

# **Harvest Study Guide**

## **Harvest by Tess Gerritsen**

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## Plot Summary

Abbey DiMatteo is a resident at Bayside Hospital. She is working through rotations when a woman named Karen Terrio is admitted. Karen was in an accident and there's no hope of recovery. However, she has healthy organs and it's left to Abbey to help Karen's husband come to terms with donating Karen's organs. Abbey's friend and colleague, Dr. Vivian Chao, is caring for a teenage boy named Josh O'Day, and Vivian hopes that Karen's heart will be Josh's chance at recovery. Abbey learns that Josh, who had been at the top of the list for a transplant, is no longer holding that spot. Instead, Karen's heart is being designated for a woman named Nina Voss. Abbey, working with Vivian to save Josh's life, urges Karen's husband to designate Josh as the recipient of Karen's heart and he does so. The transplant is a success but Nina's husband, millionaire Victor Voss, is very angry and demands that Abbey be fired. The hospital doesn't fire her, but Abbey knows that her job is in jeopardy. However, the following night Abbey learns that another donor has been found for Nina Voss and she receives a heart.

Abbey questions the fact that two donors had been available with that specific blood type, and over the coming days, realizes that there's something wrong with the donor file on Nina's heart. Abbey, backed by Vivian, initially thinks there's an underground transplant network and that medical personnel are being bribed to channel organs to specified donors. What she eventually discovers is that donors are being "generated." Healthy people are being killed in order to create enough organs to meet the needs of those rich enough to pay the multi-million-dollar price. Victor Voss was among those people.

A ten-year-old boy named Yakov who lives with a man he calls "Uncle Misha" is among the intended victims. Yakov is Russian and is told that he's going to be adopted by a couple in the west. Yakov is skeptical but is powerless to escape the situation. Yakov watches as the three boys who were taken with him are each "chosen" for adoption. In truth, each is killed and a particular organ harvested. Yakov sees one of the boys taken into a room where the surgery is performed and realizes that the boy never comes out.

Meanwhile, Abbey is harassed by Victor Voss, with several lawsuits filed against her. Abbey is about to prove the existence of the conspiracy when she's in a wreck and taken to the emergency room at Bayside. There her blood work is manipulated so that it seems she was drunk at the time of the accident. Knowing that some Bayside doctors are at the heart of the conspiracy, Abbey escapes and is on the run when she's captured by the doctors involved. She's held on the ship briefly with Yakov. Abbey is on the verge of being murdered for her own organs when she's rescued.



# Chapters 1 through 5

## Chapters 1 through 5 Summary

A small ten-year-old boy named Yakov lives with the man he calls Uncle Misha. There is no blood relationship between Misha and Yakov or between them and any of the other three orphans living with Misha. The boys pick pockets, are sold for sex and do whatever else it takes for them to survive with Misha. One day a man named Gregor and a woman named Nadiya arrive and pay Misha for all the boys with promises that the boys will be adopted by families in the west. Nadiya takes the boys down to a waiting car while Gregor is supposedly obtaining Misha's signature, though he actually kills Misha.

In chapter two, a woman named Karen Terrio is in a horrific accident involving a drunk driver. Dr. Abbey DiMateo is among the interns working at Bayside Hospital and Karen's case falls to Abbey. As the interns are making rounds the following morning, Dr. Colin Wettig oversees their medical decisions. Wettig is known as "The General" because of his demanding demeanor. Under Wettig's scrutiny and questioning, Abbey comes to realize that her initial diagnosis was incorrect and amends her findings, though the end result is unaffected and Karen is officially brain dead. Vivian Chao is the staff's chief surgical resident. Vivian tells Abbey that she has a patient with the same blood type as Karen who is waiting for a heart transplant. Abbey believes that asking for an organ donation consent from the husband is premature, but Chao disagrees. Later, Abbey meets up with her boyfriend, Mark Hodell, also a doctor. The two share a house in Cambridge. As Abbey leaves the hospital, she reassures herself that others - including Mark - survived internship and that she will as well.

In chapter three, Nina Voss is aware that her condition is fatal and notes that her one regret is that she'll leave her husband, Victor, alone. Later, Abbey and Mark are visiting a fellow physician, Dr. Bill Archer and his wife, Marilee. He is the head of the transplant team. Both Bill and Mark have boats docked at Marblehead Marina. Another member of the team is Aaron Levi, who arrives late with his wife, Elaine. Another member of the team is Raj Mohandas. Over the course of the conversation, Abbey reveals some details about herself, including that she grew up in a relatively small town of Belfast, Maine. She learns that the transplant team is to be seeking a new member and that her name has been suggested to fill that slot.

Later, Abbey takes the lead on a lung biopsy being performed by Wettig. As she leaves surgery, she learns that she's been called back in on the Karen Terrio case. Her job is to help Karen's husband understand that Karen is brain dead and that donating her organs is a way to help someone else through their own tragedy. Her husband signs the forms. Later, Vivian calls Abbey to examine a teenage boy, Josh O'Day, who is awaiting a heart transplant. His case is critical and he isn't likely to survive much longer. Abbey agrees to have Karen cross-matched to see if her heart can be donated to Josh but learns that



Karen's heart has been set aside for Nina Voss and that the tissue matching has already begun on Mark's orders.

In chapter four, Abbey and Mark go out to dinner and Abbey questions Mark about Nina Voss. She asks how Victor Voss got his money and Mark denies that Nina's financial status has anything to do with having her jump ahead on the transplant waiting list. She tries to tell Mark about Josh. He listens, but tells her it's too late to change the plan to give the heart to Nina. Later, Abbey is in the hospital when Josh's heart stops. She rushes to his room to help administer CPR. Vivian Chao confronts Aaron Levi, saying that Josh and Karen are a perfect match and that it's Aaron who has continually delayed the transplant that could have saved Josh's life. Now Vivian says that she's going to transfer Josh to Massachusetts General. She asks Abbey to have Karen's husband sign a designated recipient form, specifying that Josh is to receive the heart. Abbey does so. Vivian says that Josh is already in the operating room of the other hospital and the transplant team there is waiting. Abbey is designated to take the heart to Josh. When the heart is removed, Abbey is to leave in an ambulance.

In chapter five, Abbey is talking to the ambulance drivers on the way to Massachusetts General when the driver is contacted by Bayside via radio. Bayside orders the ambulance to return to the hospital, but Abbey urges that they continue to Massachusetts General, threatening to get out and walk if they turn around. She arrives and scrubs in with the surgeon, Ivan Tarasoff, who is a friend of Vivian's. She talks with Tarasoff after the surgery, saying that the heart arrived just in time to save Josh's life.

Jeremiah Parr, hospital president, summons Abbey as soon as she returns to Bayside. With members of the transplant team present, Abbey says that she'd trusted her instincts in getting the heart to Josh O'Day. Mark tries to stand up to her to some degree, saying that he understands instincts and that hers had been correct, but that there's another patient, Nina Voss, who is going to die unless another heart is found. Parr puts it more bluntly, saying that Abbey and Vivian had literally "stolen a heart." Abbey is later told that Vivian has accepted the blame for the incident, is leaving the hospital, and that Abbey should take that "as a gift." Abbey is then taken to Nina's cubicle in intensive care. She watches Nina struggle with the machines that are keeping her alive. Abbey admits that even the fact that her actions saved the life of Josh O'Day can't erase the fact that she's taken a chance at life from this woman.

Shortly after Karen's death, a man named Stewart Sussman, an attorney with the law firm of Hawkes, Craig and Sussman, pulls up at the home of Karen's husband and tells him that there might have been a mistake made at Bayside by Abbey. He asks for, and receives, permission to request Karen's records. Sussman says that "a friend" sent him but declines to say who that was.

## Chapters 1 through 5 Analysis

As Gregor, Nadiya and the boys leave Misha's house, Gregor considers that a person with enough money can buy anything - the first clue that there's more to this enterprise



than merely the kidnapping of the boys. In fact, all four are destined to become donors for transplant organs on the black market. Gregor notes from this initial encounter with the boys that there's one who has "adult eyes." This is Yakov, and he has an instinctive fear to the change in their situation, though he can't really say why he is afraid.

When Abbey is told that she's being considered as a member of the transplant team, her immediate concern is that she has to be good enough to be part of the team, but she doesn't voice this concern to the other members of the team, only to Mark in private. As the doctors are telling her about the advantages, they mention that the members of the team all take care of each other. Abbey questions this a little but takes it largely at face value. She's told that, for example, Bayside has helped pay off student loans. She has a great deal of debt in this department and admits that it's an attractive incentive. Later, Mark and Abbey are talking about Josh O'Day's lost chance for a transplant and Mark says that "the team decided" that Nina Voss would get the heart that's available. Mark warns Abbey not to question the team and says that another aspect of being part of this team is that they stick together. This seems to upset Abbey, who sees that a single opinion in the face of the team probably won't amount to much.

Abbey has only limited conversation with Tarasoff, but notes that he seems a jovial man. He's a noted transplant surgeon and is called on by people who want the best and are able to pay whatever it costs. Tarasoff will later point out that he has a good working relationship with Bayside and that he doesn't want that interrupted.



# Chapters 6 through 10

## Chapters 6 through 10 Summary

Vivian encourages Abbey to remain strong, but Abbey can feel the looks of the other members of the hospital staff and knows that they probably all know about her actions regarding the heart. Abbey arrives in Mary Allen's room and Mrs. Allen tells her that the pain is severe. Abbey promises to increase the pain medication. Outside the room, the nurse asks Abbey what the maximum dosage of morphine should be and Abbey says that Mrs. Allen should get as much as it takes to help her sleep. As Abbey is about to leave the hall, the nurse says that she and the other nurses believe Abbey's actions, in helping to save Josh, had been the right thing to do. The nurse goes on to say that believes Abbey to be "one of the best residents" seen in Bayside and the nurses applaud. Abbey is moved almost to tears.

Meanwhile there's a meeting of Wettig, Jeremiah Parr and Susan Casado, the attorney who represents the hospital. Parr seems to want to press charges against Abbey and Vivian but Wettig points out that this will include a lot of negative media coverage. Wettig says that the bottom line is that people will interpret the situation as being an indication that Bayside is making deals for human organs. When Wettig says that Karen Terrio's husband had the right to designate the recipient, Parr says that Victor Voss had been "guaranteed" the heart. Wettig seems interested and asks if there's something he should know about this guarantee. Parr says only that the decision was made prior to Nina Voss's admission and that the donor and recipient were a "perfect match." Victor becomes angry and says that Abbey is to be held accountable for Nina's current situation. He is restrained from saying more by his own attorneys, but leaves the meeting with the warning that "something" has to be done with Abbey.

Abbey is introduced to Susan Casado and knows that the appearance of the attorney is not a good sign. In actuality, Susan is there to represent Abbey because the hospital has been notified that there's a pending lawsuit against Bayside and Abbey. Abbey cites the fact that Victor is very angry at her and says that she believes Victor is behind the filing of the lawsuit. Susan tells Abbey that she should hire her own attorney. Later that night, Abbey is called by Archer and Mark to work on a transplant case. Abbey learns that the patient is Nina Voss and says that Victor Voss would never agree to having her on the surgical team. Archer says that they can't find Raj, and so they want Abbey to take his place. A short time later, a man who identifies himself as Dr. Leonard Mapes arrives with the heart. He says that the heart came from a "previously healthy" adolescent boy. The intercom buzzes and the doctors are told that Victor is asking about their progress. Archer says that Voss is accustomed to being "in control" but adds that a man with that much money tends to be in control. Another resident asks where Voss got his money and is told that he's the owner of VMI International, a company that specializes in "everything from chemicals to robotics." The heart becomes functional in Nina's body. As the surgery comes to a close, the doctors discover that Mapes is gone.



In chapter seven, Nadiya is growing short-tempered with caring for the boys. Yakov is the only one of the boys who is not seasick. Nadiya is also ill and Yakov spends a great deal of time alone. He has come to know several members of the ship's crew. The engineer tells Yakov that his job is a good one and that he makes good money, though he says it's only because he works for the Sigayev Company and that not all pay so well. On another day, Yakov asks the navigator if the ship is conducting some level of illegal business and if that's the reason the crew are paid so well. The navigator says the ship usually carries only crates and that he doesn't question anything.

In chapter eight, Nina Voss is suffering nightmares about a boy and Victor says it's because the hospital personnel told her the heart donor had been a boy. Later that night, Abbey is on call when Nina begins running a fever. Aaron Levi calls and Abbey tells him what's happening with Nina, presenting him with a list of the tests she plans to run to try to figure out what's causing it. Aaron seems concerned because he knows that Victor won't approve of Abbey's presence on Nina's case. As Abbey tries to figure out what might be causing the fever, one of the nurses suggests that there was an infection that came from the donor. Though Abbey isn't certain this is a real possibility, she's exhausted other options and begins to search for the donor information. The chart is not filed where it should have been and Abbey's search turns up nothing. Abbey then calls the New England Organ Bank but finds that the donor wasn't approved through that organization. Abbey called Wilcox Memorial Hospital where the donor heart was reportedly harvested. The nursing supervisor can't locate the donor information either but also doesn't know a Dr. Mapes. It's soon discovered that Aaron Levi left home soon after his conversation with Abbey and that he'd told his wife Elaine he was going to the hospital. Now Aaron is missing and no one knows where he is.

In chapter nine, Abbey is in Nina's room, Victor arrives and is immediately angry. He orders Abbey out of the room and says that she is never again allowed near Nina. Mark says that there's a "reasonable explanation" for the situation. He says that he'd called Wilcox Hospital and learned that the harvest had taken place there and that the person who told Abbey it didn't had apparently looked at the wrong log sheet. Mark also says that Dr. Mapes was flown in by Victor from Houston. Abbey goes to her car when her shift ends and finds a heart in the seat of the car.

Stewart Sussman arrives at the home of a man who had been Abbey's patient following a car accident. Sussman tells the man that he believes there was a mistake made in his care and that Abbey is to blame. The man signs a form allowing Sussman to look into the case further.

In chapter ten, Abbey learns that the heart was a pig's heart and that it had probably been left in the car for hours. Vivian and Abbey discuss ways to prove that Victor is behind the incident, but Abbey is certain she can't prove it. Vivian says that she, as a board certified physician, has the option to practice somewhere else but says she's worried about Abbey's career if Abbey is dismissed from Bayside. Meanwhile, Vivian takes Abbey to see Josh, who is growing stronger and is surrounded by family and friends who are relieved to have him recovering. Vivian says the sight of Josh with his family proves what they did was worth it. They meet up with Ivan Tarasoff, who tells Dr.





Chao that he knows the transplant wasn't quite on the up-and-up and warns her never to pull him into such a situation again.

Later, Abbey and Mark are aboard Mark's boat, the Gimme Shelter, and involved in a race with Archer. Abbey hates sailing and is sick during the ride. She's relieved when they're called back to shore. There, they learn that Aaron's body has been found. Detective Bernard Katzka goes into a newly-remodeled room on the upper floor of the Bayside Hospital where he looks over the scene. Aaron had been found hanging in a closet and the initial reaction of police is that the death is a suicide. Back at the morgue, Katzka watches the autopsy, citing the fact that he feels something isn't right about the situation and wanting to look further before ruling it suicide.

## Chapters 6 through 10 Analysis

The conversation Abbey has with Mary Allen's nurse will later come back to haunt her. Abbey says that a larger dose of morphine is justified if it helps ease Mary's pain, and that the benefit of pain control in this case outweighs the negative side effects for the patient. Later, that will be used against her as her persecutors try to say that Abbey is in favor of mercy killing.

It's while Abbey is caring for Nina Voss that she comes to realize that she isn't certain she would have taken the steps to save Josh O'Day if she's seen Nina prior to that time. It's also during this time that Abbey begins to consider that Victor really could buy just about anything. She also wonders about the coincidence in which Nina's transplant heart arrived so quickly after the heart that was given to Josh. When Victor confronts Abbey in Nina's room while Nina is fighting the fever, Victor actually becomes physical and shoves Abbey so hard that she falls. Abbey is embarrassed, but it's pointed out that she could use this as the basis for a lawsuit of her own. She ultimately decides not to, probably knowing that Victor would be painted as the worried husband who fears Abbey's intervention will come to harm.

One question about Aaron's death is that the lights were off in the room. Katzka wonders why Aaron would have turned off the lights to kill himself. Katzka admits that there are a series of details that make him uncomfortable with the ruling of suicide but continues to follow his instincts. Another example is that Aaron, as a doctor, would have known any number of ways to commit suicide and that hanging certainly isn't the least painful way to die. Another is that Aaron has a good career, beautiful wife and apparently a good life. Katzka notes that Aaron was hanging within reach of the floor, which means he would have picked up his feet and waited for unconsciousness. Katzka believes that to be a long time to wait for death. Finally, Katzka looks at the choice of the place. He notes that Aaron hanged himself in a room that was basically unvisited with the exception of the occasional workman. It had taken three days for the body to be discovered. Katzka says that human nature is such that most people want to be found quickly.



# Chapters 11 through 15

## Chapters 11 through 15 Summary

Abbey attends Aaron's funeral and is later checking in on Mary Allen. She finds a woman praying loudly by Mary's bed, and Abbey asks to interrupt in order to check on Mary. The woman is confrontational, but Abbey orders her out in order to conduct her examination. Abbey is then paged and is told that there's a police officer waiting for her. She finds Katzka waiting to talk to her. He questions her about the conversation she had with Aaron prior to Aaron's death. Abbey says that her conversation with Aaron had been all about her patient, but admits that Aaron hadn't been happy to find that Abbey was the resident on duty. She tells Katzka that she and Victor have had words. Katzka knows Victor is the head of an international company. They part and Abbey is served with yet another lawsuit, this one over an alcoholic who had died after a blood vessel burst while he was in the hospital.

Abbey returns to Mary's room. The woman, Mary's niece, is still there, asking Abbey why Mary is being given so much morphine. The niece says that Mary has to be conscious in order to make her life right before God. Abbey and the woman argue and it becomes heated. After that confrontation, Abbey receives a phone call from Helen Lewis at the New England Organ Bank. Helen says she'd expected a call back from Abbey or someone at Bayside, but hadn't received it. She then says that there is no record of any heart donor at all on the date Abbey had specified, the date of Nina's transplant.

In chapter twelve, there's another meeting with Parr, this time with several members of the transplant team. Archer claims to have talked to a surgeon named Nicholls who participated in the harvest at Wilcox, and that Nicholls is now on vacation and can't be reached. There's a discussion of how the system is supposed to work and of how it might have been manipulated in this case. The general consensus is that they can't take the information public because of the damage to Bayside's reputation. Abbey objects, saying that the problem with that choice is that there's still an opportunity for the system to be manipulated in the future. While Abbey argues that the information can't be kept private, the meeting breaks up, with Parr ordering everyone present to keep the story to themselves. When Abbey goes to lie down later, she finds Mark there. He proposes and she agrees to marry him.

One night, Mary Allen is dreaming about her life as a younger woman when someone enters her room and begins to administer drugs. She senses something is wrong and begins to flail about but is held down while an overdose of morphine kicks in. Abbey is awakened later from where she is asleep with Mark to pronounce Mary's death. Mary's niece is called and is angry, asking why Mary hadn't been resuscitated. Abbey explains that Mary's cancer was terminal but the woman continues to complain. The following morning she arrives home to find a sealed note with the words, "Your aunt did not die a natural death."



In chapter thirteen, Abbey is ordered out of the operating room by Parr, who says her locker is going to be searched. Abbey begins to refuse but opens the lock instead. Parr discovers a vial of morphine in her coat pocket. Susan tells Abbey that Mary's niece had alerted them based on the note and cites a statement from a nurse who had related Abbey's thoughts on medicating Mary, though the nurse had objected that it might hasten Mary's death. Wettig arrives and points out that the lock on Abbey's locker is cheaply made and that almost anyone could have opened it. Then Abbey is told that the lawsuits against her were being dropped. While the hospital administrators are debating what to do with Abbey, Wettig demands that they either call in the police or drop the situation and let Abbey get back to work. As they continue to talk, the question of liability is raised and even Wettig has to admit that Abbey's continued practice could put the residency program in danger of additional lawsuits. Abbey is told that she's suspended until the circumstances of Mary's death is resolved.

In chapter fourteen, Yakov is roaming the ship with another of the boys. In the galley they discover the cook creating a dish for the people who stay in one of the cabins on board. Yakov has seen the cabin door and has tried to open it but finds it always locked. The cook won't tell them anything about the people staying there. The following morning two of the boys are gone and the story circulates that they were "chosen" to be adopted. With the exception of Yakov, all the boys are enamored with Nadiya. Yakov admits that part of his fear of her is based on the fact that she and Gregor had taken blood from all the boys early into the voyage. Nadiya had said the blood was to ensure that they were all healthy so that their adoptive families could be assured of getting healthy boys.

In chapter fifteen, Katzka is called to hear the complaints of Mary Allen's niece. He doesn't really believe a young doctor on the rise would risk her career to end a terminal patient's suffering, but promises to look into the situation. He arrives at Bayside to find Abbey copying medical cases for Wettig. Abbey responds to the first questions, but then tells Katzka that she has to decline answering any more. Later, Abbey tells Mark that if Mary Allen really was murdered, the hospital should be demanding a police investigation. In the hospital's library, Abbey learns from the librarian that there had been another member of the hospital's transplant team to commit suicide. His name was Lawrence Kunstler.

Abbey is later talking to Vivian, who says that Parr is likely looking for a reason to fire Abbey because of Victor's demands. Neither can make sense of the fact that both lawsuits filed against Abbey have been dropped. Abbey is followed as she goes home and rushes inside, making certain the doors are locked. She realizes she hadn't asked Vivian about Kunstler and calls her to do so. Vivian doesn't remember him but says there was another doctor on the team named Hennessy who had also died. That case was reportedly accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and Hennessy, his wife and their daughter had all died. Abbey thinks about the situation overall and decides that she needs to talk to Elaine. She dials only to find that the number has been disconnected.



## Chapters 11 through 15 Analysis

Abbey is visiting with Elaine, as are many of the other doctors after Aaron's funeral. When Abbey and Elaine are talking, Archer walks in and Abbey is momentarily distracted. When she turns back to say something else to Elaine, she finds that Elaine is gone. This is the first indication that there could be something wrong between Elaine and Archer. Abbey's suspicion on this point will grow over coming days and will become an issue with both Abbey and Katzka when Elaine moves just days after Aaron's funeral.

Yakov desperately wants to remember his mother, a trait shared by another of the boys who carries around a ragged stuffed animal known as Shu-shu. This boy believes the stuffed animal, though dirty and carrying many odors, still holds the scent of his mother. Yakov, on the other hand, has only a dream of his mother and he imagines her in a particular pose with hair blowing across her face. One day on the ship, he sees that exact woman in that exact pose in a magazine. He carries on about, it though the man with the magazine says that Yakov must have seen the woman - Michelle Pfeiffer - in some other publication, prompting the dreams. The man does give Yakov the magazine, noting that Yakov could "do worse" than to have her for a mother. Later, Yakov tears the magazine photo to shreds and throws it overboard.



# Chapters 16 through 20

## Chapters 16 through 20 Summary

Mark tells Abbey that he wants to buy a yacht. He tells her he can get the money for it and it prompts an argument over finances. Abbey later looks up the newspaper accounts of the deaths of Hennessy and Kunstler. She wonders why Kunstler would have jumped and immediately follows that thought by wondering if he really did jump. Abbey goes to Elaine's house and finds the house empty. As she's leaving, she's followed again. The car flashes its lights and Abbey finally stops at a busy store, planning to confront the driver. She discovers it's Katzka. They have coffee together and she tells him about the other two members of the transplant team who had died. Katzka reveals that Elaine had discovered a great deal of money - several million dollars - and Abbey says she can't imagine where Aaron would have gotten it. At home, Abbey goes through Mark's desk and finds out that he's already bought the yacht.

Vivian and Abbey go to Tarasoff, where Vivian says that she believes Victor Voss had paid off hospital personnel in order to channel the heart that came available directly to Nina, bypassing the normal chain of transplant authority. Outside, Vivian and Abbey talk about the situation. Abbey confides that she believes Mark is taking payoffs along with other members of the team.

In chapter seventeen, Abbey begins compiling records of all patients who have received a transplant at Bayside, hoping to compare that to organs that came through the proper channels. Abbey tells Vivian that several don't mention the donor organ at all and others cite the origin as Virginia, where Wilcox Memorial is located. Abbey says the town is relatively small to have been the origin of so many suitable organ donors, and they face the possibility for the first time that someone may be killing in order to generate suitable organs.

Abbey returns to the hospital records search the next morning but is told that she's not authorized to get any of the records and is sent to Parr's office. Wettig hears her story but calls it unbelievable and tells Abbey that it's time she admits that she needs psychiatric help.

In chapter eighteen, Abbey goes to the police station to talk to Katzka, but is questioned by his partner before he arrives. The partner says that Abbey's story is "creative," but it's obvious that they don't believe it. After Abbey leaves, Katzka learns that additional tests confirmed that Aaron had a drug in his body that would have paralyzed him, making his death horrific and meaning that it wasn't suicide.

Nina Voss receives a bouquet of wildflowers and notes that the message on the card indicates that the flowers are from Abbey. The note requests that she call and she does so. Abbey and Nina meet and Abbey tells Nina her suspicions, including that Victor



literally bought the heart now beating in Nina's chest. Nina listens but eventually orders Abbey out of the car.

In chapter nineteen, Yakov has had an argument with the only other boy remaining and is now spending a great deal of time alone, hiding in a place near the stairwell. One night the other little boy, Aleksei, is awakened by Nadiya, who tells him that she's taking him to meet his new mother. Aleksei is reluctant to walk up the stairs where he knows people stay sometimes, but Nadiya insists. Yakov watches this and realizes that Aleksei never comes out of the room. Instead, Nadiya emerges with a package of some kind and takes it to the waiting chopper. In fact, Aleksei has been killed and his heart taken. Nadiya watches the procedure and Gregor notes that she'll become more immune to the scene after she's been involved with a few more. Yakov is discovered on deck and is thrown into a room in the lower part of the ship.

In chapter twenty, Abbey's face is plastered on the front page of the newspaper as having been dismissed from her job because of a psychotic break. Abbey knows that Vivian is out of state working to find proof of their beliefs. Abbey despairs, believing that the culprits have covered their tracks so fully that she'll be run out of the medical community. At home, Abbey sees the same van that had followed her days earlier. She calls Katzka, who arrives a short time later and finds that van belongs to a legitimate plumber.

While he's in Abbey's house, Nina calls and says that she's just discovered that Victor moved five million dollars a day before her heart transplant and that he'd paid it to a company called Amity Medical Services. Katzka goes there to check out the company and Abbey insists that she go along. Katzka is inside for quite a while when Abbey sees the man she'd believed to be Dr. Mapes come out of the building. She takes off in Katzka's car, but she's stopped at a traffic light after just a block and Katzka catches up with her and gets in. Abbey explains who she's following and Katzka says that the medical supply business appeared legitimate. The car driven by the man who'd posed as Mapes goes into a pier where a ship is docked. Abbey and Katzka drive on past, pulling over to wait for the cover of darkness to approach the pier.

## Chapters 16 through 20 Analysis

Abbey and Mark are out together one night and she questions him about Kunstler and Hennessy. Mark says that he'd known both, that Hennessy's death had absolutely been an accident and that Kunstler had committed suicide. He tells Abbey that he hadn't mentioned either because it had just never come up. Abbey notes that Mark is drinking more than had been typical for him and wonders what has prompted that change. Then Mark tells Abbey that he wants to buy a large boat. Abbey says it seems more of a yacht than a boat and says that they can't afford it. She then asks what makes Mark want that boat and he tells her it's "a way out." Abbey says she wants to be a surgeon and Mark counters, saying that he is a surgeon and that "it's not worth it." Though he doesn't elaborate, it seems obvious that he's regretting the fact that he's part of this particular transplant team and feels that he wants to leave the team, but knows that the other



team members would never allow it. To fully understand the depth of this situation, the reader should remember that Aaron had also talked about the possibility of moving away prior to his death. It seems that members of the team are responsible for the deaths of teammates who try to leave because the members fear that anyone who leaves might eventually tell the secrets of the conspiracy at Bayside. Ironically, Mark's desire to buy a boat and leave the area is interpreted by Abbey as his cold feet with regard to their engagement.

When Abbey and Vivian are talking with Tarasoff, he seems ultimately sincere. He tells them that if there's an underground transplant network, he wants to know. Abbey will later discover that Tarasoff is caught up in the network himself.

As Nina Voss leaves Abbey and heads home, she says that she knows what she must do now. Nina seems to be aware that Victor probably is guilty of what Abbey suspects. Furthermore, Nina doesn't seem particularly surprised at the possibility. What's somewhat confusing is that Nina says she knows what she has to do but doesn't seem to take any action at all. Nina will reject the heart and her condition will fall critical but it doesn't seem likely that she has anything to do with that.





# Chapters 21 through 26

## Chapters 21 through 26 Summary

Katzka and Abbey wait for the cover of darkness, then go onto the pier to get a closer look at the ship docked there. Before they reach the ship, headlights catch them in a glare and Katzka and the driver of the van have a shootout. Abbey is forced to dive in the water and the van crashes into the water right behind her. Katzka dives in behind her and they swim away, trying to avoid the searchlights sweeping the water and the bullets. They manage to swim to the relative safety of the next pier down but the men are still chasing them. They have to hide in a series of crates for a long time until their pursuers finally give up. Abbey notes that the men don't speak English.

In chapter twenty-two, Nina Voss crashes and the nurses have to order Victor out of the way in order to resuscitate her. Victor is told that the transplant slated for that night has been put off until the following night. The reason is not explained. Nina tells Victor that they have had a good life together but urges that he now find a way to let her go. Victor says that he can't. Abbey arrives home to find that Mark isn't at home, and she is immediately worried that he's been killed like several of the other doctors, including Aaron. She pages Mark several times, and when he finally answers he tells her that he's in over his head and that he's going to expose the transplant scheme along with another of the doctors, Raj Mohandas. Abbey gets dressed and rushes to the hospital. As she is driving, a car pulls up along side her and she realizes that there's a gun pointed her way. She floors the accelerator and doesn't see the car in front of her until it's too late to stop. She crashes into the stalled car and loses consciousness. Abbey wakes in the emergency room. She immediately panics, calls for Mark and is told that he isn't answering his page, and fears that someone among the medical staff caring for her will kill her. She tries to share these fears with Wettig, who urges her to calm down. She tries to run away but can't escape the security guards. Wettig orders a sedative.

In chapter twenty-three, Katzka is at the pier after having gone home for a short time to shower and rest. The van is pulled from the water and it's discovered that it's registered to Bayside Hospital. The manager in charge of the van says its absence hadn't been noted until the police called to check on it. The ship is gone and Katzka knows that finding it is a long-shot. He starts to call Abbey, realizes that he's falling for her, and hangs up the phone. When he finds out that she's been in an accident, he rushes to the hospital where Abbey tries to tell him that she's being set up again. Katzka says that her blood alcohol level was high and that the accident had been her fault.

Abbey remembers little about the evening before but knows that she wasn't drinking prior to getting in her car. Abbey struggles with the idea of giving up before realizing that would mean victor to those who want that. She telephones Vivian, who is headed back to the city after searching for donor records for several transplants performed at Bayside. They talk for only a few minutes before the phone is disconnected. Katzka is called to a river bridge where Mark's BMW is found abandoned. The officer asks Katzka





if Mark might have jumped, but Katzka says that if Mark is in the river, he was forced to jump or thrown in.

Wettig goes to check on Abbey, who continues to refuse to admit that she was drinking and driving. Wettig orders that more blood be drawn from Abbey and the test sent to an outside lab. He believes that if he can show Abbey this undeniable proof of her alcohol level, she'll submit to treatment. When the woman comes to draw Abbey's blood, she notes that there's a vial of blood labeled with Nina Voss's name as well. Abbey finds part of her clothes and dresses, then finds a lab coat and heads to Nina's room. When a nurse tells Abbey to leave and imparts the information that Nina is about to undergo transplant surgery again, Abbey asks if Nina signed the surgical consent form. The nurse says Victor signed for her. Abbey knows that the fact that Nina is scheduled for a transplant means that someone is going to be killed in order to have the heart for Nina.

Abbey leaves the hospital and is debating who she can call for help. Katzka isn't answering his phone and she eventually decides to call Ivan Tarasoff. Tarasoff agrees to come but says that he won't go to the police without Abbey. She agrees and tells him where to pick her up.

In chapter twenty-four, Vivian arrives at the local airport and sees a suspicious man waiting near the gate. He doesn't greet anyone, and when Vivian sees the same man again, she realizes that she's being followed. She drops her luggage and runs. She hears gunshots whizzing by her head, with a second shot creasing her temple. She pushes through people waiting at the ticket counter and challenges a clerk to call security.

Tarasoff arrives and picks up Abbey but doesn't go toward the police station. He says that he believes they're being followed and makes a series of turns though Abbey doesn't see a car behind them. When he abruptly stops, she's pulled from the car and thrown into the trunk of a car. Abbey is taken to the ship where Yakov and the other children had been held. There she is thrown into a dark room. When she hears a scuffling sound, she fears that there's a rat in the room with her. When the room is flooded with light, she finds that it's not a rat but a small boy, Yakov. They initially try to communicate but find a language barrier.

Katzka and Wettig go to Abbey's hospital room and find her gone. Katzka is angry that Abbey has managed to get away while under the hospital's care. Wettig and Katzka briefly struggle until Vivian interrupts. It's about this time that the doctors realize that Abbey's blood tests are back and that the independent lab has drawn completely different conclusions from Bayside's lab. According to the new results, Abbey had no alcohol in her blood, meaning that the results from Babyside's lab were wrong. Wettig comes to the realization at this moment that Abbey's theory about the transplants is true and that she's been set up as she'd initially insisted.

Yakov learns Abbey's name, but the language barrier continues to limit their communication. Abbey comes to realize that Yakov has no hand on one arm and that his limb ends in a stump. He uses his teeth and one hand to loosen the ropes that bind



Abbey and then curls up in her lap where they both sleep off and on. Katzka and additional police officers search the warehouse of Amity Medical and find a fully-equipped surgical room upstairs. While the police are taking in the ramifications of this discovery, Katzka learns that the Coast Guard has located the ship and that there's a chopper waiting to transport the officers to the ship.

Abbey is awakened and is told that "the boy" has the only AB heart available for a waiting recipient. Abbey fights against the men who are waiting to operate on both her and Yakov to harvest organs. She is drugged and put on the operating table, but Yakov momentarily escapes. Tarasoff is there and then Abbey sees that Mark is also waiting to be part of the harvest team.

In chapter twenty-five, Gregor pursues Yakov. In the operating room aboard the ship, Mark tells Abbey that he's sorry. Yakov is in the kitchen where he's flooded the floor and plugs in an electric cord, dropping the ragged end of the cord into the water. In the operating room, Tarasoff tells Mark to make the first incision. It's a test and they both realize it but Mark is in too far to back out and makes the incision, followed by a cut through the muscles to reveal Abbey's abdominal cavity. As Mark is making yet another cut, Yakov shoots him with Gregor's gun. He hears the chopper arriving, apparently to pick up the organ, and minutes later shoots Tarasoff as well.

In chapter twenty-six, Abbey is in the hospital and Yakov is near her bed, refusing to leave. Katzka can't communicate with him either and one of the nurses asks Katzka to take the boy out of Abbey's room. Abbey briefly opens her eyes and smiles at the boy before closing them again. Katzka looks into the cubicle where Nina Voss is barely holding onto life. Victor is in her room and Katzka says he has all the appearances of a "ruined man." Though Katzka is very tired, he follows Yakov into Abbey's cubicle.

## Chapters 21 through 26 Analysis

Abbey and Katzka talk while waiting for the cover of darkness for a closer look at the pier. Katzka asks Abbey why she became a doctor and she says that if she were forced to give a single reason it would be that her brother Pete had been hospitalized at age ten and that she'd watched the medical personnel caring for him. Pete died in the hospital but the cause for the hospitalization is never fully explained. It seems likely that he was involved in some sort of accident. Abbey talks about the memory of the blood on Pete's tennis shoes but also indicates that his death was prolonged, meaning he didn't die immediately. Katzka himself is a widower and it's noted that he had difficulty dealing with her death. Katzka talks about the fact that the end was, to some degree, a relief because of his wife's suffering prior to her death. Katzka seems to be now at the point of recovering and he will note later that he's attracted to Abbey. In fact, when he starts to call her the morning after their experience on the pier, he realizes that he's very attracted and looking forward to talking to her. With the realization that he's falling for her, he takes a step back and doesn't call her immediately as he'd planned.



Nina Voss's second heart transplant is put off and Victor is angry but is assured it will take place the following night. Victor doesn't seem at all concerned about the reason for putting off the transplant and doesn't seem to question the fact that a heart will become available the following night. In truth, the appearance of Katzka and Abbey at the pier is likely the reason the transplant is put off.

When Abbey questions Tarasoff, asking what it is that makes him involved in the situation, Tarasoff answers that it's more than money and gives Abbey a speech that evidently indicates his belief that it's about fairness. He tells Abbey that it's not fair that someone who deserves another chance at life to be put on the transplant list behind a drug addict, an alcoholic or a welfare case. He then makes the situation very personal to Abbey by asking her what she would have done in order to save Pete's life. Abbey doesn't answer, which is an answer in and of itself.

It's while Mark is preparing to make the incision on Abbey's abdomen that additional details are revealed. Tarasoff has put together this particular transplant team. Mark himself was provided plenty of alcohol and cocaine one night and woke up the following morning in the bed with a nursing student who had been strangled to death. Obviously, Mark believes that he'd committed the murder, though someone else had done the deed. This, along with the massive amount of money given to Mark above his salary, provides the incentive for Mark to continue to participate. Tarasoff notes that Wettig and Parr have no idea of the money that changes hands and that the money isn't always enough to keep the team members loyal. Another piece of information is the use of the Russians, members of the Russian mafia, who are used to provide the "brute strength" necessary to provide the organs. It's also revealed here that Archer had killed Mary Stewart.



# Characters

## Dr. Abbey DiMatteo

A physician who hopes to become a surgeon, Abbey DiMatteo is strong-willed and has come this far in her career because of sheer determination. She says that she believes that all she really has to do in order to obtain something is set her mind on a particular goal and then work as hard as necessary to obtain it. When Abbey comes to realize that there's something wrong with the organ transplant system at Bayside, she is suddenly faced with moral dilemmas and problems that can't be solved by her own determination.

Abbey is faced with the knowledge that there is likely a group of people who are selling organs to wealthy clients and has to decide whether she'll work to prove her hunch or will turn her head and allow the situation to continue. Both carry a price. Proving her hunch puts her in serious jeopardy, both physically and with regard to her career. The people she is about to cross have the power to end her internship, eliminating the possibility of becoming a full-fledged doctor or surgeon. However, Abbey finds that she cannot face the idea of turning her back when there's the possibility of such a horrific crime. She does put her life and career on the line and almost loses both before the situation is resolved.

## Yakov

Yakov is the young orphan who lives with a man he calls Uncle Misha until he is purchased away to go to America. In truth, the man Yakov calls "uncle" is nothing more than a pimp who cares for a group of young boys but demands that they each earn their way by picking pockets, stealing and performing acts of prostitution. Yakov has only one hand, the other arm ending in a "stump." However, he is an attractive child who garners a great deal of attention from the clients who visit the house looking for sexual encounters. Yakov is initially disappointed when he realizes that he isn't the favorite of a couple who buy the boys to take to America. However, he is also quickly afraid of the changes in his life, though he can't quite say what there is to fear. Yakov is the only one of the boys being taken to America who isn't seasick and comes to know many of the men on the ship. His inquisitive nature leads him to questions about the ship and the shipping company and to question whether there might be illegal activities at play. Yakov is a survivor by nature and steps forward to fight when Abbey is threatened.

## Detective Bernard Katzka

Detective Bernard Katzka is the police officer who investigates several events, including the death of a doctor at Bayside that is initially believed to be suicide. Katzka has lived through the death of his wife and envies what he believes to be the love between Mark and Abbey.



## **Mark**

Mark is a surgeon and a member of the Bayside transplant team. Mark is among those who have fallen into the trap of selling his services to the highest bidder. Mark knows that many of the transplants he performs is illegal but continues to participate anyway. He's engaged to Abbey early in the story but is killed at the same time Abbey is almost killed.

## **Dr. Colin Wettig**

Dr. Colin Wettig is known as "The General" because of his stern and demanding demeanor. Wettig is supportive of Abbey, and when she's accused of murdering a patient by overdosing the woman with morphine, Wettig demands that she be either charged or released.

## **Nina Voss**

Nina Voss is the woman who receives a heart transplant at Bayside. Abbey discovers that the heart donated to Nina was purchased by Nina's husband, Victor. It's this discovery that throws open the story of the ring of illegal donations.

## **Victor Voss**

Husband of Nina Voss, Victor Voss is wealthy and is willing to use his money to buy whatever he wants - including a heart for his wife. Victor's purchase of a heart becomes the catalyst that makes Abbey suspicious and opens the investigation into the organization selling organs illegally.

## **Dr. Vivian Chao**

A physician at Bayside, Vivian intercedes when her patient is pushed aside in favor of Victor Voss's wife for a heart transplant. Vivian is dismissed from her position at Bayside and forced into private practice, but tells Abbey that saving Josh's life was worth the troubles.

## **Josh O'Day**

The teenage boy who is awaiting a heart transplant at the same time as Nina Voss. Josh receives the heart through the efforts of Abbey and Vivian Chao, though both women are later criticized for the action. After Josh is recovering, Vivian takes Abbey to visit Josh to show that they'd done the right thing.



## **Mary Allen**

The cancer patient who dies under Abbey's care, Mary is overdosed on morphine. Abbey is soon accused of her murder and realizes that she may be formally charged of the crime.

## **Dr. Bill Archer**

A member of the transplant team at Bayside, Archer is a strong personality and is among the driving forces of the team.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Bayside Hospital**

Bayside Hospital is where Abbey works. The facility is known for its transplant services.

### **Boston**

Boston is where Mark and Abbey live and where Bayside Hospital is located.

### **Cambridge**

Cambridge is where Abbey lives with Mark.

### **Marblehead Marina**

Marblehead Marina is where Mark and several other physicians have their boats moored.

### **Belfast, Maine**

Belfast, Maine is where Mark and several other physicians have their boats moored.

### **VMI International**

VMI International is Victor Voss's company.

### **Wilcox Memorial Hospital**

Wilcox Memorial Hospital is the Burlington, Vermont, hospital that supposedly harvested the heart that is transplanted into Nina Voss's body.

### **Sigayev Company**

Sigayev Company is the company that Yakov is told owns the ship on which he and his friends travel to America.



## **Gimme Shelter**

Gimme Shelter is the name of Mark's boat.

## **The New England Organ Bank**

The New England Organ Bank is the organization that oversees the donation of organs for transplanting in Boston and the surrounding area.





# Themes

## Moral Obligation

Abbey is faced with the question of whether to ignore what she believes to be happening in order to further her career or to risk it all in order to do what she believes is right. In the end, Abbey chooses right, though she questions several times whether it's worth it. Abbey comes to realize that there is a flaw in the system that provides a waiting list for transplant organs. This system is meant to categorize people by need only without regard to social or economic status but, as Abbey learns, money can bypass even the best intentions. When she suspects that Victor Voss has "purchased" the top spot on the list for his ailing wife and later purchases a heart for her, Abbey believes she has to speak up. What concerns her is that others are bound to see what she's seen and no one else has addressed the situation. As Abbey begins looking into the possibility that money has managed to corrupt the system, she comes to realize that many of the doctors she'd looked up to are involved, including her boyfriend. Despite threats that make it certain that Abbey's insistence on the subject could cost her a coveted career as a surgeon, and even when it seems that her life is in danger, Abbey follows her conscience.

## Dreams

Dreams are an important part of the story, and the theme is seen in the lives of several of the characters. Abbey is a major example of the theme. Abbey grew up without financial backing required to make her education come easy. She admits to having student loans and to owing a great deal of money as she is working to complete her residency in order to become board certified. Abbey wants nothing more than to become a doctor, but she wants to be a good doctor. This is seen clearly when she is dealing with "The General." Abbey wants to ensure that she doesn't disappoint him in her work. As Abbey is tormented by Victor Voss she occasionally wants to give up, but these feelings are short-lived, and she fights desperately to clear her name and to do what she believes to be right.

Another example of this theme is seen in the life of Yakov. For Yakov, the dreams are caught up in a family, specifically in his mother. Yakov believes he can remember his mother but comes to find that the "memory" is actually a photo in a magazine. Another of the boys carries a ragged dog around and believes that he can smell his mother's scent on the animal.

## The Power of Money

The power of money is an overriding theme in this story because some people seem to believe that there's nothing money won't buy, including health. Victor Voss is a key figure in this theme. Victor is a millionaire, and the physicians note that Victor is

accustomed to having people listen to him when he speaks. Even though Josh O'Day is at the head of the transplant list, Victor manages to have the list revised so that his wife is slated to receive the heart that has become available. When Abbey and Vivian Chao override this and route the heart back to Josh, Victor demands that Abbey be fired and fully expects that she will be.

Another example of this theme is seen in the lives of the physicians who become members of the transplant team. These men are not particularly well off as they start their surgical careers, but all become incredibly wealthy from payoffs filtered to them in return for their services transplanting illegal organs. Some of the members seem to come to a point where they realize the money isn't as important as it once was, but each of those are murdered to ensure their silence. It seems likely that the murderers are members of the transplant team or of the organization providing the illegal organs. In this way, the money purchases the assurance that the system will not be shut down.

# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in third person from an omniscient point of view. The perspective changes as the setting changes. Because there are characters who begin their lives in Russia and others in the United States, the omniscient view is the only real option available to the author. The perspective is omniscient because the author reveals events from the various characters simultaneously. For example, Yakov and the other boys are being taken from Russia at the same time as Abbey is working at Bayside. The reader knows this because Yakov's friends are used for organ harvest and one of them provides a heart for Vivian Voss. Meanwhile, Abbey is working at Bayside as part of the transplant team.

The story is told through a mixture of dialogue and exposition. The use of dialogue is used most often to set the scenes, introduce characters and move the action along more quickly. The dialogue is believable and reasonable for the time, setting and characters. The exposition is necessary because of the changing of scenes. For example, there are scenes in the Bayside Hospital, aboard a ship, at a second hospital and at the home of Mark and Abbey. These scene changes require an omniscient perspective because no single character moves between the scenes.

## Setting

The action takes place in several distinct settings. One of the minor settings is at the home of the man Yakov calls "Uncle Misha" in Russia. The setting is described in some detail, but this setting's purpose is more for the introduction of several characters than for the setting itself. For example, Yakov's life as an orphan with little in the way of possessions or kindness is presented through the description of this scene. The other setting important to Yakov's character is the ship. Yakov spends much more time in this setting and it is more thoroughly described. Yakov finds a place where he can hide from the others and he spends a great deal of time there, alone. The ship has an upstairs room that is presented as sinister early in the story, though it's much later before the author reveals that the room is used as an operating room where one of the boys is killed and organs taken from his body.

The settings important to the other main character, Dr. Abbey DiMateo, include Bayside Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and the home of Mark and Abbey. Bayside Hospital and the home of Mark and Abbey are described in some detail. The hospital, for example, has administration offices on the second floor and the upper floor is being remodeled. It's on this second floor that Abbey is called to answer for several actions. The upper floor is where Aaron Levi's body is found. It's noted that these are suites that would be used by the patients with the financial wherewithal to pay for the comfort. The settings are believable and reasonable to the story and the time.



## Language and Meaning

The tone is one of suspense, though there seems to be little doubt that the heroine will survive and triumph over the conspiracy of the group murdering people in order to obtain organs. The language is informal and the story reads like a typical paperback suspense novel. Because of the medical aspects of the story, there is a great deal of medical terminology. The medical terms lend an air of believability to the story that might otherwise not exist. Some of these terms are relatively easy to understand and are related to medical conditions, though not technical. For example, there are words such as "intubate", which refers to the introduction of a tube into the throat of the patient. Names of surgical procedures and medicines are also used. These are not overbearing and are acceptable to the story, given the setting and story line. The action occurs as a mixture of narration and exposition and the tone of the story is appropriate to the movement of the action.

## Structure

The story is divided into forty-seven sections. The first section is not numbered and is set at Lake Charmaine on the night Elizabeth is killed. The remainder of the story, from chapter one through forty-six, is set eight years after Elizabeth's death. The chapters range in length from as few as three pages to as many as fourteen, with many of the chapters ranging from eight to ten pages. The chapters roughly cover one event or series of shorter events, though the chapters end in a place designed to create suspense rather than a place of any significant closure. The chapters are numbered without titles so there is no clue as to what's ahead.

The story is set in a series of scenes designed to introduce all the characters and to present the reader with all the clues necessary to understand the story's ending. Toward this goal, the structure initially seems somewhat disjointed. For example, the story begins with the scene at Lake Charmaine in which Elizabeth is apparently killed, then goes to David's pediatric practice eight years later. The story then leaves David and goes to a scam artist who believes he has hit a major payday but is killed before he can enjoy the profits of his scam. This may seem unconnected, but the scam's victim and the two men who murder the scam artist are important clues that will be fully revealed much later.



## Quotes

"Uncle Misha looked at his boys, his four boys, related to him not by blood nor even by love, but by mutual dependence." Chap. 1, p. 3

"How cheap it is these days to buy a man's soul, thought Gregor. On the streets of this new Russia, one could barter for anything." Chap. 1, p. 6

"The heart she'd once felt thudding in her chest when she'd played as a five-year-old, married as a twenty-year-old, and strained at childbirth as a twenty-one-year-old, would go on beating in the chest of a stranger. It was as close as one could come to immortality." Chap. 3, p. 38

"She thought about Victor Voss and his money, about all the things that money could buy. She thought about the amazing confluence of events that had granted Nina Voss a new heart." Chap. 8, p. 107

"Viewing the corpse of a loved one is difficult enough. When that loved one has been hanging by the neck for two days in a warm and unventilated room, the sight would be truly horrifying." Chap. 10, p. 126

"There would be five, maybe ten seconds left to change his mind. He has a wife, kids, and a beach on St. Lucia to look forward to. But he chooses to die." Chap. 11, p. 143

"On the date you gave for the harvest, we have no record of a heart donor." Chap. 11, p. 149

"A desperate husband bent the rules to save his wife. It's done with. We just need to install safeguards to ensure it doesn't happen again." Chap. 12, p. 154

"Newly minted interns, asked to pronounce their first dead patient, often had no idea what they were supposed to do. Some made impromptu speeches. Or called for a Bible, thus earning an exalted place in the nurses' annals of Stupid Doctor stories." Chap. 12, p. 161

"'I'm what you want to be. What you think you want to be. And I'm telling you it's not worth it.'" Chap. 16, p. 211

"'Victor is like Orpheus. He wants to bring me back.'" Chap. 23, p. 312

"'Imagine what it's like,' he said, 'to watch your own child dying. To have all the money in the world and know that she still has to wait her turn in line behind the alcoholics and the drug abusers.'" Chap. 24, p. 323



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Abbey DiMateo? What is it that prompts her decision to become a doctor? Who is her boyfriend? What is her job at the hospital?

What is it that makes Abbey become involved in the case of the transplant of a heart for Josh O'Day? What role does her emotions play in that? What does Abbey think when she's taken to see Nina Voss on the day after Josh's transplant? What does Abbey admit about making the choice before she knew Nina? Do you believe her actions would have changed if she had met Nina prior to the transplant?

Who is "The General?" Who is Vivian Chao? How do the two become involved in Abbey's theory about the transplant system? When do each of the two come to believe that there is a problem?

Who is Yakov? What was his life like prior to leaving Russia? What is his defect? What is his life like after leaving Russia? What is his dream about his mother? What happens when he realizes this isn't true? Why does he attach himself so fully to Abbey in such a short period of time?

Who is Mark Hoddell? What is his role in the transplant team? Why does Mark buy a yacht? What does Abbey initially believe is the reason he buys the yacht?

Who is Katzka? What kind of person is he? What details are revealed about his life? Why does he initially believe that Aaron's death isn't a suicide? What is it that brings him into contact with Abbey initially? What happens to bring him back into contact with her later?

Abbey comes to find that organs are being illegally sold to those who can afford to buy them. How does she come to this knowledge? What is the tip that sends her to Amity Medical Supplies? What does she find there? Where does that lead her?