

# **Harlot's Ghost Study Guide**

## **Harlot's Ghost by Norman Mailer**

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



# Contents

[Harlot's Ghost Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Plot Summary.....4](#)

[Omega-I - Omega VII.....6](#)

[Omega VII - Omega XII.....8](#)

[Alpha: Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapter I - IV.....10](#)

[Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapters 5 - 14.....12](#)

[Part II: Berlin. Chapters 1-4.....15](#)

[Part II: Berlin. Chapers 5-10.....16](#)

[Part II: Berlin. Chapters 11-16.....18](#)

[Part III: Washington. Chapters 1-7.....20](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 1 - 6.....22](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 7-13.....24](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 14-19.....26](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 20-24.....28](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 25-30.....29](#)

[Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 31-36.....30](#)

[Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 1-10.....32](#)

[Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 11-20.....34](#)

[Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 21-30.....36](#)

[Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 31-41.....39](#)

[Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 1-10.....42](#)

[Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 11-20.....45](#)

[Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 21-30.....47](#)

[Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 31-40.....49](#)



[Afterward: Washington, Rome, 1964-1965.....51](#)

[Characters.....52](#)

[Objects/Places.....55](#)

[Themes.....57](#)

[Style.....59](#)

[Quotes.....61](#)

[Topics for Discussion.....63](#)



# Plot Summary

Harlot's Ghost is a novel discussing the Central Intelligence Agency or CIA career of Harry Hubbard. Jumping back and forth through time, the novel deals mostly with Harry's young adulthood working in espionage around the world, particularly in Washington D.C., Berlin, Germany, Uruguay, and Miami.

Harlot's Ghost is divided into two versions of Harry's autobiography, the Alpha and the Omega, named after his cousin and later wife, Kittredge's theories about the human mind. The novel starts with the Omega manuscript, which describes an evening when Harry returns home to his wife Kittredge from a trip to see his mistress only to discover that his mentor and Kittredge's first husband, Harlot, has died. It is difficult to tell if the death was an accident or a murder, ostensibly orchestrated by the CIA. After a discussion with one of his colleagues, Harry returns to Kittredge, who announces that she is leaving him for another CIA agent.

The novel then turns to Harry traveling to Russia later on, re-reading his other autobiography, Alpha, with a working title of The Game. This manuscript begins by describing Harry's early life as a shy child under the control of his father, Cal, who is a CIA agent, and his introduction to his godfather Hugh Montague, also known as Harlot, who is in the CIA. He then discusses his undergraduate career at Yale University, his CIA training, and his early days at the agency in the 1950s and early 1960s. Harry's first assignment after training is in the document filing room at CIA headquarters, where he inadvertently makes a mistake that severely upsets the station chief.

In Berlin, where he works under that same station chief, a domineering man called Bill Harvey, who does not realize who Harry is. Harvey is obsessed with building a tunnel to track Soviet information from West to East Berlin. He is also obsessed with finding out who made the mistake in the document room. When he begins to suspect Harry, Harlot has Harry's assignment changed and he goes back to Washington briefly, then to Uruguay, where he works on more anti-Communist missions.

After Uruguay, Harry is transferred to Miami to work on overthrowing Cuba. At this point, he is reporting to Cal and Harlot as well as his station chief, as they are all working to bring down Castro in different ways. At this time, Harry becomes involved with a girl called Modene, who he is required to sleep with for his job, and who is also dating Frank Sinatra, a mobster called Sam Giacana, and John F. Kennedy, Jr. At the same time, Harry is still working on various tactics to overthrow Castro's regime, including involvements in the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Eventually, the Bay of Pigs fails, Kennedy succeeds in diverting the Cuban Missile Crisis, Modene and Harry break up, and Harry's relationship with Kittredge deepens through their correspondence.

By the end of the book, Harry is working with his father, having finally lived up to his expectations, and even goes to fire his old boss, Bill Harvey. He has succeeded in the Agency, to a certain extent. However, the book ends with him in Moscow, searching for Harlot after Harlot's supposed death in the boat, convinced that his former mentor is still

out there somewhere. The book ends with the phrase "To Be Continued," although it never was.



# Omega-I - Omega VII

## Omega-I - Omega VII Summary

Harlot's Ghost is the story of Harry Hubbard's adventures in the CIA. In many ways, it parallels his coming of age with the coming of age of the United States in the 1960s, as Harry deals with his family, particularly his father and godfather, his career, and Kittredge, the woman whom he is in love in.

In 1983, Harry Hubbard is driving through Maine at night on the way back home to his wife, Kittredge, at their estate, called the Keep. In Omega I, Harry gives background on the house, which has been in their family for a long time. He mentions two ghosts, Snowman Dyer and Augustus Farr, who are said to haunt the island. The novel then jumps ahead to 1984, when Harry is flying from New York to Moscow. He writes that he has two autobiographies, one of which is over 2,000 pages long, the other of which is 180 pages.

Harry returns to the evening in Maine during Omega-II. For the first time, he mentions his family history with the CIA, writing about his father and his three-year involvement trying to kill Castro. He also provides more information about Kittredge, whose first husband was paralyzed in a rock climbing accident that also killed her son Christopher. Later, she attempted to commit suicide, but Harry saved her. She eventually left her first husband, Harlot. This happened twelve years ago. Harry gets out to make a call to his wife; she tells him that she has to speak to him and that she has had a message from Harlot.

In Omega-III, Harry writes about Harlot's Virginia farmhouse, where he has been working with others since 1982. After his accident, Harlot became burned out at Langley (the CIA headquarters), where he had had a hard time since problems with Castro in 1975. Still driving at the beginning of Omega-IV, Harry arrives at the dock, where he has to cross the water to the island where his house is; however, it is stormy, and he has a very difficult and dangerous time crossing the water. Finally, he makes it across and reaches Kittredge's bedroom. From behind a locked door, she tells him to go away. He is afraid that she has attempted suicide, but she tells him through the door that Hugh has died.

In Omega-V, as Kittredge wants to be left alone, Harry goes to dry his clothes and realizes that his passport was in his pocket and got soaked during the crossing. When he returns to their bedroom, Kittredge is talking to nobody. It becomes apparent that she is talking to Hugh. He has an overwhelming urge to take her down into the basement or the Vault. The phone rings and Harry goes to answer it with a premonition that it is his mistress, Chloe. At the beginning of Omega-VI, Chloe is on the line and says that somebody ransacked her apartment. She is convinced that it is a CIA job but can't confirm. Kittredge falls asleep and Harry, watching a moth at the window, sees a man outside.



## Omega-I - Omega VII Analysis

In these chapters, the readers not only gets a sense of the overall setting, themes, and plot of the book, but also of the way Harry's mind works and how this is reflected by the structure of his autobiographies. We know that Harry is cheating on his wife, but is a complicated man with a mysterious job, although he seems to be presenting himself very clearly to the audience and we trust him as a narrator. Kittredge is set up as a volatile and mysterious woman with possible supernatural connections or mental issues. Similarly, Harlot, Harry's godfather and nemesis, has been both introduced and killed within this first section of the novel: this simultaneous presence and absence will be important for the definition of Harlot later on and in fact plays on the title of the book- a ghost is also simultaneously a presence and an absence.

Harry spends a lot of time in these first few chapters discussing his childhood and his background. While he has not always felt close to his family, this sense of connection has been important to him, and he is defined by his familial and personal connections, which have also drawn him into the CIA. These connections also define Mailer's view of the CIA, which is an organization that defends American ideals that have been passed down since the Mayflower. In this sense, the Hubbards represent America, its history, and its values.



# Omega VII - Omega XII

## Omega VII - Omega XII Summary

In Omega VII, Harry takes his father's gun into the woods. There, he finds two men but knows they are from the CIA. One of them, Arnie Rosen, he knows. Rosen comes inside with news for Harry - he tells him that there are actually three men outside and that they are there on an unauthorized visit. Rosen discusses the death of Harlot, who disappeared three days ago on a boat and did not return. On his emergency contact information, he named the CIA his next of kin. Rosen is not sure if the death was a suicide or murder. The two men discuss the possibilities of murder and suicide in Omega - VIII. The CIA may have killed him, but the body cannot even be positively identified as Harlot's, for there is no head, and the x-rays in his personnel file have gone missing.

At the beginning of Omega-IX, Harry thinks about the loss of the x-rays. Rosen confirms that the body is also missing fingerprints and most of its jaw, though some molars remain. In Omega-X, Rosen discusses how he has been talking to Kittredge about the High Holies and found out that she had been seeing Harlot without Harry's knowledge. The subject of murder comes up again, and Harry wonders if it might have been Dix Butler, who he describes in Omega-XI as a handsome former football player who was later recruited into the CIA and later left to be a special banker in allegiance with the Agency.

A little drunk from the whisky that he has been drinking with Rosen, Harry has a strong sense that Kittredge is in the Vault with Augustus Farr in Omega XII. He goes down to find her there and she tells him that she cheated on him with Dix Butler. She tells him that Dix is coming soon and Harry wants to face him, but she won't allow him to stay. He leaves, cashing out their bank account and going to New York, only to hear that the Keep burned at dawn with Rosen's body in it.

Omega-XII then shifts to an italicized section where Harry describes trouble he has with his formerly waterlogged passport at the Soviet border. In Moscow, he has a shabby hotel room and leaves to wander the streets of the city for a while but returns to re-read Alpha.

## Omega VII - Omega XII Analysis

Here, the reader is presented with three different versions of the CIA man. There is Harry, who is an agent by birthright, Rosen, who has had to transform painfully to become one, and Dix, who is a bit of a thug but a spy by nature.

The ambiguity surrounding Hugh's death foreshadows a lot of the earlier stories Harry will later tell about the man, who is a mysterious presence in Harry's life and who plays many roles at the Agency. The fact that the men cannot even confirm that he has died,



let alone if it was suicide or murder, is the perfect example of this. The fact that Hugh put the CIA as his next of kin not only shows the coldness he feels towards Harry and his ex-wife but also the value he places on the Agency, which has taken over the role of a family for him.

Readers should note that Kittredge's duplicity in leaving Harry for Dix Butler mirrors her actions when she left Harlot for Harry. Both men were left for the one person they would most hate being left for in the world.



# Alpha: Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapter I - IV

## Alpha: Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapter I - IV Summary

In the Forward, Harry establishes that this is a memoir discussing his life from 1955 onwards, through twenty-five years working for the Agency.

In Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapter I - IV Summary, Harry discusses the Hubbard family roots. His father is named Cal and his parents are divorced; through his mother, Harry is 1/8 Jewish. Harry recounts an episode where Cal takes him to 21 on his fifteenth birthday to talk about his school, St. Matthew's, his own work in the CIA, and his leg, which he broke when he was younger during a skiing accident (his bravery during that episode is one of the few things his father is proud of him for) and still has trouble with. Cal has remarried and has two twin boys nicknamed Rough and Tough. Harry recalls an embarrassing moment where he walked in on his father having sex with his new wife.

In Chapter 2, Harry talks about his experiences with God and lust, which are linked for him. He writes about an episode with his school chaplain, who masturbated when they shared a room together on a school trip. He says that his dyslexia and his headaches improved after the operation that his father forced him to have, which turned out to be voluntary. Harry is introduced to Hugh for the first time; Cal would like Hugh to be his godfather. Hugh is obsessed with rock climbing and says he will take Harry the next day. Harry is terrified to go climbing with Hugh throughout the climb but decides to trust Hugh with his life and finally succeeds.

Harry begins to love rock climbing in Chapter 3. However, Hugh says that Harry can't go anymore, because he should be excellent or it will just become an obsession for him. He says that Harry has qualities Cal is lacking, and that he can call him Harlot, a nickname. After these episodes, Harry does better at St. Matthew's in Chapter 4 and gets into Yale. At Yale, he joins the ROTC and studies English and languages, briefly considering becoming a novelist.

## Alpha: Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapter I - IV Analysis

These chapters describe Harry's early years, as well as his relationships with his father and godfather. Harry is a physically weak child, with dyslexia and headaches and later a limp, and is terrified of his father. As a result, has a desperate need to prove himself, which he finally does when Harlot offers him the opportunity. Through meeting Harlot

and becoming a rock climber, Harry is able to transition from a relatively weak child to somebody who is respected within his family and community. Rock climbing, for both Harlot and Harry, represents living on the edge and being willing to risk everything not just for a thrill, but also for the opportunity to prove oneself. After learning how to rock climb, Harry is then able to succeed at the typical East Coast institutions, such as St. Matthew's and Yale University, which represent the establishment into which he was born.



# Part I: Early Years, Early Training.

## Chapters 5 - 14

### Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapters 5 - 14 Summary

In Chapter 5, Harry is introduced to Kittredge for the first time. He meets her as Harlot's fiancée at the Keep and they go out for a walk alone. She kisses him briefly, and discusses some of her theories, including the biggest one about the duality of people's psyches into Alpha and Omega. She describes these as dual: Alpha optimistic and Omega pessimistic, Alpha day and Omega night. That evening, they return to the Keep, where her father reads to them from Titus Andronicus. Harry writes that later he will learn that her father likes to sleep with sleeping women and Kittredge once walked in on her father having sex with her drugged mother.

Chapter 6 deals with the wedding of Kittredge and Harlot, which many prestigious people attend. Harry, who has recently graduated early from Yale, starts going through the CIA tests, including a lie detector, in which he lies about being a virgin. He then enters training, where he meets other men including Arnie Rosen, and spends some evenings with Harlot. Harry then attends orientation, where he learns about the organization of the CIA. 103 agents are being inducted into the Agency; Dulles welcomes them. The agents then meet Ray Jim, who is their case officer and a strong anti-communist.

In Chapter 7, Harry is in class with Ray Jim and challenges his assertion that all communists are evil, but eventually takes it back. His education continues in Chapter 8, where Harry discusses his tactical and historical classes, learning about government languages, messages and cryptograms. Harry clarifies that each cryptogram has a two-letter prefix that identifies the country.

In Chapter 9, Harry continues his training at Camp Peary, or The Farm. He is one of the best at parachuting, even better than Dix Butler, who is scared of airplanes but otherwise the best student. During the last two weeks at the Farm described in Chapter 10, the men practice night exercises. There is growing tension between Rosen and Butler. The men have to practice escaping as though they were West German agents breaking into East Germany with a fake East German cover story. Harry is paired with Rosen and they do well until they reach the fence, which they have to climb over without being caught by a searchlight. However, they are caught and taken for interrogation. The actors interrogating them try to break their cover stories and almost succeed but, hearing Rosen down the hall from him, Harry sticks to his story and they do well.

In Chapter 11, Hugh and Kittredge buy a huge house on the Chesapeake, called The Stable. Harry visits but is never invited upstairs. At these dinners, he often meets strange characters. Later, he meets a German or Austrian character called Dr.



Schneider who is wearing glasses and what Harry thinks is a wig. Harry cannot tell if Schneider is a former Nazi.

Chapter 12 deals with Harry's working days. Harry was assigned to D.C. after training, which is not promising; even worse, he was not assigned to a foreign desk but to the filing room called the Snake Pit. While there, he receives a message from the Chief of Base of West Germany, who asks for information on a man named Wolfgang. However, Harry cannot find any information in the badly organized files with that little information, and tells the Chief of Base this rather rudely; the chief reacts very badly but only knows Harry's cryptogram (KU/Cloakroom). Later, when Harry is dining with Cal and Harlot, the men discuss moving Harry to Berlin, under the same chief, Bill Harvey. Ashamed, Harry tells his father and godfather the story of Cloakroom and the men have a great time coming up with ways of changing Harry's cryptogram and location in the CIA files, expunging Cloakroom from Harry's 201.

Harry goes to stay overnight with his father in Chapter 13, talking about Harlot and Bill Harvey. At the end of the chapter, Harry mentions the big secret in Berlin that he will discover - a 1500-foot tunnel into East Germany for tapping Soviet calls to Moscow. In Chapter 14, Harry flies to Berlin, thinking about his farewell dinner with Harlot. There, they discuss Philby and Bill Harvey. Harlot described several anecdotes demonstrating Bill Harvey's short temper and the problems that he has had.

## **Part I: Early Years, Early Training. Chapters 5 - 14 Analysis**

In Chapters 5 - 14, Harry completes his coming of age through his education and his training with the CIA, as well as through his first encounter with Kittredge, the woman who we know he will later marry. Their relationship is strongly foreshadowed by Harry's immediate attraction to her, her ability to get alone with him, and the fact that they kiss, though they are cousins. Many other important characters are introduced in this section, including Arnold Rosen, Dix Butler, Dr. Schneider, and Bill Harvey.

Two important themes are developed in this section. The first of these is Harry's dependence on his father and godfather and his distrust of his own instincts. In fact, his own instincts often go against the official Agency policies; for example, his argument with his teacher when he says that not all Communists are evil, or the impatience he expresses at Bill Harvey's request. In the first case, he is able to talk himself out of the problem; in the second, he relies on Cal and Harlot for help at extracting himself from the situation. This dependence will play an important role in his career and in his general outlook towards the men who run his life.

The second important theme that Mailer develops in this section is Alpha and Omega, as Kittredge presents her theories. This divide between Alpha and Omega as two separate personalities within each person will greatly determine Kittredge's future work and symbolizes many of the characters and concepts with which Harry will interact in the future.



Mailer develops several other lesser themes here as well, including the conflict between Rosen and Butler. One theme that runs through the book is the unsubtle hatred of the men who work at the Agency for Communism and the countries that represent this threat. Finally, the concept of multiple names represented by cryptograms reinforces the concept of Alpha and Omega; Hugh is already nicknamed Harlot, Cal's full name is Boardman Kimball Hubbard, Kittredge's full name is Hadley Kittredge, and Harry is a nickname for Henry. The division of each character into several different characters with their own names will prove important as the plot of Harlot's Ghost develops.



## Part II: Berlin. Chapters 1-4

### Part II: Berlin. Chapters 1-4 Summary

Dix Butler picks Harry up at the Berlin airport; they will be sharing an apartment. Harry learns about his new cover job; a clerical job for the Department of Defense. Finally, he is asked to report to VQ/Giblets (Harvey), though it turns out that C.G., Harvey's wife, who wants Harry to accompany her as she travels the city distributing supplies to safe houses, is actually summoning him. During this trip, Harry mentions his father. Later, Harvey finally summons him; the Chief of Base is intimidating and says that he needs a junior officer to help him with VQ/Catheter, the Berlin tunnel project. When he asks about Harry's past, Harry says that he worked in technical services, so he never had a cryptogram before.

Harry begins his job reporting directly to Harvey in Chapter 2. Harvey asks him to trace Cloakroom. Harry tries to change the subject to J. Edgar Hoover, who Harvey hates, but Harvey wants to keep talking about Cloakroom, telling Harry to take a two-pronged attack: tracing down the codenames, and using his own connections to figure out who the agent is. He again asks Harry what his codename was in Washington D.C. but Harry says that, as he was in TSS, he cannot reveal it.

In Chapter 3, Harry goes out with Dix Butler to various nightclubs. Before they meet anybody, Butler confides in Harry about his childhood. Later, Butler picks up an American girl, Susan Pierce, from Wellesley, and tells her a lot of different stories about his life, including stories that Harry knows to be lies, or believes are.

In Chapter 4, Harry is still on the trail of Cloakroom. Hugh has kept changing Harry's cryptogram, and thinks the whole matter is very funny. In a phone call, he tells Harry to spread the rumor that when he worked in the Snake Pit, it was a cover for his work at TSS. Harry does this by telling Dix Butler.

### Part II: Berlin. Chapters 1-4 Analysis

During Harry's first days in Berlin, several things are illuminated: first of all, his relative inexperience with women and relative innocence compared to the hardened attitude of Dix Butler; second of all, the fact that he is literally put on the trail of himself.

At this point, Harry has recently graduated from training and has still not slept with a woman. His development has been arrested not only by his low self-esteem from growing up his father's son, but also from falling in love with Kittredge, a woman he can never have. This is highlighted by the fact that Harvey has him track down a man that is actually him. The growing difference between who Harry is as a CIA agent in West Berlin and whom he feels like, based on his upbringing and his life experience as an inexperienced young man who has to lie to cover for himself becomes clear through these two storylines.



## Part II: Berlin. Chapters 5-10

### Part II: Berlin. Chapters 5-10 Summary

Harry's cryptograms keep changing. Harvey has been working very hard on the tunnel project, and when a general from the United States, General Packer, comes to visit, he takes Harry and the General on a tour of the tunnel. Once the General has left, Harvey expresses his anger at the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Harry. The two go have a drink together.

In Chapter 6, Harry and Harvey are at Harvey's place alone. Harvey tells the story of how an East German baby was left on his doorstep and how he and his wife adopted her. He falls asleep briefly and wakes up, asking again about Cloakroom. Harry tells him that Cloakroom is now in London, and Harry decides that he will lean on some of his London contacts to find out more information.

At the beginning of Chapter 7, Harry decides to go out with Butler for a drink. During that evening, Harry invites a friend of his, Freddie McCann, who brings his wife, Bunny. However, Dix tries aggressively to pick up the wife and Harry makes him apologize twice. Dix, surprisingly, follows Harry's order and then immediately takes him away.

That same night, Dix and Harry go through Berlin to meet one of Dix's sources in Chapter 8. Dix takes Harry to a cellar bar where men urinate on two men who are chained up. Dix tells Harry that one of these is Wolfgang. Dix and Harry go home, where Dix talks about homosexuality as part of the job of an agent and tries to make a pass at Harry; Harry is aroused but does not sleep with Dix, just kissing him and leaving. He goes to find Ingrid and they eat dinner together; later that evening, he loses his virginity to her.

In Chapter 9, Harry returns to work, hoping that Bill Harvey will have forgotten about his London contacts; however, Harvey gives him several names to track down. The first contact hates Bill Harvey, the second is in America, but the third says they cannot find Onion anywhere but will keep looking. Harry asks if he could be on detached or special duty to the English, which the contact agrees could be the answer. Harry repeats this to Harvey, who later comes back to him with several scenarios, wondering if Cloakroom is in MI6. Harry admits for the first time that he used to work in the Snake Pit, but says that it was for job cover and it was so minor he never thought about it. Harry leaves the office terrified of being followed, goes to the Department of Defense to use a secure line to call Harlot. Harlot says that he will talk to his contacts at MI6, get a few cryptonyms for Harry and that Harry should give Harvey the names of his colleagues in the Snake Pit. He also tells Harry to get C.G. to talk about why Harvey moved from the FBI to the CIA; he doesn't want to but he will. After the call, Harry goes to find Maria and later finds out he has gonorrhea.





At the beginning of Chapter 10, Harry goes to the military infirmary for treatment and sees Dix Butler there. Harry asks Butler if he mentioned to Harvey that he was in the Snake Pit; Butler confirms this. Butler asks about Rosen, who was in TSS, but Harry says that he never saw him there. Later, MI6 more or less confirms that Onion is their man, and Harry points his finger in the direction of one of his old colleagues at the Snake Pit. Harvey, who is traveling to Pollack, decides to take Harry with him.

## **Part II: Berlin. Chapters 5-10 Analysis**

In this section of the novel, Harry has become a man in more traditional senses, both by sleeping with a woman and by protecting himself from Harvey's investigation. He is learning how to play different games: both by learning how to seduce and sleep with women, and by learning how to function successfully within the CIA. However, Harry's development is still incomplete. For example, he is still terrified by Harvey finding him out, and he still depends heavily on Harlot for protection. This is mirrored by his need to lie to the doctors about how many women he has slept with, when, in fact, it would make him look healthier to have slept with only one. Harry's shifting identity in these sections is highlighted by his changing cryptonyms, none of which, ironically, reflect where he actually is; they are all stories constructed to protect him, just as his personality, at this point, reflects more of his defense mechanisms and less of his actual identity.



## Part II: Berlin. Chapters 11-16

### Part II: Berlin. Chapters 11-16 Summary

The group leaves at midnight by car. In discussion with Harvey, Harry identifies Gehlen, who they are going to meet, as the General he met at Harlot and Kittredge's house. Harry admits to Harvey that he saw him there, and Harvey grills him about Hugh and Kittredge. The party stops to use the bathroom, and Harvey gets very sick; Harry goes back to the car. Harvey has given him two tapes to use to record the conversation with Gehlen, but he uses one to tape C.G.'s version of how Harvey left the FBI, which is a complicated story of a broken car and his wife reporting him missing.

When they arrive in Chapter 12, the group rests at the hotel and then Harvey and Harry go to meet Gehlen, who acknowledges that he and Harry have met before. The men discuss the security of Catheter or the tunnel project. They also discuss Wolfgang/Wildboar. In the end, Gehlen and Harvey argue, and when Harvey and Harry leave, Harvey tells Harry that they have succeeded in scaring Gehlen.

At the beginning of Chapter 13, Harvey tells Harry to take off the tape that they were using to get Gehlen, and Harry does so; Harvey asks for the other, which Harry says is in the car. When Harvey listens to the tape, he calls Harry to say that there is too much background noise; Harry offers to make a transcript, but Harvey tells him not to leave his apartment. He had the chauffeur inventory Harry's bag but didn't find the other tape. Harvey comes over to Harry's apartment, looks at the transcript of the conversation, which is good; however, he says that Harry is still in big trouble because Gehlen let him stay in the room and Harvey is convinced the two men are linked. He tells Harry that he cannot leave his apartment. He leaves and Dix comes back. Harry asks Dix to bring Wolfgang there and then asks to read Arnie Rosen's letters for fun.

Chapter 14 begins with Rosen's confidential letter to Dix, talking about his work at TSS with Harlot, reporting only to Dulles and with a beauty of a wife. Rosen writes that Harlot is trying to start a company within a company. He discusses some of the TSS projects, including their experiments with LSD. Harry stops reading, realizing he needs to talk to Harlot; he leaves the apartment after putting away Rosen's letter and the tape and transcript of his conversation with CG. After switching cabs several times, he gets to the Department of Defense and calls Kittredge, who says that Harlot is in London but coming to Berlin. Convinced that men are watching him, Harry goes home, where Harlot calls him and sends a car over.

In Chapter 15, Harlot arrives. He says that Gehlen is an ex-Nazi. The two men go out to dinner, where Harry gives Harlot the transcript of his conversation with C.G. Harlot tells Harry to pack, that he is going to talk to Bill Harvey. Harry asks why Hugh is against Catheter, and Hugh says that it takes weeks to do anything at all. The men discuss the larger purpose of the agency; Hugh contests that it is to be above the facts and lead



America towards a larger goal. The next morning, back at the apartment, Butler tells Harry that Wolfgang is dead, beaten to death,

On the flight back to Washington in Chapter 16, Hugh tells Harry that the story of how Harvey resigned from the FBI is exactly the same in his 201 personnel file as what C.G. says and that they are too perfectly matched. He lets Harry see the first part of the transcript from his conversation with Harvey, in which the men discuss the cryptograms, which Hugh denies knowing about at all, and the fact that Wolfgang is dead. These pages are all that Harry sees of the conversation, which was much longer. Harlot also tells Harry that Kittredge is pregnant and that they want him to be the godfather.

## **Part II: Berlin. Chapters 11-16 Analysis**

Harry's life at this point is dominated by strong male figures, the most important of which are Harlot and Harvey. It is not accidental, then, that Hugh is actually orchestrating his seeming independence from Harvey (illustrated by his taping of C.G. and his continual cover-up of the Cloakroom fiasco. Wolfgang, a shadowy figure at this point and throughout the novel, has died and along with him the nightmare of covering up Harry's true identity as Cloakroom. However, this cover-up has not produced anything actually useful, but only served to protect Harry's career. Rather than actually finding anything out about the agent, Harry has spent too long protecting himself and the man is now dead; the mystery will probably never be solved for him. Hugh's claim that the agency functions as "soldiers of God" falls in line with the earlier ideas of Harry succumbing to the morals of a patriarchy. Religion, the United States, and patriarchy are inextricably tied up in Harlot's Ghost, and Hugh embodies this mixture, acting as all-powerful and convinced that he is doing God's work.



## Part III: Washington. Chapters 1-7

### Part III: Washington. Chapters 1-7 Summary

After Harry leaves Berlin, the Russians find the tap from the tunnel. Hugh has Harry put into intensive Spanish, saying he will be put in for a transfer at the Argentina/Uruguay desk to Montevideo, which is small but will teach him a lot. Hugh has a special class on Thursdays, which Harry goes to. Sometimes these are "Low Thursdays," with teaching officers; other times, there are important guests and these are "High Thursdays." Rosen also attends.

Chapter 2 starts off by discussing a Thursday where Hugh defines espionage and talks about the selection and development of agents.

Rosen and Harry go out to eat together in Chapter 3. Later, Harry meets E. Howard Hunt, his future chief of station in Uruguay. They take an immediate liking to each other and Hunt asks if Harry can get him an invitation to an event Hugh is holding; Harry talks to Hugh's secretary, who helps.

In Chapter 4, Hugh talks to a group about counterespionage, which involves double agents. Hunt talks during the meeting, suggesting that Hugh's methods are dirty tricks. The crowd starts to turn against Hugh, who gives more concrete examples with the Berlin tunnel.

In Chapter 5, Hugh, Kittredge, and Harry go to see Lenny Bruce at a nightclub. They find him disgusting, vulgar, and anti-religious and he makes both Kittredge and Hugh furious. As they leave, the three talk about ghosts at the keep and Kittredge asks Harry if he ever knew any; he mentions Augustus Farr.

In Chapter 6, Harry leaves for Uruguay. On the plane, he thinks about a talk Dulles recently gave about Marxism and Hugh's talk about counterespionage.

In Chapter 7, Harry then thinks about the last dinner he had with Hugh and Kittredge; Harry spent the night and was finally allowed to go upstairs, where he hears Hugh and Kittredge making love. Later, Kittredge talks to Harry about Hugh. She asks Harry to write her long letters from Uruguay and tells him about a system she has set up for them with the mail so that they won't be intercepted.

### Part III: Washington. Chapters 1-7 Analysis

In Chapters 1-7 of Part III, Harry falls even further in line with the accepted social mores of his country and era. The talks at the Agency are ways of indoctrinating the Agents to the idea of anti-Communism as a calling, and of identifying Agents as specially marked in a way (even if it is as liars and psychopaths) that particularly qualifies them for this work. These morals are reinforced by Hugh and Kittredge's disgust at seeing Lenny



Bruce at the nightclub and the absolute relish they take in disavowing him afterwards. Kittredge breaks through the accepted standards of the 1950s to discuss sex graphically with Harry, especially such acts as 69; this mirrors her willingness to break through the Agency's rules (and risk her husband's disapproval) and correspond with Harry through less-than-aboveground means. The ghosts that Kittredge mentions (and that Harry confirms) are the ghosts that hang over the three throughout the book, and tend to arise at times of particular stress and challenge: for example, when Kittredge is leaving Harry at the end of Omega. Here, she is reminded of the ghosts because Bruce has reminded them all of things that should not be said in their society at this time, but things that are nonetheless present.



## **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 1 - 6**

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 1 - 6 Summary**

Chapter 1 is Harry's first letter to Kittredge, where he talks a lot about the city; he then begins a new letter to her, in which he discusses the people of Uruguay, the population, the architecture, and the ruins. Kittredge writes him back and tells him to send real news.

She writes back to him to say that sometimes she has a temper. He responds that the department is waiting for E. Howard Hunt to arrive. In Uruguay, he oversees several operations, including AV/alanche, which is a group of seven teenagers who deface Communist posters and put up Catholic propaganda. In Chapter 3, Harry describes the people he works with to Kittredge. He tells her of an operation they had with a man named Gomez, who they couldn't get as he is friends with the president of Uruguay.

Harry receives a cable from Hugh that their son Christopher has been born in Chapter 4. Harry waits a month to write to Kittredge, who responds describing the baby, saying that she misses his letters and has postpartum depression. Harry writes to Kittredge in Chapter 5, thanking her for photos of the baby and asking if she got a brooch he sent. He talks about a dinner he had with Sherman, a colleague, and his wife, Sally, and ends the letter, but reveals to the reader that he has begun an affair with Sally. He writes another letter to Kittredge describing Operation AV/ocado to get into the Soviet Embassy and later into the PCU, the Uruguay Communist Part. He meets an agent, "Chevi" Fuertes, a member of the PCU who once lived in New York. He wants money, and hates his wife and the PCU. Harry reveals his new cryptonym of "AV/ailable."

In Chapter 6, Kittredge writes to Harry that she had lost the brooch he sent, that she had had a strong reaction to it. She stops the letter and when she returns, says that she found it in Hugh's papers and that the negative feelings she had towards it at the beginning were gone now that it was with Hugh's things. She tells him to be careful with Fuertes. Harry reveals to the reader that he'd bought the brooch on the day his affair with Sally started. He writes back to Kittredge, talking about the city and more about Chevi.

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 1 - 6 Analysis**

In Chapters 1-6 of Part IV, the reader mostly learns about Harry's new life in Montevideo, Uruguay, and is introduced to the other members of the Agency there, some of whom (such as Fuertes) will play a much bigger role later on.

This section is most remarkable in that Harry acquires two new names. They are AV/ailable and Peter. His identity continues to shift to conform to the ideals of his job, as

he works hard to perform his job well and to fit in at the agency. However, there are still parts of him that rebel.

The section is also notable in that it reinforces the idea of Kittredge's sixth sense. She senses that something is wrong with the brooch, which is really a symbol of Harry's guilt at sleeping with somebody else and his guilt as his continued love for her and cannot stand to be near it. However, once it is placed near Hugh's things, she is much more comfortable and can accept it again.



## Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 7-13

### Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 7-13 Summary

Harry writes to Kittredge, trying to tell her about Sally, how they got to know each other dancing at a Christmas party together. He stops the letter to Kittredge and describes the details of the sex to the reader. He re-writes the letter, telling Kittredge that he's seeing a prostitute, and tries to theorize it as Alpha representing sex and Omega representing love.

In Chapter 8, Kittredge has a strong reaction to Harry's letter, writing back that Alpha and Omega are not divisions but two entirely separate beings that create tug-of-wars within individuals. She stops the letter, annoyed, feeds Christopher and starts again with a "plum" bit of information for Harry. She says that Howard and Dorothy Hunt were invited to dinner, as Howard is being considered for the directorship of the CIA. However, she doesn't finish the anecdote.

Kittredge starts a new letter to Harry about the dinner in Chapter 9; there, the guests talked about their families. They discuss Guatemala, where Hugh worked and believes he committed errors; Kittredge writes to Harry that the United States is becoming a religion and asks Harry what he thinks of Hunt.

In Chapter 10, Harry tells the reader that Hunt had already arrived in Uruguay and so he had already formed his opinion. He just tells Kittredge about the arrival and keeps his opinions to himself. On arrival, Hunt gave a moving speech to the agents, inspiring Harry to throw himself into his work again. Kittredge sends two letters to Harry asking him where he is.

Harry talks to the reader about all the sex he has been having with Sally, who disgusts him but to whom he keeps returning. Then he writes to Kittredge about Hunt, who has shared a lot of his life experience with the group. He then talks about a party he went to at the Porringer's.

Harry begins a new letter in Chapter 11. He discusses Peones, a new agent, who goes around to brothels with Porringer. Harry writes about the prostitute Libertad la Lengua, who Peones wants brought to Montevideo from Havana; when the Agency brings her, Peones is delighted and completely loyal. The agency buys a house near the Soviet Embassy and finds German Jewish expats to live there. As a German speaker, Harry is their liaison as they tape everything that is going on at the Soviet Embassy.

In Chapter 12, Hunt is planning on sending Harry to a garden party at the Soviet Embassy. He also tries to get him to speed up Chevi, who is trying to break into the well-guarded PCU headquarters. Chevi works there once a week but has partners.





However, in Harry's next letter to Kittredge, he tells her that the garden party was canceled. He then tells Kittredge about some humorous cables Hunt has been sending to Washington. However, Kittredge replies that his letter was stupid but immediately writes back, apologizing and saying that she can't remember the earlier letter. She tells him he has to stop writing to her. Harry calls and Hugh picks up the phone, saying that Kittredge was overloaded with a "substance" that she tested on herself and that Harry has to stop calling and contacting her. He adds that Harry isn't tough enough for the CIA life.

In Chapter 13, Harry is seeing a lot of Sally, though he is starting to hate her. He is also seeing a lot of Chevi and working at the office, becoming closer to Hunt. Finally, he receives a letter from Kittredge through the normal mail, saying that she took LSD to experiment with Alpha and Omega, and apologizing. She says she will wait a few months and then ask Hugh if they can correspond, saying that Hugh never saw the letters, which she says she destroyed during her fit.

## **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 7-13 Analysis**

Alpha and Omega play an extremely large part in this chapter of the book. Harry is developing different parts of himself here, both the thuggish part or the part that thinks Hunt's stupid jokes are funny, or the part that is sleeping with a married woman and the professional part as he develops his contacts and continues his work. However, these are contrasted by the sensitive part of himself that still needs to talk to Kittredge and the immature part that needs to cover up his affair with a married woman by lying about sleeping with prostitutes. These two separate personalities are indicative of what Kittredge calls Alpha and Omega, which represent the multiple people contained within each person.

Harry's issues with authority also reemerge in this section. He still has no problem lying to his superiors and working the system to get what he wants, as is evidenced by his use of Hunt's private telephone. In addition, he has gone against the traditional values of society to sleep with a married woman, and tells the reader in graphic detail about their sex life. Still, he takes a certain pride that he has the same last two initials as E. Howard Hunt or HH and seems to be striving for his boss' approval, at the same time as he evades the traditional values system.



## Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 14-19

### Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 14-19 Summary

Harry has started dining with Hunt and his wife Dorothy, as he drops the reports of the house near the Soviet Embassy directly off to Hunt. Hunt asks Harry about his future, telling him that Bill Harvey labeled him untrustworthy.

The next letter Harry has from Kittredge in Chapter 15 is much later. She is breaking her vow to Harlot and writing. The second letter she writes talks about her fit with the LSD and the moment she had with the brooch, all for her work in TSS, where she is studying mind control. Rosen has been her assistant, and has confided in her that he is a homosexual. Together, they have tried to prove the existence of Alpha and Omega through tests; however, recently Rosen has brought her rumors from the department that Alpha and Omega don't really exist, and that her theories just describe her own schizophrenia. Thus, with the LSD, she was trying to revolutionize her experiments.

In Chapter 16, Harry writes to Kittredge about a new operation he is working on, with Boris Masarov and his wife, Zenia, a Russian couple that lived under Stalin. He is sure they are KGB. He thinks there is some connection between the new Soviet KGB Chief, Georgi Varkhov, and Zenia.

In Chapter 17, Sally calls to tell Harry that she is pregnant. Harry writes to Kittredge about a party he was attending with the Soviets, where he needed a date and was forced to take Nancy Waterston, the spinster from his department, pretending that she was his fiancée. Harry doesn't tell Kittredge about the rest of the evening, where they both got very drunk and he kissed Nancy, which was an unpleasant experience.

In Chapter 18, Harry writes to Kittredge again about going to the Masarov's apartment. There, he learned that Zenia is a poet. Harry plays chess with Boris and loses badly. Zenia says she has written one poem in the last two years and Harry looks at it, "Vertigo is Joy." Harry says it could be published, but he would change the title.

After Harry's report about his meeting at the Masarov's apartment in Chapter 19, the Soviet division of the CIA sends him a long questionnaire about the meeting. Hunt takes him to lunch and tries to figure out if Boris wants to defect, but it doesn't add up to Harry. He goes to the country with the Masarovs and Boris says to him, directly, that they each know who the other is; at this point, Harry turns on his sneaky. Boris has more to lose than H, but they still keep their cover stories. Boris shows Harry another poem about birches and then a note that says not to trust the Soviet Russia division of the CIA as the KGB has infiltrated it.



## Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 14-19 Analysis

In this section, traditional values break apart all over the place. Kittredge breaks her vow to her husband and writes to Harry. Moreover, she writes about experimenting with LSD for her experiments, admitting both to drug use and to valuing her career more than her sanity. Similarly, it is revealed that Dorothy Hunt, the perfect CIA wife, has also worked as an agent. At the same time, Sally becomes pregnant, and it appears unlikely that she and Harry will be able to keep their secret much longer, and much less likely that they will be able to continue their affair. This is mirrored by the very public affair between the Soviets, who of course do not immediately realize that they are being recorded. Finally, Nancy posing as Harry's fiancée and the fact that he kisses her, underlines the strange world they are coming from. Although he is not attracted to her, he feels drawn to her and compelled to kiss her nonetheless. The note that Boris passes to Harry at the end of this section highlights the tipping point at which many of the characters find themselves; their security has been breached, but everybody is still reacting secretly.



## **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 20-24**

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 20-24 Summary**

In Chapter 20, Harry doesn't call Hunt right away but writes to Kittredge instead. He doesn't know what to do and decides not to tell Hunt about the note. The Washington bureau asks a million questions about the conversation, but he stands firm.

Howard says he will be back Harry up on his report in Chapter 21. Kittredge calls; she says that Harry should tell Hugh he called the day before with the details of the Boris situation, because Hugh has checked with his contacts at the Soviet Desk and figured out that something's missing. Kittredge and Harry arrange a complicated phone call from Hugh to Harry from a payphone. Hunt returns and gets angry with Harry; he tells him never to use the secure line again. When Harry finally talks to Hugh, Hugh tells him that he did the right thing and that there was definitely something wrong; he confirms that he should stay away from Boris.

In Chapter 22, Kittredge writes to Harry saying that things are better than ever between her and Hugh and that the purpose of the note was to crimp Hunt's influence within the agency, so he did right not to report it.

At the beginning of Chapter 23, Chevi is becoming more important and is now the top agent in Uruguay. He has successfully tapped the PCU, with the help of Porringer, and they have made several arrests. In Chapter 24, Kittredge writes more to Harry about Alpha and Omega, saying that they are easiest to study as the separation of egos.

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 20-24 Analysis**

Harry's issues with his father figures are again highlighted in this section. When he doesn't know what to do, he contacts Kittredge, which is a step forward for him. However, the issue is taken away from him and Hugh finally has to step in. Hugh even praises him for doing the right thing and not risking the career of the new father figure in his life, Hunt. Harry continues progressing in his career with Chevi, but Chevi is shifting and becoming more independent, less controllable. Double agents make another appearance here, as they do throughout the book, underscoring the dualities of Harry's personality and the appearance of each character as both Alpha and Omega.



## **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 25-30**

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 25-30 Summary**

In Chapter 25, Harry's affair with Sally is burning out. Later, in Chapter 26, Harry goes with Porringer to different brothels, comes down with some STDs. One night, he and Chevi go to visit Miss Libertad La Lengua.

At the beginning of Chapter 27, Harry writes to Kittredge about their trip to Libertad La Lengua's apartment. It is obvious that Chevi is in love with her. She has many nicknames for Chevi and a very beautiful house, though she is obsessed with Hunt and Benito Nardone, a friend of Hunt's who is running for president. She asks Harry to introduce them. Harry then gets angry at Chevi.

In Chapter 28, Harry reveals to the reader that Libertad gave him a blowjob in the bathroom. Then he begins a new letter to Kittredge talking about going to the country with Hunt and Dorothy. Harry tells Hunt that Libertad wants to meet him and Nardone and they set up a lunch.

In Chapter 29, Libertad shows up with Chevi, who Hunt has never met, saying that he is a translator. They talk about Fidel Castro with Hunt. She says she would like to meet Nardone, but Hunt says no.

At the beginning of Chapter 30, Harry yells at Chevi for jeopardizing their operations but Chevi says he had to go; he reveals that Libertad used to be a man and has a trick with her hands to fool her clients. Porringer confirms this on the way back to the office and then asks Harry why his wife Sally has absolutely nothing nice to say about him.

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 25-30 Analysis**

Many dual personalities appear in this section: Harry, who is seeing Sally but in love with Kittredge; Chevi, who is both the double agent working on behalf of the CIA and the "translator" and Classics professor, and Libertad la Lengua, who is a woman but used to be a man, and who claims to have certain goals but actually wants to meet Hunt and, through him, the future President of Uruguay. Harry is progressing in the world of the CIA by meeting Libertad and introducing Hunt to her; at the same time, he is progressing as a man, having slept with numerous women at this point. However, neither is healthy, as Libertad only wants to use her connections to get ahead, and the women that Harry sleeps with are prostitutes.



## **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 31-36**

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 31-36 Summary**

Kittredge writes to Harry, saying she won't write for a while. Harry throws himself into his work. Things are good; Varkhov is checking out new apartments, and the Agency will bug his villa.

In Chapter 32, Harry writes to Kittredge, describing a visit from Vice President Nixon, who recalls a dinner where he met Hunt long ago. He also talks about the love nest Zenia and Georgi have set up, which is full of sneakys.

Harry describes the passionate affair between Zenia and Georgi in Chapter 33. Meanwhile, Harry and Hugh talk about a possible transfer to Israel. Harry is supposed to confirm this later by calling Rosen. However, Rosen tells him it's not possible, alluding that it is his mother's Jewish roots. Harry discusses the system for getting tapes from the love nest, and checking in. However, Georgi finally finds the tape recorder and destroys the interior of the apartment.

In Chapter 34, Kittredge tells Harry that she and Hugh are doing very well. She says that Augustus Farr has always hung like a ghost over their marriage and their sex life. In addition, she tells Harry that she has just been in Paraguay, not far from him. She says she is going to stop writing, and that she loves him.

In Chapter 35, we learn that the previous letter was Harry's last from Kittredge in Uruguay. Shortly after, the boss comes to visit and invites Hunt to go to Cuba. Hunt invites Harry as his assistant, telling him that nothing is off limits.

In Chapter 36, Harry says his good-byes, including to Chevi. He discusses Nardone, who hates the left and has been torturing higher-ups there. Unfortunately, Chevi gets arrested and Harry goes to police headquarters to bail him out. The two are afraid that Chevi's cover has been blown and that friends of the PCU will eventually kill him. Chevi wants to go live in Miami and work at a bank, and Harry arranges this for him.

### **Part IV: Montevideo, 1956-59. Chapters 31-36 Analysis**

The last section of Part IV: Montevideo introduces many new elements that will be important later on in the book. First among these are the introduction of John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, though at this point, the men have not yet run for President. Interestingly, Kennedy's first appearance in the story is related to Kittredge and Harry's duplicitous correspondence.



In this section, Harlot is also considering transferring Harry to a more active base in Israel. However, Harry's past - his distant Jewish roots - prevent this, showing that, no matter how integrated Harry becomes in the Agency, there will always be a small part of him that cannot fully integrate.

Finally, this section deals with endings: the end of Harry and Kittredge's correspondence, the temporary end of Chevi and Harry's partnership, the end of bugging the Soviet lovers, and the end of Harry's time in Uruguay.



## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 1-10**

### **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 1-10 Summary**

Hunt tells Harry about his trip to Cuba. He talks with Hunt about the Cuban mentality, which Hunt says depends heavily on the jungle.

Harry writes to Kittredge in Chapter 4, knowing he can never mail the letter. In Miami, he spends his time monitoring the Cuban exile community. He stops writing and Harlot calls, wanting to see him up in Washington for a lunch.

During their lunch in Chapter 5, Harry says that he needs money and guns for the project of overthrowing Castro. Hugh asks Harry to resign from the CIA to become a "Most Special Fellow," an affiliated CIA link, but Harry likes the company routine, though he knows he may not go very far there. Hugh says that Harry will report only to him on certain projects now; he wants him to seduce a stewardess called Modene Murphy or "Mo," a rich girl from Michigan.

On the plane back to Miami in Chapter 6, Harry sees Sparker Boone, a former classmate who says he is a photographer for Life magazine. He seduced the stewardess, Mo, who is not interested in Harry at all. However, Boone thinks Harry is CIA and Harry gets his help in seducing the stewardess. Later, he calls Mo and they go for a drink. Beforehand, however, he goes to meet with Toto Barbaro, the former head of the Cuban Senate, and Hunt. They argue about the amount of money Barbaro's group can get for the Castro operation.

Talking with Modene on their date in Chapter 7, they kiss, but she has a date afterwards and cannot stay. She mentions that she dated Frank Sinatra and another man that he can never know about, but alludes to a friend of Sinatra's called Sam Flood. She tells him that if he can find out the real identity of Flood, she will change her flight and see him the next day. There are 15 Sam Floods in the database Harry has access to in Chapter 8, so he has to call Rosen to get into a higher-level database. There, he discovers that Flood is a thug called Giancarla.

In Chapter 9, Modene reads Harry's report. She explains her theories on men, that she can only have two at a time. She kisses him, but explains that she currently has a man in DC and one in Palm Beach. She talks about the former men in her life, including Walter from DC, and Jack, who she met through Sinatra. Going through the database, Harry starts to think that this is Jack Kennedy. Hugh calls him up and summons him to DC.





Harry goes to Hugh's house in Chapter 10, and Hugh yells at him for an indiscreet telegram he sent, saying that the project will now be referred to as HEEDLESS with the new codenames.

## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 1-10 Analysis**

If the previous section of Part IV dealt with endings, the first section of Part V: The Bay of Pigs deals with beginnings. In this section, several important characters and elements are introduced that will be very important later on. The first of these is the possible invasion of Cuba and the links to Castro and the Mafia; the second is Modene and her connections to the above operations.

Harry's connection to the Agency in this section is complicated. On the one hand, he refuses to leave it even when Harlot asks him to because he likes the adventure. On the other, he does not admit to being CIA, even though it would probably help him to seduce Modene. Similarly, by leaving the CIA to become a "Most Special Fellow," he would actually increase his standing with the agency by becoming a special operative. However, because he is driven by the work itself and not the ambition to further his career, this holds little appeal for him.

Modene, who will become an important character in Harry's life, mirrors some of Kittredge's Alpha and Omega theories in that she will date two men at a time and no more. In some ways, her coloring reminds Harry of Kittredge and as he is no longer in touch with Kittredge, she serves as a foil/replacement for the former.

Jack Kennedy, Castro, and the Mafia will all play larger roles in the book later on. This is foreshadowed by Kennedy's presence creeping into other storylines, such as Modene's, and by connections to Cuba that are not yet obvious.



## Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 11-20

### Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 11-20 Summary

Harry reads the transcripts, between Modene and her friend, discovering that Walter is out of the picture, though Modene doesn't tell Harry that she's broken up with him. She has also been spending weekends in Vegas with Sinatra; however, she ended it when Sinatra tried to get her into a threesome.

In a second transcript in Chapter 12, Sinatra offers to introduce Modene to JFK. They meet at a large gathering and he invites her to lunch. They begin an affair in earnest. She tells Willie that they slept together, not going into too much detail. She says that he hardly feels real now, and that he sends her lots of roses.

In Chapter 13, Harry meets with Toto Barbaro and they talk about money. He starts to have a heart attack and has Harry take him to his room, where he takes a nitroglycerine pill. He wants to talk with Harry's father Cal; he says that two men approached him and want to take Cal out.

Harry receives a strange message from Harlot and cables him back in Chapter 14. He recently heard a transcript of Modene talking to JFK, where they discussed Frank Sinatra. In a separate conversation to Willie, she says that Frank is both nice and mean, like two halves of the same person. On a new call, she is supposed to meet Kennedy while he's off campaigning but misses her flight and meets Sam Flood, who sends her lots of yellow roses.

Harry talks to Cal in Chapter 15. Harry tells Cal the rumor about the men who want to kill him, and they say they will see each other soon.

In Chapter 16, Harry cables Harlot. The transcripts are now into April, when Jack has won the Wisconsin primary. Modene went to his house in DC, convinced she is falling in love with him. Harry gets a cryptic message from Hugh about the FBI. In a continuation of the earlier transcript, Modene talks to Sam Flood and tells him that she is in love with Jack, though she is still going out with Sam.

In Chapter 17, Hugh sends Harry transcripts of hearings between Giancana and Kennedy. Harry responds that Modene is very close to Jack now and doesn't know what's going to happen next. In a call to Willie, Modene says that she is sure that she will see him in two months.

Watching the Democratic Convention in Chapter 18, Harry feels very strange; he goes to see Modene, who is distraught. In Chapter 19, Harry has a letter from Cal saying that



he will be in Miami. He is getting a divorce from Mary. That Sunday, Harry sees his father. They go for a run together. Cal tells Harry that he needs an assistant in Miami and that he doesn't want him to be friends with Hugh anymore. Harry promises to keep away from Hugh and be loyal to his father.

During a date with Modene in Chapter 20, Harry asks her about different aspects of the different men she has been with. Harry receives a cable from Hugh saying to call him. There is a new Modene/Willie transcript revealing that she broke up with JFK after he tried to introduce a third woman into their sexual relationship. Later, Harry learns that she is seeing JFK again.

## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 11-20 Analysis**

The second part of Part V elaborates upon several important symbols in the book: the idea of duplicate names; the fluidity of time; and Alpha/Omega in relationships.

On a more basic level, this section develops the plot and sets up important relationships that will greatly affect future events. For example, Toto's dealings with Harry and his heart attack show weaknesses in the plan to attack Cuba that the Agency is not necessarily ready to see. Similarly, Cal has been threatened, showing that he is not as powerful as he once was, and that this power has led to danger for him. Finally, Kennedy is campaigning; the book focuses much more on Kennedy's campaign than Nixon's.

Multiple names serve as one of the larger symbols in *Harlot's Ghost*; each character has several and even minor characters, such as Modene, have nicknames. Harlot/Hugh's assertion that real names can distort judgment is ironic, as code names are used so much in these sections that it can be difficult to remember which character is which, and which cryptonym and nickname refers to whom. However, while these names may make things confusing, the idea that real names somehow define their bearers in a way that obscures their true identities permeates the book.

Time also becomes an important symbol in this section. While the whole book is an experiment in time in one way or another, with Harry reading manuscripts that were written in the 1960s and early 1980s about the 1950s and 1960s in Moscow in 1984, the question of transcripts within these autobiographies further complicates the idea of time. Here, while he is following Modene's affairs with Sinatra, Kennedy, and Giancarla, he is also reading transcripts with a lag of several months, meaning that he is not quite ever totally up to date.

Finally, Modene's experiences with Sinatra, Kennedy, and "the third woman" highlights the Alpha/Omega theories of the personality, in which each person has two separate personalities and cannot accommodate the introduction of a third.



## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 21-30**

### **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 21-30 Summary**

Hunt has the leaders of the Frente, the group in charge of taking out Castro, transferred to Mexico, where he goes to take over operations. Harry stays in Miami. Cal sends a message saying that the signature of the Castro operation should suggest the Mafia.

In September, Harry has a crisis with Modene, who says she has had a change in schedule; he doesn't believe her. Later, when he gets her transcripts, he finds out that she has been spending time in Chicago with Giancana. He talked a lot to her about his family history and the Kennedys; later, Harlot tells Harry that Sam was lying in a lot of the stories about his mother. He asks Harry if he hooked "the mermaid" (Modene), and Harry confirms that he has.

In Chapter 23, Harry tells Harlot more about the affair. In addition, he tells the reader about their sex life; she compares him to Walter, though he would rather be compared to JFK. Later, Harlot messages Harry that Giancarla and JFK maintain some contact thru Modene. Harry responds that he will try to find out what they are saying.

In Chapter 24, Cal visits Miami and has a meeting with Harry and Robert Maheu, who is ex-FBI and had a meeting last month with Giancarla, who has said that he would kill Castro but heard that he has syphilis and won't last six months anyway. As it is, the target date is for late October. Later, Harry has a letter from Cal saying that he met with Giancarla, which gives him confidence.

Harry writes to Cal in Chapter 25 that Hunt has left and there is a problem with Win Scott, the Station Chief in Mexico City, because the Mexican government is impressed by Castro and so not welcoming to the United States.

In another letter to Cal in Chapter 26, Harry talks about a meeting with Chevi. Chevi says that it would be easy to take over Cuba if Castro were detested as much as they think, but the realities might be different. Harry asks his father's advice; Cal tells him that Chevi sounds like a sophisticated communist and a double dealer and that it's okay to use him if they keep their objectives limited.

Hunt returns to Washington in Chapter 27 before relocating the Frente to Miami, which Cal authorizes, though Hunt is unhappy about it and disapproves of the way Harry has been running things. Meanwhile, Harry has a call from Dix Butler, who is coming to Miami and wants to have dinner. Afterwards, Harry calls Rosen, who is reluctant to give him more free information, finally telling him that Dix tortured an East German agent who turned out to have friends in powerful places.



Cal and Harry have a few bad weeks in Chapter 28. Cal sends a letter to Harry that Hunt sees and is upset that the information bypassed him. Harry reads it; Cal tells him to have Chevi go through bank accounts. Giancarla is predicting that Castro will disappear soon, but wants to know how J. Edgar Hoover got information on him. Cal has vouched for Harry, leaving Maheu and the Italians as suspects. Roselli really wants citizenship, so they rule him out. Maheu is unlikely to be a double agent. Cal tells Harry to stay close to Maheu, however, and that they are going to tap Giancarla's girlfriend's phone, though it is risky.

In Chapter 29, Harry thinks back to the night before, as they talked about Sam Giancana, who makes Modene nervous; she told him that she was in love with Jack, which she tells Harry is half-true, just as it is half-true that she is in love with him. When he checks his messages, it says to call Cal. When they talk, Cal says that Maheu's operator messed up the operation for the wiretap in Vegas and that now Harry should go and talk to Maheu quietly. Harry sends a memo the next day to Cal saying that Maheu is genuinely upset that he neglected to check out the procedure.

Cal thanks Harry for his report in Chapter 30. In the meantime, Harry's work for Hunt is increasing. Hunt is convinced that he will be close to the next president of the United States, who he assumes will be Nixon, and Harry will go watch the returns on election night with Hunt.

## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 21-30 Analysis**

This section of the book, in addition to complicating earlier issues of the plot, also plays heavily with the idea of serving several masters. Harry, at this point, is still reporting to Hunt, but also to Cal and Harlot, who give him different commands and provide him with the same or similar information at different points. Similarly, Hunt is in Mexico trying to run his own operation, while still working to a certain extent under the Bureau Chief there, while Chevi Fuertes is still working with the CIA but seems to be expressing some sympathy for Cuba and pro-Castro supporters. In a certain way, this idea of serving multiple leaders reflects Kittredge's theories of Alpha and Omega, in which each individual has two full personalities inside him or herself, each with its own separate desires.

The faulty wiretap scenario illustrates the problems inherent in serving different interests. When the installation of the sneaky goes wrong, nobody can figure out whom to blame for the problems in the operation. There is no longer one clear chain of command (for example, from father to son, or from the Agency to its Agents) but rather a certain confusion as people who used to fall in line as subordinates develop their own ideas and begin to ignore protocol. In the same vein, Barbaro, who is ostensibly working with the CIA, does not accept the amount of money they have offered him but keeps fighting for more and more. In ways, this mirrors the larger societal changes that took place in the United States in the 1960s. All of these insubordinations, small and large,

and multiple leaders, build up to the election day, which is alluded to at the end of the section.



## Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 31-41

### Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 31-41 Summary

Harry takes Modene to the party. Harry doesn't know anyone and Modene just wants to watch the election. The election talk is tense: Hunt is very pro-Nixon, Artime (who arrived) talks about killing Castro, and Harry and Modene leave before the results are in.

In Chapter 32, Modene won't have sex with him before the results are in. Harry proposes to Modene casually, but she says no. Finally, JFK wins and Modene is thrilled.

Chapter 33 is a letter from Cal, saying how much he misses his wife Mary and how sad he is that Clark Gable's died. He also worries about the Las Vegas wiretapping fiasco, tracing three possibilities - one, that it was chance, two, that Giancana messed it up, three, that the FBI did the work. He reports that Kennedy gave Allen Dulles a coded go-ahead for Cuba.

Chapter 34 begins with a cable from Harry to Harlot saying that he has lost all contact with Modene, that the relationship is over. Later, he describes what happened: FBI agents came by her house to ask about Sam Giancana and were very rude to her. She says that she knows Harry is in cahoots with them and that he is FBI; she tells him not to call her again.

In Chapter 35, Harry is depressed about the breakup, but Harlot cables him that transcripts from Modene's calls to her friend Willie are on their way to him. He then has a letter from Cal about Dashiell Hammett, a writer and an old friend, who died. He also says that the invasion they have planned has been confirmed for Trinidad.

Harry sees a lot of Hunt in Chapter 36, especially now that Modene is out of the picture. He learns that Hunt is very protective of Barbaro, but he has Chevi go through his accounts anyway, finding that a lot of money from the Cuban lottery is going in and out. Later, Harry speaks to his father, who refuses to get involved, so Harry takes his findings to Hunt, who does not care. At the end of the Chapter, the Frente is going to train at Quarters Eye, but first in Guatemala, and Harry will be accompanying them.

In Chapter 37, Harry writes to his father from Guatemala, talking about his trip and how upset Barbaro was on the way over. Hunt gets Barbaro in line. Later, he addresses the Brigade, in a very moving speech. Harry is impressed by the men's belief in their cause.

Returning from Guatemala in Chapter 38, Harry tries to call Modene, but she has moved. Meanwhile, Hunt is summoned to Washington, where an exile named Manuel



Ray has been added to the team. Harry realizes that Hunt's refusal to take on Ray is basically the equivalent of him being fired and that he will no longer advance in the agency.

In Chapter 39, Cal and Harry are at Cal's safe house and discuss Castro. The assassination attempt failed. Cal went to interview the girl who attempted the assassination himself; he says that she had dark hair and green eyes. Later, he talks about the invasion, saying that Trinidad was the best place to land but it has been compromised, and now they must land at the Bay of Pigs. Cal tells Harry he'll be going there too with Hunt and should keep a diary. Later, he mentions Sam Giancana's girlfriend Mo, and Harry asks if it was the same girl as Castro's ex-girlfriend; Cal says no, Castro's girlfriend was a blonde.

Chapter 40 is the beginning of Harry's journal, in April 1961. In the event of his death, he instructs that the papers are to be delivered to Kittredge. Different reports come in on their supplies, including cargo vessels, and different agents, as well as codes. In the days approaching the invasion, Harry starts to get nervous. The Brigade starts sailing and coordinating air raids, with decoy planes flown from Nicaragua. They receive early reports that the Cuban air force has been wiped out on the ground.

Still in Chapter 40, the invasion finally takes place, but with several problems. Finally it fails and the men leave Quarter's Eye.

In Chapter 41, Harry drops into a church and sees Modene by chance; he approaches her and tells her that he loves her. He proposes to her but she cries and says she can't.

The chapter then shifts to Moscow, in March of 1984. Harry has been reading he previous pages for twenty hours and still has more microfilm to read.

## **Part V: The Bay of Pigs, May 1960 - April 1961, Miami. Chapters 31-41 Analysis**

The final section of Part V advances the plot very quickly, culminating in the failed Bay of Pigs disaster. Mailer sets up the plot so that it genuinely comes as a surprise that the invasion doesn't work, though he has foreshadowed possible difficulties with the invasion (the changing of the location, the delivery of sub-par transportation, and so on) earlier on. The final presentation of the Bay of Pigs fiasco is then, as any student of 20th-Century American history knows, doomed to fail, but Mailer works hard to make this inevitability seem surprising.

The fact that Harry records this invasion in a journal, rather than in letters to Kittredge, or cables to his father and Harlot, is important and represents a real breakthrough for him. He is continuing to find independence from the men who have raised him, even from the love of his life, while at the same time this independence goes against (in some cases, strongly against) Agency regulations, which of course would not permit an Agent recording events in a journal. Not only does this method of narration emphasize the





intimacy of his recordings and highlight the surprise when the operation fails, but it also shows the reader the growing divide of Harry's personality, between somebody who is strong and growing to become an excellent agent, while at the same time flouting the rules and standards of this agency.

At the same time that Harry is gaining even more independence, Cal is losing his objectivity. Mailer follows an archetypal pattern here of the son gaining strength at the father's expense. Cal's growing weakness is highlighted by the many letters he writes to Harry describing his feelings at the death of his contemporaries. These letters are markedly different from the attitudes he showed at the beginning of the book, especially towards his son; earlier in his life and career, Cal prided himself on being a tough Agent.

Harry's final split from Modene is not that different from Modene's earlier break-ups with Sinatra or Kennedy, both of which violated her sense of "two halves of a circle" in a relationship by bringing other women into the bedroom. Though Harry does not do this, the presence of the FBI presents a separate character in their relationship; if it were the CIA investigating her blatantly (as, ironically, Harry is doing on the sly), Harry would be able to salvage the relationship. However, as the third character is introduced, Alpha and Omega are violated and he has to let Modene go.



## **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 1-10**

### **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 1-10 Summary**

Harry fast-forwards to the late sixties, talking about the spring of 1969, when Kittredge and he are having an affair and Harlot was still unparalyzed. He discusses Dulles' death in 1968, when he and his wife were having a dinner party and nobody thought anything was wrong until they discovered him dead.

In Chapter 2, Maheu informed the FBI that the wiretap in Vegas had involved the CIA, implicating Cal. Cal is thus going to Japan and hopes to reconnect with Mary. Harry, meanwhile, is helping the CIA move from I-J-K-L to Langley.

During a letter, Cal tells Harry that he and Mary have reunited, and that he is distraught that Ernest Hemingway has committed suicide.

Harry is worried in Chapter 3 about the future of his own career, so he goes to talk to Hunt after work. Later, Kittredge calls Harry and they talk. She identifies him as the man in Modene's transcripts.

In Chapter 4, Kittredge writes to Harry, talking about how she was alone at the Keep with Christopher for over a year, without Hugh. She told Hugh that she would only stay with him if they could change their marriage, and he agreed to tell her more secrets of his job. She tells Harry the story of how her friend Polly wanted to use her and Hugh's house for her affair with JFK, but once Hugh found out what they were doing, he balked. Polly no longer uses the house, but they have become friends with the Kennedys. Kittredge also reports on Modene, saying she had dinner with Jack at the White House and currently lives in Los Angeles.

In Chapter 5, Harry writes back and tells her to leave Modene out of it. Kittredge responds with information about narcissism and psychopathy, which she believes are both imbalances of Alpha and Omega.

Harry writes to Kittredge in Chapter 6 about his dinner with Lansdale, who is now in charge of the Cuba operation. Hugh questions how he will apply his principles to the Caribbean when his heart is in the Far East, but Lansdale says that the President appointed him. Bill Harvey is coming aboard, and they all wonder about his ability to get the job done. On the way home, Hugh tells Harry that Harvey's been very depressed since the tunnel fiasco.

In Chapter 7, Harry talks about how his correspondence with Kittredge went on throughout that fall and winter, while he was quartered in Washington and stationed in



Miami. Meanwhile Harvey is very suspicious about working with Harry again, and feels like Lansdale is acting as an agent of the Kennedys. Harry finds himself caught between Harvey, Lansdale, and Harlot.

In Chapter 8, Kittredge writes asking Harry to give an overview of JM/Wave. In response, Harry writes about a meeting where Bill Harvey gave a presentation on Mongoose, the Cuba operation, and the Lansdale program, which is the JM/WAVE maritime plan. He then starts thinking (and writing) about Dix, who was thinking of a transfer to the Green Berets but instead became a liaison to the coyotes, who are a lot of thugs and people who bring in information and deal in drugs. He writes a lot about his dealings with them, some of which has been very violent.

In Chapter 9, Kittredge writes back telling Harry that he's an idiot and that these coyotes are just low-grade psychopaths. She tells him not to sulk, but he doesn't answer her. She writes again, talking about her father and his Omega, which was "dark and precise." She tells him of the time she walked in on him having sex with her mother. Then she talks about the Kennedys and how they are different, how Jack is curious about people and how Bobby wants results but doesn't know what to tell others and so can't understand Castro.

Kittredge writes to Harry in Chapter 10 to say that Sidney Greenstreet was over and Hugh tried to convince him to take somebody along; Kittredge is convinced that it's Harry. Later, Harlot calls and says that he'd pleased that Harry was working for Cal at the same time as he was working for him; that it showed character. The new op is also about Castro, and Harry will follow around Greenstreet everywhere.

## **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 1-10 Analysis**

In the first part of Mongoose, time again becomes a major issue in the narrative. Part Six: Mongoose begins with Harry's reflections on the late sixties, when he and Kittredge are having an affair, and the eventual paralysis of Hugh and the death of Christopher. At the same time, however, he is writing this book later on and reading it in 1984 in Moscow, while putting this time period in contrast with the early 1960s, the time period where the story takes place. Similarly, Cal's reunion with Mary highlights the blurring of time; he has convinced her to take him back, as though they could return to an earlier time, before he betrayed her.

Harry is similarly regressing, as several events occur that challenge his newfound toughness and independence, which have been tempered by his failure with the Bay of Pigs. This also symbolizes a blow to America's ego in the early 1960s after this fiasco. At this point, he is regressing to an admiration for the thuggish behavior of men like Dix Butler and the coyotes. As he is with many characters in his life, Harry is simultaneously attracted and repelled to these kinds of people. At the end of this section, Hugh is again guiding and directing Harry's career, by forcing Sydney Greenstreet to take him on. In



many ways, Hugh never lets Harry go too far on his own without intervening to direct his career.

Finally, the change of CIA headquarters from I-J-K-L to Langley, while factually correct, is also a symbol of a new order: Harry describes the Langley headquarters as sterile and very business-like, as opposed to the kind of controlled chaos present at I-J-K-L. This foreshadows the kinds of operations they will be undertaking in the future, and the new direction for the CIA after the Bay of Pigs. It is important to realize that the ultimate goal, the takedown and/or murder of Castro, has not changed.



## **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 11-20**

### **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 11-20 Summary**

Harry sends a message to Harlot about what happened, but decides not to tell Kittredge. Instead, he writes her that they are planning to kidnap Castro. Later, he writes her asking what she wanted to say about Modene. She will send it on later. Kittredge writes back about Modene, that she agreed to marry Sam (though they haven't) and hasn't slept with him. The promised letter from Kittredge arrived the next day in Chapter 12, though Harry destroyed it and is now trying to reconstruct it. Modene tells Willie about how, after her father's death, she and Sam went to a church and then had sex on the grave of his first love, the only place she felt that they could do it.

Chapter 13 recounts a conversation between Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover. The FBI asks Cal's permission to arrest Maheu in Chapter 14, but he refuses. Later, Harry reads a transcript of a conversation between Modene and Willie in which they discuss how FBI men have been harassing Modene and Sam, how things are over between her and JFK, and how Jack Kennedy couldn't call the FBI off her.

Cal writes to Harry from Tokyo in Chapter 15, upset that William Falkner died and also Marilyn Monroe. He wonders if the Kennedys killed her.

In Chapter 16, Harry keeps working on Mongoose, in which one boat will go across the Keys every night to Cuba, registered out of Nicaragua. He is worried about Harlot discovering the correspondence between Harry and Kittredge.

In Chapter 17, Harry takes a vacation with his mother in Southampton. When he returns, there is a meeting of the Special Group, with generals and others, where they talk about ways of sabotaging Cuba.

Harry writes to Kittredge in Chapter 18 about a problem they are having with the operation. Later, Kittredge writes back talking about problems Hugh has had with bureaucrats at the Agency and how she sees the Company as divided into Alpha and Omega.

CIA intelligence is breached in Chapter 19. The missiles become public knowledge, and then Kennedy confirms this to the nation.

In Chapter 20, Harry is going with Dix Butler into the operation, but Harvey makes him state (taped) that he is doing it illegally before he goes. At night, they go back and try to make it over to Cuba. They seem to be a little bit off-course and Harry tries to come up



with a cover story for if they are caught. They drop off their supplies and try to find the other boat. Finally, they do, though only one man survives.

## **Part Six: MONGOOSE, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 11-20 Analysis**

In this section, familiar people in Harry's life are acting in very strange ways. Modene commits to Sam and has sex in a mausoleum when earlier she wouldn't even sleep with him; Cal is admitting to emotional weakness by his extreme reactions to the deaths of William Faulkner and Marilyn Monroe; and Kittredge and Hugh become close to the Kennedys.

One of the most important events in this section is the breach of CIA intelligence in Chapter 19, when the Cuban Missile Crisis becomes public. Ironically, the fact that the missiles become public may be what forces Kennedy to successfully deal with them, though this is not alluded to in the book and certainly not by the CIA, which is shocked that they have been breached. Kittredge remarks that the Company seems, to her, to be one large Alpha and Omega, which is highlighted by this leak as well as by the shift to new headquarters at Langley. At the same time, the CIA is also foiled in this section by the FBI, who wishes to pursue Maheu, who Cal is still using in several operations.

Harry's identity is still fluid in this section and still divided into two, as he wishes to go on the mission with Dix Butler but must first denounce any right to go on this mission on tape. He is simultaneously fulfilling his potential by exploring his boundaries but betraying himself by denouncing any right he has to do so.



## **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 21-30**

### **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 21-30 Summary**

In a letter to Kittredge, Harry confides that they lost five men, and Harvey radioed for them to come back. Later, Harry sees transcripts between Kennedy and Harvey, where Harvey defends keeping agents (but not operations) in Cuba. However, Harvey is pretty much finished in the agency. Cal writes that he will be replacing Harvey.

In Chapter 22, talking with Chevi, Harry learns that Castro did not want the missiles but that Khrushchev convinced Castro to take them. Dix Butler, who is also there, accuses Chevi of being an agent of Castro's.

Kittredge writes with her take on the missile crisis in Chapter 23. In Chapter 24, Harry writes to Kittredge, saying that Howard Hunt is back. They dine with Manuel Artime, one of the members of the Brigade who got arrested in Cuba. Artime was the most important leader captured. Harry says that Hunt has changed, and is much angrier than he used to be.

In Chapter 25, Kittredge writes back that Harvey is now working at Langley at the Italian desk, and has apparently been giving Hugh some stories about the FBI for years; he was the CIA leak. She asks him to reconstruct a transcript between Roselli and Harvey. He writes back with the transcript, in which they talk about Modene and Sam, and how they wish they could have gotten Nixon in instead of Kennedy.

Kittredge writes back about Modene in Chapter 26, saying that she is unhappy, still with Sam and living in Chicago, where the FBI harasses her. Kittredge includes a transcript of Modene complaining to Sam that he won't take her to San Francisco.

Operation Mongoose is encountering some problems with negotiations between the White House and the Kremlin in Chapter 27s. Cal is worried about anti-Castro extremists. Cal and Harry argue because Cal talks about the downtrodden American people and Harry responds, "yes, all we poor enslaved American people." (1185). He has never spoken to his father like this and apologizes but does say that the Americans are polluted. Cal demands why Harry is at the Agency and Harry says that he likes the work, though Cal finds this insufficient.

In Chapter 28, Harry agrees with Cal that Fidel is dangerous and shouldn't be trusted. Harry reflects on the differences between TSS, where he is working, and the rest of the agency.



Castro is currently in Moscow in Chapter 29 and reacting favorably there. Cal asks Harry where Artime, one of the Frente leaders, is; Hunt won't tell Harry, so Harry finds him through Chevi in Nicaragua. Meanwhile, Harry has dinner with Harlot and Cal. They discuss Arnie Rosen's sexuality and Harlot discusses how he took the boy under his wing, told him to find a wife and to convert to Catholicism. The wife they decide on is Nancy Waterston, the woman who pretended to be Harry's fiancée in Montevideo. She is currently the secretary for an official, so Harlot hopes to get information this way.

In Chapter 30, Kittredge writes to Harry expressing concern about Hugh's sanity, saying that he has entered a tunnel and is convinced that nobody else in the CIA can appreciate the KGB; in addition, he is raging at the Kennedys and decides that they have to break off relationships with the clan. Kittredge is furious with him and signs off the letter that she loves him, though adds a post script that she could easily have written that she hates him.

## **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 21-30 Analysis**

The second part of Mongoose is notable for the different problems that arise with people Harry has always depended on, even if he has not entirely trusted them. The most notable of these is Chevi, who he knows not to fully trust, but whom Dix Butler used anyway, thus sabotaging their mission. This is the first time Chevi has proved blatantly dangerous and untrustworthy to the Agency. At the same time, Bill Harvey, who did cause a lot of trouble for Harry earlier on, is losing his mind and is thus losing his position within the company. Though this is not particularly troubling for Harry, it represents a certain demotion of one of the larger authority figures in his life. Similarly, when Kittredge starts to question Hugh's sanity, one of his father figures is seriously challenged.

At the same time that several authority figures and friend figures in Harry's life find themselves in trouble or betrayal, however, Arnie Rosen is succeeding wildly. Though he has two strikes against him as a homosexual Jew, Harlot (half ironically and mostly out of the interest of making a well-placed connection) helps him see how he can succeed in the Agency and progress to fulfill his ambitions. Rosen seems to have some kind of grudge against Harry, probably for his birthright and having Harlot as his godfather always looking out for him, and relishes the opportunity to partake in the opportunities Hugh is offering him. As others at the Agency are on the decline, Rosen is on the rise, and it makes sense that Kittredge finishes this section by marking on the arbitrariness of love and hate; success and failure seem almost as arbitrary and heavily determined by luck.





## **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 31-40**

### **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 31-40 Summary**

Harry settles down to work Cal arranges a raid on Cuba but the men never reach their target and two are captured. Dix Butler put the operation together quickly, and says it is Harry's fault for giving him Chevi Fuertes, though Harry says that he couldn't have been authorized to use him.

In Chapter 32, Cal goes to Paris to meet with Rolando Cubela, who the agency has put next in line for the Presidency of Cuba. Cubela would only meet with Bobby Kennedy (the Attorney General) or, at the very worst, a personal representative. The Agency forges a letter to say that this is Cal. Cubela is going to assassinate Castro. Meanwhile, the access to Rusk's office (where Nancy Waterstone works) is relatively useful.

From a bar, Dix Butler and Harry watch a speech President Kennedy gives in Chapter 33. Butler is pleased with what he sees as anti-Soviet sentiment. Harry enquires after Chevi and Butler tells a story about having Chevi in his motel room, accusing him of being pro-Castro, and Chevi admitted that he had had dealings with the DGI party. Butler tortured him in the toilet bowl, though still Chevi would not confess to giving up the men they lost in the raid. Later, Harry receives a letter from Chevi that says that he has had an affair with Dix Butler and that he is returning to Cuba terrified. Then he receives a call from Chevi, asking if he can come by to say good-bye. When he comes, Harry knows that he wants to be arrested, but he cannot do it and sends him away.

In Chapter 34, Fidel Castro is giving an interview to journalist Jean Daniel from The New Republic. In this interview, he says that he thinks Kennedy is sincere, though not free, that the Russians don't want war, and he doesn't want to discuss Cuba's ties to the USSR, .

Harry writes to Kittredge from Paris in Chapter 35. He tells her that he loves her and always will. He had lunch with Cal and they talk about Modene Murphy, who Cal knew about and always wanted to meet. Cal talks about his new obsession, which is that Marilyn Monroe was murdered, and he thinks it was the Kennedys.

Cubela, Cal, and Harry all have lunch in Chapter 36; Cubela examines the fake letter from Robert Kennedy authorizing Cal as his agent. Cal gives him equipment, telling him that he will use a billiard cue and then a ballpoint pen, which Cubela thinks is shameful and will not use, except as a possible means of committing suicide. At the end of the chapter, the waiter tells Harry that Kennedy has been shot.



Chapter 37 is an excerpt of Jean Daniel's article, discussing Castro's reaction to the assassination. He thinks that everything will change now and has to be rethought.

In Chapter 38, Harry calls Modene from the hotel to say how sorry he is; he asks about Sam, but Modene does not see him. She says that she is overweight, is having a hysterectomy, and does not think she has much time left. Chapter 39 is another excerpt from Daniel's article, in which Castro wonders about Lyndon Johnson and his reputation, but especially the authority he has over the CIA.

In Chapter 40, Kittredge writes to Harry, talking about Kennedy's funeral and how all her hope now is on Bobby. She says that they cannot make a false move and that she loves him too and that they will just have to wait.

## **Part Six: Mongoose, 1961-1963: Miami, Washington, Paris. Chapters 31-40 Analysis**

In the last part of Mongoose, authority and father figures fall. The most remarkable of these is, of course, Kennedy, whose death disturbs many characters in the novel (though does not seem to surprise them that much). Similarly, Harry is now working for Cal directly. While this may seem like a regression for him, he is actually now working for his father almost as an equal, and Cal has started to topple a little as an authority figure as Harry works alongside him. Cal again expresses weakness, especially in his obsession with the death of Marilyn Monroe and his (perhaps warranted, given his background and career) conspiracy theories surrounding her death. Harry's rise to his father's side mirrors in a way the country's expectation that Bobby Kennedy will somehow help to fill the place his brother left. Thus, while Cal is starting to lose some of his power and JFK has been killed, Harry has started to take over more important tasks, Bobby is preparing himself, and Castro is looking into the history of Lyndon Johnson.



# Afterward: Washington, Rome, 1964-1965

## Afterward: Washington, Rome, 1964-1965 Summary

Harry states that his affair with Kittredge didn't start for another six years, after which they met once a week until Hugh and Christopher's accident. Meanwhile, Harlot talks to a room full of important Agency people about Oswald and everything the CIA has to lose. Harry is also thinking a lot about the death of Marilyn Monroe, and then starts brooding about Bill Harvey. He starts wondering about who really killed Kennedy, even suspecting J. Edgar Hoover.

In Chapter 2, Kittredge writes to Harry that revolutions are sealed in blood, and she gives him the rest of the transcript from Hugh's conversation with Harvey back in Berlin, years ago. Apparently, Harvey was a double agent for the FBI the whole time, and Hugh held it over his head for a long time. Harry writes love letters to Kittredge in Chapter 3 but she doesn't want them, just informational letters. Thus, he writes to her about Cal, who asks him to go fire Bill Harvey.

In Chapter 4, six months later, Harry goes to Berlin to fire Bill. Harvey knows why he is there and says that he won't go, acting crazier and crazier. He talks about Lee Harvey Oswald, with whom he feels an invisible bond (they have similar names) and points a gun at Harry while they talk. Six hours later, Harry finally talks him down.

Moscow, March 1984

Harry feels that his manuscript is a safeguard against a hostile land. He knows that Harlot is in Moscow. He is out of documents and he thinks about finding his godfather and asking him whom it all benefits. The book ends with "To be continued."

## Afterward: Washington, Rome, 1964-1965 Analysis

Mailer never did write a sequel to Harlot's Ghost, though the ending of the novel certainly implies one. The afterward is particularly concerned with establishing Harry as finally surpassing his mentors: here, he fires Bill Harvey (who, though not a mentor as such, certainly shaped Harry's career) and, later, tries to track down Harlot in Moscow. The book strongly implies that it is possible that Harry will never catch Harlot, for we have seen that he half-believed the death reports that he heard earlier. The overlap of time in this last section is particularly remarkable, as Mailer works with several periods at once, while appearing to be telling the story (from Harry's perspective) from some point in the future.



# Characters

## Harry Hubbard

The narrator and protagonist of *Harlot's Ghost*, Harry Hubbard is a CIA agent. As a child, he is timid and sickly, with repeated headaches and has a limp from a skiing accident. However, as he gets older, he becomes intent on pleasing his father, Cal. He works hard as a young agent, though he is not particularly ambitious; he is more interested in adventure than in moving up in the chain of command. Harry works to fight Communism but is not as much of a CIA die-hard as his father or Harlot. For example, he will question authority from time to time, and has difficulty seeing people entirely in terms of good or bad. He takes a more nuanced view of his relationships. He is one-eighth Jewish on his mother's side, which he finds interesting but slightly shameful, given the culture of the CIA at this time. Perhaps because of this, he is obsessed with religion and God. His first sexual experience was non-consensual and involved his school's chaplain. Before marrying Kittredge, Harry had several affairs with different women, none of whom he loved, though he did get very close to Modene, a woman he was dating because of her connections to the Mafia and to Castro. Harry is in love with his cousin and the wife of his godfather Harlot called Kittredge and eventually marries her. Their love is obsessive and finally destructive.

## Harlot (Hugh Montague)

Hugh Montague, or Harlot as his close friends and relatives call him, is Harry's godfather and an intensely involved higher-up at the CIA. Harlot has been involved in the overthrow of the Guatemalan government and becomes deeply involved in the plot to get rid of Castro. He is a terse man with many enemies, within the agency and without. Harry meets him when he is a teenager and desperately wants to impress him. Harlot has a complicated relationship with his own family, as his mother killed his father when Harlot was ten years old, and he was never sure whether it was an accident or on purpose. Harlot eventually marries Kittredge, who is much younger than him, and has a child, Christopher. He is obsessed with rock climbing and took Harry out to the mountains several times to practice. However, when Christopher is sixteen, he and Harlot go on an ill-fated climb. Christopher is killed and Harlot is paralyzed from the waist down. This fall makes him more sentimental and he becomes distraught when Kittredge leaves him for Harry.

## Cal Hubbard

Cal Hubbard, Harry's father, is also a highly respected member of the CIA and has a certain amount of influence there. He is divorced from Harry's mother, a socialite, and remarried an overweight woman named Mary, with whom he has two twin boys. Cal has a strong temper and is strictly anti-Communist. During Harry's childhood, he is often



hard on his son and even makes Harry stand up on a broken leg while they are skiing. However, as Cal gets older, he begins to respect his son and is proud of the work he does for the agency. Cal begins to become more sentimental, especially when a lot of his heroes such as Hemingway and Dashiell Hammett start to die. Mary leaves him at one point for cheating on her with the maid, though eventually they are reconciled. There is a certain amount of competitiveness between Cal and Harry when Harry is an adult, though they work together on several projects and generally get along well, corresponding frequently through agency systems.

## Kittredge

Kittredge, Harlot and then Harry's wife, is a Radcliffe-educated member of the CIA. Her father is a professor of Shakespeare with an affinity for sleeping with his wife only when she is asleep; Kittredge, like Harry, walks in on her parents making love as a child and is disturbed by the experience. Kittredge's main work for the CIA consists of completing research on Alpha and Omega, two parts of the human character that she has identified. In this line of work, she does significant research with ways of breaking down what she sees as the barriers between the two; one of the ways, which she tests on herself, is the use of LSD. Kittredge is sensitive and brooding, and is often said to resemble Jacqueline Kennedy. She has a belief in the supernatural; furthermore, she believes that she spoke to her mother after her mother died. When Harlot dies, she sits in her bedroom conversing with him, as well. She is intensely committed to her relationships, including her role as a mother. However, she has an extended affair with Harry before marrying him and later has an affair with Dix Butler, before leaving Harry for him.

## Other Characters

Chevi Fuertes

Bill Harvey

Modene Murphy

John F. Kennedy

Bobby Kennedy

E. Howard Hunt

Wolfgang

Sally Porringer

Dix Butler



Arnie Rosen



# Objects/Places

## I-J-K-L

This is the CIA building before the mid-1960s that is a place full of chaos and difficult to navigate.

## Langley

This is the CIA building after the mid-1960s that is very corporate and efficient.

## CIA

This is the Central Intelligence Agency.

## Berlin

This is the city where Harry gets his start at the agency as a recent graduate of the CIA's training. He works under Bill Harvey here.

## Uruguay

This is the country where Harry works after Germany. In Uruguay, he works under E. Howard Hunt.

## Miami

Harry is transferred to Miami, Florida, after working in Uruguay to help with Cuba operations.

## Cuba

This is the small Caribbean country, run by Fidel Castro, that the CIA has a strong desire to make Capitalist.

## Communism

This is the economic model and ideology that focuses on the collective good.



## **Capitalism**

This is the economic model and ideology that focuses on the free market.

## **Bay of Pigs**

This is the bay in Cuba that American troops invaded, trying to make it look as though Cubans were starting another revolution.

## **Alpha/Omega**

These are the Kittredge's concepts of the divided personalities within each person.

## **The Keep**

This is Harry and Kittredge's family home in Maine.

## **Washington DC**

This is the headquarters of the CIA and the setting for much of the book.

## **Moscow**

Harry travels here in 1984 to track down Hugh who is supposed to be dead.





# Themes

## American Power

American power permeates the book as one of the most important themes. In the mid-twentieth century, the United States dominated many world affairs as it faced off with the Soviet Union in the Cold War. In the book, the attitude of the United States towards other countries, is embodied by Hugh Montague or Harlot and Cal, Harry's father, who are rigidly anti-Communist and devote their lives to preserving American dominance. Both of these men are also strongly part of the established East Coast culture and Harry's family in particular has roots back to the founding of the country. Harry, Arnie Rosen, and Dix Butler, as part of a later generation, represent the future of this power: each is flawed in some way that will pervert America's dominance somehow. Harry is talented but has a taste for independence and a lack of ambition that hurt him in the Agency. Arnie Rosen is Jewish and homosexual, although he goes to great lengths to cover up these facts. Ironically, Dix Butler is the most successful of the three, though he is much more thuggish and violent than either Harry or Arnie, or even Harlot and Cal, who are philosophical in addition to being strong. This succession of characters warns of a serious future change in traditional American culture and values and therefore threatens to pervert America's control of the world somehow in the future.

## Christianity

American power is related yet separate from the theme of Christianity throughout the book. Numerous characters refer to the Bible and to religious themes. It is noted that Castro's name is very close to the Spanish for Christ or "Cristo" and characters, especially Harlot and Cal, repeatedly reference religious reasons and callings towards their work at the Agency. In this way, Christianity serves almost as a reason for them to Manifest Destiny by driving out Communism around the world.

In addition to serving as a rationale for the proliferation of American power around the globe, Christianity also serves as a prerequisite for Agency members as representative of the best and the brightest of American society. Arnie Rosen can never be totally successful, though he is talented, until he marries and converts to Christianity and for this, he is grateful to Hugh for the rest of his life. Harry often blames his own weaknesses and failures on the part of himself that is one-eighth Jewish. Indeed, this eventually prevents him from getting stationed in Israel. Though he does not seem to be blatantly anti-Semitic in the way that his parents' generation, Harry has still been taught traditional Christianity. However, for him, this Christianity has been perverted in ways by his early training. He went to a private boy's school called St. Matthew's. There he struggled to fit in and had a hard time adjusting. On a field trip, he shared a room with the chaplain, who sexually molested him and then cried, creating serious sexual issues for Harry later on. This view of Christianity stands in marked contrast to the Christianity



of his father or godfather, who take a clear and pure view of their motives for working for the United States government.

## Patriarchy

Relationships to fathers dominate Harlot's Ghost. In the book, several characters struggle with to live up to their fathers or to deal with the metaphorical ghosts of their fathers. The title of the book alludes not only to the possible "ghost" Harry goes to Moscow to track down that is Hugh, who is possibly still alive but also the spirit of Harlot hanging in the background that is watching his every move that permeates throughout the story.

Harry's relationship with his own father is similar to that he has with Hugh. However, as Cal gets older, he gets weaker and more sentimental, making it easier for Harry to surpass him at work. On the other hand, Hugh just gets bitterer and twisted, possibly even insane, especially after his ill-fated rock climb that paralyzed him. Hugh's relationship with his own father was complicated and based on the legend of Ty Cobb's father: his mother shot him, supposedly thinking he was an intruder, but possibly to commit pre-mediated murder. Thus, Hugh has lived to see both his father and his son die tragic and violent deaths. The only surviving male member of his "family," Harry, betrays him by having an affair and eventually running away with his wife, Kittredge.

In many ways, the patriarchies of Harlot's Ghost are Oedipal in that Harry wishes to eliminate his godfather and run away with his wife, who is older than Harry and almost a mother figure. Harry's own mother is weak and absent for much of the novel. In addition, both Harry and Kittredge at one point walked in on their fathers making love, Harry's father to Mary, his stepmother, and Kittredge's father to her drugged mother. Later in the book, Harry hears Kittredge and Hugh making love, paralleling the interrupted paternal sex that he saw before. His desire for Kittredge, whom he has never known outside of the context of her and Hugh's relationship, although she is his cousin is in many ways strongly linked to his desire to vanquish his stepfather.

# Style

## Point of View

Harlot's Ghost is told almost entirely from the point of view of Harry Hubbard. It is written in the first person. However, though Harry tells the story, various other characters also have the chance to narrate sections of the novel, particularly Kittredge, Cal, and Harlot. For the most part, Harry is an extremely reliable narrator; we can trust what he presents to us, except in that his knowledge, as a junior member of the Central Intelligence Agency, is from time to time necessarily limited and so we do not always have the full information about his operations. However, we find out additional information as he does, and, though he has to protect many different secrets and Agency findings, he writes them all down for the reader, as he is ostensibly writing two autobiographies that detail all of his operations with the Agency, as well as his personal life. Harry is for the most part very generous with the details that he shares, even when he is writing to Kittredge and risking a lot by exposing details of sensitive operations. Kittredge is not always as forthcoming and does cover up a lot in her letters, sometimes revealing omissions later on. Cal does not give Harry the full story most of the time, but is upfront about this. Harlot is much more terse and usually only tells us exactly what Harry needs to know at a given point.

## Setting

As a book about a CIA agent, Harlot's Ghost takes place in various cities all over the world. It begins in Maine, at the Keep, which is on an island that Harry's family has owned for a long time. The story then goes all around the East Coast, from Connecticut, where Harry attends Yale, to Washington D.C. and its surrounding areas, where Harry trains for the CIA; he treats this city as entirely business-oriented and never gets into too much detail about its geography. Later on, we have a better image of Berlin as dark and shady, with dangerous and strange characters such as Wolfgang everywhere. The scene then shifts to Montevideo, Uruguay, which Harry finds quite beautiful; the "Switzerland of South America," which has an old city, a medium-old city, and a new city. Later, Harry moves to Miami to work on the Cuba operations. He finds Miami beautiful but the Agency's safe houses there to vary in quality. Later, Harry goes back up to D.C., where he works more on Cuba, but splits his time between that city and Miami, where he sometimes takes a dinghy over to Cuba to check out certain operations there. He briefly spends time at a run-down apartment in New York City, in startling contrast to the wealthy city he grew up in. Finally, Harry ends up in Moscow, which he finds shockingly poor for such a supposedly large threat, and where he plans to track down Hugh. Moscow has symbolized the largest threat to the United States throughout the book, and it is appropriate that the story ends in this location.



## Language and Meaning

Harry is a CIA agent, and so the reader might expect him to speak tersely, perhaps in coded statements. However, he mentions an early desire to be a novelist, which explains his taste for drama but also his extensive vocabulary and tendency to fall into long descriptions. Kittredge teases him about this several times in their correspondence. In fact, several characters within the CIA, including E. Howard Hunt, express desires to be novelists or have actually published novels under pen names. Harry often gives very long descriptions of the characters he comes into contact with and the cities where he is living, complete with dramatic and verbose language.

On the other hand, Harry can also comply with Company standards and is adept at using the shorthand, which is necessary from time to time. Especially when he, Cal, and Harlot communicate, he uses different cryptonyms and code words, as well as talking around certain subjects. For example, after hearing an anecdote Kittredge tells about Bobby Kennedy playing football with Harlot, Harry starts to refer to Bobby as "Touch Football."

This divide in language mirrors the divide in Harry's personality. On the one hand, he has an artistic and sensitive soul that wants to be independent and is in love with Kittredge; on the other hand, he has taught himself how to conform and fall in line with society and the Company's expectations and refuses to cheat, at least initially, with his godfather's wife.

## Structure

The structure of *Harlot's Ghost* is extremely complicated. It is divided into Alpha and Omega manuscripts, which are tied together by a third narration from Moscow, which appears not to be written but to reflect Harry's internal monologue. The Omega manuscript is dark and brooding, divided into Omega-I, Omega-II, and so on. The Omega manuscript discusses the night on which Harry discovers his wife is leaving him and the night when *The Keep* burns down. Secrets are revealed, and Harry's life as he knows it is over. The Alpha manuscript is much more hopeful and brighter in general. This manuscript describes his early days in the Agency, when he has a promising career, and his early love affairs, including how he falls in love with Kittredge. The Alpha manuscript is many times longer than the Omega manuscript, and is divided up into six sections, according to where Harry is at the time, ranging from his early years, Berlin, Washington DC, Montevideo, Uruguay, Miami, and working on operation Mongoose outside of DC. The third narration, which is italicized and shows Harry going through these manuscripts on the plane to Moscow and then in Moscow itself, implies that it is recounting his interior monologue and is not in itself another written manuscript.



## Quotes

"I felt conspicuously unfaithful to one-half of myself" (Section 5, Chapter 8, pg. 763.)

"[The affair with Kennedy] felt like a ghost story" (Section 5, Chapter 12, pg. 785.)

"Yes, I was alone, and I was in Moscow, and I was all right so long as I kept to the narrative" (Section 5, Chapter 41, pg. 982.)

"One of Castro's key supports, in my opinion is the identification he so cleverly cultivates between Jesus Christ and himself. To his advantage is the spelling. Castro and Cristo" (Section 6, Chapter 6, pg. 1027.)

"Too many friends have bought the last look...Do you know that what deranges the mind most in the hours after combat is remembering the expression that comes to men's faces as they die. Often that expression never belonged to them before" (Section 6, Chapter 15, pg. 1097.)

"He looked like a man you would not trust: one more failed version of the son of God" (Section 6, Chapter 20, pg. 1139.)

"War was the hour when Alpha and Omega could come together" (Section 6, Chapter 23, pg. 1160.)

"I love you,  
Kittredge

Post Scriptum: If I speak of love, can you feel the full force of its opposite? I could as easily have written: I hate you. K" (Section 6, Chapter 30, pg. 1207.)

"I could immolate myself, kamikaze fashion, Rick, if I knew one hand grenade would take out Fidel, Raul, and Che Guevara in the same flash of light" (Section 6, Chapter 31, pg. 1213.)

"I had not yet approached my first piece of universal wisdom: There are no answers - there are only questions" (Afterward, Chapter 1, pg. 1265.)

"I have more good friends over here than there," Bill answers.

"Well, what good double agent doesn't?" Hugh replies (Afterward, Chapter 2, pg. 1267.)

"Aren't you appalled by yourself?" Harlot asked.

"Who is this?"

"God," said Harlot and hung up. (Afterward - Moscow, pg. 1280.)

"You can say that the universe is a splendidly worked-up system of disinformation



calculated to make us believe in evolution and so divert us away from God. Yes, that is exactly what I would do if I were the Lord and could not trust My own creation" (Afterward - Moscow, pg. 1281.)

"Harlot, living in the shadow of Dzerzhinsky Square, was my embodiment" (Afterward - Moscow, pg. 1282.)

"Unlike God, I had not been able to present all of my creation" (Afterward - Moscow, pg. 1280.)



## Topics for Discussion

Describe the difference between Alpha and Omega. How does this difference appear in different characters in Harlot's Ghost?

Describe Harry's relationships with his father and with Harlot. How are these relationships similar to and different from one another and what is the significance of these differences?

Discuss Harry's relationships with women. How do his relationships with women parallel his relationships to others? For example, consider his relationship to his family or to the CIA?

Fathers appear in many different contexts in Harlot's Ghost. How is fatherhood characterized?

Discuss the role of women in Harlot's Ghost. What is the significance, for example, of Harry's mother? Norman Mailer has often been accused of being misogynistic. Does Harlot's Ghost support or refute that accusation?

How are Christianity and Judaism presented in Harlot's Ghost? How are they similar and how are they different and why?

What are the roles of famous leaders like Kennedy and Castro in the narrative? What do they represent to Harry?

What changes occur to the CIA in Harry's time there and how do they affect him personally?

Describe the purpose and meaning of cryptograms throughout Harlot's Ghost. Give details and examples.