

Fatherland Study Guide

Fatherland by Robert Harris (novelist)

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Plot Summary

Fatherland is the alternate history story of the Nazi German rule over Europe as if Germany had won World War II. The story unfolds to uncover the murders of high-ranking German officials on the eve of Adolf Hitler's seventy-fifth birthday in 1964.

The story begins with German Kripo criminal detective Xavier March assigned to work a case involving a dead body found in the Havel River in Berlin. When the body does not fit the descriptions of any reported missing persons, March fingerprints the corpse and discovers that the man had been a high ranking German official named Josef Buhler. March's investigation leads him to the staged suicide scene of another high ranking German official, Wilhelm Stuckart, and his mistress.

March's investigation is complicated by the appearance of Charlie Maguire, an American reporter who had been pulled into the case by a phone call from Stuckart a few days prior. March's investigation at first leads to a theft ring of Nazi officials who stole priceless art during World War II and then sold it in other countries to amass personal fortunes. March eventually learns that the art thefts are a ruse developed by the Gestapo to divert March from finding the real reason for the deaths of Buhler and Stuckart.

March receives the feigned support of the head of the SS police to continue his investigation independent of the official Gestapo investigation into the case and soon learns that one more man, Martin Luther, is connected to Buhler and Stuckart. Luther is still alive and his attempts to contact Charlie in hopes of defecting to America end in his public murder.

Eventually March and Charlie discover the true reason for the Nazi cover up is that Buhler, Stuckart and Luther have information about the Wannsee Conference which was held in January of 1942 to determine the final solution of how to exterminate the European Jews according to Adolf Hitler's wishes. March is able to find the hidden documents related to the Holocaust and realizes that he must get the information released to the world through Charlie's journalism avenues.

March and Charlie devise a plan to escape into Zurich and then to America to tell the world about the Nazi atrocities. March is arrested, tortured and killed as a result of the betrayal of his best friend and partner but Charlie escapes with the incriminating evidence and documents in hand.



Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Summary

Fatherland is the alternate history story of the Nazi German rule over much of Europe and the Soviet Union, written as if Germany had won World War II. The story unfolds to uncover the deaths and murders of high-ranking German officials on the eve of Adolf Hitler's seventy-fifth birthday in 1964.

As the story begins, it is the early hours of April 14, 1964, and Xavier March, a homicide investigator with the Berlin Kriminalpolizei, also called the Kripo, arrives on the scene of the discovery of a dead man's body in the Havel River in Berlin, Germany. March has attained the distinction of Sturmbannfuhrer which is the SS title for the rank of major. March questions a young man named Hermann Jost, who discovered the dead body and phoned the police. Jost had been jogging in the area and saw the body and is still shaken up about the incident and tells March that he saw nothing else suspicious in the area.

When the body is pulled from the river, it is a large man whose left foot is missing. The coroner estimates death sometime during the past twelve hours. March drives Jost to the Kripo headquarters to take Jost's formal statement. While driving, March regrets answering the phone call that precipitated the early start to his day but he has saved his partner, Max Jaeger, from taking the case and having to leave his family too early. March also notes the preparations underway in the streets of Berlin for the upcoming Fuhrertag, the 75th birthday celebration for the Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler.

Jost's formal statement says that he is a cadet in training for the SS, the military operation in the Third Reich. He discovered the body on his morning run in the exclusive Schwanenwerder area near his barracks where many of the high level Nazi officers retain homes. March thinks that Jost is not telling the truth but releases Jost to be returned to his barracks. March retrieves the missing person's list and splits it with his partner, Max Jaeger, but neither man comes up with a match for the dead body.

March visits the home of his ex-wife, Klara, to pick up his ten-year-old son, Pili, for a scheduled visit. Pili is proud of his membership in the Pimpfen, Hitler's military training group for children aged ten to fourteen. Pili believes that March is an asocial, a description he has heard from his mother's boyfriend, a bureaucrat at Nazi headquarters. Pili also knows that the party has a file on March regarding his nonparticipation in Nazi organizations.

March returns to his office to find Max leaving to attend a party meeting with his wife, Hannelore. March goes to the coroner's office to look at the dead body retrieved from



the river this morning and takes prints of the dead man's fingers. March takes the prints to the forensic department and returns to his small, cold apartment. The sparsely furnished flat contains the small photograph of a family which March had found hidden beneath layers of wallpaper. March believes the family to be Jewish people but can find no history on them or information as to where they moved. March receives a call from the forensics technician who has identified the dead man as one of Hitler's high ranking officers, Josef Buhler.

Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Analysis

The author establishes his novel as a work of alternate history which means that he manipulates the facts and people of a determined period of time in order to create a different story with a different outcome. In this case, the author chooses to write a story about what might have happened if Germany had won World War II and Hitler is about to celebrate his 75th birthday instead of committing suicide in April of 1945. Some of the book's characters are fictitious but some are real people whose fates are revised to accommodate the author's story. For example, he writes about March reading a newspaper article of a music critic attacking a group of young Englishmen from Liverpool who were corrupting the young people of Hamburg, Germany. He also addresses the belief of a positive outcome for the second term of U.S. President Kennedy. The young musicians are the actual singing group, The Beatles, while President Kennedy will be revealed later in the book to be Joseph P. Kennedy, the seventy-five-year old father of John F. Kennedy, the only Kennedy to have held that office. The man who is found dead in the river is Josef Buhler who actually was the State Secretary and Deputy Governor of the Nazi party government who died by execution for war crimes in 1948, not drowning in the Havel River in April of 1964.



Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Summary

In the morning, March dresses in his Kripo uniform and meets his u-boat colleague and friend, Rudolf (Rudi) Halder, for breakfast. Rudi works at the government's central archives and is working on a compilation of the history of the German army on the eastern front. Rudi has retrieved a photo of Josef Buhler so that March can be sure of the dead man's identification and although the photo is a few years old, March knows that Buhler is the man pulled from the river. Rudi confirms that Buhler had worked in his state position from 1939 to 1951 and has only one remaining relative, a sister named Elisabeth Trinkl. Rudi also tells March that Buhler had a house on Schwanenwerder which helps explain the location of his corpse.

Buhler's role in the party had been in the area of resettlement which was the eradication of one million Polish people in order to make room for German people in what used to be the country of Poland. Rudi furtively explains that Jewish people had also been expelled from France, Holland and Belgium. It is not common knowledge that Buhler and other officials confiscated works of art from those countries and sold them to garner huge personal fortunes. Before leaving, Rudi tells March that some Gestapo officers had been at the archive to get information about March last week.

March goes to his office to file his official report identifying the dead man as Josef Buhler whose apparent death by drowning showed no suspicious circumstances. March meets Buhler's sister, Frau Trinkl, at the mortuary and learns that she and Buhler had not been close and that Frau Trinkl is confused by the method of her brother's death because he had been an avid swimmer.

March drives to the area where Buhler's body was found and retraces Jost's running route and determines that Jost could not have seen Buhler's body from his jogging vantage point. March drives to the Schwanenwerder area where a sentry reports that Buhler lived a quiet life with no visitors. March then drives to Buhler's house and gets a radio call from Max telling him that the Gestapo is now on the case because of Buhler's high rank and that the Kripo is to cease investigative activity. March cannot resist scaling the locked gate of Buhler's estate and finds the door unlocked.

Inside March finds a ravenous, muzzled dog that runs out of the open front door. March explores the rest of the house and is startled by a ringing phone which he picks up but says nothing. The voice on the other end asks for Buhler and the connection goes dead when March admits to not being Buhler but a friend. March confiscates Buhler's party diary before the arrival of the Gestapo led by Odilo Globocnik, known as Globus. March manages to escape from the house and retrieves a package from Buhler's mailbox before driving away.



March visits Jost at the military academy where he forces Jost to tell the truth about what happened yesterday morning at the river. Jost admits to seeing three hooded men climbing up the riverbank toward a car in the early hours. Jost hides in the woods but can see Globus' face as one of the men in the car. It is after that that Jost finds the body and calls the police.

March buys some food in a delicatessen and finds a quiet place in the woods to eat and collect his thoughts. March reads the diary he had taken from Buhler's office and notes a meeting Buhler had with men named Luther and Stuckart a few days before. March determines by the facts he has now that Buhler was murdered by Globus who has assumed control of the investigation in order to cover up some state secret. March then opens the package found in Buhler's mailbox and finds a box of Swiss chocolates sent from Zurich two days ago. The lid of the box notes the Fuhrer's birthday and a music box inside plays a tune from Act III of *The Merry Widow* opera.

Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Analysis

This section is important because it includes Rudi's revelation to March that the Jews of several countries had been moved en masse to the eastern front during the height of the Third Reich's rise to power. March had found the photo of the Jewish family in his apartment but no one knows what had happened to them; they simply disappeared one day. Most Germans are unaware of the fate of the European Jews but Rudi knows because of his work in the central archives. This revelation to March will become the central point of the novel and the reasoning for Buhler's death as well as other imminent deaths of party officers. It is also critical to note that Max calls March on his car radio in order to determine March's location. This simple bit of information will have devastating effects for March later in the book.



Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8

Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 Summary

As March returns to Berlin, the city is abuzz with news that the President of the United States has accepted the Fuhrer's invitation to visit Berlin in September and discuss forging a better relationship. Back at the office, Max shows March Buhler's personal effects which contain the passports of two people, an SS officer named Paul Hahn and a young woman named Magda Voss. The couple had just been married and was randomly murdered on the way to their honeymoon.

March shares the chocolates with Max and speculates why someone would send an expensive box of chocolates which plays the music from the Fuhrer's favorite operetta. March then goes to the reference area to check the archives to find information on the men named Luther and Stuckart mentioned in Buhler's diary. Luther is Martin Luther, an officer in the German government who retired in 1955. Stuckart is Wilhelm Stuckart, a lawyer serving as a high ranking party official who retired to private practice in 1953.

While reading, March also discovers that Stuckart died only two days ago. March tries to glean more information on Stuckart but finds that the man's file is checked out by a man named Walther Fiebes, a sexual crimes detective in the Kripo. March goes to Fiebes' office and learns that Stuckart and his Polish mistress are dead; the theory is that Stuckart killed the girl and then shot himself in the head. A nearby note leads the authorities to suspect murder/suicide. Fiebes also tells March that the bodies were found by an American journalist named Charlotte Maguire. March notes the reporter's address and leaves Fiebes' office.

March then calls the home of Martin Luther and speaks to Luther's wife because Luther is missing. Mrs. Luther tells March that Globus is with her now and March abruptly ends the call when Globus speaks into the phone. March wonders if the person who had phoned Buhler's residence yesterday had been Luther.

March proceeds to the apartment of Charlotte Maguire and learns that the young woman is at a nearby bar. March finds Charlotte drinking with several men including Henry Nightingale, a secretary at the United States Embassy. Charlotte, who likes to be called Charlie, tells March that her visa has been withheld for fraternizing with a German citizen without permission. Charlie had contacted Stuckart to write an article about Hitler's 75th birthday and she made an appointment to see him at his apartment.

March convinces Charlie to go to Stuckart's apartment with him and she tells March that she had seen two men rushing from the direction of Stuckart's apartment the day she had gone there. Charlie received no answer to her knocks on Stuckart's door but having



a strong feeling that someone was inside, summoned a porter who opened the door and revealed the dead bodies of Stuckart and his mistress.

Charlie finds a box of Swiss chocolates in Stuckart's apartment identical to the one found in Buhler's mailbox. March finds a safe and calls Max who arrives a short time later with a professional safecracker. Before long, Max announces that SS troops are arriving and the group inside the apartment scatters but not before March retrieves an envelope marked Zaugg & Cie., Bankers.

Wednesday, April 15, Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 Analysis

The author includes some seemingly insignificant information about the passports of the murdered SS officer and his new bride which will become very important as the novel proceeds. March also learns that Buhler, Luther and Stuckart served in high ranking government positions together and that they are linked somehow as indicated by the notations in Buhler's diary. At this point, Buhler and Stuckart are dead, probably murdered within two days of each other, and Luther is missing. To complicate matters, the American journalist, Charlie Maguire is involved because of finding the bodies of Stuckart and his mistress. March reasons that there must be a government reason for the double murders because Charlie is being retained in Germany. The German government must be frightened of what Charlie may reveal if she were to return to America so March assumes both a cautious and protective role toward the young woman.



Thursday, April 16, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4

Thursday, April 16, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Summary

Charlie and the safecracker manage to escape Stuckart's building but March and Max are apprehended by the SS officers and March recognizes one of the men as Karl Krebs, whom March had seen with Globus at Buhler's estate. March and Max are left in an interview room at Gestapo Headquarters where they spend the night. In the morning March and Max are driven to Buhler's estate where they are met by Globus and Artur Nebe, the head of the Reich Kriminalpolizei.

Globus leads the men to the cellar where they see a hidden room filled with priceless pieces of art which Buhler had apparently stolen. Globus tells the men that the Gestapo had been aware of Buhler's activities and when Buhler found out he informed Stuckart who was an accomplice and then drowned himself. Stuckart had always made the arrangements for the stolen art to be smuggled out of the Reich and then sold, creating vast wealth for the men. Globus tells the group that Martin Luther is the third man involved in the heist and that is why they are searching for him.

Nebe questions March about March's opinions of Buhler's death and March admits that he does not think Buhler killed himself but rather was murdered because the woodwork at Buhler's boat jetty had been recently scraped, indicating that a boat had been moored there, and Buhler's boat had not been used for years. March theorizes that Buhler's killers had forced him to get drunk and then dumped him in the Havel River. Nebe follows that line of thinking and offers that perhaps Stuckart was also killed and did not commit suicide as previously thought.

Nebe appoints March to assist Globus in the search for Luther and invites March to sit in his car while he privately shows March the file that the Gestapo has collected on March. Nebe tells March that Globus had tried to initiate court martial proceedings against March but Nebe would not comply because he wants to learn what March has on Globus that would make Globus pursue this course against March. When March goes back to the house, he sees Globus poised and pointing a gun at him. Globus simply returns the gun to March because it had been taken away from him the night before. Globus then whispers that March no longer has any witnesses and March turns to run all the way to Jost's barracks where he is told that Jost had been taken away in the night and sent to the east for "special training."

March knows that Globus has had Jost killed and he goes to the home of Martin Luther to visit Mrs. Luther. Mrs. Luther shares that her husband had been petrified lately but would not share the reason for his fear. Mrs. Luther also tells March that Globus had arrived at her home before she had even reported that her husband had not returned from a trip to Zurich. March leaves the Luther house and spots the security guards assigned to follow him.



March eludes the security guards and goes to Charlie's apartment where he is attacked by an unknown man in the darkened room. Charlie hits the man with a chair and the man escapes from the building. March opens the letter that Charlie had been keeping ever since their escape from Stuckart's apartment last night. The envelope contains a key and information on an account held at Zaugg & Cie., Bankers, Bahnhof-Strasse 44, Zurich.

Charlie shares with March that the night before Stuckart had been found dead, he had called Charlie demanding that she go to a telephone booth across from her apartment and wait for his call in five minutes. She had met Stuckart socially before Christmas and now recalls his voice. She had not contacted or heard from Stuckart in five months. Stuckart calls Charlie who is waiting in the phone booth and tells her that her phone line is tapped and tells her that he needs to contact American authorities but that the embassy is not safe. Stuckart wants to defect and wants Charlie to come to his apartment the next day and that is when she discovers the bodies of Stuckart and his mistress. Charlie is quickly arrested and threatened with deportation. March tells Charlie that he is going to Zurich to check out the bank account at Zaugg & Cie. and tells her to stay in Berlin.

Thursday, April 16, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 Analysis

This section is important because the Gestapo officials begin to build the ruse of stolen art to distract March from the real crimes committed by the government. Nebe tests March by trying to scare him by showing him the file held by the Gestapo on March's career. March will not be bullied and determines to see the investigation through in spite of the subtle threats made on his life by Globus. The paths of March and Charlie begin to align as they both want to uncover the reasons for the murders of Buhler and Stuckart. March has dutiful reasons for his quest while Charlie's profession as a journalist pushes her onward to find out why Stuckart wanted to defect at this point in time.



Thursday, April 16, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

Thursday, April 16, Chapters 5, 6 and 7 Summary

March returns to his apartment and finds that it has been ransacked. March showers, dresses in his Kripo uniform and packs a small bag of civilian clothes. March then goes to Nebe's office to obtain a one-day pass to allow him to travel to Zurich. Nebe grants the request but cautions March that he will be watched wherever he goes. March then stops in at his office to write a note to Max but Max arrives and the two men go out for a beer.

March tells Max that he is going to Zurich to check out the safe deposit box with the key found in Stuckart's safe. He also tells Max that Stuckart had called Charlie a few days ago hoping to defect to America. March gives Max Charlie's address and asks him to help her if she gets into trouble while March is gone. March also gives Max a sum of money intended for Pili in the event that Pili, who has already denounced March to the Gestapo, does not want to see March again.

March changes into his civilian suit at the Berlin airport, boards his plane and falls asleep. Awakening a short time later in flight, March notices Charlie sitting in the seat next to him. March is not happy that Charlie has followed him and separates from her at the Zurich airport but Charlie follows March's cab to the hotel. Charlie sends a bottle of Glenfiddich scotch to March's room and he phones her room to thank her. March and Charlie leave the hotel to go out to dinner and end up spending the night together in March's hotel room.

Thursday, April 16, Chapters 5, 6 and 7 Analysis

Nebe continues to support March's investigation to see what March will uncover but March is always aware that he is being watched and monitored. March has even been reported to the Gestapo by his ten-year-old son, Pili, which makes March feel as if he has nothing more to lose. March feels as if Max is his only friend in the world which is the major irony of the story which will be revealed at the end of the book. This section is important also because the relationship between March and Charlie transitions to a personal one which provides March a glimmer of hope for connection with a person who can transport him out of his life at least for a little while.



Friday, April 17, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Friday, April 17, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Summary

The next morning, March and Charlie go to Zaugg & Cie. to meet Herr Zaugg and to discover the contents of the safe deposit box. Zaugg tells March that the last time the box had been opened was April 13, proving to March that Luther had been there just a few days ago. March provides the correct account code and he and Charlie gain admittance to the safe deposit box where they find a painting which they assume is one of the pieces of art stolen by the German officers. March and Charlie leave the bank and proceed to the airport for the return trip to Berlin.

March reasons that Luther may try to contact Charlie because Stuckart would have told him about her and Charlie is still the safest contact if Luther is still alive. March prepares his official report for Nebe informing him that March found nothing in the safe deposit bank in Zurich. March delivers the report directly to Nebe who is incredulous that Buhler and Stuckart just happened to die within days of each other.

March visits his friend, Rudi Halder, at the archives where the two men discover Stuckart's correspondence regarding a conference held January 20, 1942, in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, to discuss the final solution regarding the Jews. Fourteen high ranking German officials had been invited to the meeting to determine how to eradicate the Jewish people. March discovers that Buhler and Stuckart had attended and that all the other thirteen men but Luther has died, some from natural causes but some from unusual circumstances as recently as two weeks ago.

March is summoned to the Gotenland railway station where Globus and Krebs wait to show him the dead body of Martin Luther, apparently the victim of a train accident. The injuries to the body make it unidentifiable but the passport and identification papers found on the man indicate that it is Luther.

Friday, April 17, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Analysis

Since this book is in the alternate fiction category, some of the information is correct and some of it is fiction. In this section, the author inserts the most factual piece of information in the book: the Wannsee Conference. The Wannsee Conference was held in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin, on January 20, 1942. It was attended by high ranking German officials including Adolf Eichmann, Reinhard Heydrich, Josef Buhler, Wilhelm Stuckart and Martin Luther. The purpose of the conference was to determine the final solution for eliminating the Jewish people from Germany and Western European countries. It was Adolf Hitler's master plan to migrate the Jewish people to the Eastern territories toward Russia where they were to be annihilated. The Wannsee conference was a tactical meeting to determine the most efficient methods of carrying out Hitler's vision of exterminating the Jews.



Saturday, April 18, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Saturday, April 18, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Summary

March goes to Charlie's apartment where he also sees Henry Nightingale, the U.S. embassy secretary. The three huddle in the bathroom to avoid detection as they listen to Charlie's tape recorded message of a phone call from Martin Luther. March realizes that the dead man at the railway station had not been Luther. Luther tells Charlie that he wants asylum in America and to meet him on the steps of the Great Hall at nine o'clock in the morning. Luther instructs Charlie to also bring someone from the U.S. Embassy.

March speculates that Luther has been hiding at the railway station since his return from Zurich, trying to find a way to contact Charlie. Luther apparently switched identification cards and clothes with one of the other vagrants and then killed that man and placed his lifeless body on the tracks so that identification would be impossible after the train accident. March shares the information he has learned about the Wannsee Conference but Nightingale does not believe that the U.S. government will admit Luther with just the few documents March holds, especially in light of the imminent arrival of President Kennedy. March contends that Luther is content to know that Charlie has all she needs to know to publish the story and that entrance to the U.S. would be a secondary goal.

March spends the night in Charlie's apartment, and while she sleeps, he determines that he, too, wants to go to America and the life that Charlie has described. The next morning, March declares his intentions to Charlie when he writes, "Pack. No Return." on the steamy bathroom mirror. March dresses in his civilian clothes complete with his Luger pistol and he and Charlie to leave for the rendezvous with Luther.

March parks in front of the Great Hall and instructs Charlie to go inside to buy a guide book and then to engage Nightingale in conversation on the steps while they wait for Luther's arrival. Finally Luther appears and as March watches his approach to Charlie, Luther's head is blown away by a rifle. Charlie and Nightingale jump into the car as March slows down to pick them up and they speed away.

March parks in an abandoned parking garage and accuses Nightingale of betraying their plan. Nightingale leaves the car and March and Charlie drive to the deserted mansion where the Wannsee Conference took place. While March and Charlie walk the grounds, March reasons that Luther must have arrived from Zurich with a suitcase but he had not carried one when he came to meet Charlie at the Great Hall. March feels sure that Luther had picked up something at the Zurich bank and that it may remain in his suitcase hidden somewhere.



March goes to the morgue in hopes that Luther's papers may be in the effects of the man killed on the railway tracks and assumed to be Luther. There are no papers of any sort with the man's personal effects. Charlie does not think Luther brought anything with him from Zurich because every bag is searched and his secret would have been detected. March has another idea and he and Charlie head to the airport where March meets a man named Friedman, a former Kripo colleague and now head of airport security. Friedman is able to find the bag left there by Luther and hands it over to March with the promise of keeping their meeting secret.

March sees that the case appears to be a doctor's bag and he and Charlie drive to a remote hotel where they open it to examine the contents. The case contains official papers documenting Hitler's plan to annihilate the Jews as well as Kennedy's support of any anti-Semitic activity. Also included are descriptions and drawings of the German concentration camps with accompanying documentation of the train schedules which brought the Jews to the camps as well as the methods of killing them once they arrived.

Saturday, April 18, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Analysis

This section signifies the climax of the book when the highly sought after information is finally revealed. March had been leading up to this point with the discovery of the invitation to the Wannsee Conference but the discovery of the details of the extermination of the Jews at the concentration camps is the pinnacle of proof necessary to take to the United States government. Ironically, Nightingale, the one man who could have facilitated the process as well as Luther's defection, betrays the plan because of his jealousy over Charlie's feelings for March. The author asks the reader to believe the behavior which would prevent the relatively easy transfer of information via Luther's defection hinged on the wounded feelings of a spurned suitor. It is also difficult to believe that the information found about the death camps would have been a great secret revealed in 1964, the time period of the book's plot. However, this is a work of alternate fiction and the author requires the reader to trust in both fact and fiction as he tells his story.



Sunday, April 19, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Sunday, April 19, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Summary

March recalls the location of a bridge between Germany and Switzerland and determines that that is the best hope that he and Charlie have of crossing the border. March carefully wraps the documents in brown paper and then in gift wrap suitable for a wedding gift. March's plan is for Charlie to assume the identity of Magda Voss, the young bride who had been killed a few days before and whose identification papers March had taken from the office, and drive the package to a hotel near the German and Swiss border and to wait for March there. If March has not arrived by eight-thirty Monday morning, Charlie is to continue on without him. March wants Charlie to cross the border as close to nine o'clock as possible because the border guards will probably be listening to their radios as the Fuhrer makes his first public appearance in a long time.

Charlie bleaches her hair to look as much like the photo of Magda Voss as possible and leaves the hotel in the early morning, taking the package with her. March repeats the instructions for the trip to make sure Charlie is aware of the location of the bridge. After Charlie leaves, March hides Buhler's diary and his own notebook under the dashboard of his car and disposes of Luther's bag in a trash bin outside the hotel.

March leaves the hotel and decides to stop at the home of his ex-wife to see Pili before continuing on to meet Charlie. Pili is home alone and his behavior is even more evasive than usual yet he attempts to prevent March from leaving. Pili's behavior soon becomes clear as they are interrupted by SS soldiers sent to arrest March. Pili tells March that the officers promised Pili that they will help March.

March is taken to Gestapo headquarters where he is tortured by Globus who smashes March's right hand in addition to beating him severely because March refuses to give up any information about Charlie. After hours of torturous behavior, March is given a shot of morphine and his hand is cleaned and bandaged. Now March is interrogated by Krebs who reads the papers found in March's car about the extermination of the Jewish people. Krebs is incredulous about the materials and the involvement of Buhler, Stuckart and Luther whom Krebs thought he was investigating for art theft.

March tells Krebs that the art theft investigation had been a cover for the real investigation of Buhler, Stuckart and Luther's imminent attempt to release the incriminating documents to America. Krebs shoves Buhler's diary and March's notebook into the stove when he hears Globus' voice outside the room. Globus beats March again when March still refuses to tell Globus of Charlie's location.



March spends the night in the jail and is roughly awakened in the morning and taken outside the prison to a waiting car. Krebs sits beside March and tells him that they are moving March to another location with more sophisticated torture equipment. As they approach a warehouse district, Krebs yells for the driver to stop because March is wetting his pants. Krebs pulls March from the car and pushes him toward a dark church and releases him to Artur Nebe who tells March that he is glad that March had uncovered the information and must now release it to the world. Krebs gives March his pistol and pushes March in the direction of another car whose driver is calling March's name.

Sunday, April 19, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Analysis

This section continues the betrayal March experiences during the course of the investigation with the biggest personal wound coming from his son's compliance with the Gestapo. Ironically, March could have chosen the road to Zurich when he left the hotel but he wants to see his son one more time before his attempted escape to America. Pili is only ten-years-old and has been indoctrinated by the state and his mother and her new boyfriend to believe that March is bad and that if Pili cooperates and lets the SS soldiers arrest March then March can be rehabilitated and return to Pili. March will soon learn that Nebe has also been using March during the course of the investigation and still one more surprising betrayal awaits March before this day is over.



Fuhrertag, Chapters 1 and 2

Fuhrertag, Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

Max waits for March in the car and Max heads south waiting for direction from March. Max tells March that Nebe had phoned Max a short while ago and told him to be at the appointed location to help March. March hears a helicopter overhead and realizes that the car is being tracked electronically and that Max has lied to him. March presses his Luger against Max's head and demands that Max relinquish his own pistol. March threatens to shoot Max if Max tries anything foolish and tells Max to head for the outer autobahn.

March reasons that the Gestapo has not found Charlie or they would not have resorted to this tactic. March orders Max to turn around and directs Max eastward and he knows the officers following will be going in the opposite direction of Charlie's location.

March tells Max that he knows now that his being assigned to the Buhler case instead of Max had been a set up and Max acknowledges that that is true. Max also acknowledges that he had kept the Gestapo informed about March's activities. Max tries to grab his pistol from March but March shoots yet neither man is wounded. As dawn approaches, Max pulls into a filling station and March keeps his pistol pointed at Max's ribs. Max tells March that he never really wanted to harm March and that he was only following orders to keep his job.

March instructs Max to drive to an abandoned area and stop the car. March handcuffs Max to the car's steering wheel and walks towards the woods. March can see that the officers who had been in pursuit have now joined Max but March keeps walking with the thoughts of Charlie crossing the border now. Suddenly March spots some aged red bricks and knows that the concentration camp did exist. March ignores the Gestapo commands to stop and he pulls out his pistol and faces the swarm of soldiers coming toward him.

Fuhrertag, Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

March suffers the final betrayal when he learns that Max had informed on his activities to the Gestapo. The only consolation March has is the sincere hope that Charlie has escaped because he has led the Gestapo in the completely opposite direction. At the end of the book which covers a disturbing topic, the author provides a glimmer of hope as March sees the dawn on the horizon as he and Max drive east on the autobahn. This is a symbol of the coming light that will be shone on the material Charlie carries and a new day for the world when the incriminating information comes to light.



Characters

Xavier March

Xavier is the main character and protagonist of the story. Xavier is a detective in the German Kriminalpolizei (Kripo) in Berlin in 1964. Xavier's official dossier describes him as "Born, Hamburg, 1922; father died of wounds, 1929; mother killed in a British air raid, 1942; joined the navy, 1939; transferred to the U-boat service, 1940; decorated for bravery and promoted, 1943; given command of own boat, 1946—one of the youngest U-boat commanders in the Reich. A glittering career. And then it all starts going wrong. No police promotions for ten years. Divorced, 1957. And then the reports start. Blockwart: persistent refusal to contribute to Winter Relief. Party officials at Werdeerscher-Markt: persistent refusal to join the NSDAP. Overheard in the canteen making disparaging comments about Himmler. Overheard in bars, overheard in restaurants, overheard in corridors..." Thursday, April 16, Chapter 2, p. 131. Xavier has wearied of the political dogma of the Third Reich and resists almost everything related to it in favor of finding truth and a free society. Xavier would like to fit in somewhere but constantly asks himself questions such as "What would a sensible man have done? That was easy. A sensible man would have done what Max Jaeger did every day. He would have put on his hat and coat and gone home to his wife and children. But for March that was not an option. The empty apartment in Ansbacher-Strasse, the quarreling neighbors and yesterday's newspaper, these held no attractions for him. He had narrowed his life to such a point that the only thing left was his work. If he betrayed that, what else was there?" Wednesday, April 15, Chapter 5, p. 84.

Max Jaeger

Max Jaeger is March's partner in the Kripo and the two men share an office at the headquarters building. The author describes Max as "a shambling, untidy hulk of a man, two meters tall, with clumsy hands and feet. He was fifty, nearly ten years older than March, but they had shared an office since 1959 and sometimes worked as a team. Colleagues in Werderscher-Markt joked about them behind their backs: the Fox and the Bear. And maybe there was something of the old married couple about them, in the way they bickered with and covered for each other." Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 2, p. 19. Max is not particularly ambitious and works to support his wife and five children. Max has no real career ambitions which allow him to do the minimum to retain his job and to be controlled by the party. It is this control and fear of losing his job that allows Max to betray March in the end. It is clear that Max is conflicted by the act of betrayal but he is not able to stand up to the Gestapo and challenge their orders in order to become heroic like March.



Charlotte (Charlie) Maguire

Charlotte (Charlie) Maguire is a twenty-five-year old American journalist living in Berlin in 1964. Charlie's parents had both been German so Charlie knows the language and the country which allows her to move about Berlin with confidence. Charlie is youthful, assertive and intelligent and like most young people of the 1960s, passionate about finding out the truth about government and world affairs. "She was unlike any other woman he had met. She was not one of the homebodies of the Party's Women's League, all 'Kinder, Kirche und Kuche'—her husband's supper always ready on the table, his uniform freshly pressed, five children asleep upstairs. And while a good National Socialist girl abhorred cosmetics, nicotine and alcohol, Charlie Maguire made liberal use of all three. Her dark eyes soft in the candlelight, she talked almost without pause of New York, foreign reporting, her father's days in Berlin, the wickedness of Joseph Kennedy, politics, money, men, herself," Thursday, April 16, Chapter 7, p. 180. Charlie's affinity for March's passion for the truth draws the two of them together and although their romantic affair is brief, it results in the successful smuggling of incriminating Nazi documents out of Germany and into the free world.

Josef Buhler

It is Josef Buhler's dead body discovered in a lake which opens the novel. Josef Buhler had been State Secretary and Deputy Governor for the Nazi government during World War II. In the novel, the investigation of his death uncovers a master plan to exterminate all the European Jews of the time.

Globus, (Odilo Globocnik)

Odilo Globocnik, known as Globus, is the Gestapo officer heading the investigation of Buhler's death. In reality, Globus was a prominent SS leader and high ranking official in the Nazi party. Globus is determined to annihilate March in the story and goes to extremes to thwart March's investigation of Buhler's death. When the possibility of revelation of Nazi war crimes becomes a near reality, Globus arrests and severely tortures March.

Hermann Jost

Hermann Jost is the young man who finds the dead body in the river while jogging one morning and notifies the police about the discovery. Once Globus takes over the investigation of Buhler's death, Jost is removed to a camp in the East and presumably killed.



Pili March

Pili March is Xavier's ten-year-old son and a member of Pimpfen, Hitler's Youth military organization. Pili is indoctrinated in military life and even gives up his father to the Gestapo at the end of the story.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther is a high ranking German officer whose official description reads "Born: December 16, 1895, Berlin. Served in the German Army transport division, 1914-18. Profession: furniture remover. Joined the NSDAP and the SA on March 1, 1933. Sat on the Berlin City Council for the Dahlem district. Entered the Foreign Office, 1936. Head of Abteilung Deutschland—the 'German Division'—of the Foreign Office until retirement in 1955. Promoted to under state secretary, July 1941.

Wilhelm Stuckart

Wilhelm Stuckart is a high ranking government official whose official description reads "Born November 16, 1902, Wiesbaden. Studied law and economics at Munich and Frankfurt-am-Main universities. Graduated magna cum laude, June 1928. Joined the Party in Munich, 1922. Various SA and SS positions. Mayor of Stettin, 1933. State secretary, Ministry of the Interior, 1935-53. Publication: A Commentary on the German Racial Laws (1936). Promoted to honorary SS-Obergruppenfuhrer, 1944. Returned to private legal practice, 1953."

Kriminalpolizei

The Kriminalpolizei, also called the Kripo, are the special investigators of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Berlin state police.

Walther Fiebes

Walther Fiebes is a detective working in the sexual crimes division of the Berlin Kripo.

Henry Nightingale

Henry Nightingale is a secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin.

Karl Krebs

Karl Krebs is an SS officer assisting Globus in the investigations of the deaths of Buhler and Stuckart and the search for Luther.



Artur Nebe

Artur Nebe is the head of the Reich Kriminalpolizei. "Nebe had been head of the Berlin detective force even before the Party had come to power. He had a small head and the sallow, scaly skin of a tortoise. In 1954, to mark his sixtieth birthday, the Reichstag had voted him a large estate, including four villages, near Minsk in the Ostland, but he had never even been to look at it. He lived alone with his bedridden wife in Charlottenburg, in a large house marked by the smell of disinfectant and the whisper of pure oxygen. It was sometimes said that Heydrich wanted to get rid of him, to put his own man in charge of the Kripo, but dared not. 'Onkel Artur' they called him in Werderscher-Markt: Uncle Artur. He knew everything." Thursday, April 16, Chapter 2, p. 121.

Herr Zaugg

Herr Zaugg owns the Zaugg & Cie. bank in Zurich, Switzerland.



Objects/Places

The Havel

The Havel is a river in Berlin and is the location where Joseph Buhler's dead body is found.

Werderscher-Markt

The Kripo headquarters building is located in Werderscher-Markt in Berlin.

The SS

The SS is the military police force in Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany.

The Schwanenwerder

The Schwanenwerder is an exclusive area of Berlin located near the Havel River.

The Great Hall

The Great Hall is used for solemn ceremonies of the Third Reich and its imposing dome can be seen from most vantage points in Berlin.

The Reich Chancellery

The Reich Chancellery is the personal residence of the Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler.

Swiss Chocolate

March finds a box of Swiss chocolates in Buhler's mailbox and in Stuckart's apartment and mails some to Max from the Zurich airport.

Zaugg & Cie., Bankers

Zaugg & Cie., Bankers is located at Bahnhof-Strasse 44 in Zurich, Switzerland.



Concentration Camps

Concentration camps were constructed in Germany during World War II as the sites for the mass extermination of Jewish people

Luther's Bag

Luther smuggles the Jewish Solution documents from Zurich to Berlin in a doctor's bag.

German-Swiss Border

March knows of the most unobtrusive location for crossing from Germany to Switzerland and Charlie follows this path out of the country.



Themes

Betrayal

The theme of betrayal is an important one throughout the novel with March the victim of several betrayals both personal and professional. As the story progresses, the intrigue builds and the author puts March in several compromising situations where his life is in danger. As one avenue of support for March the author positions Artur Nebe as an apparent safe place but in the end, Nebe has only used March as an alternate means to obtain the documents he wants and then lets March be tortured and killed. Max Jaeger who is March's partner also betrays March by informing on March's activities throughout the course of the investigation. Max is conflicted about his actions but it is more important for Max to follow SS orders and maintain his job than to take the heroic but fatal path of March's character. It is Max who tells the SS about March's imminent connection with Luther and not Nightingale as March first thought. The most painful betrayal comes from March's son, Pili, whose early indoctrination into Gestapo principles allows the boy to give up his father to the Gestapo police. Ironically, the only true person March encounters is Charlie but that relationship is ill fated because Charlie escapes to Switzerland and March is killed.

Anti-Semitism

The underlying theme in the book is anti-Semitism which means prejudice or hostile behavior toward Jewish people. The central purpose of the book is the Nazi attempt to thwart the release of incriminating documents linking them to the annihilation of thousands of Jewish people during World War II. March's character is thrust into the middle of the secret mission but he has questioned the fate of Jews after finding a folded photograph of a Jewish family hidden behind wallpaper in his Berlin apartment. While March has always wondered about the family's fate, it is not safe or permitted to ask questions about the subject. Ultimately March discovers documents showing an invitation and the agenda and resulting strategies of the Wannsee Conference which was held in January of 1942 near Berlin. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the final solution of the disposition of the Jewish people according to Adolf Hitler's wishes. March ultimately discovers papers outlining the operations of the Nazi concentration camps and minutes before he dies, digs up faded bricks that prove the reality of the death camps. There is also mention of Joseph Kennedy as a president with anti-Semitic views which could account for the renewed interest in favorable German and United States relations.

The Search for Truth

The story is set in 1964 which was a time period of young people seeking answers to hard political questions and making decisions about their lives and their roles in the



world. America, as represented by Charlie Maguire, is notorious for its demonstrations against war and its questioning of the country's political leaders. In contrast, the young people of the expanded Third Reich countries do not have this freedom and Xavier March characterizes the desire to break free from the extreme personal and professional restrictions on the German people. The influences of America and other countries is beginning to infiltrate German society via music, smuggled publications and media reports. The threat of outside information makes the established Nazi officials anxious about the future of the country; what if the young people adopt the rebellious, inquisitive natures of the people of other countries? March is attracted to Charlie because she represents a fearless, relentless pursuit of truth and when with her he can visualize a life free of repression. March's greatest sadness is the state brainwashing of his young son whose fate is already sealed as a Nazi servant at the tender age of ten.

Style

Point of View

Fatherland is written in the third person omniscient point of view which means that an unknown narrator is telling the story and sometimes lets the readers into the thoughts and feelings of certain characters. The author gives details about settings and events as though narrating but will interject personal thoughts from the characters, especially the main character, Xavier March. These personal thoughts are not available or known to any other characters which make them private and let only the reader in on the true thoughts and feelings. A good example of this is at the end of the story when March knowingly leads the SS officers following him and Max on the autobahn. Neither Max nor the officers know that the real reason for March's course direction is to steer them in the opposite direction from the one Charlie is taking. This choice of style is particularly important in a thriller novel such as this one when it can be dangerous and even life threatening for a character to reveal too much of his or her thoughts. The fact that the novel is set in Nazi Germany makes it even more important for characters to be close-mouthed and not reveal their true feelings.

Setting

The setting for Fatherland is primarily Berlin, Germany, with some activity in Zurich, Switzerland. The story begins at the Havel River which flows through Berlin and there are a few other outdoor locations but most of the story takes place in official buildings within the Gestapo network. The office of March and Max is in the Kripo building and the other buildings described include the Gestapo headquarters where March is beaten and tortured toward the end of the novel. The author describes in much detail the building of official buildings of the Third Reich, all monuments to the Fuhrer and German power, and even though they may not be settings for actual scenes, they are frequently mentioned as a nod to the presence of German power. Scenes of a personal nature occur in March's apartment, Charlie's apartment and hotel rooms in Zurich and suburban Berlin. Zurich is also important because Luther traveled there to retrieve important documents from a safe deposit box. March and Charlie also visit this bank and spend a few private hours in the city as well. Although it is not a direct location in the book, America is a visionary goal which lives in March's dreams toward the end of the story.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in English but there is a pervasive use of German terms, the spelling of which leads the reader to believe he is actually in Berlin. The German officials refer to each other and the other characters using official SS titles and other forms of address such as Herr or Sturmbannfuhrer. The names of the buildings and streets are also



conveyed in their German form such as Werderscher-Markt, Oberwall-Strasse and Ansbacher-Strasse. In order to convey the German style and language the author uses the clipped sentences and abrupt manners for the characters, especially in their interactions with each other. The American characters of Charlie and Nightingale are stereotypically more outgoing and their language and conversations are much more casual in contrast to the formality of the German characters. The novel overall is straightforward with no humor, to not only communicate the intensity of the plot but also the gravity of the information which is the central to the plot.

Structure

The book is divided into seven parts; one for each day of the week beginning with April 14 and concluding with the pinnacle day, the Fuhrertag. The story begins on April 14, 1964, and the plot extends with more activity on each day of the following week culminating on the Fuhrertag, Adolf Hitler's 75th birthday. The author also inserts a page prior to each new section with a quote from a notable person or a passage from a noted literary work. One example is the passage from an SS officer quoted in *The Drowned and the Saved* by Primo Levi. "However this war may end, we have won the war against you; none of you will be left to bear witness, but even if someone were to survive, the world would not believe him. There will perhaps be suspicions, discussion, research by historians, but there will be no certainties, because we will destroy the evidence together with you. And even if some proof should remain and some of you survive, people will say that the events you describe are too monstrous to be believed: they will say that they are the exaggerations of Allied propaganda and will believe us, who will deny everything, and not you. We will be the ones to dictate the history of the Lagers." Sunday, April 19, p. 287. This is a representative insert of a passage which sets up the content for the chapter immediately following.

Quotes

"Sturmbannfuhrer was an SS title, equivalent in Wehrmacht rank to major, and Ratka—dog tired and skin soaked though he was—seemed eager to show respect. March knew his type without even looking around: three applications to transfer to the Kripo, all turned down; a dutiful wife who had produced a football team of children for the Fuhrer; an income of 200 Reichmarks a month. A life lived in hope," Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 1, p. 4.

"March had seen a score of young men like Jost in the past year. There were more of them every day. Rebelling against their parents. Questioning the state. Listening to American radio stations. Circulating their crudely printed copies of proscribed books—Gunter Grass and Graham Greene, George Orwell and J.D. Salinger. Chiefly, they protested against the war—the seemingly endless struggle against the American-backed Soviet guerillas, which had been grinding on east of the Urals for twenty years," Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 2, p. 16.

"Higher, longer, bigger, wider, more expensive... even in victory, thought March, Germany has a parvenu's inferiority complex. Nothing stands on its own. Everything has to be compared with what the foreigners have..." Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 3, p. 22.

"What had gone wrong? He did not blame Klara. She had not changed. She had always been a strong woman who wanted certain simple things from life: home, family, friends, acceptance. But March: he had changed. After ten years in the navy and twelve months in virtual isolation, he had stepped ashore into a world he barely recognized. As he went to work, watched television, ate with friends, even—God help him—slept beside his wife, he sometimes imagined himself aboard a U-boat still: cruising beneath the surface of everyday life; solitary, watchful," Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 3, p. 23.

"'He says you don't give the Fuhrer salute and you make jokes about the Party.' 'And how does he know all this?' 'He says there's a file on you at Party headquarters and it's only a matter of time before you're picked up.' The boy was almost in tears with the shame of it. 'I think he's right.' 'Pili!'" Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 3, p. 27.

"Of course. The Jews had all been evacuated to the east during the war. Everyone knew that. What had happened to them since was not a question anyone asked in public—or in private either, if they had any sense, not even an SS-Sturmbannfuhrer," Tuesday, April 14, 1964, Chapter 4, p. 34.



"'Why do we believe in Germany and the Fuhrer?' 'Because we believe in God, we believe in Germany, which He created, in His world and in the Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler, whom He has sent us.' 'Whom must we primarily serve?' 'Our people and our Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler.' 'Why do we obey?' 'From inner conviction, from belief in Germany, in the Fuhrer, in the Movement and in the SS, and from loyalty.' 'Good!' The instructor nodded," Wednesday, April 15, Chapter 3, p. 65.

"Buhler had been murdered by Globus, who had covered his tracks by declaring the death a matter of state security and by taking over the investigation himself. But why had the Kripo been allowed to get involved at all? What was Globus's motive? Why had Buhler's body been left in a public place?" Wednesday, April 15, Chapter 4, p. 72.

"'Listen, Max.' March told him about Jost's confession, about how Jost had seen Globus with the body. He pulled out Buhler's diary. 'These names written here. Who are Stuckart and Luther?' 'I don't know.' Jaeger's face was suddenly drawn and hard. 'What's more, I don't want to know,'" Wednesday, April 15, Chapter 5, p. 80.

"Charlotte Maguire had helped herself to a glass of Scotch from Stuckart's liquor cabinet. Now she raised it to the television in mock salute. 'To Joseph P. Kennedy: President of the United States—appeaser, anti-Semite, gangster and sonofabitch. May you roast in hell,'" Wednesday, April 15, Chapter 8, p. 105.

"He worried about the American woman. Even if she had managed to get clear of Fritz-Todt-Platz, the Gestapo could pull her in tomorrow. 'Routine questions, Fraulein... What is this envelope, please?... How did you come by it?... Describe the man who opened the safe...' She was tough, with an actressy self-confidence, but in their hands she would not last five minutes," Thursday, April 16, Chapter 1, p. 116.

"'Buhler drowned himself. Stuckart shot himself. Your case seems to be resolving itself rather conclusively, Globus, without requiring anything so embarrassing as a trial. Statistically, I should say Luther's chances of survival look rather poor,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 2, p. 127.

"But all Globus did was hand him the gun. 'Your pistol, Sturmabfuhrer. You will need it.' And then he came very close—close enough for March to smell the sour odor of garlic sausage on his hot breath. 'You have no witness' was all he whispered. 'You have no witness. Not anymore,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 2, p. 132.

"He could see it now. A meeting at Buhler's villa on Friday morning, attended by Buhler, Stuckart and Luther. A panicky meeting, old men in a sweat of fear—and with good reason. Perhaps they had each been given a separate task. At any rate, on Sunday, Luther had flown to Zurich. March was sure it was he who must have sent the



chocolates from Zurich airport on Monday afternoon, perhaps just as he was about to board another aircraft. What were they? Not a present: a signal. Was their arrival meant to be taken as a sign that his task had been completed successfully? Or that he had failed?" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 3, p. 140.

"At last he said, 'A tempting bargain. But why is it that I have this vision of myself waving you off with a white handkerchief from the tarmac of Hermann Goring Airport, and of you never coming back?' 'I suppose giving you my word that I would return would be of no use?' 'The suggestion demeans our intelligence,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 5, p. 161.

"'Good. The Fuhrer calls the Swiss 'a nation of hotel keepers.' I recommend the Baur au Lac on Tal-Strasse, overlooking the See. Most luxurious. A fine place for a condemned man to spend a night,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 5, p. 161.

"'And can you look after this for Pili?' He handed Jaeger an envelope containing half the cash he had withdrawn from the bank. 'It's not much, but I may need the rest. Hang on to it until he's old enough to know what to do with it.' 'Oh, come on, man!' Max leaned across and clapped him on the shoulder. 'It's not as bad as that? Is it? Surely?' March stared at him. After a second or two, Jaeger grunted and looked away. 'Yes. Well...' He tucked the envelope into his pocket. 'My God,' he said with sudden vehemence, 'if a lad of mine denounced me to the Gestapo, I'd be giving him something, all right—and it wouldn't be money.' 'It's not the boy's fault, Max,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 5, p. 165.

"'Very well, then. Give me the propaganda.' She glanced away, exasperated, but then looked back with an intensity that made it difficult for him to meet her eyes. 'All right. They say you scoured Europe for every living Jew—men, women, children, babies. They say you shipped them to ghettos in the East, where thousands died of malnutrition and disease. Then you forced the survivors further east, and nobody knows what happened after that. A handful escaped over the Urals into Russia. I've seen them on TV. Funny old men, most of them a bit crazy. They talk about execution pits, medical experiments, camps that people went into but never came out of. They talk about millions of dead. But then the German ambassador comes along in his smart suit and tells everyone it's all just Communist propaganda. So nobody knows what's true and what isn't. And I'll tell you something else—most people don't care.' She sat back in her chair. 'Satisfied?'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 7, p. 183.

"'What do you do,' he said, 'if you devote your life to discovering criminals, and it gradually occurs to you that the real criminals are the people you work for? What do you do when everyone tells you not to worry, you can't do anything about it, it was a long time ago?' She was looking at him in a different way. 'I suppose you go crazy.' 'Or worse. Sane,'" Thursday, April 16, Chapter 7, p. 186.

"'Sometimes it seems to me that the whole history of twentieth-century Europe has flowed through this office. In the 1930s, it was Jewish refugees who sat where you now sit—often pathetic creatures, clutching whatever they had managed to salvage. They were usually followed closely by gentlemen from the Gestapo. In the 1940s, it was the



German officials of—how shall we say?—recently acquired wealth. Sometimes the very men who had once come to close the accounts of others returned to open new ones on their own behalf. In the 1950s, we dealt with the descendants of those who had vanished during the 1940s. Now in the 1960s, I anticipate an increase in American custom, as your two great countries come together once more. The 1970s I shall leave to my son," Friday, April 17, Chapter 1, p. 194.

"We set out to breed a generation of supermen to rule an empire, yes? We trained them to apply hard logic—pitilessly, even cruelly. Remember what the Fuhrer once said? 'My greatest gift to the Germans is that I have taught them to think clearly.' And what happens? A few of you—perhaps the best of you—begin to turn this pitiless clear thinking onto us. I tell you, I'm glad I'm an old man. I fear the future.' He was quiet for a minute, lost in his own thoughts. At length, disappointed, the old man picked up the magnifying glass. 'Corruption it is, then.' He read through March's report once more, tore it up and dropped it into his wastebin," Friday, April 17, Chapter 3, p. 210.

"'Oh, it gets better than that.' From the inside pocket of his tunic, March produced the documents from the archive. 'On January 20, 1942, Martin Luther was one of fourteen men summoned to attend a special conference at the headquarters of Interpol in Wannsee. Since the end of the war, six of those men have been murdered, four have committed suicide, one has died in an accident, two have supposedly died of natural causes. Today only Luther is left alive. A freak of statistics, wouldn't you agree?' He handed Nightingale the papers. 'As you will see, the conference was called by Reinhard Heydrich to discuss the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe. My guess is, Luther wants to make you an offer: a new life in America in exchange for documentary proof of what happened to the Jews,'" Saturday, April 18, Chapter 1, p. 238.

"We were betrayed. Fourteen men summoned; now fourteen dead. Luther's hand outstretched, the fountain bursting from his neck, his trunk exploding, toppling forward. Globus and Krebs running. Secrets scattered in that shower of tissue; salvation gone... Betrayed..." Saturday, April 18, Chapter 2, p. 251.

"Some people won't believe it—they wouldn't believe it no matter how much evidence we had. But there's enough here, I think, to stop Kennedy in his tracks. No summit. No reelection. No détente. And five years from now, or fifty years, this society will fall apart. You can't build on a mass grave. Human beings are better than that—they have to be better than that—I do believe it—don't you?' He did not reply," Sunday, April 19, Chapter 1, p. 292.

"Was history changed so easily? He wondered. Certainly, it was his experience that secrets were an acid—once spilled, they could eat their way through anything: if a marriage, why not a presidency, why not a state? But talk of history—he shook his head at his own reflection—history was beyond him. Investigators turned suspicion into evidence. He had done that. History he would leave to her," Sunday, April 19, Chapter 1, p. 294.



"He could hear Pili's voice: 'It's going to be all right, Papa. They're going to help you. They'll make you better. Then you can come and live with us. They promised...'"
Sunday, April 19, Chapter 2, p. 300.

"Of course you knew! You knew every time someone made a joke about 'going East,' every time you heard a mother tell her children to behave or they'd go up the chimney. We knew when we moved into their houses, when we took over their property, their jobs. We knew but we didn't have the facts.' He pointed to the notes with his left hand. 'Those put flesh on the bones. Put bones where there was just clear air,'" Sunday, April 19, Chapter 4, p. 311.

"It's as if she hears him. She turns her head toward the East, toward him, to where the sun is fresh in the sky, and as the car moves forward she seems to dip her head in acknowledgment. Across the bridge: the white cross of Switzerland. The morning light glints on the Rhine..." Fuhrertag, Chapter 2, p. 335.

Topics for Discussion

Xavier March had been a successful U-boat officer early in his military career. Discuss March's current state of mind and possible reasons for his dissatisfaction with life in the Third Reich.

Compare and contrast the characters of Xavier March and Max Jaeger. Why was March chosen to lead the Buhler investigation and not Max?

Even at the end of the novel when March faces impossible odds for survival he still attempts to fight. Discuss the nature of his character and what it is that drives him.

Discuss the feasibility of the German people not knowing about the Holocaust by the year 1964 when the story takes place?

Discuss the implications all over the world in 1964 if the information of the Holocaust were to be revealed.

March's greatest sorrow is the indoctrination of his son, Pili, into the Nazi way of thinking and living. What do you think will happen to Pili in the future? Will he understand his father or remain entrenched in the Nazi life?

Do you think Charlie made it across the German-Swiss border? If she did, why would that be both a happy and sad event for her?