearl's the night before was from someone who put him up to helping Bailey. Kinsey asks the bartender at Pearl's and learns the caller sounded dull, slurred, as though it was a person who had had a stroke. Kinsey finds this curious, but has no idea what it might mean. However, the reader believes that this description might help Kinsey figure out who the caller was at some point later in the development of the plot. Bailey is free again, but running causes Bailey to look even more guilty than he looked before. The reader wonders why Bailey would run, not once but twice, if he is truly innocent.

The tragedy of Bailey escaping again causes the community to reach out to the Fowler family, Ori in particular. At the motel, Kinsey meets the local Baptist preacher, a man who is persistent and overbearing, and who dislikes Kinsey's refusal to be bullied. This introduction gives the reader the impression of a man who likes to get his own way in everything he does. Given the information that Kinsey has gotten on Jean so far, the reader looks at the reverend as a possible candidate as either Jean's married lover or her father. This possibility adds some tension to the plot as Kinsey finds she dislikes this man and wants to get away from him as quickly as possible. From the circus at the motel, Kinsey goes back to Pearl's where she spent the night before talking to Tap. Kinsey learns that the phone call Tap got the night before was from someone who sounded odd, slow, as though they had had a stroke. This information is important because it may lead Kinsey to discovering the caller's identity and that could lead to the killer.

Kinsey gets information on the classmates of Jean, whose names she wrote down while at the high school the day before. Daisy tells Kinsey to speak to one man in particular, so Kinsey goes to his office immediately. The man, a dentist now, tells Kinsey that Jean had a reputation for sleeping with every man in town. This touches on the theme of immoral behaviors, as well as introducing a character flaw in Jean. Jean was clearly looking for something in these relationships, and knowing that she did not know who her biological father was suggests to the reader that Jean might have been looking for a father figure in her lovers, touching on another theme of the novel, parental affection. This also gives Kinsey a whole other group of people who might have benefited from Jean's death as well as the father of her baby.



Chapters 11-13

Chapters 11-13 Summary

Kinsey returns to the motel and changes in order to go for a run. Afterward, Kinsey showers and goes in search of Shana Timberlake. Kinsey tells Shana who she is and is reluctantly allowed into Shana's tiny cottage apartment. Shana has clearly been drinking, a result of the morning's excitement. Shana leaves Kinsey in the kitchen and goes into the bathroom to be sick before taking a shower. As Kinsey waits, she washes the dishes and straightens the slovenly kitchen area, searching through the mail as she does. The only thing of interest to Kinsey is what appears to be a card mailed from the Los Angeles area. However, the envelope is sealed so Kinsey does not have the opportunity to read the contents. When Shana returns to the room, she and Kinsey discuss her relationship with Jean. When Kinsey asks if Shana knew that Jean was looking for her father, Shana insists that Jean did not need to know who her father was. Shana also says that she and Jean had a close relationship, but that Jean had taken to sneaking out of their apartment, a few blocks from Shana's current residence, in the weeks before her death. Finally, Shana denies knowing anything about the money Jean was supposedly holding for Bailey.

Kinsey has dinner with the Fowlers. After a conversation about the cleaning woman, who Ann refuses to have in her bedroom, Kinsey gives a summary of the case so far to Royce. Royce tells Kinsey how she should run the investigation, causing her to become angry. Kinsey tells Royce if he does not like the way she is running things, he should hire someone else. In the middle of the argument, Royce has a coughing fit that makes it impossible for him to breathe. Kinsey urges Ann to call an ambulance while she attempts to make him more comfortable. Ann goes to the hospital with Royce, forcing Kinsey to keep Ori company until she is able to go to sleep. When Ann returns, she and Kinsey share some tea. Ann tells Kinsey how she was a sickly baby, stricken with celiac disease, and that her parents found it difficult to show her affection as a result. Later, when Kinsey goes up to bed, she discovers that someone has broken in to her room. Kinsey immediately calls the night manager and insists that she be moved to another room. The night manager, Bert, seems to think Kinsey is being a nervous female but eventually allows her to move to the room next door.

Soon after making the switch, Kinsey is lying in bed attempting to rest when her phone rings. It is Bailey and he is upset about Tap's death, but insists that he did not put Tap up to helping him escape. In fact, Bailey insists that escaping was the last thing on his mind, but he took the opportunity when it presented itself. Kinsey tries to get Bailey to turn himself in, but he does not trust his own lawyer, let alone anyone else, and refuses. Kinsey then begins to question Bailey about the missing money he gave Jean to hide, but Bailey suddenly hangs up. A second later, Kinsey's phone rings and she is told to wait for the police to come. Kinsey is taken to the police station and is questioned most of the night, managing less than three hours of sleep when she returns to the motel.



Chapters 11-13 Analysis

Kinsey goes to see Shana Timberlake, Jean's mother. Shana is drunk and sick while Kinsey is in her apartment, giving the reader the impression of a woman who has given up on life and uses alcohol as a crutch to get through the day. Shana's apartment gives added weight to this assumption. The apartment is small, cramped, and dirty. Kinsey finds herself washing the dishes while she is there, adding some comedy to a sad situation in which Kinsey becomes the kind of caretaker to a stranger that she cannot stand a friend being for her. Important about Kinsey's kindness, however, is her small amount of snooping that comes up with a card sent to Shana from Los Angeles. Kinsey cannot read the card, but it suggests to the reader that Shana may have a friend in Los Angeles, perhaps Jean's father, who is still contacting her.

When Shana comes out of the bathroom, Kinsey asks about Jean's father and Jean's search for his identity. Shana clearly does not know that Jean was searching for her father, implying to Kinsey that she never felt it was important for Jean to know the man's identity. Despite this, Shana claims to have had a close relationship with her daughter. However, the reader finds this doubtful since Shana admits to not knowing Jean was pregnant and to be ignorant about Jean's promiscuity, including the identity of the married man Jean was seeing at the end of her life. Shana does admit, however, that Jean used to sneak out of the apartment they shared, something that might be important later if Kinsey can connect this behavior to Jean's lover and possible killer.

Kinsey has dinner with the Fowler's where she begins to argue with Royce, apparently bringing on a coughing fit that leaves Royce gasping for breath. This episode reminds the reader of Royce's failing health and the time table under which Kinsey is working to find Jean's real killer. It is not just Bailey's life on the line, but Royce's desire to know the truth about his son before he dies. Afterward, Kinsey speaks with Ann and learns that she was a sickly child. Ironically, this did not bring Ann closer to her mother, even though Ori also suffers from bad health. Instead, this caused Ann's parents to be incapable of giving her the affection every child deserves, touching on the theme of parental affection. This also suggests a tension between Ann and her parents that might become important later in the novel. Finally, Kinsey finds that someone has broken into her room. This is important because it might suggest that the real killer is feeling threatened by Kinsey's investigation. After changing rooms, Kinsey gets a call from Bailey. Bailey swears he did not put Tap up to getting him out of jail, taking him off the list of people who could have made the phone call to Tap at Pearl's. Bailey also refuses to turn himself in, suggesting that he does not trust anyone who might be in a position to help him. This leaves the reader wondering if Bailey knows more about Jean's death than he is saying, or if he is simply jaded from his previous experiences with the justice system.



Chapters 14-16

Chapters 14-16 Summary

Ann wakes Kinsey early to ask her to stay with Ori while Ann goes to the hospital to see her father. Kinsey stays with Ori until Maxine, the housekeeper arrives. Kinsey overhears Maxine tell Ori how people in town are getting guns and chain-link fences to protect themselves from Bailey, afraid he might go on a killing spree or some such nonsense. Kinsey leaves the two women to their gossip and goes to visit Tap Granger's widow. Joleen Granger is nine months pregnant and chasing four small children through the house when Kinsey arrives. Kinsey asks Joleen if Tap had recently come into some money and learns that Tap told his wife he had won a bet with some guy. Kinsey also learns the shotgun Tap used at the courthouse did not belong to him. As Kinsey is leaving, she runs into Dwight Shales, who has come to offer his condolences. Kinsey waits until he is done, then learns that Shales has gotten permission to allow Kinsey to look at Jean's school records. Shales then offers to give Kinsey a ride to her car which she left at the motel. Ann appears at the office window and watches as Shales drives away before telling Kinsey that her father would like to Kinsey to visit him at the hospital.

Kinsey looks through Jean's school records, making note of her address and date of birth. Kinsey also notices that Jean spent a lot of time in the principal's office her junior year, as well as the counselor's office, including Ann's office, who was a counselor at the school at the time. It seems Jean was absent a lot that final year as well, up until the day of her death. Kinsey finishes up and goes in to talk to Dwight Shales. Shales tells Kinsey that Jean was a quiet, lonely girl who was smart but had a habit of being defiant toward authority figures. Shales also tells Kinsey that Jean joined the youth group at the Baptist Church shortly before her death, and it was rumored that she had a crush on a boy named John Clemson who headed the group at the time.

Kinsey rushes over to Clemson's office and tells him what Shales told her about his son. Clemson seems surprised, but quickly offers Kinsey his son's business address. Kinsey finds John Clemson working as a pharmacist at the local medical facility. Clemson invites Kinsey behind the counter and answers her questions quietly and politely. Clemson laughs at the possibility that he might have been the object of Jean's infatuation. When Clemson turns, Kinsey discovers that the right side of his face is disfigured, the results of a car accident when he was ten. Clemson then tells Kinsey with whom Jean was really infatuated. Clemson once saw Jean engaged in sexual activity with Reverend Haws.

From the pharmacy, Kinsey goes to the courthouse and gets a copy of Jean's birth certificate. Joseph Dunne is registered as the doctor who delivered Jean, so Kinsey calls his office only to learn he is not there. Kinsey goes up to the Hot Springs and enters the hotel. There is no one around, but it appears that the hotel is undergoing renovations. Kinsey snoops around until she hears someone come in from the tennis courts. Kinsey recognizes the woman she spoke to on her last visit, Dr. Dunne's wife.



Kinsey makes her way back to the reception desk where there is now a woman standing. Kinsey asks for information on the hotel and is told it will not be open until April. Then Kinsey asks for a restroom, but makes her way into Dr. Dunne's private office instead. Kinsey can hear the doctor in the shower, so she snoops while she waits.

Chapters 14-16 Analysis

Kinsey hears the housekeeper tell Ori how people are beefing up security to protect themselves from Bailey, telling the reader that the community believes Bailey is a cold-blooded killer and any crime in the immediate future will be blamed on him. This is important because it seems to foreshadow trouble. Kinsey then goes to see Tap's widow and learns that Tap suddenly came into some money and that the shotgun he used at the courthouse was not his. These things are important because, along with the strange phone call at Pearl's, they suggest that someone hired Tap to get Bailey out of that courthouse and provided him with the shotgun that had shells filled with rock salt. The reader, along with Kinsey, may wonder if Tap knew about the rock salt. Kinsey then runs into Dwight Shales who gives her a ride to the motel, something that is observed by Ann. This seems incidental at the moment, but will prove important as the plot continues to develop.

Kinsey looks through Jean's school records and speaks to Shales, learning that Jean was a quiet, but troubled girl. Jean's character seems to be developing into that of a teen who felt as though she lacked a father figure in her life and perhaps acted out to earn attention to fill the hole her father left in her development, touching on the theme of parental affection. At this same meeting, Kinsey learns that Jean was a member of the youth group at the Baptist Church, supposedly because she had a crush on Jack Clemson's son. However, Kinsey learns that Jean was really having an affair with Reverend Haws. The reader jumps to the conclusion that this might be the married man who got Jean pregnant, suggesting that he might be the prime suspect in her murder. After all, it would not do for a respected pastor to have an illegitimate child running around. Kinsey then gets Jean's birth certificate and finds that Dr. Dunne delivered her, so she goes to speak to him at the Mineral Springs, hinting at a confrontation that might reveal who Jean's father was. If Dr. Dunne was Shana's doctor, perhaps Shana told him who the father was.



Chapters 17-19

Chapters 17-19 Summary

Dr. Dunne comes into his office, surprised to find Kinsey there. Kinsey introduces herself and begins asking questions about Jean. Dr. Dunne refuses on grounds of confidentiality. Dr. Dunne then goes to the door and calls for his wife. Elva Dunne comes after Kinsey with a tennis racket, connecting with Kinsey's arm. Kinsey becomes enraged and punches Elva in the jaw. Dr. Dunne's attitude suddenly shifts and he becomes the concerned doctor, bandaging Kinsey's knuckles and giving her pain killers for her bruised arm. Dr. Dunne also relents and tells Kinsey that Jean came to him the day she learned she was pregnant, insisting on an abortion, but he refused. When Kinsey asks if he knows who Jean's father was, Dr. Dunne skirts the question and then leaves the room.

Late that afternoon, Kinsey goes back to Shana's, but finds the place deserted. Kinsey returns to the motel where she finds herself drawn into a conversation with Ori about her multiple ailments. Ann comes into the room and immediately begins arguing with her mother over money as well as the new maid Ann has just been supervising. Kinsey escapes while the two women are busy. Kinsey quickly changes her clothes and slips out of the motel in search of a meal. Shortly after ordering, Kinsey is joined by Dwight Shales. Shales tells Kinsey about his wife and her struggle with multiple sclerosis that ended recently. Shales also admits to a budding friendship with Shana. Ann comes into the restaurant in a foul mood, complaining that Kinsey should have told her she would not be staying for dinner. Ann then focuses on Shales, cutting Kinsey out of the conversation, so she decides to leave.

Kinsey goes to Pearl's with the hope of running into Shana, but Shana is nowhere to be seen. However, Pearl's son and daughter-in-law are there. Kinsey speaks to them, hoping to ask Pearl's son, Rick, about his eye witness account in the Timberlake case. Rick claimed at the time to have seen Bailey and Jean arrive at the beach at midnight. Rick tells the same story now, telling Kinsey how he was sitting with his grandmother, waiting for the night nurse to arrive, and that is how he knew what time it was. The whole time, however, Pearl is sitting beside Rick, clearly making his son nervous. Later, when Kinsey arrives back at the motel, Rick's wife is waiting for her. The wife says that Rick lied because he did not want his dad to know that he left his sick grandmother alone in order to see his girlfriend, now his wife. The wife says Bailey and Jean really arrived at the beach around ten, like Bailey said all along.

Chapters 17-19 Analysis

Kinsey has a conversation with Dr. Dunne that does not get her anyway at first. However, after Dr. Dunne's wife attacks Kinsey with a tennis racket, Dr. Dunne opens up a little and tells Kinsey that Jean wanted an abortion, because Jean was unhappy with



the idea of going through the same thing her mother did, having an illegitimate child and raising it alone. This goes along with what Bailey said about how upset Jean was, giving support to Bailey's story. However, when Kinsey asks who Jean's father was, Dr. Dunne leaves the room without answering. The reader wonders if Dr. Dunne does this to protect Shana because he does not know, or because he does know and does not want to reveal the truth. Later that night, Kinsey learns that the boy who served as an eye witness at the time of Jean's death and told everyone that Bailey and Jean arrived at the beach at midnight, was lying. This not only gives Bailey time to have gone home before Jean's death, as he said, but also confirms everything Bailey has said all along about when they arrived at the beach and about leaving Jean alive after an argument.

At dinner time, Kinsey decides to go out to dinner rather than put up with the tension filled meal she was expected to share with the Fowlers. Ann and Ori are fighting and Kinsey's experience with previous meals with this family has not been good, so the reader can hardly blame her for escaping their company. Not only that, but Kinsey begins the novel by claiming she does not need a family, so this behavior supports that claim. However, Ann is furious at Kinsey for not telling her she would be out to dinner. Not only this, but Ann seems put out that Kinsey is dining with Shales. The reader, aware that Ann once worked with Shales, wonders if perhaps there is not some jealousy there, if Ann might have a crush on Shales. Finally, over dinner Kinsey learns that Shales had a wife who died from multiple sclerosis and that he is friends with Shana. This seems inconsequential, but will prove to be important later in the novel. It also underscores Kinsey's search for Shana, someone who has suddenly become very difficult to locate for some unknown reason.



Chapters 20-21

Chapters 20-21 Summary

Kinsey takes a couple pain pills and tries to get some sleep; however, a crank call wakes her in the middle of the night. Kinsey gets out of bed and goes to the window where she sees someone else in a nearby room is also awake by the light shining through their window. The phone rings again. Kinsey listens closely and realizes that the person is making threats against her is using a tape recorder played on slow to disguise the voice. Kinsey dresses and goes downstairs to ask Bert if the call came through the switchboard. Bert tells Kinsey that the switchboard is turned off at ten, so the only way the calls could have come through would be a room to room call. Kinsey looks at the list of guests, but does not recognize any names.

The next morning, Kinsey goes to a local diner for breakfast where she overhears a group of locals talking about what they would do if Bailey happened onto their property. After breakfast, Kinsey returns to the motel where she watches the maid attempt to enter room twenty and discover the master key does not work for that room. Kinsey wants to take a nap, but the maid comes into her room so she goes downstairs instead. Kinsey asks Ann about her meetings with Jean as a counselor. Ann tells her their meetings were all academic, mostly about her attendance problems in the months before her death. Kinsey excuses herself to use the phone and tries Shana, getting no answer, and then Dr. Dunne's office. Kinsey then returns to the living room just in time to watch Ann give Ori an insulin injection. Kinsey becomes ill from the sight of the needle.

Almost immediately after receiving her shot, Ori begins to complain that she does not feel well. Within seconds, Ori's face swells and she begins struggling to breath. Ori is having an allergic reaction and dies quickly. Kinsey calls the police, who begin an investigation immediately, speaking to both Ann and Kinsey. One possible reason for Ori's reaction is that someone exchanged the insulin with penicillin, something to which Ori is deathly allergic. Kinsey asks Ann who knows about the allergy and is reminded that Ori rarely hides her medical history from anyone. As soon as Kinsey escapes to her room upstairs, Bailey calls, wanting to know what happened. When Kinsey tells him, he immediately denies responsibility.

Chapters 20-21 Analysis

Kinsey gets a crank call from someone warning her off the case. Kinsey is disturbed at first, but by the second call, she is awake and alert, able to hear subtle sounds over the phone. Kinsey figures out that the caller recorded the message on a tape recorder and then slowed the tape down to disguise the voice. This suggests that the same person calling Kinsey is the same person who called Pearl's the night before Tap died, explaining the stroke victim sound of which Daisy talked. If this is the same person, then



perhaps the crank call is from the killer, and the killer is concerned about how close Kinsey is getting to the truth.

Kinsey speaks to Ann about her work with Jean when she was a counselor at the high school and learns that her conversations with Jean were mostly about attendance problems. Then Kinsey witnesses Ann give her mother an injection of insulin, and Kinsey becomes ill, revealing once again a flaw in her strong image. Suddenly Ori has an allergic reaction and dies. It is possible that someone has murdered her by switching her insulin with penicillin to which she is very allergic. Bailey calls and swears it was not him, an assumption that will most likely be made by most of the people in the community based on conversations Kinsey has overheard about him.



Chapters 22-23

Chapters 22-23 Summary

Kinsey goes to Shana's and again finds her apartment abandoned. Kinsey looks around the house. Outside, amongst some other garbage, Kinsey finds the card she had noticed in the kitchen the day before. Inside the card is a rendezvous scheduled for the previous Wednesday at a place called Sanctuary. Kinsey immediately thinks of the church, so she goes there to speak to Reverend Haws. Kinsey finds Mrs. Haws preparing for Tap's funeral. Kinsey asks Mrs. Haws if her husband could be the person who was scheduled to meet Shana, but Mrs. Haws does not know anything about it. When Kinsey begins to ask about Jean, the reverend appears. Kinsey goes with him to his office where he immediately tells her that he is firing her on Royce's behalf. Kinsey ignores his orders and instead asks about Jean. Kinsey reveals that she knows he had an affair with Jean, telling him that there is a witness; then Kinsey left the church. From there, Kinsey goes to the apartment where Jean lived with her mother before her death. Outside the back door, Kinsey finds a stairway that leads up cliff behind the apartment building. Kinsey remembers what Shana said about Jean sneaking out at night, and wonders if Jean met men on the residential street at the top of the cliff. Kinsey knocks at the door of the house where the stairway ends, but no one is home.

Kinsey goes up to the Mineral Springs to see Dr. Dunne. Kinsey has realized that the meeting place on Shana's card could refer to one of the hot tubs at the spring and that Dr. Dunne spends a great deal of time at a clinic in Los Angeles, which is from where the card was mailed. Kinsey confronts Dr. Dunne with the card and learns that he was Jean's father. Dr. Dunne also admits to a relationship with Shana, but swears it has been platonic for many years. Finally, Dr. Dunne warns Kinsey to stay away because his wife is a paranoid schizophrenic and can be violent. Back at the motel, Kinsey gets a call from Clemson who tells her that Mrs. Haws has been hiding Bailey since he escaped the courthouse, but that Bailey has disappeared. Kinsey changes into her jogging clothes and goes to Shana's, checking one last time to see if she is home. Kinsey then begins jogging toward the Mineral Springs. Kinsey sneaks onto the Spring's property behind the motel and settles down to wait for dark. As soon as it is dark, Kinsey makes her way to the fire lane, finding Shana's Plymouth almost immediately.

Chapters 22-23 Analysis

Kinsey still cannot find Shana, but she finds the card that she noticed unopened on Shana's kitchen counter the day before. The card appears to arrange a meeting somewhere called Sanctuary. Kinsey thinks of the church and goes over there to speak to Reverend Haws. Haws is unfriendly, telling Kinsey that he is firing her on behalf of Royce Fowler. Kinsey ignores this and instead tells Haws that she knows about his affair with Jean. The reader had believed that Haws was a prime suspect in Jean's death, but his cowardly reaction to Kinsey appears to rule him out. Kinsey then goes to



check out the apartment where Jean and Shana lived before Jean's death and finds there is a stairway leading to a residential street on a cliff above. Kinsey believes that Jean would go this way when she would go out at night. Kinsey hopes she can learn the identity of Jean's lover, and prime suspect in her death, by speaking to the homeowner, but finds no one is home. This is important because the reader is sure Kinsey will return and may learn the lover's identity.

Kinsey then goes to speak to Dr. Dunne, realizing that Sanctuary refers to one of the hot tubs at the Mineral Springs. Dunne admits to having a relationship with Shana and to being Jean's father but denies involvement in Jean's death. Dunne does tell her that his wife is a paranoid schizophrenic, however. This illness explains Dunne's relationship with Shana to some degree and makes Elva Dunne a suspect in the murder. Kinsey is convinced that something bad has happened to Shana and is determined to find her body. Kinsey sneaks up to the Mineral Springs to have a look under cover of darkness. The reader is anxious for Kinsey as tension fills the pages of the book. It seems Kinsey might face some danger during this expedition and that she could very possibly stumble on a killer.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

After finding Shana's car and realizing that all four tires are flat, Kinsey continues on to the hot tub called Sanctuary. She removes the hot tub's cover to see if Shana might be floating in it. When the hot tub appears clear, Kinsey moves to a cabinet that houses the heater and pump. When Kinsey opens the door, Shana's body falls out. Before Kinsey can react, Elva comes up behind her with a gun. Elva says someone called to say Bailey was on the property. Elva has already called the police and is intent on making Kinsey wait. Kinsey surprises Elva, however, and manages to get away. Kinsey runs up the fire road and across the street, making her way across the hill until she comes up behind the house on the cliff behind Jean's old apartment.

Kinsey can see Dwight Shales inside the house and decides to ask him for help. Kinsey explains her situation and Shales lets her in. After cleaning up, Kinsey asks Shales about the stairway that leads from Jean's apartment to his house. Kinsey wonders if Shales ever saw Jean meet a boy on the street in front of his house. Based on Shales' reaction to the questions, Kinsey realizes that he was Jean's married lover. Kinsey confronts him and Shales admits it. However, Shales does not believe the baby was his and swears he did not kill Jean. Shales also reveals that Jean went to the counselor's office the day she learned she was pregnant, most likely speaking to Ann. While they are discussing this, Ann calls. Ann is very angry and insists that Kinsey return to the motel. Ann's behavior surprises Kinsey, but it also causes her to come to some surprising conclusions.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Kinsey finds Shana's body, proving that someone has killed her. The motive at this point is unclear, but there are several possibilities. The killer could have killed Shana, believing that Shana knew something that could reveal the killer's identity. Elva could have killed Shana because she caught her with Dr. Dunne. Elva seems a likely possibility when she shows up just as Kinsey finds the body with a gun. However, Kinsey finds it unlikely because she does not believe Elva would return to the scene of the crime, unless she had come to move the body.

Kinsey runs away from the scene of the crime, making herself a fugitive in an ironic twist in the case. Kinsey goes back toward town and finds herself standing outside the home whose stairway Jean must have climbed dozens of times in the weeks before her death. Kinsey discovers that the house belongs to Dwight Shales and decides to seek his help. During their conversation, Kinsey realizes that Shales was the married lover Jean was seeing. Kinsey knows that if the affair had been revealed, Shales' career would have been over. Kinsey asks about this, but Shales swears he did not kill Jean. Shales also swears he was not the father of Jean's baby. Kinsey believes him, taking Shales off the



list of suspects. Shales also reveals that Ann knew about Jean's pregnancy, something about which Ann has denied speaking to Jean. This proves Ann has lied to Kinsey at least once. Ann calls, angry and acting completely out of character. Kinsey listens to her rant and something clicks. Kinsey has been bothered all along by Ori's death, wondering who would benefit most from it. Now Kinsey knows, foreshadowing her discovery of the real killer.



Chapter 25 and Epilogue

Chapter 25 and Epilogue Summary

Kinsey goes back to the motel where she sneaks inside. Kinsey studies the layout of the Fowlers' apartment and realizes that several of the rooms upstairs belong to the apartment as well. Kinsey slips upstairs and lets herself in to room twenty. This room is clearly Ann's bedroom. Inside, Kinsey finds shotgun shells that are waiting to be filled with rock salt as well as the tape recorder used in the crank phone calls. In the closet, Kinsey finds hundreds of statements for an investment that began in the same dollar amount as the money Bailey gave Jean to hide. Kinsey turns and discovers Ann watching her from the bed. Ann has a gun. Ann tells Kinsey that she is going to kill her and claim trespass. Kinsey gets her talking, hoping to avoid being killed. Ann confesses to killing Jean, telling Kinsey that she knew Jean was having an affair with Shales and that she killed her to protect Shales. Ann also confesses to killing Shana in order to keep her away from Shales. Finally Ann confesses to killing Ori so she can be free when Royce finally succumbs to his cancer.

Royce knocks on the door, wanting to look at old pictures with Ann. Ann tries to get him to go away, but Royce barges in. Kinsey tells Royce that Ann is going to kill her and that she knows who really killed Jean. Royce wants to hear what Kinsey has to say, but Ann tries to stop him. They begin to fight over the gun. The gun goes off and Ann is shot in the foot. Later, Ann is arrested and charged with the murders of Shana Timberlake and Ori Fowler. All charges are dropped against Bailey, allowing Royce to spend his final days with his son. Kinsey has come to the conclusion that it is not so bad having someone to care about you, vowing to embrace Henry Pitts for however long she has left with him.

Chapter 25 and Epilogue Analysis

Kinsey returns to the motel and makes her way to room twenty. The reader recalls that the maid had trouble getting in to room twenty and now Kinsey explains why. The room is part of the Fowlers' apartment. In fact, it is Ann's bedroom. The night Kinsey got the crank phone calls, she saw a light on in this room. Now Kinsey knows why. Ann made the call. Kinsey finds the tape recorder with the threats still on its tape, as well as the shotgun shells with rock salt and investment statements showing the same amount of money Bailey gave to Jean. Ann is clearly the killer.

Ann is in bed holding a shotgun on Kinsey. Kinsey gets her to talk to distract her from murder, and gets full confessions. Then Royce appears, a struggle ensues, and Ann is shot. The case comes together nicely. Now Kinsey focuses on Ann's motive for the crime and realizes it had a lot to do with a lack of affection from her parents, touching on the theme of parental love. Like Jean, Ann searched for love in a parental figure and focused on her boss, Dwight Shales. Unfortunately, Jean had focused on him as well.



Ann killed to protect Shales and then to keep him free to fall in love with her. Ann needed to feel love, but went about it all the wrong way, setting up her brother in the meantime. Kinsey recognizes this need for love in Ann and Jean, finding the same thing in her own life. Kinsey resolves to change, to allow Henry Pitts to take care of her instead of fighting the kind man's affections. This decision shows character growth in Kinsey and a comprehension of the harshness of life.



Characters

Kinsey Millhone

Kinsey Millhone is a private investigator based out of Santa Teresa, California. Kinsey was orphaned as a small child when her parents died in a car accident. All of her life, Kinsey has survived without a family, making herself believe she did not need one. However, when Kinsey takes on a case involving a dysfunctional family, she begins to question her own beliefs about the importance of family. Kinsey is hired by Royce Fowler to prove that his son Bailey did not kill his girlfriend seventeen years ago. Bailey pleaded guilty to the crime but then escaped from prison before he finished his sentence. Bailey has recently been found and Royce wants to prove his innocence before Bailey is forced to go back to jail. Royce is also dying of cancer and wants his son's innocence proven before his own death.

Kinsey travels to Floral Beach, the site of the murder and begins learning all she can about Bailey and the victim, Jean Timberlake. At the same time, Kinsey is living at the hotel the Fowler family owns; therefore, she finds herself drawn into the strange dynamics of this dysfunctional family. Royce is dying of cancer, but still exerts control over the family. Ori, his wife, has suffered from diabetes from a very young age and as a result has become a narcissistic hypochondriac, constantly forcing herself and her ails on everyone around her. Ann, the much suffering daughter, has had to quit her job to care for her ailing parents and their business. Ann elicits much sympathy from the community, as well as from Kinsey, but Ann soon proves she can be just as unpleasant as her mother.

Kinsey chases down every lead she comes across, hoping to learn the identity of Jean's married lover and the father of her baby, as well as the identity of Jean's own father, so Kinsey can prove that one of the three is her killer. However, when Ori is mysteriously murdered, Kinsey cannot figure out how her death could benefit any of the men she has identified as possible suspects. Only Bailey seems to fit the bill, until Kinsey identifies Jean's married lover. Finally Kinsey realizes the one person who would benefit the most from Jean and Ori's death and Bailey's incarceration is Ann.

Ann Fowler

Ann Fowler is the first child of Royce and Ori Fowler. Unfortunately, when Ann was a baby she suffered from celiac disease and she was a difficult baby. As a result, Ann's parents found it difficult to show affection to their baby. Later, when Bailey came along, he was a perfect baby, easy to love. Bailey was showered with love, a habit that continued throughout his life. When Bailey went to prison and later escaped, rather than shower their remaining child with all the love that Bailey once received, Ori and Royce became withdrawn and angry. Despite this, when they both became ill, it was Ann who



quit her job and came to take care of them and their business. Ann seems like a saint on the surface and that she cares for her parents despite their coldness toward her.

Ann is in love. Ann is in love with Dwight Shales, the man who was her boss when she worked as a counselor at the high school. Ann has waited many years for Dwight's wife to pass away so he will be free to be with her. Dwight has never expressed affection for Ann, but this does not change her feelings for him. Ann is so convinced that Dwight will eventually realize his love for her and that she has killed to protect him. Ann killed Jean Timberlake because she believed Jean was pregnant with Dwight's child. Ann killed Shana Timberlake because Shana was spending time with Dwight. Finally, Ann killed Ori so that when her father dies of cancer, she will be free to sell the hotel and be with Dwight. Ann has done it all for love.

Bailey Fowler

Bailey Fowler is the second child of Ori and Royce Fowler. Bailey was a good kid but got into some trouble after high school. As a result, Bailey spent some time in prison. When his young girlfriend, Jean, was found murdered, Bailey was arrested because he was the last person seen with her. Because fighting the charges in his past legal case lead to prison time, Bailey decided it would be best to plead guilty. Bailey got six years, but he escaped before he had served more than a few months of his sentence. Bailey lived a clean life for seventeen years but was caught when he was mistakenly arrested on a warrant for another man. Now Bailey faces seven years in prison.

Bailey swears he did not kill Jean. Royce believes Bailey and hires Kinsey to prove his innocence in the hopes Kinsey will be able to do this before Royce dies. However, before Kinsey can prove his innocence, Bailey escapes custody. While Bailey is on the run, Shana Timberlake and Ori Fowler are killed. Everyone believes Bailey committed these crimes as well. However, Kinsey is able to prove that Ann orchestrated Bailey's escape so he would look guilty of these crimes when in reality Ann committed them.

Jean Timberlake

Jean Timberlake was only seventeen when she was found murdered on the beach outside the Ocean Street Hotel. Bailey is arrested and pleads guilty to the murder, but later claims he is innocent. Kinsey comes to Floral Beach to prove Bailey's claims. During the investigation Kinsey learns a great deal about Jean. Jean was born to a sixteen-year-old mother and never knew who her father was. Jean suffered from the lack of a father figure and found herself becoming promiscuous to fill this hole in her life. Jean had affairs with boys her own age as well as several married men. The day Jean was killed, she learned she was pregnant. Jean went to one of the counselors at her school, Ann Fowler, and confessed her secret. Later, Jean went out with her ex-boyfriend, Bailey Fowler, and told him as well. Townspeople would later come to believe that the father of the baby killed Jean, and that the father was Bailey. However, Kinsey



later learns that Dwight Shales might have been the father and, knowing this, Ann killed Jean to protect Dwight.

Royce and Ori Fowler

Ori Fowler is a diabetic who has been sick most of her life. As a result, Ori has become narcissistic and something of a hypochondriac. Ori hates to have conversations that do not center around herself. At the same time, Ori dislikes the regimen that is needed to keep her diabetes under control. Ori will often complain about the insulin shots and blood sugar checks that Ann is forced to perform throughout the day. Kinsey finds Ori to be something of a drama queen and dislikes being around her, feeling sorry for Ann's inability to escape Ori's selfishness. However, when Ori dies from an allergic reaction to penicillin, her death leads Kinsey to the identity of Jean's murderer.

Royce Fowler is Bailey's father. Royce is a tough, silent man who loves his son to the exclusion of his daughter. Royce is dying of cancer and he wants to prove Bailey's innocence before he dies. Royce hires Kinsey to do this, but wants to run the investigation for her, causing friction when Kinsey describes how she is running the investigation. Later, however, Royce's condition worsens. When Ori dies, Royce is a changed man, losing his strength in the face of his grief. When Kinsey confronts Ann with proof of her crimes, Royce stumbles on them and causes Ann to shoot herself in the foot, ending the standoff between Ann and Kinsey.

Shana Timberlake

Shana Timberlake is Jean's mother. Shana has a reputation for being a loose woman, based in part on the fact that she gave birth to Jean when she was sixteen and never revealed the name of the father. Shana, despite her faults, loved her daughter and did the best she could to raise her. Shana never told Jean who her father was, however, believing the knowledge would only hurt her daughter. Shana remained involved with the father throughout Jean's life, and it was Jean's father that Shana was to meet the night Ann followed her to the spa and killed her. Kinsey finds Shana's body and the situation leads to her running from the police for a short time until she is able to figure out the identity of the real killer.

Dr. Joseph and Elva Dunne

Dr. Joseph Dunne, and his wife, Elva, own the Eucalyptus Mineral Springs Spa. Kinsey meets Elva the first time she goes to the spa, looking for Dr. Dunne, and is dismissed. The second time Kinsey meets Elva, she has let herself into Dr. Dunne's office. Elva takes after Kinsey with a tennis racket, bruising her arm. A short time later, Kinsey learns that Elva is a paranoid schizophrenic. On the night that Kinsey finds Shana's body at the spa, Elva finds her and holds a gun on her, hoping to keep her there until the police come. Fortunately, Kinsey is able to overpower her and get away.



Dr. Joseph Dunne is a general practitioner in Floral Springs and takes care of just about everyone in town. Dr. Dunne also delivered Jean. When Kinsey goes to speak to Dr. Dunne about Jean, she deduces from his behavior that he is Jean's father. Kinsey also learns that Dr. Dunne knew about Jean's pregnancy, but told her he would not perform an abortion. When Kinsey finds a card in Shana's trash, she also finds out that Dr. Dunne and Shana continue to see each other, but on a platonic basis. In fact, Dr. Dunne was supposed to meet Shana the night she disappeared, but swears she never showed up.

Dwight Shales

Dwight Shales is the principal at the local high school in San Luis Obispo. Dwight was principal when Jean was a student at the school. When Kinsey goes to see him, Dwight is very careful about not releasing any information about Jean. Kinsey believes this is because Dwight is a careful man, but later she begins to suspect Dwight has something personal to hide about his relationship with Jean. Eventually Kinsey is able to get Dwight to confess to having an affair with Jean in the weeks before her death. Ann was a counselor at the high school before her parents became ill. Ann was in love with Dwight and believed that the baby Jean was carrying at the time of her death was his. Ann killed Jean in order to protect Dwight from the scandal Jean's pregnancy would cause.

Tap Granger

Tap Granger is a friend of Bailey's. In their early twenties, Tap and Bailey pulled several robberies together and Bailey ended up going to jail for one of them. Tap cleaned up his act after Bailey went to jail for killing Jean, however. Tap got married and has four children and one on the way; he cares for them the best he can. After Bailey is arrested again, Tap gets a phone call from someone telling him he has to help Bailey escape. Tap shows up at the courthouse with a gun filled with rock salt and gets Bailey out. However, Tap is killed on his way out of the courthouse.

Henry Pitts

Henry Pitts is Kinsey's landlord. Kinsey's apartment over Henry's garage was destroyed in an explosion related to another case Kinsey was working on, so she has moved in with Henry. Henry goes out of his way to take care of Kinsey, making her meals and washing her clothes. At the beginning of the novel, Kinsey is annoyed by these things because she has survived since early childhood without parents and she feels like she does not want a father now. However, after living with the Fowlers and seeing what the lack of fatherly love has done to both Ann and Jean, Kinsey realizes she should be happy with the affection Henry wants to shower on her. Kinsey decides to accept his role in her life and to enjoy the time they have left together.



Objects/Places

Missing Money

Tap tells Kinsey that there is more than forty thousand dollars missing from crimes he and Bailey committed together. Kinsey suspects this money to be a motive in Jean's death because Jean was holding the money for them.

Shana's Plymouth

Kinsey finds Shana's Plymouth abandoned on a fire road behind Eucalyptus Mineral Hot Springs a few days after her death and moments before finding her body hidden near a hot tub.

Rock Salt

Kinsey discovers that the shotgun Tap used to help free Bailey during his arraignment had shells filled with salt rock. Later, Kinsey finds similar shells in Ann's room.

Card

Kinsey finds a card in Shana's trash that has a meeting time and place written in it. Kinsey eventually learns that the meeting was to be at the spa with Dr. Dunne. Kinsey, aware that Shana is missing, goes to the meeting place and finds Shana's body.

Diabetic Supplies

Kinsey becomes ill each time she witnesses Ann using Ori's diabetic supplies, needles, and lancets.

Insulin

Ann's mother, Ori, is a diabetic who requires daily insulin injections. Ori dies after Ann switches the insulin with penicillin to which Ori is highly allergic.

Stairway

Kinsey discovers a stairway from the back of Jean's old apartment that climbs a cliff and comes out on Dwight Shales' property.



Dwight Shales' Home

Kinsey realizes that Dwight Shales was having an affair with Jean when she speaks to him about the stairway that leads to his house from Jean's apartment.

Municipal Court

A large number of the citizens of Floral Beach attend Bailey's arraignment at the Municipal Court and are witnesses to his second escape.

Eucalyptus Mineral Springs Springs

The Eucalyptus Mineral Hot Springs is owned by Dr. Dunne and his wife, and is where Kinsey finds Shana's dead body.

Ocean Street Motel

The Fowler family owns the Ocean Street Motel in Floral Beach. The Fowlers live in an apartment in the motel. Kinsey stays in the motel while she is in Floral Beach investigating Jean's death.

Floral Beach

Kinsey travels to Floral Beach in order to investigate Jean's death.

Santa Teresa

Santa Teresa is a large city, much like Santa Barbara, where Kinsey lives and runs her business.

San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo is a large city near Floral Beach where most of the students attend school and where Royce Fowler is hospitalized during the course of Kinsey's investigation. This is also where the prison is located from which Bailey escaped seventeen years ago.

Themes

Immoral Behavior

Bailey Fowler is the beloved second child of his parents, Royce and Ori Fowler. However, despite being smothered with love, Bailey grows up to be small time criminal. Bailey gets involved with Tap Granger, a local bad seed, and together the two boys pull several holdups, including one in which Tap brings a gun. Bailey is arrested and fights the charge, only to lose his case and be convicted of a felony. Bailey spends a little over a year in jail. Shortly after he is released, Bailey begins seeing his ex-girlfriend, Jean Timberlake again. One night, Bailey and Jean spend the evening together and are seen on the beach, both drunk. The next morning, Jean is found dead. Bailey is charged based on the fact that he is the last person known to be with Jean. When a witness comes forward putting Bailey and Jean on the beach near midnight, Bailey becomes convinced he has no chance of beating the charge. On the advice of his defense attorney, Bailey pleads guilty and accepts a six year sentence. However, just a few months into his sentence, Bailey escapes.

Bailey lives as a fugitive for nearly seventeen years before he is arrested in Los Angeles in a case of mistaken identity. When an officer runs Bailey's prints, he learns his real identity and Bailey is returned to San Luis Obispo to face charges on his escape and to finish his previous sentence. Bailey is frightened, convinced he will not survive seven years in prison. When Tap Granger shows up at his arraignment and holds a gun on the deputies, Bailey runs. However, Tap is killed while leaving the courthouse. In quick succession, two other people die and it appears that Bailey has the only motive to kill them. With Bailey free, every crime that takes place makes him look guilty, keeping suspicion off anyone else who might have had a motive or opportunity.

Bailey's behaviors are immoral in that he committed armed robbery and it appears he committed several murders. These behaviors are only part of what makes immoral behaviors a theme of the novel. Jean Timberlake, too, had a reputation for immoral behavior. Jean had a reputation of sleeping with any boy or man who gave her a few minutes of affection. Jean did not know who her father was and missed out on the relationship that is essential between a child and her father. As a result, Jean would look for affection wherever she could find it, having relationships with several men in Floral Beach. Because of her "loose" behavior, the people in the community were unconcerned about who might have murdered her if Bailey was truly innocent, as he claimed despite his plea. Jean's behavior also provided the motive for her death. Jean was having an affair with Dwight Shales, something her murderer could not allow to become public.



Adult Responsibility

Ann Fowler is the first child of Royce and Ori Fowler. Ann was a sickly child, a problem for her parents, causing her to miss out on some of the affection a child is normally afforded. Not only this, but Ann's mother is a narcissistic personality, unable to show affection to those around her. As a result, Ann grows up in the shadow of her younger brother, feeling unloved and put upon. After Bailey went to jail, then disappeared, Ann took on the responsibility of helping her parents with their hotel. As they grew older and more frail, her father becoming ill with cancer and her mother with diabetes, Ann found herself forced to take care of their physical needs as well. Ann is forced to quit her job to take on the responsibility of her parents full time. It is an awesome responsibility and Ann at times shows the strain. However, Ann appears to be an angel who has accepted her lot in life.

At the same time, Dwight Shales is the husband of a sickly woman. Dwight's wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis about the same time Jean Timberlake died. In the months before the diagnosis, Dwight sought refuge in the arms of another woman, Jean Timberlake. Jean was a high school student at the time and Dwight was the principal. This situation made the relationship highly irresponsible, putting Dwight's career and reputation in danger. Not only this, but Dwight was using a young woman who needed nothing more than a father to love her. Dwight let Jean down.

Adult responsibility is a theme of the novel because responsibility to her parents is what drives Ann over the edge of sanity and what causes her to want to protect Dwight Shales. Ann is in love with Dwight. Dwight is the principal at the school where Ann worked before her parents' ills forced her to quit. Working side by side, Ann came to care for Dwight. When Ann learned that Jean was pregnant, she suspected Dwight was the father and knew that if the news became public, Dwight's life would be ruined. To protect Dwight, Ann killed Jean and then allowed her brother, who had always stolen her parents' affection from her, to take the blame.

Parental Affection

Many of the characters in this novel have difficult relationships with their parents. Ann finds herself placed in a position where she has to quit her job in order to care for her ailing parents. It is a difficult position and thankless because Ann's mother is a narcissistic hypochondriac who only cares about her own problems. Ann's father is a controlling personality who cannot let anyone have the upper hand. Both Royce and Ori have always showered affection on their youngest child, Bailey, but have found it difficult to be affectionate toward Ann. This tendency has left Ann feeling unloved and unappreciated, looking for love in places where it does not exist. It is this lack of parental love that has bred the situation that allows Ann to become a murderess.

At the same time, Ann's first murder victim is a young girl who has never known the identity of her biological father. Jean was an illegitimate child who was raised by a young, inexperienced mother who did the best she could, but was herself only a child.



As a result, Jean found herself looking for love in all the wrong places, becoming promiscuous and having affairs with married men as well as young boys. This behavior results in a pregnancy that has Jean turning to people she believes she can trust. Unfortunately, one of these people is her school counselor, Ann Fowler, who will soon become her murderer.

Even Kinsey is not exempt from a lack of parental love. When Kinsey was just a small child, she was in a car accident with her parents. Kinsey's father died on impact and her mother shortly after. Kinsey learned to adjust, convincing herself that she did not need a family to be happy. Kinsey has lived alone most of her life, with the exception of two marriages when she was younger. Unlike Jean or Ann, however, Kinsey has found a father-figure in her landlord, Henry Pitts. At first, Kinsey resents his interference and concern in her life, but after seeing what a lack of parental affection did to both Jean and Ann, she has resigned herself to enjoying and appreciating Henry.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is first person. The main character, private investigator Kinsey Millhone, is the narrator. Kinsey narrates the novel much like the detective movies of the fifties, talking the reader through the case as though she were writing a report on her investigation. This type of narration gives the novel a nostalgic feel. Kinsey never really lies to the reader, but there are times when Kinsey does not have all the information; therefore, she appears to be something of an unreliable narrator when she expresses an opinion about the case that later proves to be inaccurate or only partially correct.

The point of view of this novel works because of the nostalgic aspect to it. The novel is written in such a way that it reminds the reader of the type of narration that took place in old movies such as *The Maltese Falcon*. If the novel were written in the third person point of view, this nostalgia would not work. The narration also works because the reader is given clues and investigates the case along side Kinsey, so the reader comes to the climax along with Kinsey. This is possible because Kinsey works as a kind of unreliable narrator, only giving the reader the information necessary to follow the investigation as it unfolds to her. If the point of view were third person, the reader might discover the identity of the killer before Kinsey, taking away some of the tension that fills the plot as Kinsey struggles to put the evidence together and solve the crime.

Setting

The majority of the novel is set in the tiny town of Floral Beach, a community just outside of San Luis Obispo, California. The town is built beside the ocean and consists of only eighteen blocks. Floral Beach is a tourist town, containing both a hotel on the beach and a hot springs where a spa is located. Floral Beach is a community where everyone knows everyone else, so when there is a murder, everyone has a theory as to who did it. When one man confesses, no one is surprised. Safety does not become an issue because everyone also knew the victim's reputation and believes she brought her own death on herself.

The setting of the novel works with the plot because it is such a small town that it makes the investigation into Jean's death simpler than it would be if it had taken place in a larger city. The setting also works because it is one of those places where everyone knows everyone else; therefore, Kinsey has little trouble finding the information she needs about witnesses and suspects. However, there are times when being a small town can be a hindrance to Kinsey because people in a small town tend to protect each other and resent outsiders. These communities also make judgments quickly when gossip begins to circulate, and as a result, the townspeople condemn Bailey before Kinsey can prove his innocence, again hindering her investigation.



Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is English. The novel is written with a vocabulary that is not as simple as some bestsellers, but still simple enough for even the youngest readers to comprehend. The novel also includes slang phrases and some phrases that are a little more complicated than the plot might require. However, these slang phrases and more complicated language are few and far between, leaving the text largely simple and easy to understand.

The language of the novel reflects the thoughts and emotions of the narrator, Kinsey Millhone. Kinsey is an educated woman who has worked in some form of law enforcement most of her adult life. Kinsey is rough on the edges, but is educated enough that some of the language she uses is more complicated than one might expect a private investigator to use. The language of the novel reflects this tendency in Kinsey. The language works because the novel is written in Kinsey's voice, and the reader would expect the language of the novel to represent Kinsey's level of education and her normal pattern of speech.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-five chapters and an epilogue. The novel is written like an old-fashioned detective novel—the pace is quick and the narration is snappy. The author uses an equal amount of exposition and dialogue to tell her story, often allowing Kinsey to work through the evidence by sharing her thoughts with the reader. The author also allows Kinsey to speak to various other characters in an attempt to glean information from them about the investigation, as well as sharing with the reader other conversations that seem to have nothing to do with the case but later prove to be important.

The novel contains one major plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Kinsey to Floral Beach where she attempts to prove Bailey Fowler innocent of the murder of Jean Timberlake. Kinsey spends several days in the small town, discussing the case with many of the locals as well as with Bailey's family. One of the subplots includes the ordeal of Ann Fowler, Bailey's sister, who has found herself stuck taking care of two ailing parents as well as the hotel they own. Another subplot involves Kinsey attempting to learn the identity of Jean Timberlake's father, a identity Jean herself never learned. Finally, a subplot follows Kinsey's attempts to learn the identity of the man with whom Jean was having an affair, in her hopes that this identity would lead her to Jean's killer.



Quotes

"The Ocean Street Motel in Floral Beach, California, is located, oddly enough, on Ocean Street, a stone's throw from the sea wall that slants ten feet down toward the Pacific."

Chapter 1, pg. 1

"Sometimes being fooled by love is worth the price. At least you know you're alive and capable of feeling, even if all you end up with is chest pain." Chapter 2, pg. 8

"The bartender was a woman in her mid-sixties, perhaps the very Pearl for whom the place was named. She was short, thick through the middle, with graying, permanent-curved hair chopped straight across the nape of her neck. She was wearing plaid polyester slacks and a sleeveless top, showing arms well muscled from hefting beer cases. Maybe, at intervals, she hefted some biker out the door by the seat of his pants."

Chapter 6, pg. 40

"The crowd's attention focused in the way it does at a wedding when the bride appears, ready to begin her walk down the aisle. The prisoners were being brought in and the sight was oddly disturbing: nine men, handcuffed, shackled together, shuffling forward with their leg chains." Chapter 8, pgs. 53-54

"Comprehension came in the same moment, but it still made no sense. Tap's shotgun shells had been loaded with rock salt." Chapter 8, pg. 57

"I didn't think gelatin set up that fast, but these Christian ladies probably knew tricks with ice cubes that would render salads and desserts in record time for just such occasions."

Chapter 9, pg. 59

"Ann didn't show much reaction to the fact that Bailey was the preferred child, but then she'd had a lifetime to get used to it." Chapter 12, pg. 79

"Ori stood there in tears, mewling helplessly. She seemed to grasp the severity of his illness for the first time and she cried like a three-year-old, giving herself up to grief. He would go first. She seemed to understand that now." Chapter 12, pg. 83

"Mentally, I could feel my eyes cross, but I bustled about in my best imitation of a visiting nurse. I was accustomed, from long experience, to stealing myself to the sight of violent death, but this residue of diabetic odds and ends nearly made my stomach heave."

Chapter 14, pg. 94

"I had hoped to explore his desk drawers, but I didn't want to push my luck. Some people get cranky when you snoop around like that." Chapter 16, pg. 113

"I wondered if he'd live long enough to have what he wanted most—his son, Bailey, whose fate he'd entrusted to my care." Chapter 17, pg. 119



"When had it dawned on me that he was gone for good? When had it dawned on Ann that Royce was never going to come through? And what of Jean Timberlake? None of us had survived the wounds our fathers inflicted all those years ago. Did he love us? How would we ever know? He was gone and he'd never again be what he was to us in all his haunted perfection. If love is what injures us, how can we heal? Chapter 25, pgs. 180-181



Topics for Discussion

Who is Kinsey Millhone? Why is she in Floral Beach? What does Kinsey hope to prove? Is Kinsey an unreliable narrator? What is the definition of unreliable narrator? How does Kinsey fit this definition? How does she not fit it? How would you describe Kinsey as a narrator? What is unique about Kinsey's narration?

Who is Henry Pitts? Compare and contrast Henry to Royce Fowler. What are their similarities? What are their differences? Why does Kinsey think of Henry as a surrogate father? Why does Kinsey resent this at first? Why does Kinsey come to embrace this role?

Who is Bailey Fowler? Did Bailey kill Jean? Why do people think he did? Why did Bailey plead guilty? Why did Bailey escape from jail? Should Bailey be punished for escaping? Why does Bailey escape from his arraignment? Who put Tap up to helping Bailey escape? Why? How does Bailey's second escape benefit the real killer?

Discuss Ann Fowler. Who is Ann? Is Ann a saint for putting up with her parents? Why does Ann put up with her parents? Why did Ann not simply move away? Why did Ann kill Jean? Why did Ann allow Bailey to take the blame for Jean's death? Why did Ann kill Shana? Why did Jean kill Ori? Would Ann have won Dwight's affections eventually? Why or why not?

Discuss Ori and Royce Fowler. Why did Ori and Royce not show as much affection to Ann as to Bailey? How were the two children different? How did those differences affect Ann? Did this lack of parental affection lead to Ann's killing spree?

Discuss Jean. Why was Jean promiscuous? What was Jean looking for? Do you think Jean would have behaved this way had she known who her father was? Do you think Jean suspected her father's identity? What did Jean get out of being with married men? Do you think Jean would have been happy if one of these men loved her? If she married someone? Why or why not?

Discuss narcissism. What is narcissism? Who in this novel was a narcissist? Why? Was Ann a narcissist? Is narcissism a learned behavior or something a person is born with? What caused Ori to be a narcissistic hypochondriac? Did Ori's behavior have anything to do with being chronically ill?