

# **Fade Away Study Guide**

## **Fade Away by Harlan Coben**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Fade Away Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 1-5.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 6-10.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 11-15.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 16-20.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 21-25.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 26-30.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 31-36.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 37-42.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">33</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">39</a>



# Plot Summary

*Fade Away* by Harlan Coben is an entertaining novel featuring Myron Bolitar, a sports agent, hired by the New Jersey Dragons to find a missing basketball star. Myron and his team of associates, work together to puzzle out the disappearance of Greg Downing, drawing Myron into danger, both physical and emotional.

Myron Bolitar is a sports agent and sometimes investigator, called by Clip Arnstein, the owner of the New Jersey Dragons. Clip's star player is missing and he wants Myron to find him. Greg Downing had been Myron's rival throughout their youth and college days. Both had been drafted to play professional basketball, but Greg is the only one that made it. Myron's knee had been injured in what was believed to be a freak accident on the court, and he had never played professionally. Clip wants Myron to take Greg's place on the team, feeling that the other players would be more open with him rather than an investigator. Myron is reluctant yet excited at the same time. Having never had the opportunity to play pro-ball, he is anxious to know if he can make it with the Dragons.

Myron investigates Greg's disappearance with the help of his closest friend, Win. The two men discover a mysterious woman had left a message on Greg's answering machine to arrange a meeting the night he vanished. Following leads, Myron discovers the woman has been murdered, and Greg is the main suspect. Initially believing that Greg had a drug problem, Myron discovers that the woman had in fact been blackmailing Greg, though he does not know why. Greg also has a large gambling problem, and Myron thinks that may be what the blackmail involves. Further investigation reveals that the mysterious woman is in fact a fugitive. A member of the Sixties radical group The Raven Brigade, Liz Gorman had contacted Greg after the group had robbed a bank in Arizona several months previously.

The investigation takes several twists and turns, involving custody battles between Greg and his wife Emily, a former girlfriend of Myron's, and the assistance of Audrey Wilson, the sports reporter that covers the New Jersey Dragons. Audrey uncovers the real reason that Myron is on the team, and convinces him that the two of them can work together to find Greg. In exchange for sharing information, Audrey agrees not to release the story about Greg disappearing. Audrey discovers that Greg had hired a private investigator to follow Emily. Myron uncovers a video tape of Emily and Maggie Mason, a woman known as Thumper, having sex. Mason has close ties to the team. Myron believes Emily had been set up and can understand her extreme anger at Greg.

The murder weapon is discovered in Greg's house, and other evidence that had been in the house vanishes. It is clear that someone is trying to frame Greg for murder, while another person may be trying to protect him. In another development, the blackmailers contact Myron and offer to sell him the information they had offered Greg.

Events come to a head when Myron meets up with the leader of the Raven Brigade, Cole Whiteman. He admits that he and Liz Gorman had indeed been blackmailing Greg,



but will not reveal with what. Leaving him, Myron meets up with Audrey, and receives a phone call from the blackmailer. The two travel to a remote location and meet with a man in a ski mask. Audrey shoots the man, claiming he was going to kill Myron. Myron confronts her. Audrey had killed Gorman to protect Greg and their unborn child. It had been Audrey that cleaned up the evidence at Greg's house, leaving the murder weapon planted by Emily, as it had not been discovered. The blackmailer at the scene was in fact a homicide detective, part of the set up to catch Audrey.

Myron returns to the Arena to confront Clip Arnstein and is handed an audio cassette. On the tape is evidence that Myron's injury so many years ago was not an accident after all. Greg had paid another player to hurt Myron. Though he had not intended for the injury to be career ending, Greg was angry at Myron for having a one night stand with Emily the night before their wedding. Arnstein had known about the tape from the beginning and could think of no other way to tell Myron. Arnstein wanted Myron to have closure.

Myron realizes that though his basketball career was ended, he had created a life for himself, a good life with friends and people that love him. Despite his loss of a career in basketball, he had moved on, becoming successful. Myron still mourned for the chances that he had missed in life, but cherished the chances he had been given.



# Chapters 1-5

## Chapters 1-5 Summary

Myron Bolitar, sports agent, sometimes private investigator and former almost professional basketball player, is called in for a meeting with Clip Arnstein, the owner of the New Jersey Dragons, and Calvin Johnson, the general manager. Greg Downing, a star of the team has gone missing, and Arnstein would like Myron to find him. Arnstein is aware of Myron's undercover work for the FBI, and is well aware of his history in basketball, as he is the man that drafted Myron to the Celtics many years ago. Arnstein would like Myron to take on the roll of a player, hoping to gather information on Downing's whereabouts from the other players. Myron at first balks at the offer, but Arnstein convinces him with offers of a signing bonus and a guaranteed first round draft pick as a new client.

Clip leaves Calvin to explain the details of Greg's life to Myron, and prepare him for the upcoming game. Calvin explains to Myron that no one has seen Greg in five days. Greg's former wife, Emily, and his children are living with her mother. Greg has always been a loner, refusing interviews and endorsement deals, even driving a cab after evening games. The fans adore him because of his lack of uniformity. The playoffs are looming, and the Dragons cannot afford the bad publicity for the team or Greg if word of his disappearance leaks. For that reason the team's official press release states that Downing has suffered an ankle injury and is in rehab.

Myron arrives in Ridgewood ahead of Win and sits in front of the Downing home reminiscing. He had dated Emily in college before they broke up and she began dating Greg. Win arrives and the two men break into the house. Myron listens to the answering machine, discovering a message from a woman named Carla, stating that she will be in the back booth at midnight. Judging by the background noise, Myron is fairly certain that she is calling from a diner or bar. There are also messages from Greg's agent, and the representative from Forte shoes, with whom Greg has agreed to an endorsement deal, something out of character for Downing. Myron pushes the redial button and reaches Kimmel Brothers. He also checks the machine for the remote access code, so he can check to see if anyone calls and leaves a message. There are women's clothing and personal effects in the master bedroom, leading the men to believe that Greg has moved on and now has a girlfriend. In the basement family room, Myron and Win discover a fair amount of blood splattered on the walls and floor. Win takes a few samples and they exit the home. Two men are driving by, the third time they've done so. Win will run the plates and gather any financial information he can about Downing. Myron returns to his office to inform his right hand, that he will be taking a temporary position with the Dragons. Esperanza, like Win, shows little reaction to the news, and refuses to attend the game. She is concerned with the time that Myron will be away from the office and convinces him to hire Big Cindi, her former wrestling partner.



At the arena, Myron attends the press conference announcing his signing to the team and fields questions. Afterwards, he informs Arnstein and Johnson of the blood in Greg's basement. Though Arnstein is worried, he asks that Myron hold the information for a few days. In two days, there will be a vote of owners that are trying to band together and oust Arnstein as leader. Rather than announce there is blood in Downing's house and risk a scandal, Clip feels that his best option is for Myron to continue quietly investigating.

On the way to the locker room, Myron meets up with Audrey Wilson, a sportswriter. Audrey doesn't believe the team story about giving Myron a chance a comeback. Wilson tries to get Myron to give her more information, but he refuses and leaves her at the locker room door.

## Chapters 1-5 Analysis

Myron Bolitar is curious as to why Chip Arnstein wants him to locate Greg Downing. Myron and Greg had been rivals in life, both in basketball and love. The two had played together and against each other since sixth grade and were drafted at the same time into the NBA. Myron had dated Greg's wife Emily in college, and when they had broken up leaving Myron heartbroken, she had moved on to Greg, eventually marrying him. Greg had gone on to become a star; Myron had been drastically injured before his first game, and had lost his other love, basketball. Though Myron had gone on to become a lawyer and sports agent, his true love had always been basketball. The chance to play again is enticing, and with the monetary bonus as well as the promised first round draft pick signing with his agency, Myron decides to take the opportunity. Calvin questions whether Myron will be able to handle the re-entry into basketball, but Bolitar shrugs it off, claiming that it will not be a problem.

The reaction of Myron's two closest friends to his news is surprising to him. Win barely reacts at all, refusing a ticket to the game. Esperanza reacts in the same way. Win and Esperanza normally would never miss an opportunity to ridicule Myron, and he is truly puzzled by their lack of response. Myron is also puzzled by the mysterious disappearance of Greg Downing and the way the team is handling it. To Myron, publicity would help find Greg or information into his whereabouts, yet Clip prefers to keep things secret. Even when Myron informs him about the blood found in his home, Clip still wants to keep things quiet, not ordering Myron to keep the information to himself, but requesting he do so. Clip repeatedly states that he truly cares for both Greg and Myron, but the situation with the upcoming vote to take over Clip's position is making things more complicated. Clip does not believe that the blood is Greg's and even if he is dead, waiting a few days to report the find will not make a difference. Audrey Wilson's doubt of Myron's comeback story causes Myron to wonder if the entire undercover investigation is going to be more trouble than it is worth.



# Chapters 6-10

## Chapters 6-10 Summary

Myron enters the Dragons locker room to find the team waiting for game time. While dressing for the game, Myron speaks with Kipper, one of the team's assistant coaches. Kipper informs him that the head coach, Donny Walsh is not really happy about Myron's being added to the team. Myron agrees that with the team headed to the playoffs, he will be a 'team player' and not do anything to jeopardize the chances of the Dragons. Kipper assures Myron that the chances of getting in the game are slim. Coach Walsh enters and gives the team a pep talk, and the players enter the court. Myron is overwhelmed briefly by thoughts of pain and loss. Finding Jessica in the stands, he realizes that she had never seen him play professionally, since they had met three short weeks before his injury.

The game begins and the Dragons are winning handily. The crowd starts to chant for Myron, shouting that he be put into the game. To avoid further issues, Myron signals that he would be willing to play, and the coach puts him in. Myron slips back in time, his natural abilities mingling with the moment, and plays well. Before long, the game is over, the Dragons winning. The mood in the locker room after the game is jubilant, and Myron speaks with T.C. Collins, the star player, who informs him that as the new guy, Myron must be 'thumped.' Unsure of what thumped means, Myron acknowledges T.C. and exits the locker room. He finds Jessica, who tells Myron that she will be having drinks with Audrey, as Win says he will be busy.

Win informs Myron of the location of the ATM machine where Greg's last transaction took place, as well as the possible locations nearby that might be where Greg had met Carla. Win also tells Myron that he is going away for a few days, and will not be helping him check these leads. Myron travels to Manhattan and checks first one bar, then the next. At the second location, The Swiss Chalet, Myron finds witnesses that had indeed seen Greg meet with a woman. Though they had recognized Greg, no one knew who the woman was, other than she was older than Greg and had very large breasts. This meeting was the only time either Greg or the mystery woman had been in the bar. Myron thanks them for the information and leaves, but is confronted outside by two men demanding to know where Greg is. The confrontation quickly becomes physical, however the men from the bar disrupt it and the two men flee the scene. Myron goes to Jessica's apartment where she runs him a bath and joins him in the tub. Myron gives her the details of the incident, and rather than discourage him as he believed she would, Jessica simply asks him what his next steps will be. Jessica does not even react to the news that Myron will be meeting with his ex-love, Emily.

The following morning, Myron is awakened by a call from his parents who are traveling overseas. They had heard from a member of their tour group that Myron had played basketball for the Dragons. Knowing how Myron felt about basketball and his loss of the game many years ago, Myron's mother informs him that his father wants to fly home.



Myron discourages her and then takes a call from Esperanza, calling with the news that the blood in Greg's house is not Greg's.

Myron drives to Ridgewood to meet with Greg's ex-wife, Emily. He did not call ahead, unsure of his reception. At the door Emily greets him, but informs him that she will not help him. Over lemonade, the two discuss Greg, with Emily goading Myron occasionally about their shared past. Emily is bitter and visibly upset when Myron tells her of the large endorsement deal. Emily states that Greg had no money, that his agent had lost it all, and she did not get much in the divorce settlement. Greg's waiting until after the divorce was final before signing the endorsement with Forte was in order to avoid having to share the money with her. Emily also tells Myron that Greg was seeking custody of their two children and would do anything to get them, regardless of what. As Myron leaves, Emily tells him to 'forget it.' Greg had never found out.

Back at his office, Myron tells Esperanza that the night before Emily and Greg were married, he and Emily had sex. For this reason, Myron feels that he owes Greg. Myron also shares with Esperanza his belief that he and Greg had another bond. As rivals all their lives, they had become better people because of each other. Myron believes that their careers were advanced because of the odd relationship. After his injury, Greg had spent many hours at the hospital, talking to Myron, helping with his rehab. This bond, as well as the situation with Emily, is pushing Myron to help Greg now. Esperanza does not agree. It is her feeling that Myron can only hurt himself if he continues. She had not attended the game the night before because she is not willing to see Myron give his heart to basketball again, only to be devastated when the dream ends again. Myron assures her that it won't happen that way. Big Cindi enters to announce a phone call. Myron's contact at the phone company had located the phone that Carla had called Greg from, located at a diner in New York.

## Chapters 6-10 Analysis

Myron joins the Dragons on the court and worries if he has what it takes to play basketball again. He is now a 'scrub,' a token player, something he has never been. Myron tries to fit himself into the mold of something he's never been 'just' a player and not a star. The warm-ups completed, Myron sits on the bench and waits for the end of the game, praying that he will not have to play. When the crowd starts to chant his name, Myron feels dread, knowing that unless he plays, it will only get worse. Once in the game, his skills take over, and he is drawn back into the mental place where he had played in his youth. Instincts take over and he does well, feeling the rush, and enjoying the moment.

Though Myron is unsure about Jessica having drinks with Audrey after the game, the information that Win has obtained needs to be followed up. The two men Myron meets outside the Swiss Chalet get Myron thinking. Why would someone else be looking for Greg? If the official story that the team has released is that Greg is recovering from an injury, why is anyone looking for him at all? A fight follows, and is quickly ended when witnesses intercede. Recovering in the tub with Jessica, Myron gives her the details of





the day, and is surprised when Jessica barely reacts to the news that Myron will once again have contact with Emily, his first love. The fact that Myron had been injured investigating the disappearance of Greg does not seem to faze her either. Meeting with Emily the following day produces mixed feelings for Myron. Myron's time with Emily had been during his basketball years, years that he considered not only some of the best of his life, but also some of the hardest. Emily goads Myron about Jessica, asking if he enjoys sex with Jessica as much as with her. It seems to Myron that Emily is regretting the choices that she made, leading her down the path she was on. Emily is very obviously bitter about her divorce from Greg, and furious about the news that Greg had been signing an endorsement deal. The news that Greg had no money, that his agent had purportedly lost it all, was a shock to Myron, as Greg still had the same agent. It made no sense to stay with the same agent, if such a mistake had been made.

At the office with Esperanza, Myron tries to explain why he feels obligated to help find Greg. One of the main reasons is the fact that he had slept with Emily the night before she and Greg had gotten married. Another reason is the bond that Myron feels he shares with Greg. As competitors, they had made each other better, pushing each other to be the best that they could be. Esperanza doesn't feel that Myron owes Greg anything, not sleeping with his soon to be wife, nor for the supposed bond that they had shared. Esperanza believes that Myron slept with Emily in order to even the score with Greg, for imagined slights that Myron had suffered while they competed with each other over the years. Myron is perplexed by Esperanza and Win's reluctance to see him play basketball again. Their concern that he will be drawn into the game and hurt when he can not be the player he once was is surprising. Myron does not think that there is any danger for him, does not realize that he has already been drawn into the life he used to live, the life that he had never lived.



# Chapters 11-15

## Chapters 11-15 Summary

Myron makes his way to the Parkview Diner, the location of the payphone where Carla had called Greg. Inside he takes a seat at the counter next to a homeless man to wait for Hector the owner. Myron asks Hector if he has a pay phone and Hector states that there is one in the kitchen for employees only. Myron spins a tale that he is an agent for the telephone company and that illegal activity has taken place involving the use of said pay phone. Hector is eager to cooperate. Checking with his wife, it is quickly determined that the phone was being used by their employee, Sally Guerro. Myron asks for a description of Sally and is told that she was average height, with brown hair. After some delicate prodding, Hector and his wife state that Sally was very large chested. Myron is convinced that Sally and Carla are the same person. After assuring the couple that they will not be prosecuted for the 'illegal' activity involving the phone, Myron leaves, and is quickly stopped by the homeless man. The man introduces himself as Norman Lowenstein, a screenwriter, who met Sally because of the pay phone. Norman claims that Sally was always using the phone, and it would annoy him because he could not get his business calls. While Myron sincerely doubts the homeless man's claims, he is willing to believe that the man knows Sally, and agrees to follow him to the woman's apartment.

Myron enters the building, leaving Norman outside to wait. No one answers his knock, but Myron is relieved to find that though there are several locks on the door, only one appears engaged. After few minutes of picking the lock, he opens the door to be assailed by a terrible odor. In the apartment he finds the body of Carla/Sally.

Myron meets with NYPD homicide detective Roland Dimonte in the apartment. The cause of death was apparently bludgeoning, but it is hard for the coroner to confirm at the scene, as the woman has been dead for approximately four days. The coroner did say, however, that the woman had rather large breast implants, and was wearing a wig. A search of the apartment reveals that the dead woman had three passports that showed several trips out of the country and ten thousand dollars in cash, sequentially numbered. Dimonte demands to know what is going on and Myron is forced to tell him, but manages to convince the officer not to put out an APB for Downing. Dimonte agrees that Myron should continue his private investigation, but report everything to him. On the way to practice Myron contacts a former contact at the Treasury department and gives him one of the serial numbers off the bills found in Carla/Sally's apartment.

At practice, Myron is in the 'zone,' playing well, and has the chance to get closer to Leon White, Downing's roommate while on the road. Myron had heard that they were close, and tries to question Leon, but he is suspicious, so Myron backs off. After practice, TC reminds Myron of his future 'thumping' which will apparently take place at a party that evening.



Leaving the arena, Myron is surprised to find Dimonte, who asks Myron to tell him about Greg Downing. Dimonte wants to know if Downing was known to associate with 'perverse' types. Myron explains that he hasn't spoken to Greg in years, but the only real information he knows is that Greg is an outdoorsy type, and drives a cab sometimes after the games. Dimonte leaves, refusing to give Myron any information that might have been uncovered.

At TC's house that night, Myron meets Maggie Mason, also known as Thumper. Maggie is an investment banker on Wall Street, but has an infatuation with pro sports players. Maggie has sex with all the players on the New Jersey Dragons, and now it is Myron's turn. Myron asks Maggie about Greg, and Maggie assumes that Myron is seeking revenge on Greg. Myron turns Maggie down, and meets with TC, who takes Myron up onto the hillside and shows him the view. TC discusses the reasons that he acts and dresses the way he does, in order to draw the attention of people, and get larger endorsements. TC knows that fame is fleeting, and he is taking advantage of it while he can. TC asks Myron why he is trying to play again, what he thinks the point is, especially after practice that afternoon. Myron is stunned by TC's reaction, having thought that practice went very well. TC asks Myron if Win can get Maggie a better job on Wall Street. She currently works for Kimmel Brothers, but would like something better.

## Chapters 11-15 Analysis

Myron is a bit ashamed of himself for having to frighten Hector into giving him the information he needs, but does not see any other way to get it quickly. Once Myron realizes that Carla and Sally are likely the same person, he knows that she is tied to Greg Downing in some way, and must find her in order to find Greg. The homeless man, Norman, seems willing to help and takes Myron to Sally/Carla's apartment building, once Myron assures him that he is trying to help her. Norman waits outside, since a homeless man wandering the building might arouse suspicion.

Myron finds the body of Sally/Carla and checks the apartment to make sure the Greg is not there. When the police arrive, Myron discusses things with Roland Dimonte. Finding the many passports and large sums of money lead them both to believe that the murder might have involved drugs. To Myron, this also explains why Greg might have been so desperate for money, and finally signed an endorsement deal. Having no choice but to tell the detective everything he knows, Myron successfully dissuades Dimonte from putting out an APB on Greg. Myron does not want the publicity, as he wants to continue working on things himself. Dimonte agrees with Myron, but insists that Myron tell him everything he finds. After agreeing Myron leaves for practice. At practice Myron feels wonderful. Playing well, he imagines that he can compete again, that he is finally strong enough to make it in the pros. Connecting with Leon White, Myron asks him about Greg, but senses that the two men are not as close as he was led to believe, that perhaps there was some kind of trouble between the two men.



After practice, Myron is surprised to find Dimonte waiting for him. Getting into the detective's car, he is questioned as to the type of person Greg is. Though Myron tells Dimonte that he hasn't spoken to Greg for years, Dimonte is persistent, repeatedly asking if Downing was known to hang around 'perverse' types, or if his wife Emily was a radical. Myron is confused, but tells Dimonte that he hadn't know Emily to be a radical, or for Downing to hang around with any strange or 'perverse' people. Dimonte refuses to give Myron any information as to why he is asking, but Myron senses that there must be something big behind the disappearance of Greg. Dimonte seems very uncomfortable, almost frightened by what he has gotten involved in.

At TC's house, Myron meets Maggie Mason, who informs Myron that everyone calls her Thumper. According to Maggie, though she leads a normal life as an investment banker on Wall Street, she has an infatuation with having sex with pro-ball players. She has limited herself to the New Jersey Dragons and the New York Giants. Myron realizes that when TC had told him he had to be 'thumped' as the new guy, he was expected to have sex with Maggie. Myron questions her 'hobby' and Maggie gets offended, but Myron apologizes. Explaining that he is in a relationship, Myron turns her down and leaves to find TC. TC is not surprised that Myron had turned her down. Taking Myron up onto the hillside, TC shows him the view. TC explains that he acts and dresses the way he does in order to take full advantage of his time in professional sports. He knows that fame is fleeting, and that one day he will be just another washed up athlete. Fully aware that if it had not been for basketball he would be just another factory worker, TC is grateful for the chances he's gotten in life, but has no illusions about the future without the sport. TC asks Myron why he is really playing basketball again after all these years. Myron is stunned to realize that while he thought he had played some of his best basketball during practice that afternoon, TC doesn't think that he was better than any other bench warmer. Myron recognizes that he had been fooling himself. Despite his love of the game, he will never be the player he was, and will never attain stardom on the court. Before leaving, TC asks Myron if Win can help Maggie move to a larger firm on Wall Street. The firm she works for presently is on the smaller side without much room for advancement. The name of the firm is Kimmel Brothers. It dawns on Myron that this is the same place that Greg Downing had called from his home before disappearing on Saturday, and that Maggie must know Greg a little better than she had admitted earlier.



# Chapters 16-20

## Chapters 16-20 Summary

Myron makes ready to leave the party at TC's and is confronted by Audrey leaning against his car. Audrey asks for a ride and Myron agrees to drop her off on the way to Jessica's. Once in the car, Audrey tells Myron that she thinks she has figured out what is going on. The timing of Myron signing with the Dragons must have something to do with the disappearance of Greg Downing. Audrey wants to know what is going on, and wants an exclusive on the story when it finally breaks. Myron extracts a promise from her, agreeing to share information as long as it is reciprocal, and as long as Audrey does not leak any of the information. Audrey agrees. Myron asks her if she has any idea why Greg might have chosen to disappear. Audrey states that she has no idea, the Greg is, as she puts it, a professional flake.' When asked about the divorce, Audrey says that it has been very bitter, with both Greg and Emily fighting for custody of their two children, trying to prove each other unfit.

There had been a rumor that Greg had hired a private investigator to follow Emily, but she has no further details. Myron asks Audrey about Greg's relationships with his teammates and with Thumper. According to Audrey, Leon and Greg were friends and whatever they were going through at this time must be temporary. She believed Greg to be close with Thumper, but the person Maggie was closest to on the team was TC. Audrey had also heard rumors of a live in girlfriend and had seen Greg out with a woman at one time; she is not sure who she is. When Myron informs Audrey of the things that he has so far uncovered about Greg's disappearance she is stunned. Audrey tells Myron that Greg is very health conscious, and would not have been involved in drugs. Myron drops Maggie at her apartment, and when his phone rings he answers assuming it is Jessica. He is surprised to find that it is Win, calling to inform him that he is being followed. One of the two men that had attacked Myron is in the car following him. According to Win, he has spoken to Jessica, and there is a suspicious van parked in front of her house. Myron and Win decide that the best course of action is to see what the men want. Myron is confident that if there is any trouble, Win will come to his aid.

At Jessica's doorstep, Myron is indeed confronted and told to get into the van. He finds several men dressed in black and one man, introduced as Mr. Baron, also known as the B Man. The B man tells Myron that he is going to tear away his kneecap. Myron is pinned to the floor of the van, struggling when the van is struck from the rear. The B man and the driver scramble away. The door opens to reveal Win, who tells the man holding Myron to drop his gun. He doesn't and Win shoots him in the face. The other man quickly drops his gun and Win extracts as much information as he can before letting the man go.

Win and Myron leave the scene, discussing various scenarios involving Greg's disappearance. Win informs Myron that The B man's specialty is gambling. This might explain why Greg has no money, and had finally signed an endorsement deal. This also



means that Greg is most likely alive somewhere, since a dead man can not pay his debts. Myron asks Win why he didn't go to the game, and Win tells him to watch the tape from the night of his injury. Win had wanted to even the score with Burt Wesson, the man who had caused Myron's injury, but Myron had not wanted any part of it. A freak injury was a freak injury, and no amount of revenge would change that. Win still asked Myron to watch the tape.

The following morning, after dreaming about the night of his knee injury, Myron is awakened by Jessica with a phone call. Fred Higgins from the treasury department is calling with information that the bills had been stolen in Arizona two months ago by the Raven Brigade. The Raven Brigade is a group of radicals from the Sixties whose four founding members had escaped detection and been on the run since 1975. Myron realizes that the dead woman, Carla/Sally is actually Liz Gorman, one of the founding members of the Brigade. The true identity of Carla did not in any way clear up the connection between her and Greg Downing. Rather it made things even more clouded. Myron prepares to go to the office, and Jessica asks him to move in. Myron does not know how to react.

At the office Myron is greeted by Big Cyndi, who informs him that Win is waiting for him. Win has found some information on the hard drive of Greg's computer. An email from some someone whose profile was "SepBabe" had sent a message for Greg to meet her at ten on Saturday night for a night of wonderful sex. Myron wonders if this is the woman that Audrey had seen with Greg. He is fairly certain that Carla/Sally/ Liz is not the live in girlfriend that there was evidence of in Greg's house. Win has also made a discovery regarding money. Fifty thousand dollars had been withdrawn from an account held by Greg's agent, Martin Felder. The two men speculate that this money could have been used to pay off a gambling debt. Win's phone rings with a call for Myron. Detective Dimonte has a squad car downstairs waiting for Myron. After getting a search warrant for Greg's house, the detective had taken a CSI unit to process the location. There was no blood found in the family room. Someone had obviously cleaned it up.

## Chapters 16-20 Analysis

After the party, Myron gives Audrey a ride, but quickly realizes that she has ulterior motives. Audrey explains that she knows that something is going on, and she wants in on whatever it is. Myron tries to distract her, but Audrey realizes what he is doing and won't allow it. Audrey knows that the publicity story that Clip had given at the press conference is not true. The team is doing well and there isn't any reason to seek Myron out to sign him. Therefore, the timing of his signing must have something to do with the disappearance of Greg. Myron understands that Audrey really has him cornered, and in order to avoid her printing the story, agrees to work with her. Myron asks Audrey for some detail of Greg's relationships with the members of his team, as well as for any information on his divorce and personal life. As a well known reporter, Audrey has access and information that most people would not. Though she does not have many concrete details, the information that Audrey does provide more or less matches what Myron has already. Audrey does insist that there is no way that Greg is involved with



drugs of any kind. Myron still wonders if this is true, but adds Audrey's opinion to the list of things in his head.

After dropping off Audrey, Myron is startled to receive a call from Win telling him he is being followed. Knowing that the men who had attacked him the other day are back, Myron knows that they want something from Greg, and are not likely to give up. Win wants to disable the car that is following Myron, but Myron wants a confrontation in order to gather information. Outside Jessica's apartment, Myron is forced into the van that is waiting outside and confronted by Mr. Byron, or the B man, so called because of his joy in breaking bones. Myron begins to panic, the thought of going through life as a cripple frightening him badly. The B man does not seem to want to waste time talking, and is going to tear Myron's knee cap away, and then see what Myron has to say.

Squirming and trying to get free, Myron braces himself knowing that Win will do something. He does, striking the van from behind. Myron had left his cell phone on, so Win was able to hear everything that happened in the van. The driver and the B man quickly escaped, leaving the two men in the rear of the van who had restrained Myron. The first man refused to drop his weapon and Win shot him. The second man tells them as much as he knows, which in reality isn't much. After leaving the scene, Myron and Win discuss what the connection to the B man could possibly mean. Myron believes that Carla/Sally may have been killed to frighten Greg, but Win points out that no one had found the body for days. How would Greg know she had been killed unless he was there, or had killed her himself? Win knew of the B man, and the fact that he specialized in gambling would explain the fact that Greg had no money.

Myron questions why Win had not attended the game. The fact that both Win and Esperanza had been unwilling to go had bothered him. Win does not really explain why he didn't go, but asks Myron if he had ever watched the tape of the game where he was injured. The two get into an argument about whether Myron retaliating against Burt Wesson would have given him closure. Myron does not believe so, but Win operates differently than Myron does.

The following morning Myron is shocked to learn that Carla/Sally is in fact Liz Gorman, a member of a radical group formed in the Sixties, the Raven Brigade. The path leading to Greg's disappearance is growing more convoluted. What could Liz Gorman possibly want with Greg Downing, or vice versa? Myron brings this information to Win, and they discuss if the email on Greg's computer might be from Gorman. Myron does not believe so. A phone call from detective Dimonte stuns Myron. Someone had been in Greg's home, and had cleaned up the blood that Myron and Win had found in the rec room.



# Chapters 21-25

## Chapters 21-25 Summary

Myron meets Rolly Dimonte at Greg's house and the basement is clean. Myron sees the coroner with files under his arm and asks if they are the autopsy reports. Dimonte hedges, but Myron tells him he already knows about Liz Gorman. Dimonte wants to know how, but Myron does not tell him, instead asking about her blood type. The coroner tells him it was AB positive. Myron tells Dimonte that the blood in the basement had been tested and it was also AB positive. As it is a rare blood type, they can be fairly certain that the blood in the basement was Liz Gorman's. While the two are discussing it, an investigator shouts that he has found something. Behind the washing machine, there is a baseball bat covered in blood. The men have apparently found the murder weapon.

At his office, Myron discusses things with Esperanza. The two of them go over several scenarios as to who might have cleaned up the blood at Greg Downing's house. Myron suddenly realizes that the only person that he had told was Clip Arnstein, and he wonders if Clip would have gone that far, especially since he was unaware of the murder of Liz Gorman. Esperanza produces a fax listing the phone calls made from the pay phone at the Parkview Diner. A twelve minute phone call had been made to Clip Arnstein's direct line at the Continental Arena. Myron mulls it over, but Esperanza tells him they have work to do regarding their clients, and to ask Clip later.

As Esperanza is discussing a particularly difficult client, the elevator opens to reveal the B man and his two thugs. They are armed and B man demands that Esperanza call Win and have him come down to the office. She does so, and Win agrees to join them. Upon his arrival the three men discuss the problem of Greg Downing. Greg is a gambler, and owes the B man quite a lot. Greg had agreed to shave points on a game in order for the B man to win substantially. The game was to take place on the Sunday after Greg disappeared. Since Greg did not play, the B man lost a great deal. Now owed close to two million dollars, the B man is looking for Greg to collect. According to the B man, Greg has not made a payment in five or six months. After the B man and his goons leave, Myron and Win follow suit, as Win would like to be with Myron when he discusses things with Clip and Calvin. Esperanza begins to wonder about the timing of things. Unsure as to what each piece of the puzzle means on its own, she calls a friend of Myron's at the FBI and requests all the information they have on the Raven Brigade.

On the way to the arena, Myron tells Win that Jessica has asked him to move in with her. Win barely reacts, instead changing the topic to Myron's share of any playoff money the team may receive. Myron wants to know if Win is staying for the game. Win would like to speak to Thumper if she is in attendance. Finally Win circles back to the subject of Jessica, simply telling Myron that he is the wrong person to ask about such things.





At the arena, the two meet with Clip and Calvin. Myron asks Clip what he has been holding back. Clip tries to avoid the question by giving Myron basic answers, but when Myron asks if Clip has any knowledge of Liz Gorman, Calvin reacts in such a way that Myron and Win know that they have been keeping some things secret. When Myron asks if they have any knowledge of someone names Sally or Carla, Clip again answers in the negative. Win calls Clip in his evasiveness and calmly informs him that they know he is lying. Calvin admits that he spoke to Carla. She had called and demanded money for silence regarding something that would embarrass the team involving Greg Downing. She had called again and Clip had spoken with her. Carla had demanded twenty thousand dollars and was supposed to have collected Monday night. Clip and Calvin had assumed that the embarrassing detail was Greg's gambling problem. He and Calvin had talked to Greg about signing the endorsement deal in order to by himself some time with his bookie. Myron asks why Clip would ask him to help with Greg's disappearance if he knew that Greg had most likely vanished because of this. Clip states that he is more worried about Greg's sanity. Greg might snap if his image was destroyed. When questioned as to whether he believed that Greg might have been the person to murder Liz Gorman, Clip is emphatic. Greg had learned the dangers of violence years ago, according to Clip, but he does not elaborate. Clip tells Myron to enjoy the game that evening, reminding him that it is, after all, just a game. Leaving the two men in the office, Win asks Myron who would benefit the most from Greg's disappearance. Clip had the most to lose if Greg became an embarrassment to the team.

Win meets Maggie Mason in the stands before the game. Win asks Maggie directly why she had lied to Myron about the last time she had spoken to Greg. Phone records indicate that they had spoken the night that Greg had disappeared. At first Maggie is nonplussed, but she recovers herself and denies having spoken to him. Win questions her honesty, stating that only an honest person can work for him. Win also threatens to spread a rumor regarding her integrity, making it impossible to work in the financial industry. Maggie is outraged, but still refuses to answer Win's questions. Her loyalty is fierce, Win decides, and he leaves the area so that he can follow her when she leaves. About to leave the arena, Win stops when he hears that Myron is being put into the game.

## Chapters 21-25 Analysis

Myron is as stunned as the detective as to who cleaned up the blood. Rolly is furious, as he had jumped through hoops in order to obtain the search warrant. Myron questions the blood type, and Dimonte refuses to answer, but is speechless when Myron tells him that he knows that the dead woman is the Sixties radical that has been in hiding for many years. Rather than reveal his source, Myron suggests they make a trade of information. If the blood type in the basement matches that of the murder victim, they will at least know the blood was not Greg's. The coroner gives him the information, and the types match. Myron's thoughts are in a jumble. Why would her blood be at Greg's house, when there had been no sign that the body had been moved to the apartment? The coroner confirms that the woman had been killed at home. While Myron continues



to wonder, the forensic team uncovers the bloody bat behind the dryer. Myron begins to wonder if someone is trying to frame Greg for murder.

Speaking with Esperanza at the office, Myron tries to work out what might have happened. Esperanza suggests that someone had cleaned up the blood to protect Greg, but that person could not have known about the bat. Someone might have known about the blood, but not the weapon. Myron realizes that he had only told Clip, and is very upset that Arnstein may have in fact cleaned the basement in order to protect Greg. Esperanza shows Myron the fax with the information that Clip had been in contact with Gorman. Myron is at a loss. Why had Clip hired him to find Greg, but withheld so much key information?

The arrival of the B man and his associates startled Myron. Win arrives downstairs and the three men discuss Greg Downing. Myron learns that drugs are not behind the money problems that Greg has, instead, Greg has a very large gambling problem. B man states that Downing has not made a payment to him in months. Myron and Win both realize that if this is the case, the fifty thousand dollars withdrawn from the account held by Greg's agent was for some other reason. Greg might have gotten the money in order to go on the run.

Myron speaks to Win about the offer Jessica had made to move in, because he has no one to talk to about it. Esperanza has never forgiven Jessica for leaving Myron and breaking his heart. Win tries to avoid the subject, but eventually tells Myron he is the wrong person to ask. Win is not a relationship person. Raised in a way that demanded self reliance, Win was not the type of person that would allow himself to be hurt by another.

At the arena, Myron and Win speak to Clip and Calvin. Win quickly realizes that Clip knows more than he has let on from the beginning and questions him on it. Clip finally admits that someone had attempted to blackmail Greg, but had never called at the agreed time. Myron is curious about the statement Clip makes regarding Greg and the lesson he had learned about violence years before. When leaving the men in the office, Win upsets Myron when he questions if Greg would be more dangerous to Clip if he had not gone missing. With the ownership vote coming up as well as the play-offs, Greg might have been less helpful than hurtful.

Win knows almost immediately that Maggie was lying about her contact with Greg, yet he is intrigued by her loyalty. Despite goading her almost mercilessly, Maggie refuses to budge. She would rather risk losing her job than betray a friend. Win could admire that, if Myron were not involved and at risk for getting hurt, both mentally and physically. Win decides to follow her when she leaves the arena, but is stopped when he hears Myron's name being announced as a substitute player.



# Chapters 26-30

## Chapters 26-30 Summary

Myron sits on the bench during the game thinking about the way basketball makes him feel. He sees Jessica in the stands and is shocked when his parents come into view. Before he has time to process their presence, Myron is stunned to hear the coach put him in the game. Since it's only the second quarter with the score very close, Myron is surprised as he had not expected to get into the game at all. On the court he intends to do his best, but quickly realizes that his best is nowhere near good enough for the NBA. Myron does his best, pride taking over, but the man he is guarding scores eleven points before the quarter is over. Myron believes that Clip must have been behind his going into the game.

After the game Myron meets Audrey who has some information for him. She has heard from a reliable source that a private detective had been hired to follow Emily to a motel. Myron questions why the fact that Emily who was at the point of divorce, might be followed. Audrey theorizes that any information that might be obtained could be used in the custody case. Myron asks Audrey to find out if Leon White's wife, Fiona, might have been a centerfold in September. The email that Win had uncovered had been signed with the letter 'F.' It is possible that the tension between Greg and Leon might have something to do with Leon's wife. Myron wonders if the information that Liz Gorman had been trying to sell might have had something to do with Greg and Fiona having an affair.

Myron goes home after the game and sits with his parents. At 32, Myron still lives at home, though he does spend most nights at Jessica's apartment. His parents are happy to see him, though his mother is a bit emotional about seeing him play basketball again after such a long time. Myron tells them a bit about why he is playing for the Dragons and goes to bed. As he is getting ready to sleep the phone rings. A strange voice tells him that they have what Greg was going to pay for. Myron can have it for fifty thousand dollars.

The following morning, Myron goes to the office of Marty Felder, Greg's agent. Myron is surprised when Marty offers him a job, senior vice president in the firm as well as a position for Esperanza. Myron asks if he can think about the offer. Marty readily agrees that he should do so. Myron tells Marty that he is really there to discuss Greg Downing. Marty is surprised when Myron tells him that Clip hired him to find Greg. Marty is a true agent, unwilling to give an inch in regards to his client. Myron asks directly, why Marty had Emily followed and video taped. Though Marty barely reacts, Myron knows that he is on to something. The two men negotiate, until Myron suggests to Marty that he could be talking to a homicide detective instead. Marty finally relents, and shows Myron the video tape in question. Emily is on tape, and in a grainy display, meets someone in a hotel room. Myron is disgusted and tells Marty to turn off the tape. It is Marty's contention that the video tape was made in retaliation for accusations of child abuse that Emily had made. Myron does not really care. In shock he had realized that the



other person on the video was a woman, and that woman was Maggie Mason, also known as Thumper.

Back at the office, Myron speaks with Esperanza briefly before being interrupted by a client. Jason Blair is upset with Esperanza handling his contract instead of Myron. On the way to his office to take the call, Myron sees the Raven Brigade file on Esperanza's desk and takes it with him. Esperanza enters the office with Blair's new contract, which was for more than he had asked for. Blair apologizes and tells Myron he will deal with her after all.

Win enters the office while Myron is on the phone with Rolly Dimonte. Myron tells Rolly about Greg's gambling problem, assuming that with phone records the detective will have the information soon himself. He does not tell him about the video tape with Emily, feeling that he should discuss it with her first. Rolly informs Myron that there were no other discoveries in Greg's house, but that all of the women's items that Myron and Win had seen on their first visit had been removed. No one in Gorman's building had seen anything, however the police had received an anonymous tip to check Greg's house when the story of the murder had been released. Dimonte realizes that Myron was correct, and someone is trying to frame Greg. The landlord claimed not to have known Gorman. She paid cash in advance to a professor that worked at nearby Columbia University. According to Dimonte, the landlord is a radical left over from the Sixties who spends most of his time hanging around the homeless in the area.

After hanging up with Dimonte, Myron and Win mull over the details they have so far. The Raven Brigade picture is on the desk and Myron shows Win that he resembles Cole Whiteman, the founding member of the group. Whiteman had never been the typical Sixties radical, looking more like a choir boy. While studying the picture, Myron suddenly realizes that Cole Whiteman is actually Norman Lowenstein, the homeless man that had led him to Sally/Carla/Liz's apartment. Myron explains his theory to Win, and is interrupted by a phone call from Dimonte. The police have a video tape of the killer leaving Gorman's apartment, and the killer is a woman.

## Chapters 26-30 Analysis

Myron is stunned to be put into the game when the score is so close because he had been assured that he would not play unless the team was well ahead of the opposition. It is his feeling that Clip had him put in the game in order to humiliate him, perhaps because of the earlier confrontation with Win. The arrival of his parents, who have evidently cut their trip short in order to see him play, is also a shock. It has been years since they have seen him play, and he worries over their reaction. On the court, Myron realizes that he does not have what it takes to be a pro-ball player. The thought hurts him, but his pride gets the better of him, making him try that much harder. Fans booing him and jeering him makes it more difficult, but he plays through it.

At home that night with his parents, Myron reflects on how lucky he is to have been raised by them. His mother and father simply want to be sure that he is alright, and to let



him know that they support him in whatever he does. They had never pushed him to become a star, and were not disappointed in him for his failure to play at a pro level that evening. Discussing Jessica's suggestion that he move in with her, his mother simply states that he can always return home if things do not work out. Though she had not really forgiven Jessica for hurting Myron in the past, she is willing to give Jessica a second chance, if doing so will make Myron happy.

A phone call from the blackmailer startles Myron. He is unsure why he would be contacted. There is nothing he can think of that would connect him to Greg's gambling problems, so why would the blackmailer think he would pay for the information, unless it was to protect the team image. If this is the case, why contact him instead of Clip Arnstein?

The following morning when Myron meets with Marty, Greg's agent, he is surprised to be offered a job with his firm, not just a job, but a vice presidency. Myron has no desire to work for anyone else, but tells Marty he will give the idea some thought. Myron asks Marty where he can find Greg, and the agent reacts in a typical fashion, protecting his client. When Myron suggests that Marty might be speaking to homicide detectives soon, there is finally a reaction. Greg's agent shows Myron the video tape of Emily. Myron is disgusted. Marty explains the reasoning behind the tape as balancing the scales. If Emily can accuse Greg of abuse, they need to use something against Emily as well. The other woman in the tape is a puzzle to Myron. In the short bit he had seen, the two women did not look comfortable. Myron wonders if Emily had been set up, or if the meeting was what they both wanted. As Greg's friend there was a possibility that Thumper had been part of a set up to discredit Emily.

At his office, Myron and Win discuss the Raven Brigade. The information that Liz Gorman's landlord was a radical seemed to tie in somehow with her background. Studying the picture, Myron realizes that Norman Lowenstein might actually be Cole Whiteman the leader of the group. The landlord spent most of his free time with homeless people, according to Dimonte. Living underground for so many years, the surviving members of the Brigade would have to have supporters that they could turn to at times. Myron plans to find Whiteman, but before he can leave, gets a call from Dimonte. Another video tape has turned up, showing the killer, a woman, leaving the scene.



# Chapters 31-36

## Chapters 31-36 Summary

Myron meets Dimonte at the precinct to view the video evidence. A surveillance tape at a loading dock nearby had caught a woman leaving the scene of the murder with a long object wrapped in a baseball bat. Myron lies to Dimonte when asked if he recognizes her. Esperanza is at the office going over the Raven Brigade file. The events that led up to Greg's disappearance and the murder of Gorman do not make sense to her. The Raven Brigade had robbed the bank in Arizona and for some reason they had come to New York. To Esperanza, something involving the bank robbery must be tied to Greg Downing. She calls one of Myron's contacts and requests the information on which safe deposit boxes were broken into.

At Emily's house, Myron pushes past her and takes a coat out of her closet that matches the one worn by the woman in the video near Gorman's apartment. Emily is flustered, but quickly calms down and explains herself. The custody battle between Greg and Emily had been getting ugly. Emily had met a strange woman in the grocery store who had approached her, attempting to blackmail her and Greg, evidently unaware that they were divorcing. Emily, distraught over the video tape Greg had made of her and Thumper, offered to pay the woman to release the damaging information. Emily had received a phone call to meet her at the address which was Gorman's apartment. Arriving at the scene, Emily sees Greg leaving, looking terrified. Angry that he might have beaten her to the evidence she could use to win her children, Emily rushes to the apartment to find Gorman dead. Emily takes the bat with her and leaves intent on making sure Greg is caught for the murder. Myron tells Emily that Greg might have stumbled on the murder just as she had, and that by trying to frame Greg, a murderer may have gotten away. Myron leaves, and finds Audrey leaning against his car. Myron briefly tells Audrey what he has learned so far from Emily and Dimonte, but does not reveal that there is video tape of Emily leaving the murder scene, or that Carla is really Liz Gorman. Win calls with information about the professor who rented the apartment to Gorman, and Myron leaves to meet him at Columbia Campus.

On the campus, Win takes his leave for a meeting at the office and Myron settles in to wait. Time passes and Myron realizes he has not checked Greg's answering machine. He does so, and there is a message from someone stating that they have contacted Bolitar, and wanting to know if that is what Greg wants. Myron is confused and listens to the message several times before exits his office and heads to the nearest homeless shelter near St. John the Devine's. He enters the shelter and Myron follows. Across the room, Myron spots Lowenstein and a chase ensues, ending in a basement storage area for religious statues. Myron is jumped by several men who take his watch and wallet. Lowenstein/Whiteman calls the men off and asks Myron how he got involved in this. Whiteman gets ready to leave, telling Myron that the men will release him in a few hours, but Myron wants to know if Whiteman wants to know how Gorman died. He does, and returns. Myron informs him that Greg is the main suspect, but Whiteman tells



him that Greg was not there long enough. Whiteman had been across the street from Gorman's apartment that evening, watching everyone come and go. He and Gorman had been behind the blackmail operation and he was waiting for her signal that the money had been collected and the two of them would leave town. The signal, however, never came. Whiteman had seen three people enter and leave the apartment, Clip Arnstein, Greg, and Emily. Arnstein had stayed the longest. Whiteman had seen other people enter and leave, but none that he recognized, so he assumed they were students living in the building. Whiteman could not check on Gorman, so when Myron had shown up at the diner, he had taken advantage of the situation, leading Myron to her apartment. Whiteman refuses to tell Myron what Greg was being blackmailed over, but does decide to release Myron, knowing that Myron has no interest in revealing him as a member of the Raven Brigade.

## Chapters 31-36 Analysis

Myron views the video evidence with Dimonte, and recognizes Emily from the way she walks, yet lies to the detective about recognizing her. Still feeling guilty about the one night the two had shared together before her marriage to Greg, Myron feels that he needs to be sure that Emily was at the scene, and find out exactly why, before he can reveal anything to the police. After arriving at her home, Myron pulls the coat she wore on the video out of her closet and accuses her of framing Greg. Myron believes that Emily had removed the bat from the house and planted the blood in his home, hoping to have him arrested for murder. When the story broke in the paper, Emily had been the one to call the police to check Greg's house. Emily insists that she was not framing him for murder, that he had in fact killed Gorman. She had been at the scene, and watched him enter and leave the apartment. When Emily entered and found Gorman dead, she took the bat and brought it to Greg's house. Myron is angry and disgusted, but Emily feels no remorse. Greg had video-taped her with Thumper, and in Emily's eyes, she was simply doing what she felt necessary to keep her children. Myron leaves her, and finds Audrey outside waiting for him. She has information that Fiona, Leon's wife, had in fact been a September playmate. Myron feels a bit vindicated over his time with Emily so many years ago. He had spent one night with her, but it was possible that Greg was having an affair with his friend's wife. Audrey introduces the theory that maybe the woman had been blackmailing Emily instead of Greg, but Myron can not seem to find his way around it. If that were the case, there would have been no reason for the blackmailer to have contacted the Dragons. To Myron, it will sort itself out soon, as the blackmailer has now contacted him, and he will know what is behind their thoughts that evening. Audrey wants to know when and where the meeting will take place, but Myron tells her he will not know until contacted later.

Meanwhile, Esperanza is wondering about the connection between the blackmailers and Greg. She is unclear why the bank robbers would turn up in New York and contact Greg after the robbery in Arizona. She works on the theory that perhaps Greg had been involved in some way since he needed the money, but that did not seem to fit. Thinking about the fact that the safe deposit boxes had been opened as well, Esperanza concludes that something in one of those boxes is what had led the Raven Brigade to



Greg. Contacting someone in the FBI, Esperanza requests a copy of the list of opened boxes, to see exactly who had items stored in them.

Meeting Win at Columbia, Myron has a bit of time to think over things while waiting for Professor Bowman to leave the campus. Checking Greg's machine, Myron is startled by the message. What is the point of warning Greg that Myron had been contacted? Myron can think of nothing that would connect the two men after so many years, yet the blackmailer seemed very adamant.

Bowman leaves the campus and walks to the homeless shelter down the street. Myron follows and when Bowman enters the building, has no choice but to follow. Inside, Myron and Lowenstein spot each other at the same time and Lowenstein takes off running. Myron follows, and is led to a dark stairway that leads to a basement storage area. Myron is overtaken by several men and handcuffed. Lowenstein makes to leave, but Myron calls out, asking him if he wants to know about how Gorman died and who killed her. Lowenstein comes back, and sits with Myron. According to Lowenstein, there is no way that Greg could be guilty of the murder, as he was only in the apartment for a minute or two. Arnstein had been inside longer and Emily only for a few minutes. As a homeless man, he would have been out of place if he had entered the building, so he was forced to wait outside and hope that Gorman surfaced. She did not and he left in the morning. Myron does wonder about two things. What was the inside joke the Lowenstein had referred to when Myron informed him that he had been hired to find Greg? Why would Lowenstein not tell Myron what Greg was being blackmailed about? He had contacted him, and now did not want to discuss it.





# Chapters 37-42

## Chapters 37-42 Summary

Myron returns to the Meadowlands Arena looking for Clip Arnstein. Myron now has an idea of what happened to Greg, and also what happened to Liz Gorman. Clip is not in the office, but Myron meets up with Calvin Johnson and tells him that the blackmailer is going to contact him that evening with whatever they were trying to sell to Greg. Myron also tells Calvin that he is aware that Clip met with the blackmailer.

In the locker room, TC studiously ignores Myron's entrance. Audrey enters and asks Myron if he has heard anything new. The blackmailer calls and Audrey hears most of the conversation. Myron asks her to come with him to meet the blackmailer in order to have a witness present. Audrey agrees at once. On the way to meet the blackmailer, Myron fills Audrey in on the details, and that the person they are going to meet killed Liz Gorman. The two arrive at the park and after waiting several minutes in darkness, a light breaks through. Myron exits the car and speaks with the blackmailer, who had demanded that Myron leave his gun in the car. After speaking briefly with the blackmailer, Audrey exits the car and shoots the masked man. Myron then tells Audrey that he knows she is the one that killed Gorman. Audrey denies this at first, but eventually admits that she did so to protect Greg and their unborn child. The masked man sits up. It is detective Dimonte. Myron had loaded his gun with blanks. Audrey is arrested and taken to jail.

Esperanza is at the office and finally receives the list of people whose safe deposit boxes were robbed in Arizona. One name stands out on the list: B. Wesson. Burt Wesson is the man that had caused Myron's injury ten years earlier. Esperanza tried to call Myron, but he does not answer. She immediately calls Win, and tells him to find Myron at once.

After dealing with the police, Myron returns to the arena to confront Clip. A man hands him an envelope, purportedly from his uncle. The envelope is from Cole Whiteman, and contains a letter and a cassette. The letter apologizes to Myron for the blackmail scheme, and warns him not to listen to the tape alone. On the tape, Myron hears Greg Downing pay Burt Wesson for injuring him all those years ago.

Myron leaves the arena at once, driving to TC's house. He had realized that Greg would turn only to someone who might understand him. That person is TC, because they share the rare air of stardom. At the house Myron demands to see Greg, who reveals himself. Myron attacks him, while Greg shouts that Myron was not supposed to be as injured as he was, that he was angry that Myron had slept with Emily the night before their wedding. Win arrives and stops Myron from killing Greg.

Myron returns to Jessica who explains that she did not object to his return to professional basketball because she thought he needed closure. When he was injured Myron had latched onto everything else that was left around him, including Jessica.



Myron had suffocated her, and there was no way she could know if there love was true, of if it was something developed out of his need after the loss of the game. Now that he has moved on a bit, Jessica is sure that he loves her for her, not as a replacement.

The novel ends with Win in Arizona, meeting Burt Wesson. Win arrives and Wesson asks if he can help him with something. Win simply replies that yes, he thinks he can.

## Chapters 37-42 Analysis

Myron finally pieces together the small bits of information that he has gotten from different sources. The main revelation is that Audrey Wilson must have been the person to clean up the blood in Downing's home. Myron only remembered telling Clip and Calvin about finding the blood, but finally remembered telling Audrey. Only someone who was trying to protect Greg would do so, and this led Myron to understand that Audrey had been using him all along. Myron and the detective set up a sting operation to catch Audrey. By telling her that the blackmailer will be calling, Audrey is sure to stay as close to Myron as she can. When the phone call comes, Myron makes sure that Audrey can hear it, and asks her to accompany him.

At the sight, the detective plays the role of the blackmailer and Myron leaves the gun loaded with blanks available to Audrey in the car. Audrey takes the opportunity to shoot the man, hoping that now the problem is finally solved. When confronted by Myron, Audrey at first denies everything, but then admits her part. She had been worried that the blackmailing would never end, that Greg would pay them and they would keep returning asking for more. Audrey saw no other alternative to protect the man she loves and her unborn child.

At the arena, Myron is looking for Clip when he receives the envelope from Cole Whiteman. The tape inside sends him into a rage like he has never experienced. The injury had been no accident, but planned by Greg Downing. Myron rushes to TC's house, having realized that the two players shared a bond that Myron had not comprehended at first. TC and Greg were the stars of the team, and would protect each other without thought. At the house Myron attacks Greg, who shouts his explanations. He had seen Myron and Emily the night before the wedding and only wanted Myron to be hurt. He was angry, but had never intended for Myron to lose the career he had dreamed of his entire life. Win stops Myron from killing Greg, and though Myron is angry at first, understands. If he killed Greg, he would be no better than Audrey.

Win travels to Arizona to find Burt Wesson. Knowing that Myron could never retaliate, that getting even is not something that he would consider, Win instead takes care of that himself. Win also needs closure, and will get it any way he can.



# Characters

## Myron Bolitar

Myron Bolitar is a thirty two year old sports agent, and owner of MB SportsReps. Myron lives in his parents basement, but spends most nights at the apartment of his girlfriend Jessica. A former basketball player, Myron was destined to be a star with the Celtics when a career ending injury forced him to give up the game he loved. Myron moved on with his life, getting his law degree and starting the agency, but never lost his love for the game or his desire to play.

Myron gets drawn back into the game of basketball when he agrees to help Clip Arnstein find Greg Downing, one of the stars of the New Jersey Dragons. Playing professional basketball is both a thrill for Myron, and difficult at the same time. As much as Myron loves the game, he comes to realize that he does not have what it takes to play pro ball.

Following leads into Greg's disappearance, Myron discovers that Greg is being blackmailed. Though at first Myron believes that the blackmail scheme involves Greg's gambling problem, it is revealed that the information the blackmailers possess is much more personal. Ten years earlier, Myron had been injured in what he believed to be a freak accident on the court. In truth, the injury had been set up by Greg Downing in retaliation for Myron having sex with Greg's wife the day before their wedding.

## Windsor Horne Lockwood III

Windsor Horne Lockwood III, is Myron's best friend. President of the investment firm Locke-Horn Securities, Win is somewhat of an enigma. Wealthy and intelligent, he looks the part of the aristocratic blue blood, however, he is also a loner, letting very few people into his inner circle of friends. Win is very loyal to those that he considers his friends, Myron being the closest friend he has. The two men had been roommates in college, and have been together ever since. Myron runs his sports agency, and Win runs the family firm, and both have been known to work for the FBI undercover.

Win stays to himself for the most part, and has no close relationships other than Myron. Raised in a world of power and prestige, Win seems not to have developed the personality to become close to people, preferring his lifestyle of one night stands with no strings attached. Win readily admits to Myron that he is not the person with which to discuss personal relationships, as he does not have any way to guide himself, let alone anyone else. Myron and Win seem to balance each other. Both are intelligent and care for other people, however Myron has a conscience, and Win seems not to.



## Esperanza Diaz

Myron's right hand 'man' at MB SportsReps, Esperanza is the former star of the Fabulous Ladies of Wrestling, or FLOW. Spotted by a modeling agent at the age of seventeen, Esperanza had finally made a name for herself as Little Pocahontas. Now, working with Myron, Esperanza also attend night school, working toward her law degree.

Esperanza and Myron share what seems to be a brother and sister type of relationship. Esperanza holds nothing back with Myron, expressing her opinions freely, with no thought that Myron will be angry. Esperanza is very clear about her feelings toward Myron's girlfriend Jessica, calling her 'the bitch.' Esperanza has never forgiven Jessica for leaving Myron and breaking his heart many years ago. Myron understands this, and though he asks her not to call Jessica names, realizes that Esperanza cares for him deeply.

Esperanza is a key character in the novel *Fade Away*, as it is she that discovers the reason the blackmailers have contacted Greg. Esperanza also shows her depth of caring for Myron when she contact Win immediately in order to protect Myron from discovering what is on the blackmailer's tape.

## Jessica

Jessica is Myron's girlfriend and a writer. Myron and Jessica began dating right before Myron was injured ten years ago, forcing him to give up his dream of professional basketball. Though they had broken up previously, they are back together, and though Myron technically still lived in his parents basement, the majority of the time he spent the night at her apartment.

Jessica is one of the few people who does not question Myron's taking Greg's place on the Dragons. Though everyone else that knows Myron is worried that he will be hurt when his chance is over, Jessica feels that Myron needs to play, even if only to prove to himself that he can not play the way he used to. It is Jessica's feeling that when Myron was injured he turned to her, crushing their relationship under the weight of his needs.

## Greg Downing

A star player on the New Jersey Dragons, Greg disappears, causing Clip Arnstein to hire Myron to find him. Greg has been known to run away from problems before, and as he is in the middle of an ugly custody battle with his ex-wife Emily, the team owner thinks that things may have gotten to be too much for Greg. Myron is hired to find him. Myron feels a bond with Greg, as they had been competitors in their youth and though college. Myron believes that the bond they share had made them both better players. Myron had been injured before his chance to play for the Celtics, but Greg had gone on to become a major star.



In his search for Greg, Myron uncovers a blackmail scheme and murder, making Greg the main suspect of the police. Myron proves his innocence in the murder, but discovers that his knee injury was not a freak accident as he had thought for the past ten years, but had been orchestrated by Greg in retaliation for Myron sleeping with Emily the night before their wedding.

## **Audrey Wilson**

Audrey Wilson is the sports writer assigned to the New Jersey Dragons. Audrey seems to catch on to the reason that Myron is actually on the team and convinces him that they should work together to solve the mystery of Greg's disappearance. In exchange for not releasing the information to the public, Myron agrees to share whatever he finds with her. Audrey agrees to use her contacts to find out what she can about Greg's personal life. Audrey is actually using Myron in order to find Greg, her secret lover. Audrey had killed Liz Gorman, the blackmailer, in order to protect Greg and the future of her unborn child.

## **T.C. Collins**

TC is the other star of the New Jersey Dragons. TC lives his life knowing that if it were not for basketball he would be just another factory worker. Aware that fame is fleeting, TC plays his role as the star in order to achieve as much as possible before his time runs out. TC is the person that Greg runs to for help because they share the 'air of stardom' that only a few players have.

## **Carla/Sally Guerro/Liz Gorman**

A member of the Sixties radical group, The Raven Brigade, Gorman arrives in New York after robbing a bank in Arizona with information to blackmail Greg Downing. Gorman is murdered by Audrey Wilson in order to protect her lover Greg Downing.

## **Thumper/Maggie Mason**

An investment banker, Mason, also known as Thumper, has a hobby which involves having sex with all of the players on the New Jersey Dragons basketball team. Maggie helps Greg by seducing his ex-wife Emily, and creating a video tape to be used in their custody battle.

## **Clip Arnstein**

The owner of the New Jersey Dragons, Clip hires Myron to find the team's missing star, Greg Downing. Clip had drafted Myron and Greg when they were in college and feels a sense of responsibility for both men. Though Arnstein tells Myron very little at first, he



does supply more information when Myron questions him. Arnstein is aware of the blackmailers and what they have against Greg, but does not see any other way to let Myron know the truth about his injury ten years ago.

## **Emily Downing**

Greg Downing's ex wife, Emily had been Myron's girlfriend in college. She started dating Greg after she and Myron broke up. Emily is set up by Greg and Maggie Mason with an explicit video tape and tries to frame Greg for murder in retaliation.

## **Roland Diamonte**

The NYPD homicide detective assigned to the case of Liz Gorman.

## **Orville Baron /The B Man**

Baron is Greg Downing's bookie, also dabbling in prostitution and drugs. Known as 'The B Man' for his penchant for breaking bones, Baron threatens to break Myron's leg so Myron will tell him where to find Greg. Saved by Win, Myron encounters Baron again in his office, where Win convinces Baron that they should be working together in order to find the missing player.

## **Cole Whiteman/Norman Lowenstein**

The leader of the Sixties group the Raven Brigade, Whiteman is posing as a homeless man in New York, working with Liz Gorman to blackmail Greg Downing.



## **Objects/Places**

### **New Jersey Dragons**

The professional basketball team for which Greg Downing plays.

### **Meadowlands Arena**

The arena where the New Jersey Dragons play basketball.

### **MB SportsReps**

The sports management agency that Myron Bolitar owns.

### **The Raven Brigade**

A radical group from the Sixties, led by Cole Whiteman. The Brigade was accused of having murdered a man during a botched kidnapping and the remaining four members, including Liz Gorman have been on the run ever since.

### **Locke-Horn Securites**

The investment firm of which Win, Myron's best friend is president.

### **Forte Sneakers**

The shoe company with which Greg Downing is to sign an endorsement deal.

### **F.L.O.W.**

The Fabulous Ladies of Wrestling, the sports organization where Esperanza Diaz became famous as Little Pocahontas.

### **Kimmel Brothers**

The investment firm which employs Maggie Mason. The last phone call made from Greg Downing's phone is to Kimmel Brothers



## **Columbia University**

The university where Professor Bowman teaches. Bowman is a sympathizer of the Raven Brigade and leads Myron to Cole Whiteman/Norman Lowenstein in a nearby homeless shelter.

## **The Parkview Diner**

The diner where Carla/Liz Bowman worked using the alias of Sally Guerro.





# Themes

## Friendship

Friendship is a strong theme in *Fade Away*, by Harlan Coben. The deep friendship of Myron and Windsor Horne Lockwood III is clearly evident. Myron can depend on Win, no questions asked. The two had met in college, and no matter which directions their lives turn, the friendship remains. Myron is also close friends with Esperanza Diaz, his assistant at MB SportsReps. Myron and Esperanza understand each other in the way that brothers and sisters do.

Win and Esperanza both know and understand Myron well, sometimes better than he understands himself. When Myron is given the chance to play professional basketball again, both refuse to attend the games, unwilling to see Myron suffer the loss of the game again. Esperanza feels that Myron will give himself to the game completely, and the loss will crush him. Win has always felt that Myron's injury was intentional, and had never followed up at Myron's request. Still, the thought of seeing Myron on the court would be too much of a reminder for Win to bear. Myron's friendship with Win and Esperanza is enduring and trusting. The three are free to express themselves honestly, without worry of offending each other or losing the true friendship that they share.

## Deception

The central plot of *Fade Away*, is the blackmail of Greg Downing. The blackmailers themselves practice deception, by trying to blackmail many people with the same information. Greg Downing had paid for someone to injure Myron, and the Raven Brigade had discovered this information when they had robbed a bank in Arizona. Clip Arnstein also practices deception when he hires Myron to find Greg. Though Clip is aware of the blackmail, and the proof that Myron's injury was intentional, he does not reveal this to Myron at the outset. Clip is unsure of how to tell Myron the truth, so he orchestrates Myron's discovery of the tape revealing the original plot by Greg.

Audrey Wilson's deception is the most dramatic. Though she tells Myron that she is working with him to locate Greg simply as a guarantee to be first with the story, in reality she is also looking for Greg. The blackmail scheme had driven Greg into hiding, and Audrey, in order to protect her husband and unborn child had killed the blackmailer, Liz Gorman. By working with Myron to find Greg, Audrey is also keeping track of the investigation, covering her tracks and protecting Greg when he becomes the prime suspect.

## Loyalty

Many characters exhibit loyalty throughout the novel. Myron's friends, Esperanza and Win are extremely loyal to him. Though Esperanza shrouds her caring in sarcasm and



humor, she is a bit like a guard dog, always watching to make sure Myron is safe. Esperanza deeply dislikes Myron's girlfriend Jessica, due to the fact that Jessica had left him and broke his heart years before. Even though Jessica has returned and Myron seems to be happy, Esperanza still refers to her as 'the bitch.' Myron does not like the name, but accepts that Esperanza loves him and still hurts for the times that he had suffered. The fact that Esperanza and Win will not attend any of the games Myron plays in also demonstrates loyalty. They are aware that he had been devastated when he was injured and forced to give up the game he loves.

Myron is deeply loyal to his girlfriend Jessica. Though Jessica had left him a few years earlier, they had gotten back together. Myron believes in the love they have for each other, even though Esperanza has made it clear that she does not like or trust Jessica, Myron exhibits his loyalty to Esperanza, by allowing her to feel the way that she does, without getting angry at her outbursts.

Perhaps the oddest loyalty throughout *Fade Away*, is Myron's loyalty to Greg. Myron feels a bond with Greg due to the competitive nature of their relationship in their youth and college years. Because of this loyalty, Myron works throughout the novel to find Greg, as well as prove his innocence in the murder of Liz Gorman. This loyalty is misplaced, as Greg is the person who had caused Myron's injury ten years ago, ending his career in professional basketball.



# Style

## Point of View

Fade Away by Harlan Coben is written in the third person, omniscient. For the most part, Myron Bolitar is the main focus, however there are brief passages where his assistant Esperanza is highlighted. Myron, as the main character, is the center of the majority of the novel, however Esperanza is highlighted in order to bring important facts to the readers attention.

The story is told with quite a bit of dialogue, in a fast paced manner. This is helpful to the reader, as it expresses the rapid change of events and emotions throughout.

The language is modern, reflecting the age and lifestyle of the main characters. Most of the characters in the novel are in their thirties, and well educated, and the author expresses their thoughts and personalities well.

## Setting

The novel Fade Away by Harlan Coben takes place in many different locations in the New York metropolitan area. The Continental Arena, home of the New Jersey Dragons is located in New Jersey, as is the main character, Myron Bolitar's hometown of Livingston. Myron's office is located in the same building as Locke-Horn Securities in Manhattan. A central location in the novel is the Meadowlands Arena, the home of the New Jersey Dragons, where Myron plays professional basketball for the first time. Much of the novel takes place within the city of New York as well as Greenwich Village. The storyline follows Myron Bolitar as he searches for Greg Downing. Myron travels throughout different areas of the city the outlying suburbs in his search for Greg, as well as trying to find the truth behind the murder of Liz Gorman.

## Language and Meaning

The language used throughout the novel is fast paced and entertaining. The author writes in such a way that the personality of each character is revealed easily. Though events happen quickly, it does not take the reader long to follow the many twists and turns of the plot.

There is quite a bit of dialogue throughout the novel, with some descriptive passages as well. The dialogue is written in a way that helps the reader understand the many personalities within Fade Away. The descriptive passages tie the storyline together, providing some background and character development, but does not slow the storyline down in anyway.

## Structure

Fade Away is a fast paced novel of 346 pages broken down into forty two chapters. Each chapter is approximately ten pages long. The plot seems simple enough at the outset, with Myron being hired to find a missing basketball player. Throughout the novel, many subplots are introduced, including blackmail and murder. Though the story can be complex at times, the author does well tying all of the many facets together, creating an interesting enjoyable read.

Each chapter ties well into the one that follows, leading the reader quickly through the story, as well as keeping the plot moving, without confusing the many subplots.



## Quotes

"Just behave."

"Me?" Myron said. "I'm always a delight." Chapter 1, page 1

"I don't trust agents." Clip said.

"Neither do I."

"For the most part, They're bloodsucking leeches."

"We prefer the term 'parasitic entities,'" Myron said. "It's more PC." Chapter 1, page 6

'With something close to surprise, he realized that this would be the first time Jessica had seen him play in anything more than pickup games. They'd met three weeks before Myron's injury. The thought made him pause. And remember. For a brief moment his mind dragged him back. Guilt and pain washed over him until a ball careened off the backboard and smacked him in the head. But the thought remained: I OWE GREG." Chapter 6, page 55

"The brick wall showed about as much reaction as one might expect from a brick wall. Then again, it wasn't one of Myron's better quips. The man was truly enormous, the size of your average lunar eclipse. Myron heard footsteps. Another man, this one large but at least of the human variety came up behind Myron. The second man wore fatigue camouflage pants, a popular new urban fashion trend.

"Where's Greg?" Camouflage Pants asked.

Myron feigned startled. "What? Oh, I didn't see you."

Chapter 7 pgs 69-70

"Anyway, the Smeltmans brag how they're on the same trip with Myron Bolitar's parents. Big deal, right? Who knows you anymore? You haven't played in years. But the Smeltmans are big basketball fans. Go figure. Their son used to watch you play or something, I don't know. So anyway the son -I think his name is Herb or Herbie or Ralph, something like that- he tells them you're playing professional basketball. That the Dragons signed you. He says you're making a comeback or something, what do I know? Your father is so embarrassed. I mean, complete strangers are talking about it and your own parents don't even know. We thought the Smeltmans were crazy."

Chapter 9, pgs 77-78

"Greg stayed around to. He helped with rehab. That's what I mean by a bond. He was devastated by the news because when I got hurt, it was like a part of him was gone too. He tried to tell me why it meant so much to him, but he couldn't put it into words. It didn't matter. I knew. He just had to be there."

Chapter 10, pg 92

"Myron decided to push a little further and confirm what he already knew. If Hector balked at this stage, so what? Nothing ventured, nothing gained. He leaned forward; Hector and his wife did likewise. 'This may sound insensitive,' Myron whispered, 'but was this woman large chested?'



Both nods were immediate. "Very large," Hector said.  
Suspicion confirmed."  
Chapter 11, pg 103

"Myron mulled over that bit of information. A drug hit-could that be part of the answer? If Sally/Carla/Roberta was dealing drugs, it might explain her connection with Greg Downing. She was his source. The meeting on Saturday night was nothing more than a buy."  
Chapter 12, page 115

"Folks always talking about the price of fame, but you wanna know the real price? Forget that privacy shit. So I don't go out to the movies as much. Big fucking deal-where I come from you can't afford to go anyway. The real price is you ain't a person anymore. You're just a thing, a shiny thing like one of those Benzes out there. The poor brothers think I'm a golden ladder with goodies at every step up. The rich white boys think I'm a fancy pet."  
Chapter 15, page 141

"B Man took out his weapon. When the elevator dinged, he squatted and aimed. The doors slip open, but it wasn't Win. Big Cyndi emerged from the elevator, not unlike a dinosaur emerging from it's egg.  
'Jesus Christ!' Camouflage Pants said. 'What the hell is that?'"  
Chapter 23, page 200

"So now he understood Emily's ferocious hostility. She had indeed been taped in flagrante delicto-not with another man, but with a woman. Certainly no law against it. But most judges would be influenced. It was the way of the world. And speaking of the way of the world, Myron knew Ms. Goodbar by another nickname: Thumper."  
Chapter 28, page 259

"Myron's entire body shuddered. A flash of rage unlike anything he had ever known warmed and then engulfed him. His hands tightened into fists. Tears forced their way forward. He remembered wondering why the blackmailer had contacted him to buy the dirt on Greg; he remembered Cole Whiteman's laugh and Marty Felder's ironic smile when they'd learned that he'd been hired to find Greg Downing; he remembered the voice on Greg's answering machine saying, 'He's willing to pay. Is that what you want?'; and most of all, he remembered Greg's pained face at the hospital all those years ago. It hadn't been a bond that brought Greg to Myron's bedside. It'd been guilt. "  
Chapter 41, pages 338-339



## Topics for Discussion

Why are Esperanza and Win unhappy with Myron's decision to play basketball for the Dragons?

What are Myron's reasons for taking Greg's place on the team?

What bond does Myron believe exists between Greg and Himself?

Why does Clip want Myron to find Greg? What is his underlying motive?

Who are the members of The Raven Brigade? What is the purpose of their trip to New York?

Why does the blackmailer contact Myron? What is the information at the center of the blackmail scheme?

Why does Audrey kill Liz Gorman?