

# **A Good Man in Africa Study Guide**

**A Good Man in Africa by William Boyd (writer)**

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# Plot Summary

A Good Man in Africa by William Boyd is a novel that deals with the interests and intrigues of its main character, Morgan Leafy. He is the First Secretary of the British High Commission, and his posting is in the town of Nkongsamba, state capital of the Mid-Western region, Kinjanja, West Africa. Morgan Leafy is a man who lets the cultural, political, and social mores of the region shape his behavior. Instead of solely concentrating on his governmental duties during his working hours, he pursues his own interests in tandem with them. The result is a collision of his personal affairs with his professional duties. His professional duties typically lose out. This causes Morgan Leafy much grief, and this grief over wrong decisions made, is the thrust of the novel, coupled with other circumstances far beyond his control.

Sam Adekunle is a politician, university professor, and business owner running for office in Kinjanja. He is blackmailing Morgan because Morgan had an affair with Sam's wife Celia Adekunle. His desire is to make Morgan Leafy bribe Dr. Alex Murray. Sam Adekunle has an interest in a building project at the university in town. The university wants to build a new 500-room hall of residence and cafeteria. The land that they want to build the hall on belongs to Adekunle. He has a desire to sell this land to the university. The university does not know that he owns it, as it's under another business name. Dr. Alex Murray is Chairman of the university committee that considers the viability of university building projects. Dr. Murray intends to file a negative report on the proposed site. Adekunle needs him to issue a positive report so he can sell the land and reap the profits. Thus, Sam Adekunle is forcing Morgan to be part of his bribe plan, on the threat that he will expose Morgan's affair with his wife Celia to Morgan's superiors.

Morgan's boss is Arthur Fanshawe who wants to cozy up to Sam Adekunle so Britain will have influence in the country should Adekunle win the election. Arthur concocts Project Kingpin that he and Morgan will pursue to gain favor with Adekunle. Britain knows Kinjanja has great oil reserves and wants access to it. Therefore, the novel involves Britain wooing Sam Adekunle to gain favor with him, while Adekunle woos Dr. Alex Murray to gain favor with him. In the middle is Morgan Leafy who must bow to the wishes of his superior and his blackmailer. While all of this is happening, Morgan Leafy tries to make sense of his personal life. He pursues dalliances with different women. He loves Priscilla Fanshawe, Arthur's daughter, but circumstances have brought that relationship to a halt. Morgan also keeps a mistress on the side, Hazel, whom he frequents when his needs for physical intimacy arises. He is also having an affair with the aforementioned Celia Adekunle. Tragedy also interferes with Morgan's life in Nkongsamba. A female servant of the British High Commission, named Innocence, died from a lightning strike. Her body lies on the Commission grounds and Arthur Fanshawe charges Morgan with having the body removed. The problem is the native servants working at the Commission are blocking this removal, as they believe a particular tribal rite must take place to appease the god Shango, whom they believe is responsible for Innocence's death. A Good Man in Africa is a story of how Morgan Leafy must negotiate all the trials and tribulations in his life to regain control of his life; a life in a state of chaos because of choices he made to feed his own self-interests.



# Part One - Chapter 1

## Part One - Chapter 1 Summary

A Good Man in Africa by William Boyd opens with the protagonist Morgan Leafy in his office at the British High Commission building in the town of Nkongsamba, state capital of the Mid-Western region, Kinjanja, West Africa. He is a representative of the British Government in this country, being the First Secretary of the Commission. In his office, Morgan is talking to his subordinate, Richard Dalmire, the Second Secretary of the Commission. Richard Dalmire informs Morgan of his engagement to Priscilla Fanshawe. She is the daughter of the Deputy High Commissioner, Arthur Fanshawe, who is Morgan's boss. Morgan Leafy is upset because he is in love with Priscilla and cannot believe that she has forsaken him for Dalmire. Morgan feels he blew his chance with Priscilla because he did not devote enough time to her. He continues to think about his life in this impoverished country.

A political party leader in the country is blackmailing him. This politician is Professor Chief Sam Adekunle, Mid-West representative of the Kinjanjan National Party. The Professor wants Morgan to get to know Dr. Alex Murray. Adekunle needs Dr. Murray to do something and Morgan is Adekunle's tool for getting Dr. Murray to do this "something." Morgan recommended in a report to his superiors that Professor Chief Sam Adekunle and The Kinjanjan National Party are the most pro-British of the parties vying for the country's election. The election will occur between Christmas and New Years. Morgan receives a phone call from Chloe Fanshawe the Deputy High Commissioner's wife. She summons Morgan to meet her at the Fanshawe residence on the Commission complex. Morgan goes to meet her and when he arrives, he finds that Priscilla, the Fanshawe's daughter, is there. At the meeting, Chloe requests that Morgan play Father Christmas/Santa at a special Christmas event. The Duchess of Ripon will visit on Christmas Day and spend Christmas Night at the Deputy High Commission complex. The Duchess will officiate at a children's party. Chloe wants Morgan to be Father Christmas and Morgan feels he is lowering himself to play this role, not befitting of a British civil servant. However, with Priscilla present and excited about this, he agrees to do it. After the meeting, Morgan walks Priscilla out to her car. Morgan appeals to Priscilla to discuss her and Morgan's relationship, but she says that she doesn't want to.

## Part One - Chapter 1 Analysis

In the first chapter, the reader meets the protagonist Morgan Leafy, a representative of the British Government in this African country. Right away the reader can sense that Morgan is in a bind. Morgan thinks about how he is undergoing blackmail from a Kinjanjan politician. This foreshadows that big trouble is on the horizon for Morgan. The reader also learns much about Morgan Leafy's personal life in this chapter. There is a

sense that Morgan has deep feelings for Priscilla Fanshawe, however there are problems in this relationship, of Morgan's doing.

Therefore, the reader can see early on in the story that Morgan's problems stem from his wrong actions or lack of action. He got involved in something that is leading to his blackmailing. He also did not treasure and nurture his relationship with Priscilla and she has now left him for another man. The theme of this chapter is loss. Morgan has lost a love in his life to another. He has also lost control of his life, as he is now subject to blackmail and all that it entails for his personal life and his career.



## Part One - Chapter 2

### Part One - Chapter 2 Summary

Morgan is going to see his female companion, Hazel, who lives in a flat he provides for her in town. She is a woman whom Morgan visits just to satisfy his sexual needs. Morgan enters the apartment and it is dark. He flicks on the light and a black youth startles him. The youth is smoking and wearing sunglasses and introduces himself as Sonny. Sonny says it is time for him to go and he leaves. Morgan is fuming over this, wondering who this person is. Hazel is showering. Morgan waits and she eventually comes out to meet him. Morgan questions her on who this male personage is and Hazel says it's her brother. Morgan is not so sure. He tells Hazel he doesn't want Sonny here anymore. He then proceeds to have sex with Hazel. He sends Hazel out for more beer and proceeds to bathe, and when done he ponders his naked body. He sees that he is putting on too much weight. He says sex and beer are what he can count on in Africa. He also ponders his thinning reddish-brown hair. When Hazel returns, he lectures her about keeping the place tidy. Hazel dresses up and upon questioning by Morgan says she is going out to the Executive, a hotel. She says she cannot stay in all night. Morgan wants to go with her but the hotel is an unofficial campaign headquarters for Adekunle's party workers. Morgan is going to a club barbecue tonight in town, which Priscilla will also attend. Morgan says he will look in later on Hazel.

### Part One - Chapter 2 Analysis

In this chapter the reader begins to see that Morgan does not lead a clean, decent, moral type life. He has a mistress on the side and spends money to have her live in a flat where he can go to have sex with her whenever he feels like it. It's also obvious that she has sex with others besides Morgan, so theirs the issue of him playing fast and loose with his sexual health as well. In this chapter Morgan reveals to the reader how he feels about himself as a man. The reader begins to see that Morgan feels he is not physically attractive as he once was. He's heavier and is balding.

The reader also senses a certain need for control on Morgan's part. He desires to control Hazels' coming and goings. He wants her available to him when he needs her. He's not concerned with how happy she is. However, Hazel stands her ground and says she cannot stay in all night sitting around the flat. She stands up to Morgan. Morgan makes it clear he will check in on her. He wants to be in charge in this particular relationship. The reader senses this the way he orders Hazel to go out for more beer, and how he orders her to keep the place cleaner. A theme in this chapter is Decadence, decadent behavior on Morgan and Hazel's part. Morgan wants to continue to woo Priscilla while he's engaging in wanton sexual pleasure with another woman.



## Part One - Chapter 3

### Part One - Chapter 3 Summary

Morgan Leafy arrives at the club barbecue. Morgan runs into Dr. Alex Murray, who has brought his son to the disco there. Morgan invites Dr. Murray to play a round of golf later in the week. He has to do this, as Sam Adekunle wants Leafy to get to know Dr. Murray better, for reasons yet unrevealed at this point in the novel. Morgan knows he has to satisfy the wants and desires of the blackmailing Adekunle. While at the barbecue, Morgan runs into Lee Wan, a Malay biochemist. He is the person responsible for introducing Morgan to brothels in Nkongsamba. Morgan then runs into Richard Dalmire, Denzil Jones, and Priscilla Fanshawe. While chatting, a steward delivers a note to Morgan. The note requests that he meet Sam Adekunle in the small bar of this same club. Morgan, with trepidation, heads to the small bar for this meeting.

### Part One - Chapter 3 Analysis

In this chapter, the reader begins to get a sense of the blackmailing that Morgan Leafy is undergoing. He is to meet with Dr. Alex Murray, via a golf game, and then proceed to talk to him about something, at Sam Adekunle's behest. The reader knows that something is brewing here and this foreshadows future dealings between three men: Morgan, Adekunle, and Dr. Murray. Again, the reader learns more about the sexual proclivities of Morgan Leafy.

The reader sees he is free and easy when it comes to sexual dalliances in Africa. There is also more dramatic foreshadowing in this chapter as Morgan must now go meet Sam Adekunle who awaits him in an adjoining bar. The reader can see that Morgan's personal behavior and professional behavior may collide to cause him much grief.



# Part One - Chapter 4

## Part One - Chapter 4 Summary

Morgan meets Sam Adekunle and Adekunle explains that he wants Morgan to get to know the Doctor better and then bribe him. Adekunle tells Morgan not to bribe Murray with rhetoric only, but with ten thousand pounds sterling as well. Adekunle has an interest in a building project at the university in town. Adekunle is the Professor of Economics and Business Management at the university. The university wants to build a new 500-room hall of residence and cafeteria. The land that they want to build the hall on belongs to Adekunle. He has a desire to sell this land to the university. The university does not know that he owns it, as it is under another business name. It is not under Adekunle's name as this would be a conflict of interest.

Dr. Alex Murray is Chairman of the university committee called 'Buildings, Works, and Sites Committee.' They consider the viability of university building projects. Dr. Murray intends to file a negative report on the proposed site. Adekunle needs him to issue a positive report so he can sell the land and reap the profits. Adekunle's family owns much land around Nkongsamba. Because of his political career, he had to sell some of his family's land. Some of this land now borders the proposed site for the new hall of residence. Adekunle was Chairman of the Nkongsamba Chamber of Commerce. He felt it was necessary to sell the land to the Nkongsamba Town Council. The land he sold two years ago is now the Nkongsamba municipal rubbish dump. Dr. Murray consulted the town planning records and found that in another year the rubbish will be piling up against the walls of the university buildings. Adekunle has less influence now on the Town Council since entering politics. He had to abandon his more influential positions on the Council. He cannot pursue recommending the removal of the dump. Adekunle needs the land sale to go through for election expenses. If he wins, he will also need significant cash reserves. Adekunle wants this issue with Dr. Murray settled before the coming elections. He also wants the issue settled before the next meeting of the Committee.

## Part One - Chapter 4 Analysis

Chapter four of Part One of this novel reveals why Sam Adekunle wants to bribe Dr. Alex Murray. The reader learns Adekunle's stake in the university land, and why Dr. Murray doesn't want to issue a good report - the town dump will encroach right up next to the hall of residence and the cafeteria. What the reader does not learn yet is why Adekunle is able to blackmail Morgan Leafy. How did Morgan get into a blackmail position? This foreshadows a future explanation. The reader senses that the full story will come out as to why Morgan is in this tough position and why Adekunle has this control over him. What did Morgan do to Adekunle that Adekunle is using him this way? This propels the story forward nicely. The reader also learns much about Sam Adekunle. The reader learns how he is a manipulator who seeks to get his way through various





Machiavellian means. The theme of this chapter is Dishonesty. The reader sees a dishonest politician engaging in bribery to further his ends. The reader also sees Morgan Leafy willing to engage in bribery to save his skin, even at the expense of another man, Dr. Murray.



# Part One - Chapter 5

## Part One - Chapter 5 Summary

Morgan Leafy returns home during a major downpour. Morgan ponders how he will present his bribe to Dr. Murray. He is appalled that as an official of Her Majesty's Government's Diplomatic Service that he is in this corrupt situation. He then reminisces about home, his mother, her long-time boyfriend Reg, Jill his sister, and his brother-in-law Tony. He loves them but feels, that these people back home are all so ordinary. Morgan also thinks about his father. His father died when Morgan was fifteen. To Morgan, his father is now an indistinct enigmatic figure. Morgan also thinks of his own character personally, and wonders how he became such a selfish, fat, misanthropic. He thinks of Priscilla's engagement to Dalmire. He thinks about the Father Christmas fiasco, where he will have to dress up as Santa. He thinks of the Adekunle/Dr. Murray situation. Morgan continues to think about his selfishness as a human being as well.

## Part One - Chapter 5 Analysis

The revealing of more of Morgan's background occurs in this chapter. The reader learns of his loved ones back home; how he cares for them but feels they lead uninspired lives. The reader also learns that Morgan lost his father when he was fifteen. There is a sense that maybe this affected him and has led him to conduct his life in the manner in which he is now doing. The reader also understands more about how Morgan really sees himself as a human being. He is unhappy that he has compromised his government position through the blackmail issue. The reader sees that Morgan sees himself as a selfish individual. The theme of this chapter is Regret. Morgan regrets agreeing to be Father Christmas/Santa; he regrets that he is involved in bribery. He also regrets losing Priscilla to Richard Dalmire.



## Part One - Chapter 6

### Part One - Chapter 6 Summary

Morgan receives a call from Arthur Fanshawe. It is a summons to come to the Commission complex, as one of the servants at the Commission was struck by lightning during the storm, and has died. The victim's name is Innocence. Innocence's daughter, Maria, who is about fifteen years old, also works at the Commission. The other servants do not want the body, lying on the ground, removed. They believe one of the gods, called Shango, is angry, and is responsible for the tragedy. Consequently, the other servants, natives of Africa, believe that a Shango ritual needs performing to quell the anger of the Shango god. Morgan has received instruction from Arthur Fanshawe to get the body removed off the premises. Fanshawe has concerns because the Duchess of Ripon will be visiting the Commission and he feels it's inappropriate to have a dead body on the premises.

Morgan Leafy calls Dr. Murray and his University Health Service to have Innocence's body removed. Dr. Murray refuses to help saying it is out of his jurisdiction, that rules forbid him to operate outside of the universities boundaries. Morgan then lashes out at him. He says he doesn't care about Murray's rules and he calls Murray a sanctimonious Scottish bastard. Morgan now realizes he blew his chance at having a golf date with Dr. Murray, where he wanted to present his bribe to him. Dr. Murray is Morgan's personal doctor as well. This harms their doctor/patient relationship. Morgan is so upset that Dr. Murray will not help him in the predicament that he now wishes to ruin Dr. Murray's reputation.

### Part One - Chapter 6 Analysis

Tragedy strikes the British High Commission in Nkongsamba and Morgan Leafy has orders to fix the situation. We now see Morgan confronting death. The reader gets a sense of how Morgan acts under pressure from his superiors. He must get Innocence's body removed. However, he must be sensitive to the needs and beliefs of the native Africans. He calls Dr. Alex Murray for help. He is outraged when Dr. Murray reveals that he cannot help him. He lashes out at Dr. Murray and even shoots cutting ethnic barbs at him. The reader sees that Morgan reacts with venom when he is under pressure and feeling cornered. This chapter foreshadows how Morgan may deal with other tough situations that may occur over the blackmailing situation. The reader also sees some of Morgan's vindictive character as he now seeks to destroy Dr. Murray's reputation. The theme of this chapter is Fear, and how Morgan reacts in fear, when things get out of control in his life.



# Part Two - Chapters 1-5

## Part Two - Chapters 1-5 Summary

### Chapter 1

As Part Two of the novel opens the reader finds the story told in flashback as it relates events prior to chapter One. Morgan thinks about his first meeting with Dr. Alex Murray. He visited the Doctor, after Lee Wan told him not to use condoms in his dalliances. He told Morgan to go and get oral contraceptives for Hazel from Dr. Murray. Morgan does, but Dr. Murray won't give oral contraceptives to him. He tells Morgan to use a sheath instead and lectures Morgan on being careful with his amorous escapades. Morgan leaves Dr. Murray's office outraged at this treatment. He then goes to the airport to pick up Arthur Fanshawe and his family. They are flying in from a trip and are bringing Priscilla their daughter. Morgan will meet her for the very first time. When the Fanshawe's arrive, Morgan beholds Priscilla and he immediately feels she's the one he's been waiting for all his life.

### Chapter 2

Back at the Commission offices, Arthur Fanshawe tells Morgan that some people in the British Foreign Office have concerns as to who will win the coming elections in Kinjanja. The country's oil reserves are believed to be more substantial than originally estimated. For the Kinjanjan National Party (KNP), Sam Adekunle is the one responsible for foreign policy and international affairs. It is in Britain's interest to get close with him. The Commission has a new staff member coming on. This is to free up Morgan Leafy to concentrate his efforts on Adekunle and the elections. Fanshawe wants Morgan to learn all he can about the KNP and Adekunle. He then wants Morgan to write all of this knowledge up in a report. Fanshawe would like Morgan to get into Adekunle's social circle and then casually let him know that the Commission is on his side. Fanshawe then talks about Priscilla. He tells Morgan that Priscilla has had a setback in her personal relationships. Her engagement to a Marine ended. Fanshawe wants Morgan to lift Priscilla's spirits by coming around occasionally to take Priscilla out to show her around the place. Morgan says he will, as he's smitten with Priscilla.

### Chapter 3

Morgan is out with Priscilla Fanshawe. They are at the Ambassador Hotel and are in the car park there. Morgan becomes amorous with Priscilla in his car. She's not interested in this right now. Morgan touches Priscilla's breast and is immediately rebuffed. Morgan begins the drive home with Priscilla and when Morgan arrives at the gates of the Commission, Priscilla tells him she's not ready to go home yet. Morgan invites her back to his place. Back at Morgan's place, Priscilla relates the Marine story, the broken engagement, to Morgan. She tells Morgan she broke off this engagement with the Marine. This is different from her father's version of the story. Morgan then takes



Priscilla home. When he returns home, he goes to the washroom and feels intense burning sensations in his genitals.

#### Chapter 4

Morgan attends a film-screening event at the Commission complex. Plenty of guests attend and Sam Adekunle and his wife Celia are among them. Two political rivals of Adekunle also attend. One is Femi Robinson, a Marxist. He's a local representative of the People's Party of Kinjanja. The other political rival is Chief Mabegun. He is governor of the Mid-West State and head of the Mid-West Branch of the ruling United Party of Kinjanjan People. Morgan tries to engage Adekunle in political conversation. Adekunle brushes Morgan off and goes to sit and watch the movie. Morgan walks out of the room and runs into Celia. She knows that Morgan wants to talk to her husband. She invites Morgan to Adekunle's birthday party, which will take place next week.

#### Chapter 5

The film event is over at the Commission and the guests leave. Arthur Fanshawe is happy that Morgan is going to Adekunle's birthday party. Morgan tells Fanshawe that Adekunle himself invited him to the birthday party, even though Celia his wife did. Morgan meets Errol and Nancy Wagner, an expatriate couple attending the party. Morgan runs into Priscilla and Priscilla's pouting as Morgan paid little attention to her at the film-screening event. He tries to smooth things by inviting her fishing next week. He kisses her but she isn't reciprocating.

## Part Two - Chapters 1-5 Analysis

In this section of the book, the reader learns more about Morgan Leafy's relationship with Dr. Murray. The reader sees that Morgan visited Dr. Murray concerning getting contraceptives for Hazel, and that Dr. Murray lectured him as one would a schoolchild. The reader also learns of Morgan's first meeting with Priscilla; how she immediately had an effect on him. The reader gets glimpses of Morgan's personality here, how he jumps into situations feet first with great emotion. In this section of the book the reader begins to understand more of the political situation in Kinjanja; how this relates to British concerns. Arthur Fanshawe reveals his goals regarding Sam Adekunle, how he wants to get in good with him as Britain has sights on Kinjanjan oil reserves, and it behooves Britain to be on the good side of Adekunle should he win the election. In addition, the reader also understands better the Priscilla Fanshawe character and her personal life and loves. The reader sees now how Morgan met her, and how he will get to know her better as he shows her around Nkongsamba.

When Morgan does take her out, the reader sees his aggressive and selfish character in action. He immediately wants to pursue sex with Priscilla. There's no wasting time with Morgan on wooing her. When she rebuffs him, he immediately begins to ponder her negative characteristics. The reader sees here that it's all about Morgan and what he desires, his selfishness coming through loud and clear. There is also foreshadowing in



this section of the book. Morgan goes to the washroom and has painful burning urination. This foreshadows health problems for Morgan, whether from his sexual behavior or something else. The reader senses he will have more troubles ahead. The reader also sees how quickly Morgan falls in love as he thinks about Priscilla as he lies in his bed.

At the film screening the reader learns that Sam Adekunle has two political rivals to contend with in the elections. The reader also learns that Adekunle is a difficult man to deal with as he brushes Morgan Leafy off. The reader then sees that Celia Adekunle is coming into play in the story. She takes the initiative and invites Morgan to Sam's birthday party. She knows that Morgan wants to meet with her husband. There is a sense here that Celia does take matters into her own hands when needed. There is a hint here that she has some kind of design on Morgan, however, the reader does not yet know whether they are amorous ones. More of Morgan's character comes through in this section of the book. He lies to Arthur Fanshawe, telling him that Sam Adekunle invited him to his birthday party, when in fact Celia Adekunle did the inviting. The reader also sees how Morgan did not take care of his relationship with Priscilla, how he ignored her at the film-screening event so he could pursue his duties to better his situation concerning Adekunle bribing him, and Fanshawe wanting him to get closer to Adekunle.

The reader can now see that Adekunle will be a thorn in Morgan's side and that Priscilla is someone who needs his attention. It's apparent that Morgan has issues on all sides of him and that he cannot always deal with these stresses properly. A theme prevalent in these chapters is Desire. Morgan has a desire to save his professional position through obeying Adekunle. He also has a desire for love, and sees Priscilla Fanshawe as a woman whom he can love, despite her faults. He also has a desire to do what his superior Arthur Fanshawe requires of him. Overall his desire is for his life to be less chaotic and for issues to have happy resolutions so he can get back to a normal way of life in this African country.



## Part Two - Chapters 6 - 10

### Part Two - Chapters 6 - 10 Summary

#### Chapter 6

Morgan and Priscilla go fishing in the region of Olokomeji. As they fish, Priscilla's pole rattles and Morgan grabs it and reels in a big fish. Priscilla encourages him to kill it. Morgan kills it by bashing its head on the rocks. He then presents it to her. After lunch, Morgan attempts to make love to Priscilla as they relax. She has loosened up a bit. She allows Morgan to bring down the top of her swimsuit. Morgan is about to disrobe completely but she stops him and reveals that it is her menstrual time.

#### Chapter 7

Morgan Leafy arrives at Sam Adekunle's birthday party. Morgan and Arthur Fanshawe's plan is to offer Adekunle a trip to London. They will wine and dine him in Britain. Muller reveals that Adekunle owns the biggest construction company in the Mid-West region - Ussman Danda Ltd. Muller also reveals that Adekunle's father owned virtually all of Nkongsamba before the British took it away. It was a compulsory purchase affair, prior to the war. Muller tells Morgan that Adekunle's KNP party will win if the Army lets them. It seems the army still has much say as to what takes place in the country. Morgan gets his meeting with Adekunle. Morgan makes his proposal to him, presenting the opportunity about coming to London. Adekunle laughs this off as he's already received invitations to Washington, Paris, Bonn, and Rome. Morgan feels embarrassed at the plan Fanshawe hatched. Adekunle then leaves Morgan. Morgan orders a drink from the bar, cannot get ice for his drink, and is snippy with the bar person and Celia. He's upset at the way events have unfolded and lets out a verbal tirade lambasting Kinjanja and all that's wrong with the way things operate in the country. Celia feels hurt by his curtness. Morgan leaves and goes to Hazel. After having sex with Hazel, he feels a significant burning sensation while urinating.

#### Chapter 8

Back at home, Morgan's servant, Friday, doesn't want to wash Morgan's underwear when he does the household laundry. There is some sort of discharge in them that is revolting to the servant. Morgan goes to the university clinic. He demands to see Dr. Alex Murray. He is going against protocol of senior staff scheduled for visits at predetermined times. Dr. Murray does check him over, though. The Doctor tells him to see the 'sister' and leave a discharge sample. Morgan does this. He then goes back to the High Commission office. At the Commission, Morgan meets with Arthur Fanshawe. He tells Fanshawe that Sam Adekunle says he will think about the trip to London. Fanshawe's upset that Adekunle is not jumping at the chance to go to London. Morgan doesn't explain the whole discussion he had with Adekunle at the birthday party. The project to woo Adekunle for British interests has the code name Project Kingpin. Back at



his desk, Morgan ponders the lack of compassion exhibited by Dr. Murray as he checked Morgan over. While pondering, Morgan receives a phone call from Priscilla, who invites him to a club dance.

## Chapter 9

Morgan picks Priscilla up, to take her to the club party. At the party, Morgan makes a pass at Priscilla. She doesn't recoil this time. They dance and Priscilla begins to let her guard down and acquiesce to Morgan. Priscilla decides she wants to leave the party. Morgan feels he has a chance to bed Priscilla. Before they leave the club, he goes to the washroom to check his discharge problem. He finds he has no discharge or pain right now in his genitals. He leaves the washroom and bumps into Dr. Murray, who's also attending the club event. Murray informs Morgan that Morgan has gonorrhea. Murray finishes preaching abstinence to Morgan and tells him to come to the clinic the next day as originally planned. Morgan and Priscilla leave, and when they get in the car, she aggressively French kisses him. Morgan, in his mind, blames Hazel for his gonorrhea because she has had sex with others.

Morgan and Priscilla arrive at his place and once inside, Priscilla starts stripping. Morgan tells her to stop. He embarrasses her by denying her aggressive advances. She demands he take her home. He doesn't tell her about his gonorrhea. She thinks he has chickened out - all talk and no action. Morgan takes her home. Morgan blames Dr. Murray's timing for his predicament. He would have gone through with his plans and made love to Priscilla if Dr. Murray didn't meet him outside the washroom and inform him of his gonorrhea. Morgan knows he cannot tell Priscilla he didn't want to make love to her because he wanted their relationship to mature. He previously tried to make love to her on the fishing trip, so that excuse won't wash. Again, he knows she sees him as a scared gigolo type.

## Chapter 10

The next morning Morgan proceeds to his appointment with Dr. Murray. Murray tells Morgan he needs penicillin and four weeks of abstinence. The Doctor wants, as the law requires, the names of Morgan's sexual partners over the last two months. Murray says Hazel will need treatment and her sexual partners traced. Dr. Murray won't deviate from the rules for Morgan, no matter the embarrassment Morgan may face. The Doctor will also not treat Hazel privately. Morgan doesn't want to go to the clinic and have his name passed along. Morgan ponders his hatred of Dr. Murray. He feels that Murray makes him feel inferior, and that the man lacks compassion. Morgan goes to see Hazel and slaps her in the face. She wails in tears and Morgan feels sorrow for his actions. However, he feels like slapping her again when she confesses to three part-time lovers. Morgan then takes her to a clinic. Hazel gives the name of her three lovers. The attending doctor wants Morgan's name. Obviously, Dr. Murray alerted this clinic, but did not give Morgan's name to them. Consequently, Morgan says his name is Denzil Jones.





## Part Two - Chapters 6 - 10 Analysis

In this section of Part two of the novel the reader gets further insights into Morgan's character. He is a man who selfishly pursues his desires, at his peril. When he takes Priscilla fishing it is not to fish per se, but rather a way to try to make love to her. The reader sees how he plans and manipulates situations for his advantage. He plans to disrobe in front of Priscilla to encourage her to want to pursue lovemaking. She's having none of this however, as it's her menstrual time. When Priscilla catches a fish, and asks Morgan to kill it, the reader gets a vivid glimpse of the latent anger and violence inside Morgan. He wholeheartedly bashes the fish against a rock to kill it and presents the battered bleeding dead fish to Priscilla. This foreshadows how anger may affect future actions of Morgan as he faces pressure situations.

In chapter 6 the reader learns more about the political climate in Kinjanja. Sam Adekunle has involvements in other businesses. In addition, the army still has considerable influence in the country and may affect what happens with the elections. There is also more revealing about Celia Adekunle in this section of the book, and the reader learns that she originally came from England. The reader also learns that Morgan and Fanshawe's plan is not working out as Adekunle brushes off their invitation to go to London, England. Many other world capitals are courting Adekunle so the British have to get in line. The reader senses Morgan's frustration at the plan (later revealed to be titled Project Kingpin) not going according to script. Adekunle will be a difficult person to woo to the British side.

The reader also gets a further indication of Morgan's character as he lashes out at the bartender for not having ice, gets snippy with Celia, and then proceeds to unleash his pent up emotions with vigorous sex with his mistress Hazel. There is also, once again, that burning urination that Morgan feels. The reader knows his health situation has not improved and this foreshadows more problems for Morgan. He takes Priscilla to a club dance and when there runs into Dr. Murray outside the washroom. Murray informs Morgan that Morgan has gonorrhoea. The reader in this section of the book gets greater glimpses of Morgan's character when things are going wrong. He cannot have sex with Priscilla now, as he must abstain from sex. He was hoping to bed Priscilla after the club dance. He blames Dr. Murray for his timing, informing him about his disease just before he is about to take Priscilla to his place for lovemaking. Morgan also blames Hazel for giving him the disease.

Morgan feels trapped by circumstances. He takes Priscilla to his place, as she is no longer rebuffing his sexual advances. However, he knows he cannot make love to her until he is better. He also feels trapped in his situation because Dr. Murray is playing by the rules in treating him and Hazel, and requiring proper protocol be followed for the control of the gonorrhoea - names being named and more. Morgan's temper shows when he slaps Hazel upon confronting her over the gonorrhoea. He has pent up anger because he knows Priscilla is upset with him because he would not make love to her. He cannot tell her why, as she would be disgusted with him having gonorrhoea. The theme of these chapters is Loss. Morgan is losing the healthy function of his body. He is losing Priscilla

and love. He is also losing the respect of his Doctor. In addition, he is losing control of the project to woo Sam Adekunle the British Government's way.



## Part Two - Chapters 11 - 15

### Part Two - Chapters 11 - 15 Summary

#### Chapter 11

Morgan goes to the airport to pick up the "new man," Richard Dalmire. Morgan takes Dalmire to meet the Fanshawe's. Morgan has been steering clear of the family since his embarrassing incident with Priscilla. At the meeting with the Fanshawe's, Priscilla is friendly to Morgan and Mr. Fanshawe is affable. Mrs. Fanshawe is icily polite to Morgan. Morgan ends up alone with Priscilla. She doesn't want to talk about the incident at Morgan's place where she wanted to pursue the physical side of their relationship and he rebuffed her. She says that the incident was her fault too and seems unconcerned about it. Morgan tries to explain why he couldn't go through with having sex with her but Priscilla brushes him off. She says they will pretend it never happened. She further declines his offer to go out that night for a drink. As Morgan and Dalmire leave the Fanshawe's and drive back, Dalmire informs him that Priscilla invited him out to the club tonight.

#### Chapter 12

The next morning, Adekunle calls Morgan at his office. He wants to meet Morgan at the Adekunle residence. Morgan thinks about how the ruling UPKP party is corrupt and how the British government (based partly on Morgan's report) feels that the only viable alternative is Adekunle and the KNP. Morgan arrives at Adekunle's house and Celia Adekunle greets Morgan and tells him that Sam will be a bit late. Morgan and Celia have tea. She catches Morgan looking down her dress when she bends over. She then catches him scoping out her tanned body. They talk, and she says she has nothing to do around here but spend time tanning. She does spend mornings at the club in town. She says that maybe she'll see Morgan at the club some morning this week, tossing a hint his way. Sam then arrives for his meeting with Morgan and Celia leaves.

After the meeting, Morgan meets Arthur Fanshawe and tells him that Adekunle has all these demands. If they meet the demands, he will forgo visiting Paris, Washington, and Rome. Morgan goes down to the club after the meeting to meet Celia. He swims there with her and they meet there for three consecutive days. As they talk at the pool, Celia confides that she and Sam have a token marriage. She reveals that Sam hardly talks to her. At one of their meetings, Celia says to Morgan that they don't have to meet at the club. They can go for a drive one afternoon. He takes this as a hint she wants physical intimacy. He turns her down because he must still abstain from sex. They agree to meet still for swims. One day as they swim at the club, Celia exposes her breast. All of a sudden, Morgan also sees that Priscilla and her mother are at the pool. He approaches them. It's an icy meeting. Celia witnesses it and wonders what Morgan did to offend Mrs. Fanshawe, but he doesn't explain. Celia also asks Morgan why he has an interest in Sam. He explains that the British are getting friendly because they believe the KNP



will win the election. Morgan explains about Sam wanting to go to London for two weeks, needing two tickets. Celia didn't know about the trip. Therefore, the second ticket is not for her. She says Sam won't let her leave Africa. She hasn't been home for three years. She said she'd bolt if Sam let her leave the country.

### Chapter 13

Morgan and Celia meet to make love in a teak forest. Afterwards, Morgan goes to a meeting with Arthur Fanshawe. Fanshawe says things are going well with Project Kingpin. There's talk of the UK substantially increasing investment in Kinjanja and they will buy more oil and gas from the country. Fanshawe wants Morgan to learn more about Sam Adekunle's ambitions. Fanshawe also hints that he knows Morgan is seeing Celia Adekunle. Mrs. Fanshawe obviously related the encounter with Morgan and Celia at the club. After the meeting, Morgan brings Hazel to the new flat he secured for her. It is above a boutique and fabric shop in town. Mr. Selim is the proprietor of the flat and owns the boutique and fabric shop. Morgan does not want Mr. Selim to know who he is -his connection with the High Commission. Morgan ponders how he has Hazel and Celia now. He feels Celia wants him just for who he is.

### Chapter 14

Morgan and Celia meet again in the teak forest and make love. Celia suggests later, as they drink at a hotel, that they go back to her place as Sam is away and will not be home for another day. They crave a bed, not the back seat of his Peugeot anymore. They go to Celia's place and make love. She lets Morgan know that this is not the first time she has had these affairs. Morgan leaves later, and as he is leaving Sam Adekunle comes home and catches him. This is where the bribery of Morgan happens. Adekunle wants Morgan to get to know Dr. Murray better. If he doesn't, Adekunle will let Arthur Fanshawe know that Morgan is having an affair with Celia. This will throw the Kingpin Project into disarray.

### Chapter 15

Morgan thinks about the other things Sam Adekunle wants from him. Adekunle will go to London shortly as the British want him to, and he says Morgan cannot connect with Celia again. In addition, Celia is not to know that her Sam knows of her affair. Morgan has to get in good with Dr. Murray at the behest of Adekunle. Morgan becomes a melancholy homebody since being caught by Adekunle. He drinks at home more now, as well. He makes less frequent visits to Hazel. He fears that if caught there that Adekunle will expose this side of Morgan's life as well as the affair with Celia.

## Part Two - Chapters 11 - 15 Analysis

In this section of the novel the reader senses the deterioration of the relationship between Morgan and Priscilla. The fact that Morgan rebuffed her sexual advances when she was finally ready for an intimate relationship has set their partnership on the road to ruin. In Chapter 12 of this section, the reader gets a further sense of Morgan's desires



as he arrives for his meeting with Sam Adekunle at his residence. Morgan begins to eye lustily Celia Adekunle's body, and she catches him doing so. We also see more of the designs that Celia has on Morgan. She reveals her desire for him in the way that she invites him to join her for swims at the club in town weekday mornings.

Celia reveals more of her character in this section of the novel. She's unhappy in her marriage with Sam Adekunle. They never talk, and she says that she's bored in Africa and has nothing to do but lie around and tan. She reveals her wily ways when she exposes her breast to Morgan at the club where they meet to swim together. She is pursuing some sort of relationship with Morgan outside her marriage and she is now in dangerous territory and drawing Morgan into even deeper trouble. There is also foreshowing of significant trouble for Morgan as Chloe Fanshawe and Priscilla run into Morgan and Celia at the club. This does not look good for a British representative to be cavorting with a married woman who is also the wife of a politician the British are trying to woo.

Morgan's situation is spiraling out of control. He makes love to Celia in a teak forest and eventually in her bed at her and Sam's home, as Sam is away and will not return home until the next day. However, he comes home early and catches Morgan in his dalliance with Celia. This is where the reader learns of how Adekunle blackmails Morgan. He will now use Morgan for his own designs. If Morgan does not acquiesce to his demands, then Adekunle will report to Fanshawe that Morgan made love to Celia. This will ruin Morgan's career, and Project Kingpin. A theme that comes through in this section of the book is Selfishness. Morgan wants Priscilla and he wants uninhibited sex with Hazel. He wants love and the physical passion of a relationship with Celia. He has three women with whom he is trying to achieve his desires and there is chaos in all three relationships. The theme of Fear rears its ugly head as well in this section. Morgan fears Adekunle reporting him to Fanshawe over his affair with Celia. He also fears Adekunle finding out about his having Hazel on the side and reporting this to Fanshawe. He also fears losing his job and never patching things up with Priscilla.



# Part Three - Chapters 1-5

## Part Three - Chapters 1-5 Summary

### Chapter 1

Arthur Fanshawe and Morgan Leafy ponder the situation of the dead servant, Innocence. The removal of her body from the Commission grounds is yet to take place. The ancient tribal rite still needs performing to appease the Shango god, according to the natives who work at the Commission. Morgan explains to Fanshawe that Dr. Murray does not have jurisdiction to step outside the university gates to remove Innocence's body. Morgan further explains that the Ademola Clinic will take her body if they can get it down to her. Morgan wonders whether he should let Sam Adekunle know the disastrous turn of events concerning his (Morgan's) relationship with Dr. Murray. With Morgan's blow up at Dr. Murray, their all-important golf date is not looking like it will occur. Morgan then decides against letting Adekunle know anything right now concerning the Dr. Murray situation. Morgan also still has to deal with the removal of Innocence's body on the Commission grounds. Isaac, Ezekiel, and Joseph meet Morgan on the Commission grounds, and tell him to get a fetish priest here to deal with Innocence.

### Chapter 2

The next morning Morgan goes to the Commission and there's a demonstration there. Running it is Femi Robinson, the rep of the Marxist-Leninist People's Party of Kinjanja. They have signs that say "UK Stay out of Kinjanjan." Femi knows that Adekunle is receiving the royal treatment in London. Morgan plays dumb about this. Femi wants the British Government to quit interfering in the internal politics of Kinjanja. Arthur Fanshawe calls for information on the protests. Concerning the protests, Fanshawe says the official line is to say nothing and do nothing. If Sam Adekunle wins the election, things will be fine for the UK. If the UPKP get in, then relations between the two countries will be rocky because of the UK backing Adekunle. Fanshawe wants Morgan to work on getting a denial from Adekunle that the UK is involved in their internal politics, so it looks good in the press. Mrs. Fanshawe meets up with Morgan and she has Morgan go and try on the Father Christmas outfit. Then she suddenly leaves the room acting strange. Morgan sees it's because his pant's zipper is open and he has exposed himself, accidentally, in front of her.

### Chapter 3

Adekunle wants to meet with Morgan to discuss Morgan's meeting with Dr. Murray. Morgan tells him there are problems with this planned meeting. Morgan, at his meeting with Adekunle, tells him he cannot meet Dr. Murray because he had an argument with him. Adekunle says Morgan cannot get out of their agreement; he has to meet Dr. Murray to propose the offer before the 29th of the month. If Morgan doesn't go ahead with the meeting, Adekunle will tell Fanshawe about Morgan making love to his wife.



Celia Adekunle needs a high representative of the British Crown to make the proposal (bribe) to Dr. Murray. In this way, he may take the bribe because he sees supposedly respectable organizations indulging in a little graft themselves. Adekunle wants Morgan to find a way to approach Dr. Murray so Murray won't issue a negative report. In this way, Adekunle will be able to sell his land to the university. Morgan hopes and believes Dr. Murray will accept the bribe. Morgan wants to see Dr. Murray fall from his pedestal. Morgan asks Adekunle to persuade the Kinjanjan golf professional at the club to partner Morgan with Dr. Murray in the Boxing Day Golf Tournament. Adekunle says he will arrange this so that Morgan can make his proposal to Dr. Murray.

#### Chapter 4

Arthur Fanshawe wants to see Innocence's body, and then recoils when he does. He demands harshly that Morgan get the body removed from the Commission premises. However, Fanshawe doesn't agree with the two-day fetish ceremony. He wants Innocence out now. He doesn't want to pay for the fetish priest ceremony, nor loan money to Innocence's daughter Maria to pay for it. Morgan heads home and when he gets there, Femi Robinson is protesting in front of Morgan's place. Femi says although the High Commission apologized about meeting with Adekunle, it isn't enough.

#### Chapter 5

Morgan pressures his servant, Friday, to help him get Innocence's body in the middle of the night so they can transfer it to the Ademola mortuary. In the meantime, a poet who is supposed to visit the Commission as a guest of Morgan's arrives at the same time Morgan and Friday are spiriting Innocence's body away. In the dark, Morgan thinks the man is an intruder and tackles him. Friday thinks the man is the Shango god. The poet, Greg Bilbow, after the misunderstanding, is invited by Morgan to stay at his place for the night. They drive there, with Innocence's body in the trunk, although the poet doesn't know this. Morgan is hoping to get her body to Ademola mortuary the next day.

## Part Three - Chapters 1-5 Analysis

In Part three of the novel, the reader sees in the first five chapters that Morgan has not dealt successfully with his problems. It seems his solutions are as chaotic as his problems. This gives an indication of the way he runs his life in a haphazard uncontrolled manner. It's obvious in his sexual escapades, which lead him into troubles in other areas of his life. There would be no blackmailing by Adekunle if Morgan avoided sleeping with Celia Adekunle. Adekunle could blackmail Morgan over nothing, if Morgan had resisted Celia's advances.

The reader sees that Morgan's character itself is the prime reason for his problems. Morgan does not think through problems and difficulties with a reasoned approach. He makes rash decisions in his professional and personal life. The novel shows that a person does indeed reap what they sow and must live with the consequences. While a humorous novel, it is also a morality tale, which shows that decent behavior, and wise

decisions in life can help one avoid a multitude of problems. As events come to a head in this third section of the novel, this is ever more evident.

The novel brings out the themes of Greed, and Lust. Morgan lusts after sexual escapades, Sam Adekunle lusts after power, and is greedy for a big land sale to finance his political motives. Arthur Fanshawe is greedy for a spot at Sam Adekunle's political table to further British interests. Femi Robinson lusts after power for his political party.





## Part Three - Chapters 6 -10

### Part Three - Chapters 6 -10 Summary

#### Chapter 6

On Christmas day, Morgan receives a professional golf bag and clubs from Sam Adekunle. Adekunle has arranged the golf match between Morgan and Dr. Murray. Morgan receives a phone call from Arthur Fanshawe who's upset that Innocence's body is removed. It seems the servants at the Commission went on strike upon removal of her body, as they fear the Shango god will be angry because of this action. This is a disaster as the Duchess will be arriving tomorrow and they need the servants to work. Morgan gets ready for his duties as Santa/Father Christmas. Before he leaves for the club, he receives a phone call from Celia, who's crying, saying she needs Morgan. Morgan performs his Santa duties well at the club. Fanshawe introduces Morgan to the Duchess. Morgan still has Innocence's body in the car. Fanshawe tells him to have it back on the Commission grounds by tomorrow so the servants will end their strike. Later, Morgan sets a diversionary fire in a rubbish heap near the servant's quarters. The servants go to check it out and Morgan, still in his Santa outfit, puts Innocence's body back. Morgan goes into the Commission building guest bathroom to change out of the Santa outfit and clean up. He hears the Duchess coming so he hides in the shower. This is her guest bathroom for the night. The Duchess decides to take a shower. She pulls aside the shower curtain. Morgan says "Hi", gets out, and climbs out the window, still dressed as Santa. The Duchess is speechless, as she sees Santa, and Morgan sees her naked.

#### Chapter 7

Morgan Leafy golfs with Dr. Alex Murray, who has brought his son along. While golfing, Morgan presents his bribe to Dr. Murray, proposing a pay-off, if Murray issues a good report for Sam Adekunle, so Adekunle can garner a profit from selling his land to the university. Dr. Murray refuses to accept the bribe. Morgan sees his plans and career falling apart. He cries and then faints, under the pressure of all that he is dealing with. Dr. Murray turns Morgan down because he says he wants to see justice and fairness in the world. Dr. Murray doesn't feel that Adekunle should cheat his way into money at other people's expense. Murray tells Morgan to go to Fanshawe and lay everything on the line - to save his job. He tells him to go to him before Sam Adekunle does. Morgan Leafy should do this prior to January 3, when Dr. Murray will meet with the Buildings, Works, and Sites Committee and issue his negative report against Sam Adekunle.

#### Chapter 8

Morgan now spends time at Hazel's to stay under the radar. He stays there throughout Election Day. On reflection, Morgan feels no real animosity towards Dr. Murray - even though his fate is in his hands. He feels that Dr. Murray is acting nobly and ethical.



Morgan tells Hazel he may receive punishment and have to go back to England. She doesn't shed tears, but says she doesn't want him to go. On the 28th, Morgan goes back to his home. Bilbow the visiting poet is leaving so Morgan takes him to the airport. Today is vote-counting day and the KNP wins a small majority. Sam Adekunle calls Morgan that afternoon. He doesn't want Morgan to bribe Dr. Murray. Adekunle doesn't know that it's too late now to change course, the damage has occurred. Morgan tells Adekunle that he hasn't yet, even though he has. Adekunle has other plans and wants to meet Morgan tonight. There will be a victory celebration at Adekunle's house.

## Chapter 9

Morgan decides he will pay for the fetish priest ceremony and funeral for Innocence. As he prepares to go to Adekunle's party his servant, Friday tells him to be careful in Nkongsamba tomorrow as there may be a coup d'état. Morgan plans to tell Fanshawe all - and then resign. He doesn't want to give Adekunle the chance to reveal Morgan's indiscretions. He also doesn't want to give Fanshawe the satisfaction of firing him. He feels he needs to see Celia; the one whom he feels is the one true love in his life. On the way to Adekunle's party at the university, Morgan picks up Femi Robinson. Femi's group is protesting the presence of riot police on the university grounds and the planned closure next semester. Morgan tells Femi he's going to Adekunle's party and says he will put in a good word for Femi to the "Foreign Minister". He then realizes he made a mistake telling Femi that Adekunle's having a party here.

At the party, Denzil Jones shows up and shows Morgan the Ademola clinic bill for Hazel's treatments - in Denzil's name. Geraldine, Denzil's wife, saw the bill and refused to accompany Denzil to the party. Morgan then hears that the students have taken over the administration block on the grounds and that the riot police are confronting the situation. Morgan then meets Adekunle in his study. Adekunle tells Morgan that he has a "cousin" in the Senate office who will intercept Dr. Murray's negative report; it will be misplaced. Morgan feels sorry for Dr. Murray. He feels Murray is too small of a man to fight corruption. The Adekunle's of the world always come out on top. Morgan runs into Celia Adekunle. They go and talk in a guest bedroom. She's crying and informs Morgan that she's leaving Sam and pleads for Morgan's help to secure her a British visa. Now Morgan realizes he was all part of her grand plan to get out of Kinjanja. She used him, enquiring of his official duties from day one. Morgan tells her it's too late to help her and he walks away. Morgan looks outside. He sees it's Femi's group leading the chaos outside. They're breaking the windows of Adekunle's house. They want Fanshawe who's in there, as he represents British influence in their country. Fanshawe wonders how Femi's group knows he is here. Morgan doesn't tell Fanshawe that he revealed this to Femi Robinson. Adekunle orders Fanshawe and other British people out, to quell the damage happening to his home. It's unsafe for Fanshawe to leave, though. Morgan will impersonate Fanshawe; he will be a decoy so the others can escape. Priscilla paints a moustache on Morgan, like Arthur Fanshawe's. Morgan and Fanshawe trade suits. They will trade cars too. Chloe Fanshawe will go with Morgan so they will think it's Fanshawe leaving. With the plan in action, they speed out in the car, horn blaring. They speed through the gates of the Adekunle residence and the car windows get smashed.



They drive and lose the mob on the expansive university campus. As they drive, they see Dr. Murray walking. Murray gets out to go talk to Dr. Murray, who now sees Morgan dressed as Fanshawe. Murray says riot police are using tear gas at the administration building. Murray says he's waiting for an ambulance to take him where injured students are at his clinic. He says that Morgan can stay at his house. There's only one road off campus. It's a ways back and isn't full of rioters. Morgan says he will try to skirt the riot. Morgan tells Murray that he will resign. He also tells the Doctor to issue a tough report against Adekunle. Dr. Murray says he will. Morgan tells Murray to make copies of his report, as Adekunle will make sure it will go missing via his "cousin" in the Senate. Dr. Murray thanks Morgan for the information. Murray says they will never buy the land from Adekunle.

## Chapter 10

Morgan gets back in the car, he and Chloe Fanshawe drive, and then abandon the car and try to get through the main gate of the campus on foot. Riot police are approaching as further chaos and destruction ensue on the university grounds. Chloe and Morgan make it out onto the main road. At a roadside drink stand, they secure a ride to the High Commission. They see army lorries in transit - the army's coup d'état is on. At the Commission, they see a note from Fanshawe that everyone got out of Adekunle's house safely. They have all headed to the capital. He directs that Chloe stay at the Jones's until it is safer. She decides she will go home with Morgan, clean up there, and then get Denzil Jones to pick her up. At Morgan's, Chloe Fanshawe bathes. Morgan ponders his resignation, the wrath of Adekunle to come when he realizes Morgan will not be his pawn anymore. He also understands why Celia Adekunle was so desperate. He decides he will get that British visa for Celia.

When Chloe Fanshawe finishes bathing she tells Morgan she would like to stay for the night. She feels they were through too much together, trying to escape the riot, not to make love tonight. She's been thinking sexually of Morgan ever since he tried on the Santa Claus outfit. They proceed to make love but then the phone rings. It's an inspector from the police headquarters. He informs Morgan that Dr. Murray died. The ambulance he was in skidded off a wet highway. Morgan wonders why a good, respectable, and ethical man like Dr. Murray has to die. He wonders why not him, or Fanshawe, or others. He knows that Adekunle will win out now and there will never be a negative report against him. He will gain money from the land sale. Morgan wonders if he can stop this in anyway. He decides he does not want to make love to Chloe Fanshawe. He realizes that the army has now taken over the country and that they are arresting the political leaders. He also knows that the Shango god is now happy with events in Kinjanja.

## Part Three - Chapters 6 -10 Analysis

This final section of the novel reveals a sort of awakening in Morgan's character. He is gaining a deeper understanding of the events in his life, and the way of life here in Nkongsamba. He now sees that, when push comes to shove, that Dr. Alex Murray is



one of the decent, respectable, ethical, wise, and moral men of the world and that he harbors no animosity towards him. He also realizes that life isn't fair, upon learning later on in this section that Dr. Murray is dead from a vehicle accident. Morgan gains a greater understanding of how the world really operates sometimes. How men of small stature and influence such as he and Dr. Murray cannot win battles of influence against corrupt people such as Sam Adekunle. Morgan also realizes that bribery is wrong and that in the end, Dr. Murray had a legitimate reason for holding onto his beliefs.

There's the theme of Resignation in this final chapter. Morgan admits to Hazel that he is in trouble and may face discipline, which will mean his removal back to England. He also resigns himself to the fact that Celia used him, that she never really loved him. He further resigns himself to accept this, because of her desperate situation, and decides how he will in fact help her. Morgan also feels a certain sense of responsibility to right things. He feels maybe he can further Dr. Murray's goals of preventing Adekunle selling his land for money to the university. He knows Dr. Murray would want him to proceed with that goal and thwart Adekunle. There is also the theme of Retribution in this final section of the book. Morgan looks upon the country and thinks about the tribal god Shango, and how the natives feel this god is angry and wants things right. He ponders how the army has taken the country over and how Adekunle will get what is coming to him, as the political leaders are undergoing arrest.

# **A Good Man in Africa**

## **Summary and Analysis**



# Characters

## Morgan Leafy

Morgan Leafy is the main character/protagonist of the novel *A Good Man in Africa* by William Boyd. He is the First Secretary of the British High Commission and is a man who, as he approaches middle age realizes he has led a selfish life. He considers himself a misanthrope who is wasting his career in this less civilized region of Africa. He feels he could put his talents to better use in a more favorable posting, in a more prestigious world region. Morgan lets his wants and desires get the best of him. This is all to the detriment of his professional position and to a normal stable personal life. He does not control his passion for strong drink nor for women. Chasing both, he finds himself in ever worsening circumstances. On top of all that, he is subject to the directives from his superior Arthur Fanshawe who directs Morgan Leafy's professional activities at the British High Commission.

Morgan's proclivity for sexual trysts leads him into a blackmail situation. Through his having an affair with a prominent politician's wife, Morgan now finds his career and way of life in jeopardy. The politician, Sam Adekunle is controlling Morgan's life and Morgan must follow his orders, or he will face discipline or possible job loss from the British High Commission.

Morgan is a man who dislikes how his physical features are changing as he approaches middle age. His hair is thinning, and he is putting on weight. He also has health issues due to his sexual behavior. Morgan is a character who succumbs to the desire for excitement in an environment that alternately bores and repulses him - an African country in a sweltering climate far from his homeland of England. He finds the only two things he constantly enjoys in Nkongsamba are beer and women. His love of both causes trouble in many other areas of his life. Morgan Leafy, in the end desires stability and love in his life. However, his actions do not lead him on the right path to achieving either one of them. As the novel reaches its conclusion, Morgan Leafy does begin to realize that things must change in his life if he is ever to find peace of mind.

## Sam Adekunle

Sam Adekunle is the major antagonist of the novel. He is a university professor, a politician, and a businessperson, married to Celia Fanshawe. Sam Adekunle is a man who lusts for prestige and power. His desire is to rise to a prominent position in the Kinjanjan National Party. He also desires to sell land that he owns, to the university for a significant sum. He wants to use this money to further his political career and power in Kinjanja.

In his drive for position and power, Sam Adekunle neglects his wife Celia. He has no time for her or her interests. He is a brutal man who does not flinch at destroying others



to further his own means. His desire is to compromise Morgan's position in life for Morgan having an affair with his wife. Adekunle also wishes to put Dr. Alex Murray in a compromising position by offering him a bribe. He wants Dr. Murray to issue a positive report on the university land that Adekunle wishes to sell. Dr. Murray knows this land will have a foul town dump encroaching on it to the detriment of the students who will use the facilities that will exist on the land. Murray wants to issue a negative report on the property and not let Adekunle gain money from the sale of the land.

Sam Adekunle, in essence, is also holding his wife hostage in Africa. He knows she hates their marriage and life in Africa. He knows she would leave him in a second if she made it back to England. Therefore, he makes sure she can never leave the country. He needs the stereotypical wife at his side to further his political interests. It is this desire for power, prestige, and money that causes Sam Adekunle to act selfishly, greedily, and with out concern for others. He is a man who makes life miserable for other so he can make his own life as comfortable and luxurious as possible.

## **Arthur Fanshawe**

Arthur Fanshawe is the Deputy High Commissioner in Nkongsamba, and Morgan's direct superior. He is another British government officer who is not happy that Nkongsamba is his posting at this stage in his career. He desires a more prestigious posting. He is attempting to perform great things in this African region to ensure he receives a promotion elsewhere in the world. His means for achieving this is via Project Kingpin. With this project, he is trying to gain influence with Sam Adekunle. In this way, Britain will have preferential treatment in Kinjanja and have access to the country's oil reserves. In essence, Britain wants favored nation status. They seek to woo Sam Adekunle as they feel he has the best chance to win the coming election in Kinjanja.

Everything Arthur Fanshawe does is to further his personal goals. He is not looking out for the best interests of others, save his daughter Priscilla. The result is that he puts enormous pressure on Morgan Leafy and often shifts the responsibility to him. He makes Morgan a central part of his plan to gain influence with Sam Adekunle. He also tries to hook Morgan up with his daughter Priscilla, who has just ended an engagement with a Marine and is searching for her own love in life. Arthur also puts extreme pressure on Morgan to get the dead servant Innocence's body off the Commission grounds. He rarely offers help or support to Morgan. He mainly issues directives, has temper tantrums, and looks to improve his stature with the British governmental authorities. Arthur Fanshawe is a man who operates not realizing that Morgan detests him. He is man on a mission to serve his own career. While he may not do it in as brutal a manner as Sam Adekunle, he is looking for the same results.

## **Dr. Alex Murray**

Dr. Alex Murray is a physician who operates at the clinic at the university in Nkongsamba. He is Chairman of the university committee called "Buildings, Works, and



Sites Committee." He is the major roadblock to Sam Adekunle selling his land to the university and garnering a great profit. Dr. Alex Murray is a man who plays by the rules. He operates his practice and serves others within sanctioned paradigms. He, while not having the most amiable bedside manner, is an ethical and moral man.

Dr. Murray's desire is for justice in all dealings and for decent and proper conduct in his personal and business affairs. He, to the chagrin of Morgan Leafy, will not fall to temptation and accept bribes. Dr. Alex Murray wants to see the connivers of the world, such as Sam Adekunle, fail. He doesn't care about Morgan losing his job as he feels anyone involved in impropriety, especially with Sam Adekunle, deserves what he or she gets.

Dr. Alex Murray is a man not looking to be popular. He is not looking for elevated status either. He is receiving a salary to do a job in Nkongsamba and he seeks to do that job well. Outwardly, he can appear as an uncaring man. However, he isn't, as Morgan learns towards the end of the novel. Dr. Murray is a man who will not allow the harsher, and oftentimes more primitive conditions in Africa, cause him to operate less professionally or ethically.

## **Priscilla Fanshawe**

Priscilla Fanshawe is the daughter of Arthur and Chloe Fanshawe. She has come to Nkongsamba after her engagement to a Marine came to an abrupt end. She is forlorn from this, and looking for love in her life. She begins a relationship with Morgan Leafy, but this too ends due to miscues by Morgan. She does not allow Morgan the luxury of patching up their relationship. She instead moves on and forms a relationship with Morgan's assistant, Richard Dalmire. Priscilla is used to a certain luxurious lifestyle. She is somewhat spoiled. Underneath her prim, proper, and reserved exterior is a woman who is capable of passion, physically and emotionally. She is also a woman who holds a grudge, as evidenced by the way she shuts Morgan Leafy out after their relationship deteriorates. Priscilla is devoted to her parents, is searching for a relationship that will lead to marriage, and has a way of blocking unpleasant thoughts and events from her mind. She inspires passion in men for her.

## **Hazel**

Hazel is the mistress of Morgan Leafy. She is a person who knows her role and accepts it. She makes herself available to Morgan whenever he requires physical intimacy. She also accepts that they will never have a true loving relationship. She performs as he expects and then goes on with her life. This involves her seeing other men as well. She has an independent streak and does do her own thing, which often gets herself in trouble with Morgan. Hazel is an African woman trying to survive as best she can in an impoverished nation, even if it means lowering her moral standards to achieve some level of comfort, and survive financially.





## Celia Adekunle

Celia Adekunle is Sam Adekunle's wife. She is a woman unhappy with her lot in life. She desires to go back to England and sever her relationship with Sam. She feels bored in Nkongsamba and spends her time swimming, tanning, and having affairs. She is not above using others to achieve her goals. The evidence of this is when she uses Morgan Leafy to try to get him to provide her with a British visa so she can flee Africa and Sam. She is a woman who lacks true love in her life. Her desire is to get back to England where she can once again live in an environment she is accustomed to and pursue love.

## Chloe Fanshawe

Chloe Fanshawe is the wife of Arthur Fanshawe, and mother of Priscilla. She is a woman who has an interest in protecting her daughter and making sure that she finds a suitable suitor. Chloe is also a woman used to a certain lifestyle and protocol at the Commission. She desires that events and goings-on at the Commission are models of decorum. She wishes anyone courting her daughter to be models of decorum, decency, and civility. Being very protective, Chloe Fanshawe has a vindictive streak inside her. When Morgan upsets Priscilla, and effectively derails their relationship, Chloe acts icily towards him for a good portion of the novel. However, at the end, she shows that she is capable of forgiveness and even passion. This is when she accepts Morgan's help in fleeing the riots at the university. She also makes a play for Morgan at the end, desiring to make love to him. Therefore, the reader sees Chloe Fanshawe as a woman with a wide range of emotions. She is a woman not afraid to change her opinions and feelings towards others.

## Femi Robinson

Femi Robinson is the leader of a Marxist political party who is running against Sam Adekunle. He is against Britain involving themselves in the internal politics of Kinjanja. He is against Sam Adekunle getting cozy with the British as well. Femi Robinson resorts to drastic measures to make his views known. This involves demonstrations and rioting. He is a passionate political leader who allows his fiery personality to cause him to act with force against those who oppose him. He is a comical and serious, and even dangerous figure at the same time. The humor is in his passion and never-say-die attitude. The seriousness is in his belief in his cause. The danger is in his violent actions against the British, and Sam Adekunle's property.

## Denzil Jones

Denzil Jones is a British expatriate and the High Commission's accountant. He attends the social functions as an amiable British servant not looking to get in anyone's way. He is a minor victim to Morgan Leafy's machinations in the novel.



## **Richard Dalmire**

Richard Dalmire is Morgan Leafy's assistant, sent in to alleviate Morgan's workload so Morgan can concentrate on wooing Sam Adekunle to the British side. Richard is an opportunist. He gladly accepts this posting to Africa. He embraces the country and jumps at an opportunity to date Priscilla. He moves quickly into becoming engaged to her. He is a man who takes advantage of situations with a positive attitude, to his benefit.

## **Greg Bilbow**

Greg Bilbow is a visiting British poet who is a guest of the British High Commission in Africa. He's a friendly easy-going writer who stays at Morgan Leafy's place for a few days. He sees the chaos around him, from Morgan Leafy's life, but does not involve himself in any of this. He is a bemused and interested bystander who knows his place in life and seeks not to interfere in the affairs of others. He takes life as it comes with an ease of manner.

## **The Duchess of Ripon**

The Duchess of Ripon is a visiting British dignitary attending the Christmas festivities at the British High Commission.

## **Lee Wan**

Lee Wan is a Malay Biochemist responsible for introducing Morgan Leafy to brothels in Nkongsamba.

## **Moses**

Moses is Morgan's household servant.

## **Friday**

Friday is Morgan's household servant.

## **Sonny**

Sonny is one of Hazel's lovers.



## **Errol Wagner**

British expatriate living and working in Nkongsamba.

## **Nancy Wagner**

Errol's wife.

## **Innocence**

The High Commission servant of the Fanshawe's who died after being struck by lightning.

## **Maria**

Innocence's daughter who is about fifteen years old.

## **Kojo**

Morgan Leafy's secretary.

## **Peter**

The High Commission's driver.

## **Mrs. Boyce**

Arthur Fanshawe's secretary and wife of a geologist from the university.

## **Selim**

Lebanese boutique owner where Hazel lives.

## **Muller**

Saw-mill manager and West German Charge d'Affaires.

## **Joseph**

Commission servant.



## **Isaac**

Commission servant.

## **Ezekiel**

Commission servant.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Nkongsamba**

State capital of the Mid-Western region, Kinjanja, West Africa.

### **Oxford**

University in the United Kingdom.

### **Peugeot**

A car made in France.

### **Hotel de Executive**

A classy hotel in Nkongsamba.

### **Tunic**

Traditional African costume, worn by Sam Adekunle sometimes.

### **Austin Princess**

A British made vehicle.

### **Caracas**

Capital of Venezuela.

### **Piesporter**

An expensive, sweet, and highly scented wine.

### **The Ambassador**

An exclusive and elite hotel in Nkongsamba.



## **Settee**

A couch.

## **Loch**

The name for a small lake in the United Kingdom.

## **Kilts**

A traditional Scottish mode of dress.

## **Olokomeji**

A rural district outside of Nkongsamba.

## **Pincer**

A type of spear.

## **Machete**

A type of knife or blade.

## **Trolley**

A small table on wheels for transporting food and drinks.

## **Braziers**

Small charcoal barbecues.

## **Mercedes-Benz**

A German luxury car.

## **Piazza**

A small open walking area or plaza.

## **Cuirass**

A women's undergarment.



# Themes

## Love

Love is a major theme in this oftentimes humorous, while still dramatic novel. Many of the actions of the main characters are motivated by a need for love in their lives. Morgan Leafy has never really experienced true love in his life and he's searching for it with Priscilla Fanshawe. He is also pursuing it with Celia Adekunle, not realizing yet that she is using him. Morgan in fact thinks about Priscilla being the woman he has always desired in his life. He further believed at one point that Celia was the only person who ever truly loved him for who he really was. Later she proves him wrong, but regardless, Morgan Leafy is searching for love.

Priscilla Fanshawe is also on a love quest. She thought she had it in her engagement to the Marine, which ended up in failure. She further pursued love with Morgan Leafy. She subsequently is pursuing love with Richard Dalmire. In addition, there's a sense that love is lacking in Chloe Fanshawe's relationship with her husband Arthur. This is evident in her desire for intimacy at the end of the novel with Morgan. Celia Adekunle is in a loveless marriage. She craves love and desires to flee Kinjanja so she can return home to England and find true love there and a better life.

Even Hazel's desire for many sexual partners is a cry for love and deep intimacy in her life. She is often searching for love in the wrong way and in the wrong places. Nevertheless, she is in need of love, just as the others are.

## Greed

Greed is a major theme in *A Good Man in Africa*. Greed for greater British influence in the region is at the heart of Project Kingpin, concocted by Arthur Fanshawe. Greed is at the heart of Sam Adekunle's lust for political power. He desires power and to control affairs in his native land. Greed propels Adekunle forward to create a plan to bribe Dr. Alex Murray. Sam Adekunle is also greedy for money to further his political initiatives.

Greediness for power and influence, regardless of the chaos that ensues is what drives Femi Robinson and his Marxist Party to rebel and incite rioting on the university complex. Greed for power and influence also drives the army to stage their coup d'état so they can have their portion of the spoils available in Kinjanja. This greed does not look at that cost of the greedy actions and how they affect the average citizen in the country.

With the country being a poor one, the different interests in the region want to secure the best positions possible. They want to be part of the "haves," not the "have nots." This makes them burn with a desire to get what they want, which stokes the fires of greed and leads them all to take inappropriate actions. Greed leads to bribery, riots, and army takeovers in this novel.





## Selfishness

Selfishness is prevalent in this novel. Morgan Leafy is at heart a very selfish character. He knows this himself, and admits this fact. By the end of the novel it appears he is undergoing the beginnings of a transformation, which may lead him on a different life path, at least somewhat. However, for the majority of the novel his actions reek of selfishness.

He is selfish in his desire to use Hazel as a sex object. He is selfish when it comes to his demands on Hazel, even when he orders her out to get him some beer. He is selfish in aggressively pursuing sex with Priscilla against her initial reservations. He hardly knows her when he begins making sexual advances.

Sam Adekunle is selfish. His only desire is to achieve political, status, and monetary success. He does not care about his marriage: the needs of his wife, Celia Adekunle. He does not care about the needs of the university; how a student residence and cafeteria next to the encroaching town dump will be terrible for the students. He is selfish for money and wants the land deal to go through.

Adekunle has selfish concerns that do not take into account the reputation and job that Dr. Alex Murray is doing. He doesn't care about Dr. Murray and only seeks to bribe him, and put Murray in a compromising position. Dr. Murray will be in this compromising position if he accepts the money that Morgan offers him on behalf of Adekunle. Sam Adekunle will use his selfish ambitions to harm a decent man.

Arthur Fanshawe is selfish, only looking to further his position. If he performs well in Nkongsamba, it may lead to a more prestigious posting elsewhere. He is looking to further his career and Project Kingpin is one way of doing so. His selfishness comes through in the demands he places on Morgan Leafy. In his professional ambitions his selfishness may be alienating his wife somewhat as well.

## Weakness

Weakness is a major theme in this novel; weakness in terms of an individual fighting powers stronger than they are in terms of resources, position and influence. Morgan Leafy is weak when it comes to resisting temptation. His succumbing to temptation causes him a host of problems throughout the novel. He has strong sexual desires, and when a woman shows interest he jumps in and doesn't consider consequences.

This is evident in his dealings with Hazel, who gave him gonorrhea. It is evident in his dealing with Priscilla, a promising relationship that he ruined. It's evident in how he let Celia Adekunle use him. He is also tempted by alcohol and often drinks too much, which leads to unwise decisions.

The native servants who live at the High Commission are victims of weakness. Their weakness is in the form of their naive belief that a Shango god has control over them.



They live in paralyzed fear of this god and it hinders their actions and thoughts in their daily lives. This is the reason for the problems for Morgan concerning the removal of Innocence's body from the High Commission premises. The servants are letting a god of their imagination and cultural traditions rule their lives.

Celia Adekunle is also a victim of weakness. She has no power in her fight to have any say in what her husband does. He carries on in life without attention to her needs. He has the name, the family history in the region, the money, and the political influence to do what he wants. He has the power to keep her under control and prevent her from leaving the country to pursue a new life. She desires love and freedom, but is too weak in her position to affect any resolution to her crisis.

Even Sam Adekunle is a victim of weakness to some extent. In the end, he has no power, despite his stature, over the power of the army in the land and their in progress coup d'état. Brute military force and the heightened emotions of the people (with instigation from Femi Robinson in some regions) overpower Sam Adekunle's influence. The result is he cannot control events, as he so often loves to do.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of *A Good Man in Africa* is third person limited throughout the novel. The writer uses this third person limited point of view so that the reader sees all that takes place in the story through the main character's eyes. With this point of view, the reader gains a deep understanding of the main character's thoughts, views, opinions, and feelings. In addition, with this viewpoint, the reader does not experience the inner thoughts and feelings of the other characters. The reader must rely on the main character/protagonist to relate the experiences of the other characters that he or she is connecting with daily. In *A Good Man in Africa*, the reader experiences the novel through Morgan Leafy's eyes and follows him on his various adventures throughout the city of Nkongsamba.

The novel is a good mix of exposition and dialogue. William Boyd does not rely solely on one or the other to tell his story. The time expanse of the novel is not overly broad. The story takes place during the days surrounding Christmas. All the events in this unique African country come at us through Morgan Leafy's eyes and the reader experiences the customs of the region, the native people, the humid weather, the poverty, and more through Morgan. He colors his narrative with his personal views on life in general, and politics, sex, and culture in particular.

## Setting

The setting of *A Good Man in Africa* is the town of Nkongsamba, state capital of the Mid-Western region, Kinjanja, West Africa. Aside from the university area and British High Commission complex area, and areas where the upscale hotels are, the city and its environs are predominantly impoverished. Through Morgan Leafy's eyes, the reader gets a general tour of the area. The university, where many scenes take place is a sprawling and relatively modern campus. It will be undergoing an upgrade with new buildings planned for it. The British High Commission facility is also set on a large tract of land and kept well for the government civil servants who work there.

The outskirts of the city are crowded with more rundown, older buildings. There is a sense of garbage and filth in the streets and crowded masses of humanity fighting for space and sustenance. This area of the city is where Morgan's mistress Hazel lives. There is also much natural beauty surrounding the city. Morgan takes Celia Adekunle to a teak forest where they consummate their affair. He also takes Priscilla Fanshawe to a fishing area called Olokomeji, which is a rural area outside of Nkongsamba. However, most of the action does take place at the High Commission, the university, Morgan's home, and the clubs and hotels of the city.



The native people of Kinjanja constitute the workforce of servants at the British High Commission where Morgan Leafy works, and at his home. Through them, the reader gets a sense of the people of the region and their beliefs. While they do not play major roles in the story, they do make the reader understand better a certain way of life in this African country. This is evident in their personalities, dialect, and their traditions, especially concerning the Shango god. The writer does a good job of giving the reader a sense of the region through his descriptions of the locale he has his characters populate. This novel is not a "road trip" across vast expanses by any means. The action is more self-contained in the city of Nkongsamba.

## Language and Meaning

The language of *A Good Man in Africa* is straightforward and descriptive. The author, William Boyd does not over adorn his writing with adjectives, but he does convey the look, feel, sound, smell, and tastes of the story through concise and precise descriptions. Flowery writing is not his style, but vivid clear descriptions are certainly his style.

His writing has a matter-of-fact tone about it. This makes it an easy novel to read as the words, sentences, and paragraphs have a natural flow to them. The reader does not feel that the story slows at any point because of huge difficult blocks of dialog with pretentious displays of highbrow vocabulary. The writer does use some interesting word choices in places. These, however, are more a cause for celebration that one has picked up a new word, instead of hindrances to the narrative. In fact, the reader can get a sense of the meaning of a new word via the words that surround it and how William Boyd tells the story.

The writer injects examples of the stilted English of the native people in the story. This type of language lends an authenticity to the novel. This dialog is like a dash of exotic seasoning to a traditional dish. The reader experiences vibrant and fresh English writing, interspersed with regional African flavoring, which makes the reader feel they are visiting the region themselves. Occasionally this slang, regional, broken English can seem hard to follow. However, they are in short snippets, and the way they bring the reader into the mood of the region more than compensates for it being less smooth to read than Standard English.

The meaning of the words that the author writes is exactly what they say. The writing of the novel is direct. The author is telling a story in a simple way, without hidden meanings and without being obscure. The language of the story adds to the story's meaning. The writer does not use language to hide meaning or cause confusion in the reader's mind.

## Structure

*A Good Man in Africa* is a story that consists of three parts. Part one of the story consists of six chapters. Part two of the story consists of fifteen chapters. Part three of the story consists of ten chapters. The story begins with Richard Dalmire announcing to



Morgan Leafy his engagement to Priscilla Fanshawe, Morgan's former love interest. Part one deals with events subsequent to this announcement. Part two begins with events that happen prior to the opening of the book. Part two then ends where part one of the book begins. Part three then carries on in a linear fashion with the rest of the story.

Aside from the events of Part two taking place prior to the events of part one, the book is not a complicated telling of Morgan Leafy's story. William Boyd presents his story to his audience in a direct fashion and the reader has no trouble following the chain of events. There are multiple story lines but the reader never feels lost in the telling because the author delineates well, each sub-plot in the novel. Morgan's story concerning Hazel does not interfere with the Sam Adekunle/Dr. Murray blackmail storyline. These in turn do not confuse the Project Kingpin story line or Morgan Leafy's dealings with Priscilla or Celia Adekunle. The author handles the different story lines expertly and the reader will have no trouble navigating the various plots and sub-plots in the novel.

Because of the different stories and events, the novel moves at a brisk pace. It is not a tedious read. There is always enough happening with a host of interesting characters that the reader will find the reading progresses quite fast. There are no real dead spots in the novel where a reader may feel they've lost the flow of the story and want to quit reading. In fact, the complications in Morgan Leafy's life, with all the attendant drama and humor make the reader want to read on to find out how Morgan will resolve all his unique difficulties.



## Quotes

"Actually I can't stand the man. Sanctimonious, Calvinistic, so-and-so. Totally unsympathetic -can't think why he became a doctor - hectoring, bullying-sort of moral storm-trooper."

Part One, Chapter 1, page 8.

"Can't you keep this bloody place tidy?"

Part One, Chapter 2, page 39

"There are so many hypochondriacs out here. I think Murray can spot them a mile off."

Part One, Chapter 3, page 51

' I want you to get to know Murray because I want you to bribe him.'

Part One, Chapter 4, page 55

"My maid Innocence. She's dead.'

Part One, Chapter 6, page 69

"That's Africa for you, eh? Trouble-free sex and tranquillizers. What do they call it? Post-pill paradise or something. Load of nonsense. Never seen a more neurotic, glum bunch in my life."

Part Two, Chapter 1, page 90

"This is what it's all about, Morgan, real work. Real diplomacy. Not this endless socializing, mindless official business. No, you can really do something positive here, something creative. For your country."

Part Two, Chapter 2, page 103

"I think it's fairly common knowledge that the British Government would naturally be very interested in the outcome of the elections.'

Part Two, Chapter 4, page 118

"Listen, do you think you could tell this snotty so-and-so to get me some ice for my drink?"

Part Two, Chapter 7, page 150

'You're pathetic weak creatures, all of you, with your big talk, your sexy swaggering behaviour. Pathetic, feeble weak creatures. I don't hate you, Morgan, I pity you.'

Part Two, Chapter 9, page 176

"Adekunle said that if we could arrange all this he'd forget about the other invitations."

Part Two, Chapter 12, page 196

"Do you feel at all guilty?" he asked. "About Sam?"

Part Two, Chapter 14, page 213



"The problem is, ' Morgan said reasonably, "that no one will remove the body until certain rites have been performed."

Part Three, Chapter 1, page 226

"No," said Mrs. Fanshawe. "She's at the club. Consolidating her tan."

Part Three, Chapter 2, page 241

"Forgive me for losing my temper," he said quietly, "but as I told you the financial costs of an election campaign are high."

Part Three, Chapter 3, page 250

"I'm not interested in this hocus-pocus rubbish, Leafy,"

Part Three, Chapter 4, page 252

"I have to see you. It's urgent. I'm so unhappy, so miserable."

Part Three, Chapter 6, page 277

"Frankly I don't give a damn about your job, ' he said in his steely Scottish voice. "If you're a big enough bloody fool to get entangled with people like Adekunle then that's your problem."

Part Three, Chapter 7, page 298

"This is disgraceful, intolerable," Adekunle ranted. "My house is being destroyed. My reputation ruined. I am meant to be giving a victory speech."

Part Three, Chapter 9, page 321

"Morgan," she said. "We've been through too much tonight not to...not to be with each other now."

Part Three, Chapter 10, page 338

## Topics for Discussion

Consider Greed in the world and all its implications. How does Greed play a prominent role in the lives of the characters in *A Good Man in Africa*? Is Greed more or less prevalent in today's society?

Discuss the influence of setting in this story. How does the physical landscape, the climate, and the customs and mores of this African region affect the way of life and decisions of the British people working in Kinjanja, at the British High Commission?

Discuss Temptation. How does temptation affect the main characters in this novel? What tempts them and how do they react to these temptations? Once they fall to temptation what effect does it have on their personal and professional lives?

Discuss politics and how one's ideologies can be corrupted when the lust for power and prestige overtake one's core beliefs?

Consider the third person limited point of view of this novel. Do you feel another point of view would serve the novel better? If so, why? If not, why not?

Compare Morgan Leafy's character to his superior, Arthur Fanshawe. How are they the same? How are they different?

What is the significance of Chloe Fanshawe's advances towards Morgan Leafy at the end of the novel? What does this tell about her, her relationship to her husband, and her way of life in Africa?

What can one learn from the Dr. Alex Murray character? What does he truly represent, and why? Why is he a significant character in this novel?

What character has the biggest influence on Morgan Leafy? How does this character change Morgan's perception of his life and his situation?

How does one country's influence in another country affect the people who are native to the land?

How does a country combat the corrupt actions of those who are in power, so that the country can retain their ethical and moral base? Discuss how absolute power corrupts absolutely, and why checks and balances are needed in government.