

The Gods of Guilt Study Guide

The Gods of Guilt by Michael Connelly

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Plot Summary

The Gods of Guilt is the sixth novel by Michael Connelly featuring lawyer Mickey Haller. In this novel, Mickey is hired by a digital pimp to defend him in the murder of a prostitute. Mickey discovers that the prostitute is a former client, a woman he liked and tried several times to help. For this reason and because he honestly believes his client is innocent, Mickey takes on two dirty cops in a case that will have long reaching consequences for Mickey and his associates. The Gods of Guilt is a legal thriller that will leave the reader breathless with the final sentence.

Mickey Haller is still reeling from his daughter's decision to cut herself out of his life as a direct result of the fact that a client he got out of jail was responsible for the death of a mother and daughter who were popular at his daughter's school. To distract himself, Mickey throws himself into his work, which includes a new case in which a digital pimp is accused of killing one of his prostitutes. Mickey is thrilled to have a paying customer. However, when he discovers the victim is a former client and friend, he begins to wonder if there is more to the case than what he can see.

Mickey goes back over the cases he handled for the prostitute and remembers a deal he made for her on her last arrest. This deal resulted in the conviction of a Mexican cartel drug dealer. When Mickey discovers that this drug dealer had recently begun a new appeal into his case that is related to the deal Mickey made for the prostitute, he wonders if one has something to do with the other. When Mickey is subpoenaed in that case along with a prostitute who once worked with his former client, he decides to speak to the drug dealer himself.

Mickey drives to the federal penitentiary and learns that the drug dealer believes that Mickey's former client planted a gun in his hotel room that led to him getting a life sentence. The dealer thinks a DEA agent named Marco had the prostitute set him up. As Mickey leaves the prison his car is rammed and forced off the road, killing his driver and nearly killing him.

A month later, the trial for the digital pimp has begun. Mickey waits until the prosecution has presented their case to give his opening argument and present his case. Mickey focuses on the connection between this case and the drug dealer's case. Mickey brings in multiple witnesses who help him make the connections, allowing him to eventually call a former LAPD detective named Lankford. When Mickey begins his examination of Lankford, he discovers that a tape he has shown Lankford in secret showing Lankford and Marco setting up a potential witness has encouraged Lankford to come clean. Lankford admits to following the prostitute home the night she died and sending a text of her address to Marco. Lankford also admits that he believes Marco killed the prostitute. After finishing his testimony, Lankford kills himself on the stand.

Mickey's client is set free and wins a lawsuit against the city that claimed it was their fault he was stabbed in custody during his trial. Marco disappears, but Mickey gets an

anonymous video that shows a dead man hanging in an anonymous locale, leaving him with the impression that the Mexican cartel got revenge on Marco.



Part 1, Glory Days: Chapters 1-5

Summary

Part 1, Glory Days: Chapters 1-5

Chapter 1

Mickey causes a mistrial in a case of criminal carjacking by having his client hit him in a rage after the victim testified. This will lead to a plea deal, exactly what Mickey wants.

Chapter 2

Mickey goes to visit his mentor, David 'Legal' Siegel. Legal was Mickey's father partner and the man who has provided Mickey with answers to the many questions he has had about his father as well as legal matters. Legal congratulates Mickey, but Legal also warns him that he is allowing his personal life, including the fact that his daughter is no longer speaking to him, to interfere with his concentration.

Chapter 3

Mickey calls his office manager and learns that he has a potential new client. The client, Andre La Cosse, is a digital pimp who is accused of killing one of his prostitutes. Mickey has his investigator, Cisco, do a little research on the case as he drives to the jail. Mickey is not impressed with the client, but he is a paying client and Mickey needs the money. When Mickey speaks to La Cosse, he learns that the prostitute La Cosse is accused of killing once recommended Mickey to him. This confuses Mickey because the prostitute's name did not come up in any of his client files.

La Cosse tells Mickey that he ran websites for the victim, Giselle Dallinger. The night she was killed she had an appointment La Cosse set up at the Beverly Wilshire. La Cosse went to her apartment afterward to collect his part of the cash payment. Giselle claimed the john never showed, so there was no money. La Cosse did not believe her, and they had an argument. La Cosse grabbed her throat, but swears she was alive when he left.

La Cosse tells Mickey he has all his money in gold bars. La Cosse promises to send a gold bar to Mickey for his retainer.

Chapter 4

In the car, Mickey does a search for Giselle Dallinger's website and is surprised to discover she is a former client of his that he knew as Gloria Dayton. Gloria had been a frequent client more than six years ago, but Mickey had taken a special liking to her. For this reason, after her last arrest, he gave her the money she needed to go to Hawaii



where she said she had a former client willing to help her out. As far as Mickey knew, she had gone. He had even gotten post cards from her from time to time.

Mickey speaks to Lorna, his office manager, for a few minutes and arranges a staff meeting in the morning. Mickey also arranges for his investigator to dig into Gloria's life the past six years. Mickey then goes home where he finds Gloria's latest postcard on the refrigerator. At first he throws it away, but then he puts it on the fridge where he is sure to see it every day to help keep him focused.

Chapter 5

Mickey goes to the staff meeting in a loft that his firm is working to stop foreclosure on for a client. At the meeting, they discuss the new client and the large gold bar La Cosse had sent to them. Mickey assigns his associate, Jennifer, Gloria's former files and asks her to familiarize herself with them. Mickey is particularly interested in the final case in which Mickey arranged a plea deal for Gloria in exchange for information on a drug dealer named Hector Arrande Moya.

Cisco tells Mickey he cannot find any information on Gloria Dayton or Giselle Dallinger in the past six years, suggesting Gloria changed identities or was in some sort of witness protection. Cisco then tells everyone about the fire that was set in Gloria's apartment, presumably to hide evidence. The cops initially thought it was accidental until the coroner discovered Gloria's hyoid bone was broken. The cops then interviewed a neighbor who identified La Cosse as the man who left Gloria's apartment after the neighbor heard a loud argument. It was based on this that the police arrested La Cosse. However, Cisco finds it interesting that the neighbor did not see smoke until a significant amount of time after La Cosse left. Cisco then prepares to show Mickey and the others security footage from the Beverley Wilshire.

Analysis

The first few chapters of the novel introduce the main character, lawyer Mickey Haller. Mickey is clearly a lawyer who is willing to do just about anything to get his clients off. This is evident by his performance in the first chapter in which he fakes a fight with his client for force a mistrial. The client would have been convicted otherwise and the mistrial means that the prosecution will more than likely offer a plea deal. Mickey believes the plea deal will be better for his client than what he might have gotten upon conviction.

Mickey is offered a new case in which a digital pimp is accused of killing one of his prostitutes. Mickey is not thrilled with the case because he has grown weary of defending the lowest criminals on the street even though he has built his career doing exactly that. Mickey's daughter is not speaking to him because it was made public months before the opening of this novel that the drunk driver who hit and killed a beloved mom and daughter connected to the school Mickey's daughter attended was one of Mickey's clients. Therefore, even as the reader is shown the tricks Mickey will



use to free his clients, this sense of guilt reveals that he also has something of a conscience, even if it is only brought out by his daughter's wrath.

The new case involves a former client of Mickey's for whom he deeply cared. This client, Gloria Dayton, was a prostitute that Mickey liked and tried to help. However, it soon becomes clear that this help was not accepted and that Gloria has been lying to Mickey for a long time. It is also clear that Gloria has been on the run as suggested by the new name under which she was living when she died and the fact that Mickey's investigator can find no trace of her from the time she supposedly moved to Hawaii to now. Mickey is angry that Gloria lied to him and seems motivated in this case by the fact that he wants to learn why Gloria would lie to him. No matter his motivation, it seems to the reader that Mickey is deeply committed to helping La Cosse win his case.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mickey's client attack him in court? Why does this lead to a mistrial? Did Mickey know this would be the outcome?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Legal Siegel? Why does Mickey go to visit him? What is their relationship? What role might that relationship play in this novel?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Gloria Dayton live under an assumed name? How might that be related to her death? Is that an important factor at this point in the novel?

Vocabulary

Discussion, cooperation, obtain, mistrial, plea, security, witness, punishing, penetrating, imposing, consisted, accelerant, combination, stationed, identify, finesse, argument, investigating, trauma, illustration, examination, hyoid bone, fracture, preliminary, coroner, residents, damaged, digital.



Part 1, Glory Days: Chapters 6-10

Summary

Part 1, Glory Days: Chapters 6-10

Chapter 6

Cisco shows everyone security footage that clearly shows Gloria arriving at the hotel, going up to the room in question, returning to the lobby, and asking about the occupants of that room. Gloria is then shown leaving the hotel. Cisco rewinds part of the last of the footage to point out a man in a hat who is clearly following Gloria. Mickey suggests that it is possible that this man could offer a defense for La Cosse by suggesting another killer. However, Cisco could find no evidence that the man followed Gloria once she got in her car and left. Mickey tells Cisco to try and find any other cameras that might have caught the man following Gloria to her apartment. Mickey then leaves to meet La Cosse before his arraignment.

Chapter 7

Mickey speaks with La Cosse in the holding cell at the courthouse where he explains the procedure of the arraignment to him. Mickey then asks La Cosse about Gloria's driver and about the client she was supposed to meet that night. La Cosse tells him that he is always careful to check out the clients and that he called the hotel the night the client called him to make sure he was actually calling from the Beverly Wilshire and was a registered guest. La Cosse then tells Mickey he had trouble with Gloria paying him his cut in the best, which is why he was upset that night. Finally, he tells Mickey he can call the prostitute that recommended him to Gloria, a girl named Stacey Campbell.

In the courtroom, Mickey runs into Lankford, a former LAPD detective who once accused Mickey of killing his own investigator. Lankford is now working for the DAs office and has been assigned the La Cosse case. Lankford leaves before La Cosse is even brought into the courtroom.

Chapter 8

Mickey calls Stacey Campbell after the arraignment and arranges a meet. When he realizes this will conflict with another appearance he is to make, he gives the case to Jennifer. While talking to Jennifer, Mickey learns that the drug dealer, Moya, was convicted seven years ago and sentenced to life because of an added gun charge. Moya appealed multiple times, but none of the appeals went anywhere. Mickey wants Jennifer to continue reviewing Moya's case, thinking that maybe Moya found out somehow that Gloria was the snitch who got him caught and that he killed her out of revenge.

Chapter 9



Mickey goes to meet with Stacey. When she finally arrives, she tells Mickey that she knew Gloria as Glenda in Las Vegas. When Stacey made the move to Los Angeles, she talked Glenda into coming out as well. Stacey tells Mickey that La Cosse was tough about getting all his money, but he rarely enforced things himself, he sent hired goons to do it.

Chapter 10

Mickey goes to a quiet spot in a park that overlooks his daughter's school so that he can watch her practice soccer. As he sits there, Jennifer calls him and tells him she was unable to get an extension on his other case, so he tells her to take it over.

Analysis

Mickey and his team discover that someone was following Gloria the night she died. This implies that there might be another suspect other than their client. For this reason, Mickey has his investigator dig deeper into the security cameras in the area while he questions his client about his work habits and Gloria's work habits. Mickey is beginning to wonder if maybe something from Gloria's past, something she might have been running from based on the fact that she changed her name twice in the past seven years, might have caught up with her. If this is true, then Mickey's client might actually be innocent, something he is not use to facing.

As Mickey works on the La Cosse case, he learns more and more about Gloria and the drug dealer, Moya, she helped take down. However, none of it seems to really point to a specific suspect beyond the drug dealer. At the same time, Mickey finds himself dealing with his disintegrating personal life as he goes to watch his daughter play soccer.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Lankford? Why is he interested in the La Cosse case? What connection does Mickey have to Lankford?

Discussion Question 2

Why is it important that somebody might have been following Gloria the night she died? How might this help Mickey's case?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Mickey interested in Moya, the drug dealer Gloria helped convict? How might his have an impact on the La Cosse case?

Vocabulary

Faith, connection, binoculars, practice, jersey, permanent, attractive, mentioned, arranged, arraignment, transcripts, habeas, conference, required, disposition, visitation, previous, concentration, academic, complex, improvement, ignition, entrance, promontory, conference, chambers, directions, replaced, forgotten.



Part 2, Mr. Lucky: Chapters 11-19

Summary

Part 2, Mr. Lucky: Chapters 11-19

Chapter 11

Six months later, Mickey has been working on several cases, but finds himself back on the La Cosse case. Mickey is in court trying to have the interrogation tape thrown out on the grounds that the police had effectively placed La Cosse under arrest when they first brought him into the police station, but he was not read his Miranda rights until after their interrogation. Mickey does not expect to win the motion. When the hearing is over, the prosecutor, Forsythe, makes a third attempt to get Mickey to agree to a plea, but Mickey refuses. Before leaving the courthouse, Mickey goes to speak with La Cosse. La Cosse tells him that Gloria said a short time before she died that Mickey would go to bat for her if anything happened to her. This makes Mickey wonder if Gloria knew she was going to die.

Chapter 12

As Mickey leaves the courtroom he is approached by a former associate, Fernando 'Val' Valenzuela. Val is a bondsman who has begun serving court papers. Val serves Mickey with a subpoena, catching him off guard. Mickey tries to keep Val from taking a picture of him, but fails. The subpoena is for another appeal attempt by Moya. Moya is represented by the son of a jailed attorney, Sylvester Falgoni. Mickey tries to sweet talk Val into telling him who else he is serving on the same case. Val lets it slip that he is to serve a DEA agent named James Marco. Val is also serving a woman named Kendall Roberts. Mickey immediately calls Cisco and asks him to run down the two names

In the car, Mickey does a search on the true habeas motion. He discovers that the motion claims Marco planted the firearm that led to Moya's extensive sentence. The motion also mentions Gloria Dayton as the informant who told the police where to find Moya with drugs and the gun. Mickey realizes that the motion is essentially claiming that Moya arranged for Gloria to plant the gun and then get herself arrested so that she could lead the police to Moya. If that was true, then Gloria had used Mickey.

Mickey calls Cisco and learns that Kendall Roberts is a former prostitute who has been clean for the past six years. Mickey arranges a staff meeting for the following morning and then heads to Kendall Roberts' house.

Chapter 13

Mickey calls the lawyer of record on the Moya motion, Sylvester Falgoni, Jr. Falgoni Jr. clearly is not a good lawyer as he cannot answer many of Mickey's questions and



becomes easily flustered. This tells Mickey that his father is running the case from prison.

Mickey arrives at Kendall Roberts' house before Val. Mickey and Earl, his driver, approach Kendall's door and managed to talk their way inside. Mickey then begins asking questions, but Kendall, who is clean now and does not want her past to come back to haunt her, refuses to answer. Finally Earl gets angry and insists that she answer.

Chapter 14

Kendall Roberts tells Mickey and Earl that Moya was a drug dealer who sometimes supplied Glory and another prostitute they worked with, Trina Rafferty, with drugs for their clients. Kendall does not know James Marco, but she admits that she knew some of the girls were informants for police officials, but Gloria never told her if she was.

As Mickey and Earl are preparing to leave, Val knocks on the door. Mickey tells Kendall not to open the door. Mickey then asks Kendall if he could accept the subpoena for her and have it quashed. Kendall agrees. Mickey goes outside where Val is waiting on his car. Mickey accepts the subpoena for Kendall. Mickey then calls Lorna and then Cisco. Mickey has Cisco look into Trina Rafferty.

Chapter 15

Mickey goes back to Kendall's to tell her that her subpoena was not official and therefore she could ignore it. Mickey is confused as to why it was done that way, but has not immediate answers. Kendall and Mickey flirt. She invites him in, but then he gets angry when she accuses him of wanting sexual favors for what he did for her. Mickey begins to leave, but she asks him to stay. Mickey tells Kendall about his parents and this seems to smooth things over a little.

Chapter 16

Cisco calls Mickey in the middle of the night to tell him he got a hit on the license plate of the man who was following Gloria the night she died. It belongs to former detective Lankford. This convinces Mickey that La Cosse is innocent.

Chapter 17

Mickey goes to meet Cisco where he is sitting on Trina Rafferty. When he arrives, Cisco is in Trina's apartment with her. Together they interview Trina, but she will only talk after Mickey pays her eight hundred dollars. Trina admits that she was a snitch for Marco and that Gloria was as well. Trina says that Marco had Gloria hide a gun in Moya's hotel room one night and then make a deal with the local police to snitch on him. Mickey realizes that he was simply a pawn in a plea deal he thought he had arranged for his client. As they continue to talk, Trina gets a call on her cell. It turns out to be Sylvester Falgoni, Sr. The timing of the call makes Mickey suspect that someone has been following him.



Chapter 18

Mickey goes to a staff meeting to which he has invited Earl. Cisco tells Mickey that he found an electronic tracker on his car. They make the decision to leave the tracker where it is. Mickey updates everyone on the new evidence in the La Cosse case. They discuss the way Marco set up Moya years ago, wondering why Gloria was picked up by the local police and turned Moya over to them instead of Marco taking it directly. They also wonder why Gloria was killed seven years after the fact. Moya would have needed Gloria alive to prove in court that he was set up. That leaves everyone wondering if Moya killed Gloria to protect himself. For this reason, Mickey asks Jennifer to do more research on Marco. Mickey also wants to know if there is a connection between Lankford and Marco.

Chapter 19

Mickey goes to the courthouse so that he might talk to the DA on the Moya case, Leslie Faire. However, after waiting several minutes to see Faire, Lankford comes out and tells him to leave.

Analysis

Time has passed. Mickey has worked on other cases. However, he is still working the La Cosse case and doing his best to come up with a defense as the trial date approaches. Mickey does his usual legal maneuvering, but he still does not have a solid defense. As he works the case, Mickey is subpoenaed on another case. The case involves the drug dealer Moya, the case that he represented Gloria on when she turned evidence on Moya. This leaves Mickey wondering if it could be connected.

Moya is a Mexican cartel member who dealt drugs in America. From a prostitute who worked with Gloria, Mickey learns that Moya had a deal with Gloria and a prostitute named Trina Rafferty. Moya would supply them with drugs for themselves and their clients in exchange for some free sexual services. From Trina Rafferty, Mickey learns that Gloria was busted at some point and became an informant for a DEA agent named James Marco. Marco disliked Moya and desperately wanted to put him in prison, but Moya was careful to never be caught with more than a few ounces of drugs, thus keeping him out of long jail sentences. For this reason, Marco had Gloria hide a gun in Moya's room and then turn him over to the local cops so that when Marco went on trial for the drugs, he would be eligible for a longer prison sentence because of the gun.

As Mickey learns more about Gloria's involvement in the Moya case, the more he begins to wonder if her death had something to do with the case. However, the subpoenas suggest to Mickey that Moya knows Gloria was the snitch and that he needed her to testify so he could overturn his conviction. This seems to rule Moya out as Gloria's killer. Now Mickey finds himself suspecting that Marco is a dirty cop. However, this does not explain why Lankford, the DA investigator and former police detective, was the one following Gloria the night she died.



Discussion Question 1

What is a subpoena? Why is Mickey served with a subpoena in the Moya case? What might he know that might help Moya?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Kendall Roberts? What connection does she have to Gloria Dayton? Why does Mickey repeatedly visit her?

Discussion Question 3

What has someone done to Mickey's car? Why does this make Mickey suspicious? What does he decide to do about it?

Vocabulary

Confrontation, imaginary, concentrate, revealing, different, appearance, personal, alcove, operate, physical, extraction, previously, surprised, process, incarcerated, prisons, inmates, occasional, separation, located, administrative, regime, prosecutors, underscored, lofty, receptionist, inclined.



Part 2, Mr. Lucky: Chapters 20-28

Summary

Part 2, Mr. Lucky: Chapters 20-28

Chapter 20

Mickey goes to see Legal Siegel again. Legal tells Mickey he is too close to the case to see the big picture. Legal then suggests that Gloria might have been subpoenaed in Moya's case and that might have had something to do with her death.

Chapter 21

Mickey goes to Falgoni Jr.'s office to ask him about previous subpoenas in the Moya case. Falgoni's office and attitude seem to confirm to Mickey that Junior is just a front for his father. Growing annoyed, Mickey tells Falgoni Jr. to tell his father that Mickey is coming to the prison to visit Moya and to be a part of the case in exchange for information about Marco.

Chapter 22

Mickey climbs into his car and finds a stranger waiting for him. When the man describes the danger that Marco poses, Mickey immediately guesses the stranger is Marco. Marco then threatens Jennifer. When Marco gets out of the car, Mickey yells at Earl for letting Marco into the car in the first place. Then, Mickey tries to reach Jennifer. Then, he calls Cisco and yells at him for not protecting him with the guys who supposedly had been following him all morning.

Chapter 23

Mickey finally speaks to Jennifer and tells her to back off of Marco just to be safe. However, Mickey makes it clear he still plans to go after Marco in trial. Mickey then goes to watch his daughter's soccer practice, but discovers she is not there. A call to his former wife reveals that his daughter quit soccer in favor of horseback riding. Mickey also learns that his wife is taking a new job in Ventura. Mickey is upset at this news, but he decides not to fight it.

Chapter 24

Mickey sneaks out of his house and goes to the yoga center that Kendall Roberts owns to ask her to meet him for dinner. Mickey tells Kendall that someone has been tracking his car's movements and he is concerned someone might know about her. Mickey then asks Kendall if she ever met Moya or Marco and again she insists she never did.

Chapter 25



Mickey is home sleeping when he gets a call from Sylvester Falgoni, Sr. Falgoni is angry with the threats Mickey made to Falgoni, Jr. However, when Mickey explains things to Falgoni, he agrees not only to speak to Mickey, but to allow Mickey to speak to Moya.

Chapter 26

The next morning, Mickey and Earl drive to the federal prison where Falgoni and Moya are both incarcerated. On the drive, Mickey reads through the transcripts of Moya's trial. Mickey meets with Falgoni first. Falgoni tells Mickey how he began doing simple legal work for his fellow inmates soon after his arrival. Moya came to Falgoni and told him that the LAPD planted the gun in his hotel room. Falgoni began looking into it and when he saw Marco's name on the case, he remembered another client who claimed a gun was planted on him by Marco. However, Marco did not come on Moya's case until after he was arrested. This left someone else, a snitch for Marco. When Falgoni asked Moya who had been in the room prior to his arrest, Gloria was the only one they could not rule out. They tracked Gloria down with pictures and subpoenaed her. The subpoena was sealed, but when Gloria was killed Falgoni thought that Marco had someone in the clerk's office, which is why he did not have Kendall's subpoena done official.

Chapter 27

Mickey meets with Moya next. Moya tells Mickey about the initial search during which the gun was found. Moya also swears he was never in Nogales, Arizona where police claim he bought the gun with a false ID. Moya admits the ID was his, but that he never used it to buy a gun. However, Moya did use the ID while he was associated with Gloria and Trina.

Chapter 28

Mickey returns to the car and they begin the long trip back to LA. Mickey calls Val and asks him if he has a picture of Gloria holding her subpoena, but Val is not very cooperative. Mickey then calls Cisco and tells him to go to Colorado to interview the man Moya supposedly bought the gun from. As Mickey talks to Cisco, his car is rammed from behind by a large tow truck. The car goes off the road and into an embankment. A stranger comes to Mickey's rescue, but Earl was thrown from the car. Earl is dead.

Analysis

Mickey appears to be in danger as illustrated when Marco comes to warn him off the Moya case. However, Mickey takes this warning as evidence that he is on the right track. Mickey has become determined to prove that La Cosse is innocent because he honestly believes he is.

Mickey explores the Moya case more deeply after speaking with Trina Rafferty, making himself a part of the case in order to get information he needs from Moya to save La Cosse. To do this, Mickey goes to the prison where both Moya and his lawyer, Falgoni



Sr., are serving their time. This gives Mickey more information about the case, specifically the information that Gloria was served with a subpoena about a week before she died. The subpoena was sealed, but it clear that someone contacted Marco about it, possibly a clerk or Gloria herself.

As Mickey continues to fight for La Cosse it becomes increasingly apparent that Marco is a bad cop. This seems to be underscored when Mickey's car is forced off the road and his driver is killed. It also injects more suspense in the novel as the reader worries about the danger in which Mickey now finds himself.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mickey visit Sylvester Falgoni, Jr.? What does he learn from him? Why does Mickey volunteer to become a part of Moya's case?

Discussion Question 2

Who is James Marco? What does he have to do with Gloria? Why does Marco threaten Jennifer?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Earl? What role does he play in Mickey's life? How is he killed?

Vocabulary

Embankment, horror, expression, rescuer, paramedics, ruptured, momentum, centrifugal, juror, prevent, testify, subpoena, willingly, burners, circuit, murdered, testified, sparse, representation, messages, visited, prisons, authorization, cooperation, protection, circumspect, previous, bloodstream, planted, informants, preposterous.



Part 3, The Man in the Hat: Chapters 29-35

Summary

Part 3, The Man in the Hat: Chapters 29-35

Chapter 29

Six weeks have passed. Mickey was injured in the crash but is mostly recovered. La Cosse's trial has begun. Mickey reserves his opening statement for after the prosecution has presented their case. The only surprise in the prosecution case is another of La Cosse's prostitutes who claims that La Cosse physically attacked him for withholding money. However, Mickey is able to put holes in the story on his cross. The prosecution rests on a Friday and the defense will begin on Monday. Before they begin, however, Mickey presents an amended witness list to the judge. The prosecutor objects, so Mickey agrees not to call any of the new witnesses on the list until the following day so that the prosecutor has time to review the new names. Mickey then presents his opening argument.

Chapter 30

Mickey goes into the restroom where he is confronted by Lankford. Lankford is angry to have discovered he is on Mickey's new witness list. Val is Mickey's first witness. Mickey has Val talk about the subpoena he served on Gloria Dayton a week before she died. This allows Mickey to present to the jury the picture Val took to prove he served the papers. This also allows Mickey to enter into the record Moya's case and its assertion that Marco planted the gun in Moya's room with Gloria's help. Val also testifies that when he learned Gloria had been killed he initially worried that the subpoena he served on her had something to do with it.

Chapter 31

After lunch, Mickey puts Sylvester Falgoni, Jr. on the stand. Falgoni talks about the Moya case and how he learned that Gloria was an informant for Marco and that she planted the gun in Moya's room for Marco. This leads to Mickey asking the judge to issue an order to appear to get Marco to testify. When Mickey returns to examining Falgoni, he makes him look like a fool and a bad lawyer in order to keep Forsythe from doing it and thereby making Mickey look like he was a fool for putting Falgoni on the stand.

Chapter 32

Forsythe cross examines Falgoni, leaving the man broken at the end. Afterward, the lawyers go into the judge's chambers to write the order to appear with the judge. Lorna



is angry with Mickey as she drives him to the loft after court. Mickey is not sure why, but later realizes she is angry because of the task Mickey has for Cisco that night. Lorna is worried Mickey is putting Cisco, her husband, in danger. At the loft, Mickey discusses their strategy with his team, including his decision to hide a specific witness in a list of many other names.

Chapter 33

Cisco calls Mickey in the middle of the night. Cisco tells Mickey that he and his guys sat on the witness's house and filmed Lankford and Marco breaking into the house. They also got Marco on tape planting drugs in the house. A short time later, Sylvester Falgoni, Sr. calls Mickey and yells at him for how he treated his son in jail. However, it soon becomes clear that Falgoni's real motivation is to make sure Mickey has arranged to call him to testify so that he can get out of jail for a few days.

The next morning, Mickey watches the recording Cisco made the night before on Lorna's iPad as they drive to the courthouse. The evidence is damaging, but Mickey is not sure how he will introduce it in court. Mickey then explains the evidence to Lorna, telling her they placed a witness on their list that they knew Lankford would recognize as a neighbor across the street from a double homicide he worked ten years before. Cisco believes that it was while Lankford was investigating this homicide that he met and became connected to Marco. They put the name on the list and sent the witness away in hopes that Marco and Lankford would do something like what they did, in fact, do.

Chapter 34

In court, the lawyers are immediately pulled into the judge's chambers to discuss Mickey's new witness list. Each makes their arguments, but the judge throws out all the new names except for Lankford. Forsythe warns Mickey not to drag good people through the mud.

Chapter 35

When court reconvenes, Mickey calls Trina Rafferty to the stand. However, instead of telling her story honestly, Trina changes things around to make it appear that Mickey has been paying for her apartment in exchange for her testimony. She also refuses to admit to knowing James Marco and to the knowledge that Gloria planted the gun in Moya's hotel room. Mickey manages to poke holes in her story, but it has still damaged his defense.

Analysis

La Cosse's trial begins. Mickey is still gathering information on the Moya case, still hoping to present Marco as a suspect in the murder in order to prove La Cosse's innocence. However, there are stumbling blocks for Mickey in introducing this line of defense to the jury.



Mickey, as the reader already knows, is a tricky guy who is not opposed to using unusual methods to defend his clients. With this knowledge, the reader is not surprised when Mickey sets up Lankford and Marco by putting a name on the witness list that he knows will worry them. By doing this, Mickey is able to catch Lankford and Marco planting drugs in the home of a witness. Not even Mickey knows what he will do with this evidence at this point in the novel, but the reader can be assured that however he uses it, it will be explosive. It also seems to give more weight to Mickey's belief that La Cosse is innocent and Marco is dirty.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mickey add a large number of witness names to his already created witness list? What is Mickey trying to do with these added witnesses?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Mickey make Falgoni Jr. look like an incompetent lawyer on the stand? Does this help or hurt his case?

Discussion Question 3

What does it mean for the defense when the prosecution presents a witness who claims La Cosse was often violent when he believes someone is keeping money from him? Could it still be possible La Cosse killed Gloria?

Vocabulary

Proceeding, teammates, witness, Miranda, investigator, planted, truthfully, courtroom, cross examine, instinctively, questioning, pressured, snitched, chastised, objected, properly, relevant, answered, testimony, regarding, astonishment, reserved, representing, answered, gallows, condemned, supposedly.



Part 3, The Man in the Hat: Chapters 36-42 and Part 4, The Gods of Guilt: Closing Argument

Summary

Part 3, The Man in the Hat: Chapters 36-42 and Part 4, The Gods of Guilt: Closing Argument

Chapter 36

Mickey puts Detective Mark Whitten, the lead detective on the Gloria Dayton murder, back on the stand. Mickey asks Whitten if any phones were found at Gloria Dayton's apartment. Mickey wants to know if Whitten ever got phone records for the one phone that Gloria used that was not a disposable. Whitten admitted he had, but La Cosse has already been arrested. So, he did not feel it was pertinent. However, Mickey gets him to tell the jury that one of the calls made on that phone was a call to the DEA within hours of Gloria getting the subpoena in the Moya case. Mickey implies that this means Gloria was trying to talk to Marco about the subpoena, but Whitten argues that the call was made to the main DEA line, not to Marco directly. Mickey gets Whitten to admit that it was possible Gloria called the main DEA line because she no longer had Marco's private number.

Chapter 37

After lunch, Mickey continues his questioning of Whitten. Mickey asks about the detective's investigation into La Cosse's story that Gloria was supposed to meet a client at the Beverly Wilshire the night of her murder. Whitten agrees that he checked out the story and reviewed security footage from the hotel that showed Gloria Dayton going to a room and then asking at the desk about the person who was supposed to be in the room. Mickey turns over the witness and Forsythe tries to poke holes in the facts Mickey presented, but is unable to do so.

Mickey calls his next witness, Victor Hensley. Hensley is the head of security for the Beverly Wilshire. With Hensley on the stand, Mickey is able to introduce the security tapes from the hotel. However, Mickey acts as though he had never seen them, forcing the judge to give him an hour to review them.

Chapter 38

Due to the fact that Mickey has already seen the hotel security tapes, he spends the time reviewing the video Cisco and his men took the day before. When Mickey returns to the courtroom, he runs Hensley through the security tapes and asks him to explain each step. When they reach the section in which the man in the hat is visible, Mickey



has Hensley tell the jury that the man appears to be following Gloria and that he is not an employee of the hotel.

When Hensley leaves the stand, Mickey pretends he is not prepared to call another witness so that the judge ends the case for the day. Lankford confronts Mickey and Mickey teases him with the knowledge that they identified him as the man in the hat.

Chapter 39

Back at the loft, Mickey and his team have a small celebration. As they talk about the next day's testimony, Mickey gets a call informing him that La Cosse has been stabbed. Mickey has Jennifer prepare an argument for the judge to stop a mistrial while he rushes to the hospital to see La Cosse. Mickey waits more than six hours before he is finally allowed a few minutes alone with La Cosse.

Chapter 40

The next morning, Mickey allows Jennifer to make the argument against a mistrial in light of the fact that La Cosse cannot attend the court proceedings. Jennifer's argument is solidified by a waiver Mickey claims La Cosse had signed. When Forsythe argues that La Cosse was in no condition to sign anything, Mickey shows the judge a picture of La Cosse sitting up in his hospital bed with a pen in hand. The judge rules they can continue the trial. Back in the courtroom, Mickey slips Lorna's iPad to Lankford with the video of him and Marco cued up, instructing him to watch it through the end. Mickey then whispers to Lankford that he wants Marco.

Chapter 41

As the court is convened, Mickey makes an argument to the judge that Marco should not be allowed in the room with his gun, but the judge rules against him. Mickey also asks the judge to force Lankford to remain in the courtroom, but she again refuses. Finally the jury is brought in and Mickey calls James Marco as his first witness of the day. On the stand, Marco denies knowing Gloria Dayton. In fact, Marco denies knowing anyone involved with the current case other than Detective Lankford, whom he claims to have met ten years ago when they worked a double homicide together. When Mickey asks about a specific witness who lives across from where the double homicide took place, Lankford tries to leave the courtroom. The judge orders him to return in a short time. Marco then claims that he was on a stakeout the night Gloria Dayton was murdered. Mickey releases Marco and calls Lankford to the stand.

Chapter 42

Mickey begins his questioning of Lankford by asking how he came to be assigned to the La Cosse case in the DA's office. Lankford admits that Marco told him to ask for the assignment. Lankford goes on to testify that he followed Gloria Dayton the night she was murdered because Marco wanted to know where she lived. Lankford went to the Beverly Wilshire that day and called La Cosse, claiming to be the groom in the room across the hall from him because he knew La Cosse would call the hotel back to make



sure the client was legit. Lankford then waited for Gloria to show up and then followed her home. Once he had her address, Lankford called Marco, gave him the information, and then went home. When Lankford learned that Gloria was dead, he asked Marco if he killed her. Marco denied killing Gloria, but he admitted to starting the fire in her apartment. Lankford testifies, however, that he believes Marco killed Gloria.

During his testimony, the judge takes Lankford's gun and asks him if he wants to consult a lawyer. Lankford, however, elects to continue. As Mickey continues to guide Lankford, Lankford admits that during the double homicide, he took money from Marco to leave the case unsolved. Lankford says that he used the money to fight for custody of his kid. When Mickey ends his questioning, Lankford takes a small pistol from his ankle. He says his kid is older now and will be okay. Then, he kills himself.

Closing Argument

La Cosse's trial ends in a mistrial. The DA's office drops all charges against La Cosse. La Cosse survives his stab wounds and sues the city, settling for more than two million dollars, a portion of which Mickey and his law firm receive for representing him. Mickey's reputation is somewhat elevated when a series of articles are published about La Cosse's ordeal, but begins to slide again when the bar association investigates him on ethic charges in relation to the waiver La Cosse supposedly signed while unconscious in the hospital. Mickey is unworried about this, however, because La Cosse is happy to testify on his behalf.

Mickey is also able to get Moya out of prison based on allegations that Marco planted the gun, but Moya is immediately arrested again and deported to Mexico. Marco has disappeared, but based on an anonymous video he has received, Mickey believes Moya caught up with Marco and killed him.

Analysis

Mickey is able, with help from several witnesses, to connect Gloria Dayton to Marco. Mickey implies that Gloria called Marco as soon as she got the subpoena in the Moya case. This gave Marco a motive for Gloria's murder. All of this is leading up to Mickey proving that Lankford and Marco were involved in the murder of Gloria Dayton. However, it is a tricky slope that Mickey is climbing and it only grows trickier when La Cosse is stabbed, effectively giving the prosecution an excuse to call for a mistrial.

The reader is well aware of Mickey's personality and the fact that he often bends the rules of the law as a means to an end. For this reason, the reader is not incredibly surprised that Mickey fights to continue the case despite La Cosse's inability to attend the court proceedings. Mickey himself admits that what he did was probably wrong, but thanks to the good outcome, his client is not unhappy.

Mickey takes down two cops, one who is clearly a dirty cop and another who simply skated on the edge and found himself in a bad place. Both men pay for their crimes with their lives. One pays by his own hand, and the other at the hand of the same cartel he



both worked for and fought to destroy. Mickey walks away with both the good and the bad, determined to face the future with the same cynicism that has gotten him through all the other dark moments in his life.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mickey need to introduce the hotel security tapes in court? What will these tapes show the jury?

Discussion Question 2

How is La Cosse stabbed? Why would this normally lead to a mistrial? Why does Mickey fight the mistrial? How is Mickey's method illegal?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Lankford decide to tell the truth on the stand? How does Lankford's testimony blow the case wide open? Is this good for Mickey?

Vocabulary

Jury, justice, settlement, ongoing, investigations, attention, consciousness, pantheon, victims, remains, unknown, corrupted, announcement, authenticated, unnamed, evidence, federal, release, immigration, undesirable, remain, securing, competitions, supposedly, waiver, relations, rehabilitation, recovery, reputation.



Characters

Mickey Haller

Mickey Haller is a defense attorney in Las Angeles who works primarily out of his Lincoln. Mickey ran for DA months before the novel begins, but lost the election after it became public that a man he defended, and helped get released from jail, killed a woman and her daughter in a drunk driving case. This case also ruined his relationship with his daughter because the victims were associated with his daughter's school.

Mickey is a man with a conscience, but he is also a man who is willing to do just about anything to get his clients off, even if they are guilty. This means that Mickey will play tricks in court and walk the fine line between right and wrong. When La Cosse hires Mickey, he initially takes the case for the money, then for Gloria, but finally because he truly believes La Cosse is innocent.

Mickey pulls every trick he can for La Cosse, even faking a waiver he claims La Cosse signed to allow them to continue with the trial after La Cosse is stabbed. This does little to help Mickey's reputation, but he is able to save La Cosse and expose two bad cops.

Andre La Cosse

Andre La Cosse is a small, nerdy man who works as a digital pimp for multiple prostitutes in the Las Angeles area. On the night Gloria Dayton is murdered, La Cosse admits to police he went to her apartment and fought with her, actually grabbing her around the throat. However, La Cosse denies killing her. La Cosse calls Mickey, asking him to represent him based on something Gloria Dayton told him about Mickey being someone she could trust. In the end, Mickey is able to free La Cosse based on testimony in court.

Gloria Dayton

Gloria Dayton, also known as Giselle Dallinger, is the victim in the murder case Mickey is working in this novel. Gloria Dayton was once a client of Mickey's, a prostitute he helped out a few times more than seven years before. The last case Mickey handled for Gloria, she turned evidence on a drug dealer in exchange for a lighter sentence. Mickey then gave Gloria the money she needed to go to Hawaii where she said she had a friend willing to care for her. However, Mickey discovers that Gloria never went to Hawaii. Instead, Gloria changed her name and moved to Las Vegas, returning to Los Angeles a few years prior to her death with yet another new name. Gloria was strangled in her apartment and the apartment was set on fire. Her digital pimp is charged with the murder, but Mickey is able to establish that she was likely killed by DEA Agent James Marco because of her actions in the final case she worked with Mickey.



Detective Lee Lankford

Detective Lankford is a former LAPD detective whom Mickey came up against years before when his former investigator was murdered. Lankford tries to pin the murder on Mickey, but Mickey was later able to prove someone else did it. When Mickey learns that Lankford, who now works in the DA's office, is assigned to the La Cosse case, he thinks it is a coincidence. However, when his investigator, Cisco, finds evidence that Lankford was following Gloria the night she died, Mickey realizes he is more deeply involved than he first thought.

Cisco finds evidence that Lankford and DEA Agent James Marco worked together on a double homicide ten years before. Mickey believes that they are now partners in crime. This is proven when Cisco gets video of Lankford and Marco breaking into the home of a potential witness in the La Cosse case and planting drugs. Mickey uses the video to encourage Lankford to turn on Marco and testify against him. Lankford turns on Marco, but then he kills himself on the stand.

DEA Agent James Marco

DEA Agent James Marco is a cop who runs a special task force for the DEA that tracks and arrests many criminals on drug related charges. Ten years ago, Marco became involved in the case of Hector Arrande Moya, a drug dealer with the Mexican cartel who was caught with several ounces of drugs and a gun after one of his prostitutes turned evidence on him. Years later, Moya claims that Marco had his informant plant the gun in order to inflate the charges and get Moya a life sentence.

Mickey becomes involved in Moya's case and begins to build reasonable doubt in his La Cosse case by showing that Marco had more reason to kill the informant, Gloria Dayton, than La Cosse. In court, Mickey is able to show that Gloria called Marco shortly after being served with a subpoena in Moya's case and that a week later she was killed. Mickey also has evidence that Marco is willing to do anything to keep a witness quiet when he is given a video that shows Marco planting drugs in the home of a potential witness in the La Cosse case. Finally, Mickey is able to provide a witness who tracked down Gloria for Marco and to whom Marco admitted to starting the fire that destroyed evidence at the murder scene.

After the La Cosse case is over, Mickey receives an anonymous video that shows a gruesome dead body. Mickey believes this body is the body of Marco. Mickey also believes that Marco was killed by the cartel.

Hector Arrande Moya

Moya is a member of a Mexican cartel. As a teenager, he made a name for himself as a hired killer for the cartel. Moya then moved to the United States where he sold drugs for the cartel. Ten years before the novel begins, Moya was selling drugs to Gloria Dayton



and Trina Rafferty. Gloria Dayton, an informant for DEA agent James Marco, planted a gun in Moya's hotel room because Marco had been trying to take Moya down, but could never catch him with more than a few ounces of drugs. These arrests rarely led to significant time in jail. However, being caught with a small amount of drugs and a gun would allow Moya, under federal law, to be sentenced to life. This is what happens, but Moya hires a lawyer seven years later who is able to establish that Gloria Dayton planted the gun on Marco's behalf. Mickey uses this information to help prove that Marco, not his client, killed Gloria.

Trina Rafferty

Trina Rafferty is a prostitute who once worked with Gloria Dayton. Trina has agreed to testify for Moya in his appeal that alleges DEA agent James Marco planted a gun in Moya's hotel room. Trina was an informant for Marco at the time of Moya's murder and was told by Gloria Dayton that she was forced by Marco to place the gun in Moya's hotel room. However, when Mickey calls Trina to testify in the La Cosse case, she lies about knowing Marco or that Gloria was an informant for Marco.

Kendall Roberts

Kendall Roberts is a former prostitute who once worked with Trina Rafferty and Gloria Dayton. Kendall is subpoenaed in the Moya case, but her subpoena is not a legally registered subpoena, causing Mickey to wonder why she was subpoenaed at all. This information leads Mickey to guessing correctly that the lawyers working the Moya case are aware that their subpoena more than likely was the motive for Gloria's murder. Mickey grows close to Kendall in this novel and they begin a relationship.

Cisco

Cisco is Mickey's investigator. Cisco is a large man who was once part of a motorcycle gang and still has many contacts in those gangs. Cisco is also married to Mickey's office manager, and ex-wife, Lorna. In this novel, Cisco helps Mickey find information on a man they believe was following Gloria Dayton the night she was murdered. Cisco also manages to get video evidence of two cops planting drugs in the home of a potential witness in the La Cosse case.

Earl Biggs

Earl is a small time thief who often drives for Mickey to pay off legal costs associated with his crimes. Earl and Mickey have become good friends. Earl proves himself to be very helpful when Mickey is interviewing an uncooperative witness. Unfortunately, Earl is killed in this novel when Mickey's Lincoln is hit from behind by a tow truck and Earl is thrown out of the car.



Symbols and Symbolism

Gold Bar

La Cosse has all his money in gold bars, so he pays his retainer fee and more with a single gold bar. However, La Cosse's lover runs off with the rest of his money, leaving him unable to pay Mickey any more money until he settles a lawsuit with the city months after murder charges are dropped against him.

Subpoena

Mickey is subpoenaed in the Moya appeal, leading him to guess that Gloria was also subpoenaed and that this could have served as motive in her murder.

Beverly Wilshire Security Footage

Cisco finds security footage at the Beverly Wilshire hotel that not only shows that the client Gloria Dayton was supposed to meet the night she died was not there, but also shows that she was followed out of the hotel by a man in a hat. Mickey proves that this man was former Detective Lankford.

License Plate Number

Cisco finds more security footage that reveals the license plate number of the man in the hat who followed Gloria Dayton out of the Beverly Wilshire the night she died. This number is traced back to Lankford.

Tracking Device

Cisco guys find a tracking device on Mickey's Lincoln. Mickey believes that Marco placed it there. He instructs them to leave it in an attempt to show Marco that he is not afraid. However, Mickey later believes that this tracking device allowed Marco to find him on the highway outside a federal prison and run him off the road with a tow truck, leaving Earl dead.

Cellphones

Mickey learns from La Cosse that he and Gloria often used burners (throw away cellphones) in their business. However, Gloria had an iPhone she used in her private life. At trial, Mickey uses the detective on the murder case to prove that Gloria used her iPhone to contact Marco the day she was served with the subpoena in the Moya case.



Val's Pictures

Val uses his cellphone to take pictures of the people to whom he serves subpoena's in his job as a process server. One of these pictures shows Gloria's fear as she reads the subpoena in the Moya case.

Witness Video

Cisco manages to take candid video of Lankford and Marco checking out the home of a potential witness in the La Cosse case and Marco planting drugs in the witness's freezer.

Hyoid Bone

Police declare Gloria Dayton's death an accident, assuming the fire killed her after she fell asleep with a cigarette in her hand. However, when the coroner finds during an autopsy that her hyoid bone is broken, her death is reclassified as a murder because the only way a hyoid bone can break is under unnatural force.

Printer

Mickey has added a printer to his office set up inside the Lincoln to make it easier for him to do his work.



Settings

Lincoln

Mickey does not like to be stationary, so he works out of the back of his Lincoln Town Car. Mickey has a driver who drives him where he needs to go. In the car, Mickey had a laptop computer and a printer that helps him work on any paperwork he might need to do. In this novel, Mickey's Lincoln is forced off the road by a tow truck, killing his on again, off again driver Earl and leaving him with injuries.

Gloria Dayton's Apartment

Gloria Dayton is killed in her apartment and the apartment is set on fire. The police initially think it is an accident, but they later rule it a homicide when they discover Gloria was strangled. When Cisco later goes over the detective's notes, he discovers that key pieces of evidence are missing from Gloria's apartment, suggesting she was killed for a specific reason.

The Loft

To help pay the bills, Mickey's firm handles a large number of foreclosure cases. One of these clients is the owner of a large warehouse space that includes numerous lofts. Mickey's firm receives permission to use one of the empty lofts as an office space and it is here that they often have their staff meetings and strategy planning meetings.

The Park

Mickey and his daughter are estranged. In order to watch her at soccer practice, Mickey sets in a park that overlooks the athletic fields of her school. It is during one of these private moments that Mickey learns his daughter no longer plays soccer and that she has taken up horse riding. Mickey also learns that his wife and daughter are moving the Ventura.



Themes and Motifs

Justice

This novel's main character is Mickey Haller, a lawyer. He defends his clients to the best of his ability, even if he does not always believe they are innocent. For this reason, Mickey often bends the rules in order to get his clients the best result he can. Unfortunately, this sometimes comes back to haunt Mickey.

In order for justice to work, there must be a balance, a way in which everyone receives equal treatment. That is why defense attorneys are important to the justice system because they provide that balance. In Mickey's case, he often finds himself representing the worst of humanity, but he must give them the same effort he would give someone he knows is clearly innocent. Sometimes this works for Mickey, but sometimes it comes back to haunt him. For example, Mickey's daughter is refusing to speak to him in this novel because he got a habitual drunk driver out of jail just before he killed a woman and her daughter, two people who were associated with the school Mickey's daughter attended.

At the same time, Mickey occasionally finds himself defending someone he knows without a doubt is innocent. In this novel, Mickey finds himself defending a digital pimp who seems guilty on the outside, but Mickey comes to believe is truly innocent. For this reason, Mickey fights to prove the truth, taking down two cops in the process. It is all about justice.

Corruption

In this novel, Mickey comes up against two cops he begins to believe are not honest. One of these cops is a DEA agent who will clearly do anything to get his man. Mickey learns that this agent had one of Mickey's clients hide a gun in the room of drug dealer so that the drug dealer's charges could be inflated and he would go to jail for a longer time period. These are strong allegations and hard to prove, especially since the one woman who could prove Marco's actions is dead, so Mickey finds himself walking a thin line as he tries to defend his client and expose Marco.

The other cop Mickey comes up against is a former detective who once accused Mickey of murdering his own investigator. This man is a thorn in Mickey's side. Therefore, when Mickey learns that this detective followed Gloria Dayton home the night of her murder, he begins to wonder if he might be working in league with Marco. Mickey really wants to take Marco down, to show the world just how dirty he really is. It is with the help of Detective Lankford that Mickey is able to do that.

What's really ironic about Mickey's case this time, however, is that Marco was willing to do anything to take down the bad guy while Mickey is willing to do anything to help his clients. In the end, the reader must wonder how thin the line is between Marco's actions



and Mickey's. The only difference is that Mickey is not willing to murder. At least, he's not ready yet.

Friendship

Earl Biggs is a client of Mickey's. However, sometimes clients have a way of becoming important to Mickey. Earl is one of those. Gloria was another. Mickey even tried to get Gloria out of the business by giving her the money to go to Hawaii. He thought it had worked, only to find that Gloria never left the business and it eventually got her killed.

Mickey has few friends. He has his team, his investigator, his office manager, his associate. He has Earl and he has the occasional lover. Friends can sometimes be dangerous in Mickey's line of work because he never knows when he might have to cross someone in the name of justice or when someone might want to hurt him and get a friend instead. That is what happens in this novel. Gloria Dayton is killed because of a case on which Mickey helped her. Earl is killed simply because he was driving a car Mickey was too conceited to hide.

At the end of the novel, Mickey talks about the Gods of Guilt and how he carries around a jury of his own who are constantly judging him for his actions. Earl is on this jury, as is Gloria, his father, and his mentor Legal Siegel. Among these also are the mother and daughter who died because he was too good at his job. The jury shows that Mickey has friends and he has a conscience. He knows that what he does hurts those around him, but he continues to fight because he believes that it is the right thing to do.



Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The narrator is Mickey Haller, a lawyer in Los Angeles who often works out of the back of his car. Mickey is an interesting character who often finds himself stretching the line between right and wrong in order to do whatever it takes to find justice for his clients.

The first person point of view of this novel is an intimate point of view that pulls the reader into Mickey's head and shows them how hard he tries to do the right thing even as he is doing something that is borderline illegal. This point of view lets the reader know that, yes, Mickey has a conscience, that he knows that many of the things he does is wrong, but he does them to try and save those who rely on him. It is a difficult balancing act that might be lost to the reader if not for the tight point of view that allows the reader to know everything Mickey thinks, feels, and does.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is simple English. Although the main character of this novel is highly educated, he uses a language that is simple enough for even the youngest readers to understand. There are many legal terms in this novel, but most of them are explained to the reader in simple terms.

The language of this novel fits with the plot and characters of the novel. The author uses a mild amount of legal terms in this novel, but he often explains it with a sort of simplicity that occasionally talks down to the reader. The language fits the main character in that it is intelligent, but it is also rough and egotistical, completely fitting with the main character's personality.

Structure

The novel is written in four parts and forty-two chapters as well as an epilogue. The novel is told in both narration and dialogue, showing a completed story the reader can follow easily. It is a simple format that even the youngest readers can follow.

This novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Mickey Haller as he investigates and defends his client, Andre La Cosse, against charges that he murdered prostitute Gloria Dayton. A subplot follows the case of Hector Arrande Moya, a drug dealer who was charged and incarcerated on drug charges after Gloria Dayton turned evidence on him. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but ever since the movie, a whole contingent of Lincoln lawyers had cropped up and routinely crowded the curbs outside the courthouses of LA.

-- Mickey (chapter 2 paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote comments on the real life movie made from the first Mickey Haller novel, the Lincoln Lawyer, featuring Matthew McConaughey. The author often mentions such things in his novels. This quote also shows Mickey's annoyance at occasionally being unable to find his own car when leaving the courthouse.

And get this, when I asked him where the referral came from, he said the woman he is accused of killing had recommended you. He said she told him you were the best.

-- Lorna (chapter 3 paragraph 7)

Importance: This quote takes place when Lorna first tells Mickey about the La Cosse case. This is the first hint that Mickey had some kind of relationship with the victim.

On the table was a gold brick shining like the sun breaking over the mountains in the morning.

-- Mickey (chapter 5 paragraph 6)

Importance: This is the first moment Mickey sees the gold brick that La Cosse sends to him for his retainer fee and expenses. This is an unusual way to be paid. However, Mickey's subdued reaction to it shows that unusual is not unusual to him.

It was impossible to tell for sure because of the hat, but it seemed clear that Gloria had a follower.

-- Mickey (chapter 6 paragraph 32)

Importance: Mickey sees security footage from the Beverly Wilshire hotel that seems to show that someone in a hat is following Gloria on the day she is murdered. This proves to be important evidence later at trial.

My heart lifted when I saw she still had the number 7 on the back of her green jersey. Her lucky number. My lucky number. Mickey Mantle's number.

-- Mickey (chapter 10 paragraph 31)

Importance: Mickey is watching his daughter practice soccer from a distance because she is refusing to speak to him. However, he finds hope in the fact that she still wears the number that he feels is connected to him.

I thought it was pretty obvious that the confidential informant repeatedly mentioned in the document was Gloria Dayton.

-- Mickey (chapter 12 paragraph 74)



Importance: Mickey reads through the true habeas filed on Moya's behalf after he is subpoenaed in the case. The motion mentions an informant several times. Due to the fact that Mickey helped make a deal for Gloria that included her giving up information that led to Moya's arrest, he is sure that the informant being mentioned is Gloria, thus his subpoena. This proves to be important later in the novel because it acts as motive for murder.

All right, so the 'stang comes back to a guy named Lee Lankford. And get this, Mick, he's law enforcement.

-- Cisco (chapter 16 paragraph 24)

Importance: Cisco has been searching for more footage of the man in the hat to prove that Gloria was followed home the night she died. When he finally finds footage and is able to get a license plate number from the car, it comes back as belonging to Lee Lankford, whom Mickey knows is a former detective and current DA investigator. This proves important because it helps link Marco to Gloria's apartment the night of her death.

The life term he received because of the gun enhancement under the federal career criminal statute was the only thing currently keeping him behind bars.

-- Mickey (chapter 26 paragraph 6)

Importance: This quote is important because it shows that Moya needed Gloria alive because she is the only one, besides Marco, who can testify that the gun in Moya's hotel was a plant. This rules Moya out as a suspect and gives Mickey a way to convince Moya to cooperate with him in order to get Marco.

I saw Earl's outstretched hand, palm down on the bloody concrete. I put my hand on top of it.

-- Mickey (chapter 28 paragraph 90)

Importance: This shows Mickey's grief at the death of his friend and driver, Earl Biggs.

We've got it all and then some. Marco planted drugs in the house. Heroin.

-- Cisco (chapter 33 paragraph 12)

Importance: This quote is from Cisco. Cisco ran surveillance on the home of a witness Mickey added to his witness list in the La Cosse case, assuming Lankford would recognize the name as that of a man who lived across the street from a double homicide, a case that is the only connection they can make between Lankford and Marco. Not only does Lankford go there to speak to the witness, but Lankford and Marco break into the house. Marco plants drugs. All of this is videotaped by Cisco. This proves to be a turning point in the novel as well as Mickey's case.

I saw his fingers wrapped around a small pistol - a boot gun.

-- Mickey (chapter 42 paragraph 181)



Importance: Mickey has just finished interrogating Lankford when Lankford takes his own life, a result of his fear of prosecution or death after he gave testimony against Marco.

My gods of guilt. Every day I carry on and I carry them close. Every day I step into the well before them and I argue my case.

-- Mickey (Closing Arguments paragraph 17)

Importance: Mickey is talking about his conscience and how the people he has harmed, either directly or indirectly, serve as the jury in his mind.