

The Honourable Schoolboy Study Guide

The Honourable Schoolboy by John le Carré

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Plot Summary

The Honourable Schoolboy is a spy novel by the acclaimed author John Le Carre. In this novel, the Circus, or British Secret Service, is still reeling with knowledge that one of its best and most respected agents was a Russian spy. George Smiley finds himself in the undesirable position of running this demoralized organization and decides his first priority should be to set right some of the damage Bill Haydon did to his beloved service. Smiley searches until he finds a case that has the fingerprints of the Russians all over it. This case follows a string of bank accounts from Vientiane to Hong Kong, taking Smiley's agents all over Southeast Asia in search of the truth. The Honourable Schoolboy is a test of personal integrity as much as a novel about spies, teaching the reader something about human nature as it entertains.

George Smiley has found a case in the Circus's files that has Karla's fingerprints all over it. Smiley calls in the submitting agent, Sam Collins, and asks him to go over the case with him in detail. Collins tells Smiley how he became aware of a bank account receiving questionable sums in the name of a charter company, Indocharter. Collins investigated and found that the charter company was just a front for some illegal businesses. Collins submitted these findings to Haydon only to be told there was not enough information to warrant a full investigation. Shortly afterward, the money disappeared. Working for Indocharter was a young British woman, but Collins is purposely vague about the young woman, leaving Smiley convinced there is more to the girl than Collins is telling.

Smiley sends an agent, Jerry Westerby, to Hong Kong. Once there, Westerby follows up a lead Smiley and his team have discovered. It seems the money Collins was monitoring in Vientiane has reappeared in Hong Kong. Westerby befriends a bank employee and convinces the man to give him a look at the account where this money is being held. Westerby tells Smiley that the account was opened by Drake Ko, the owner of Indocharter, but that the account is actually intended for an unnamed person. Shortly afterward, Westerby meets Ko at the horse races and sees him get into a car with an attractive British woman. Smiley pairs this information with what Collins has told him and decides to investigate the young woman who worked for Indocharter. Smiley learns that this young woman, Elizabeth Worthington, was married and had a small child, but she disappeared more than a year ago. Elizabeth wrote letters to her father, claiming to be working for the British Secret Service. Smiley soon learns that the name of Ko's companion is Liese Worth, a pseudonym for Elizabeth Worthington.

Jerry is assigned to meet Elizabeth and attempt to get information from her in regards to her time in Vientiane. Smiley believes a pilot Elizabeth was involved with is somehow connected to the gold seam, especially after the Cousins tell Smiley that the pilot, who was believed to have died in a plane crash, is still alive. Jerry takes Elizabeth to dinner and gets her to tell him all about the pilot, Ricardo, and their friend, Charlie Marshall. Jerry is then sent to track down Charlie Marshall, which he does, learning that Charlie was offered a dangerous flight by one of Drake Ko's men but turned it down. Instead, Charlie suggested Drake offer the job to Ricardo. Jerry is then sent to speak to Ricardo.



Jerry finds Ricardo isolated and wary of talking to anyone but manages to convince him to share his story. Ricardo tells Jerry how Drake Ko's man hired him to fly drugs into China and bring out a special package. However, Ricardo did not want to get caught with drugs in China because he knew jails in China are worse than death. Ricardo landed the plane and hid for a time before selling the drugs to an American drug enforcement agent.

Ricardo's life was in danger for failing to commit his mission, so Elizabeth went to Hong Kong to convince Drake Ko to allow Ricardo to live. Despite Elizabeth's pleas on his behalf, Ricardo is still overly cautious with his own life. To this end, Ricardo places a grenade in Jerry's car, hoping to keep the story secret. However, Jerry figures out Ricardo's plan and is able to escape the car before it explodes. Jerry goes to an American military base where he is given orders to return to England. Instead, Jerry returns to Hong Kong to save Elizabeth, who he believes has no idea how dangerous the people around her are. It is Jerry, however, who finds that he does not know how dangerous this case has become. Jerry sneaks Elizabeth out of her Hong Kong apartment after a bitter confrontation with Smiley. Jerry then has Elizabeth take him to a place Drake Ko once showed her, believing that this is where Drake will bring his brother when he helps him escape China.

Jerry sends Elizabeth back to Hong Kong and then lays in wait for Drake. Drake arrives in the dark, waiting on the beach for his brother's arrival. Jerry approaches Drake and tries to warn him that the Circus knows about his plan to rescue his brother, but Jerry is too late. Nelson arrives. As the two brothers are locked in an embrace, the Cousins rush in. Jerry is killed and Nelson is taken away. The Americans take credit for the entire case. Smiley is replaced as head of the service.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 1, How the Circus Left Town, and Chapter 2, The Great Call

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 1, How the Circus Left Town, and Chapter 2, The Great Call Summary

The book begins sometime after the Dolphin case has been resolved. Many British Secret Service agents who are knowledgeable about the case sit around trying to decide where the case went wrong. There are many theories, most of them blaming key figures involved in the case, but no clear consensus. The one thing most of them do agree on, however, is that Bill Haydon is to blame for the overall demoralization that led to the case.

A group of reporters are hanging out in a bar in Hong Kong, most of them veterans of wars and who are burned out and counting the days to retirement. Included in this group are an American named Luke and his chief, known only as the dwarf. Also in this group is an old Australian named Craw. Luke announces to the group that his landlord told him High Haven, a local mansion known to be inhabited by a British Secret Service agent, has been abandoned. No one believes Luke at first. Craw asks The Rocker, the local law enforcement officer, if it's true, but The Rocker refuses to give a straight answer. Craw then makes a few phone calls and only gets the run around. Suddenly it appears that Luke might be on to something. Craw, Luke, the dwarf, and another reporter go have a look at the house. The gates are locked tightly when they arrive, and they cannot get anyone to answer the intercom. Craw climbs the gate. The others wait a few minutes and then decide to follow, unwilling to allow Craw to scoop them. Luke finds Craw staring morosely at the house. It seems Luke's information was correct; the house is empty.

The reporters all run home to their typewriters, intent on breaking the news. Luke has trouble writing the story because he has been struggling with writer's block. The Canadian files first but chose to send it to a magazine rather than a newspaper, and it was rejected. The dwarf writes a story as well, but it, too, is rejected. Craw disappears for a time, then a story appears under his byline in an Australian newspaper. The story is well received and is picked up by an English language paper with American connections. In the story, Craw suggests that there are problems in the British Secret Service, or Circus as he calls it, stemming from the recent discovery of a Russian spy inside Circus' London headquarters. The story causes some outrage at Circus headquarters but not from everyone. In the end, it turns out this is Craw's final story. Craw retires and settles down to a life of leisure in Hong Kong.

Jerry Westerby has been living in Tuscany for some time, attempting to write a novel and having an affair with a young woman known locally as the orphan. The villagers are



fascinated with Jerry, calling him the Honourable Schoolboy because of the bag of books he constantly carries around with him and because it is rumored that his father is someone of importance in England. Jerry is fodder for gossip in this small village but seems oblivious to it. One day, Jerry receives a telegram from England. The local postmistress reads the telegram and assumes that it is notification that his guardian has died or is dying, leaving Jerry a great deal of money. These assumptions are made through both the wording of the telegram and the signature of several solicitors. Once again tongues set to wagging. Shortly after receiving the message, Jerry makes arrangements to return to England, leaving his lover behind.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 1, How the Circus Left Town, and Chapter 2, The Great Call Analysis

The first few paragraphs of the novel are written in the authorial voice with the author explaining the atmosphere surrounding the novel. The author introduces the Dolphin case without explaining its nature, only implying that it was a British Secret Service case that went badly. There is a lot of blame going around, it seems, a lot of it pointing to Bill Haydon. Bill Haydon is a Russian spy who was found deeply entrenched in the London headquarters of the British Secret Service. This sets the tone of the novel, suggesting that betrayal, a theme of the novel, will be a large motivator for a number of the main characters. The novel then opens in Hong Kong, in a bar where a bunch of burned-out reporters are waiting out a storm and drowning their boredom. One of the reporters, Luke, announces that the British Secret Service has moved their man out of Hong Kong, but no one believes him because this is highly unlikely. This reaction shows the reader that spies and intrigue are a common condition in their lives. The fact that the British Secret Service has left, however, suggests something unusual is going on.

Luke and Craw, another reporter, as well as others go to investigate. The reporters find that the house where this agent has always lived is indeed empty. This sends all these men off to their typewriters with the first good story they have most likely had in a long time. None of them are successful at first, however. Craw, the eldest of the group and most experienced, disappears for a time. This disappearance could prove important, but at this point is not explained. Craw then returns and a story under his byline is published. This story suggests that the British Secret Service, or Circus, is falling apart from the inside out. Again, this story sets a tone within the novel, suggesting that the Circus has taken such a blow from the discovered spy that it can no longer handle its daily activities, not to mention the larger investigations in which it should be engaged. This suggests danger, insecurity, and ineptitude. The reader must wait, however, to learn if this is an accurate picture.

Jerry Westerby, the Honourable Schoolboy, is introduced in the following chapter. Jerry is a writer and journalist who has taken time off to try to write his first novel. Jerry is seen through the eyes of the villagers near his Tuscan home. Jerry is seen as a man with some sort of title, the heir to a great fortune, who has taken into his home a young woman known as the orphan, a relationship of which most of the villagers do not approve. Jerry receives a telegram that appears to call him home in order to attend the



death bed of his guardian. The villagers believe this guardian is the source of Jerry's title and wealth and have no doubt that he will dump the orphan in a heartbeat to return to England. It appears the villagers are correct as Jerry quickly leaves his Tuscan hideaway. However, the reader is not sure Jerry is quite the callous fellow that the villagers appear to believe him to be. Jerry appears somewhat befuddled, confused, like the kindly professor who never seems to be able to keep his nose out of a book. Jerry does appear to be a sympathetic character at this point, kind if remote.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 3, Mr. George Smiley's Horse, and Chapter 4, The Castle Wakes

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 3, Mr. George Smiley's Horse, and Chapter 4, The Castle Wakes Summary

George Smiley has been made head of the London office of the British Secret Service in the wake of his good friend Bill Haydon's revealed betrayal. This betrayal has been a double blow to Smiley who has also separated from his wife. Smiley practically lives at his office under the shadow of a huge photo he has blown up and hung in his office. The photo is of Karla, the Russian spy believed to have been Bill Haydon's recruiter and handler. Smiley is determined to keep Karla the focus of the service as he works with his people to find any moles or other traitors Haydon left behind. Smiley annoys those around him with his persistence, urging a vigilant guard against possible spies. Smiley calls some agents out of retirement who he believes were relieved of duties for reasons other than their record of service and places others in retirement. Smiley pulls agents out of a number of British held territories, including Hong Kong. Smiley pulls everyone in, trusting no one.

Smiley builds a team, including Connie Sachs, a Russian who was recruited by the Circus several years before, Doc di Salis, an expert on China, Peter Guilliam, and Fawn, an assassin and bodyguard. Smiley puts this team to work scouring the Circus files, looking for any cases that took place during Haydon's time that show irregularities. One such case is located. Connie explains the case to Smiley, laying out money laundering operation that begins in Moscow and moves to the East, a well-documented trail that was deemed potentially prejudicial and closed. Before the case was closed, however, a formal request to investigate was sent to the field office in Vientiane, a request that has since disappeared. The head of the Vientiane office at the time, Sam Collins, is called in and asked to explain the investigation without being told that all record of it has disappeared. Collins explains that he discovered an account at the Banque de l'Indochine that received regular deposits every month. These deposits increased every month until they reached twenty-five thousand American dollars and then remained steady. Collins was also able to establish through a contact at the bank that the payments came from Paris, though Collins suspected Russian involvement because of a mark on the request to investigate.

Collins was able to discover the name of the account holder belonged to a local company called Indocharter. Collins checked out the business and found it to be a charter plane company employing an English receptionist, several Chinese managers, and a pilot named Ricardo. Ricardo was a well-known pilot who was known to have



flown for the Cousins in the Yunnan Province. At this point, Smiley invites Connie and di Salis into the interview. Collins remarks that he has traced the ownership of the company to a Swatownese business, exciting di Salis's knowledge of Asia. Smiley attempts to get Collins to talk about the young English receptionist, but Collins avoids the subject, making Smiley believe there is something about the girl Collins does not want Smiley to know. Finally Collins says that he made a report of the investigation to Haydon and was told to drop the matter. Collins was unhappy because he felt there was a great deal of interest in Indocharter but could not fight his superior. When asked what became of the people involved, Collins told them the bank account disappeared as did the girl and that Ricardo was reported killed in a plane crash a few months later.

That night, Smiley has his team look through the archives for any type of paperwork that might support everything Collins has told them. Connie finds a destruction certificate that related to top secret correspondence with the Cousins. Smiley sends a young woman, Molly, to the Cousins to get information from their files that might authenticate their findings, having her hide the pertinent names among a dozen other queries so as to not tip off the Cousins. Molly comes back with proof that Haydon told the Americans to stay away from Ricardo and anything he might be involved with, claiming a British investigation that could potentially be compromised. After this information came to light, Smiley sent Connie in search of the trail, hoping to pick it up where ever it might have gone. During this time, Smiley evacuated High Haven and learned of the attempts by his housekeeping department to keep the story quiet. Smiley had a meeting with Crow, after which Crow published his story about High Haven without difficulty. Eventually Connie came up with something and soon afterward Smiley had dinner with Lacon. Smiley asks permission to send an agent to Hong Kong. Lacon reluctantly grants permission.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 3, Mr. George Smiley's Horse, and Chapter 4, The Castle Wakes Analysis

George Smiley is introduced in these chapters. Smiley has the unenviable task of taking over the British Secret Service in the aftermath of the discovery of a traitor among their most trusted men. Smiley was a friend of Bill Haydon's and is especially injured by his betrayal, a theme of the novel. Smiley hangs a picture of Karla, the Russian who recruited and handled Haydon, in his office so that he will never forget what happened. Then Smiley focuses on finding any possible moles or sleepers that Haydon may have left behind, annoying his fellow workers and supervisors with his obsession. Everyone else wants to move on, to put Haydon behind them, but Smiley is convinced that the worst is not over and wants to make sure there are no more like Haydon left behind. It is this betrayal that motivates Smiley and has him searching for any possible connection to Haydon to weed out of his beloved service.

Smiley's team finds a case that appears to be a cover for a money laundering operation out of Russia. The case was properly investigated, but was quashed by Haydon and all



record of it destroyed. Smiley calls in the agent who conducted the investigation and learns the identities of the company through which the money was laundered and several people who may be of interest. The company is Indocharter, a plane chartering business owned by a Chinese business. The people of interest are Ricardo, a pilot, and a young English receptionist that Collins, the investigating agent seems determined to protect. Ricardo turns out to be dead, but the girl is still alive and will most likely appear in the plot again.

Smiley has his agents continue to investigate this information, finding minuscule proof of Collins' story, enough to keep Smiley searching and eventually finding something of interest. The case takes Smiley to Hong Kong. Smiley requests permission to send an agent into Hong Kong and is granted that permission. However, the permission is given with hesitation, suggesting to the reader that running a case in Hong Kong will cause some difficulty because of the poor political climate there despite the fact that it is a British held territory. Also revealed in this chapter is the fact that Crow came to see Smiley. The reader knows that Crow disappeared before writing his story about the Circus, so now the reader knows that he went to Smiley and told him what he knew and most likely got guidance on his story. This makes the reader wonder what Crow's connection to Smiley and the Circus really is.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 5, A Walk in the Park, and Chapter 6, The Burning of Frost

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 5, A Walk in the Park, and Chapter 6, The Burning of Frost Summary

Jerry spends a week in London with his stepmother, where he reflects on his father's death and the penniless state in which he left Jerry and his stepmother. Jerry then procures a job with a local newspaper to report on Hong Kong. Jerry visits with Smiley, his true reason for going to Hong Kong. Smiley tells Jerry to go to Hong Kong and settle in with the other journalists and wait for orders. At the airport, Jerry stops to call his daughter. Jerry is a little nervous about this assignment because he has never gone into a job for Smiley of which he knew so little. That same night, Smiley goes for a walk through London and finds himself outside his wife's house, recalling the knowledge of her relationship with Bill Haydon. As Smiley watches now, he realizes his wife has a lover in the house with her. Smiley also recalls a time when he met Karla face to face and tried to persuade Karla to work for the British.

Jerry goes to Hong Kong where he takes over the flat of another reporter who has moved on to more interesting territory. Jerry has an assignment to do for the Circus, but he is nervous about it. As Jerry makes his way to the bank where he is supposed to perform his assignment, he takes many wrong turns to assure himself that no one is following him. At the bank, Jerry takes a roundabout way to the office of Frost, a bank employee he met the night before. Jerry greets his new friend and pretends to be making a friendly visit. However, when Jerry and Frost are alone, Jerry convinces Frost into allowing him a few minutes with the files for the account Smiley has traced to the gold seam. Jerry takes pictures of the file with a miniature camera while Frost waits outside. Jerry then rushes to Craw's house where Craw begins to develop the film. Craw seems very happy, but sobered by the information revealed in the pictures.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 5, A Walk in the Park, and Chapter 6, The Burning of Frost Analysis

Some background is revealed on Jerry in these chapters. Jerry is indeed the son of a wealthy, titled man, but this man died penniless and left Jerry responsible for some of his debts, including his stepmother. Jerry spends a week with his stepmother while setting up a job with a local newspaper to report from Hong Kong. Jerry then visits Smiley, revealing to the reader the true nature of Jerry's sudden desire to go back to journalism. Jerry is a spy working for the Circus and his work as a journalist is a cover. This puts a new spin on the reader's opinion of Jerry, making him less of the scholastic



type and more of the adventurous type. This chapter also reveals a relationship between Jerry and Smiley that suggests a friendship that is years old. This is interesting to the reader for two reasons. First, the reader has seen Smiley as a loner in the past few chapters, but now sees that he has had some good friendships in his life, suggesting a man who was a little more open to relationships at one point in his life. Second, this friendship also suggests an avenue of development for the plot.

When Jerry has been in Hong Kong for a short time he is sent to befriend a bank employee. Jerry then goes to this employee and convinces him to see a file relating to a bank account that has been connected to the gold seam. Jerry takes pictures of the file, but not before struggling with his own unhappiness at having to convince a basically good person to do something he feels is morally wrong. This reveals more of Jerry's personality, suggesting he wants to do all he can for his country, but that he has a strong moral basis that is occasionally compromised by his work as a Circus agent. Afterward, Jerry goes to Craw who quickly develops the film. Craw's involvement here reveals to the reader that Craw is also a spy working for the Circus and that journalism was his cover, just like it is for Jerry. The pictures appear to come out well, causing Craw some stress over what they reveal, suggesting to the reader that the news involves someone of power in Hong Kong for Craw to recognize his name.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 7, More About Horses, and Chapter 8, The Barons Confer

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 7, More About Horses, and Chapter 8, The Barons Confer Summary

There is some excitement in Smiley's office when the pictures come in from Hong Kong after the tension of waiting for Jerry to come out of the bank. Smiley learns about Jerry's safety from the Cousins with whom he has formed a secret alliance. The Cousins have people in Hong Kong providing surveillance, and Smiley has a direct phone line to Martello, the head of the Cousins' London office. The pictures from Jerry reveal a name, Drake Ko. The account is a trust set up by Drake Ko for an unnamed beneficiary whose only identification is a fingerprint. Connie is confused because she cannot imagine what Karla is up to sending money to Drake Ko, not to mention putting so much money into one account. They look Ko up in a Who's Who book but only learn that he is a successful businessman in Hong Kong who is Baptist and from Shanghai. Smiley attempts to take this information to Lacon but is put off by his personal secretary.

Jerry finds himself with time on his hands, and he is not happy about it. While he waits for London to decide what to do next, Jerry decides to find out more about Drake Ko. Jerry looks Ko up in the Who's Who, just like Smiley. Jerry then researches Drake Ko in the newspaper archives where he learns how Drake escaped China in 1951, sailing a boat out of China and landing near Hong Kong with a group of fellow Shanghainese refugees. Jerry also goes to the docks where Drake Ko keeps his boat, Admiral Nelson, named for Drake's deceased son. Jerry has learned that Ko likes to run horses at the horse races. Jerry takes Luke and goes to the races, placing a bet on Ko's horse, Nelson. Ko's horse wins. Jerry goes to the winner's circle with hopes of gaining an introduction to Drake Ko. Jerry is introduced, but when he attempts to ask Ko about his good luck, Ko ends the conversation. Jerry also meets Tiu, Drake Ko's business partner and fellow refugee. After the race, Jerry sees Ko come out of a gated area and get into a car with a blond woman. Jerry goes through the gate and discovers that Ko had been visiting the grave of his son. Jerry calls Craw and tells him about the woman. Craw grows excited and hangs up before Jerry can tell him about the grave.

A group, including representatives of the Circus, the Cousins, the Foreign Office, and the Colonial Office meet. Smiley is questioned relentlessly about the Dolphin case and his desire to continue to run an agent in Hong Kong. Smiley explains that he believes a prominent Hong Kong citizen who is known to be friends with the governor of Hong Kong is suspected of being a Russian spy, proof being that the Russians have paid a great deal of money into an account he owns. Discussions over whether or not to inform the governor begin, with some wanting to tell him so that he can distance himself from



the Russian spy, while others argue that warning the governor would also warn the suspected spy and cause him to stop his illegal activities before they can be proved. Smiley wants to keep the governor in the dark while continuing an investigation into the suspect as well as using Cousin resources to continue his investigation. There is a lot of arguing over these points, arguments that appear to go against Smiley. However, it is eventually agreed that the governor will be kept in the dark to protect the governor as well as the investigation and that Smiley will run the investigation with the Cousins' help. Smiley is to outline this participation in a letter to the Cousins in order to keep the entire situation clear to all participants.

After the meeting, Smiley goes for a walk in the park, quiet despite the victory he has just won. Fawn attempts to give him the message that they have found the girl, but Guillam puts him off for the time being in order to give Smiley some time to his thoughts. That night, there is a meeting in Smiley's office as they attempt to decide what their next move should be.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 7, More About Horses, and Chapter 8, The Barons Confer Analysis

At the beginning of these chapters it is revealed that Smiley has been working with the Americans to provide surveillance in Hong Kong. This is interesting because it is the first direct connection made between the case and the Americans. The identity of the bank account holder is revealed. The man's name is Drake Ko, and he is a Chinese man living in Hong Kong. Drake Ko opened a trust account that is being held for an unidentified person. Smiley and his team suspect that Drake Ko is either a Russian spy or is helping someone who is a Russian spy, but they are unclear on what this spy might be offering the Russians. While Jerry waits for Smiley to decide what to do next, he begins to do his own research on Drake Ko. Jerry discovers that Drake Ko lost a son, who was named Nelson, and that he has named his boat and his horse after the boy, suggesting a deep connection to the boy. This begins to paint a picture of a man who is in deep grief over the loss of a child.

Jerry goes to the races and meets Drake Ko, who he finds to be open and friendly until asked about the secret of his luck. Jerry also meets Tiu. Tiu is a large, quiet man who escaped China in a boat with Ko. This escape is of some importance because it will be revisited again as the plot develops, but at this point is simply a symbol of Drake Ko's desperation to get out of China. Tiu is a close associate of Drake Ko's, his right hand man, and suggests that Ko is a man who creates deep bonds with the people in his life and attempts to return any kindness shown to him. Finally, Jerry sees Ko get into a car with a blond woman, suggesting she is his mistress. Jerry also finds Nelson's grave and feels a connection with Ko on a more human level. Jerry informs Craw about the woman who becomes so excited that she hangs up on Jerry.

Smiley attends a meeting in which he needs to convince many bureaucrats that he needs to continue to work in Hong Kong silently and with the help of the Cousins. There is much arguing, revealing to the reader who are Smiley's friends and who are his foes.

Finally Smiley gets what he wants. The woman who was seen with Drake Ko is apparently identified, and Smiley's team gets together to decide what to do next. At this point, no one still knows who Drake Ko is or what he might have of interest to the Russians, but the reader hopes this will be revealed as Smiley continues his investigation.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 9, Craw's Little Ship, and Chapter 10, Tea and Sympathy

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 9, Craw's Little Ship, and Chapter 10, Tea and Sympathy Summary

Craw goes to visit Phoebe Wayfarer, a half-Chinese, half-British journalist. Phoebe works as a gossip reporter, but she is also a spy working with Craw as her handler. Phoebe is paranoid of being discovered as a spy, so Craw spends the first few minutes with her convincing her that she is safe. In reality, Phoebe's usefulness is nearly gone, but he does not want to let her know that because he knows how important spying is to her. In fact, tonight Craw has specific information he needs to know from her. Craw takes Phoebe out to dinner and allows her to talk about all the society people she reports on both for the Circus and her newspaper. When Phoebe gets to Drake Ko, Craw carefully questions her about Ko's mistress. Phoebe tells him the girl's name is Liese Worth and that she has a calming effect on Ko. Phoebe also reveals that Liese has another name, that she is in Hong Kong living under a false name to protect her from her parents. Liese claims that her parents are very rich and would not approve of her relationship with Ko. Phoebe has promised not to tell anyone the truth about Liese but does reveal to Craw that she once lived in Vientiane with a pilot.

Craw drops Phoebe off at her apartment and then goes to visit The Rocker. The Rocker tells Craw he has no record of Liese Worth, either under her new name or her old. The Rocker tells Craw that Sally Cale, a woman who sells antiques as well as other illegal activity for Ko, introduced Ko and Worth. The Rocker claims that Smiley knows all about Cale because the home office had The Rocker and his people shake her down a few years before. Craw sends all this information to Smiley who instantly sees Collins' hand in Worth and Ko's meeting because he knows Cale was a known associate of his. As a result of this information, Smiley makes a visit to Peter Worthington claiming to be from the Foreign Office investigating the disappearance of Worthington's wife, Elizabeth, the year before. Smiley speaks to Worthington and learns that Elizabeth had a troubled childhood and a difficult relationship with her mother. Worthington also claims his wife often disappears, but she always comes back. Worthington claims he is Elizabeth's rock, the only person upon whom she can truly depend. Smiley listens to all this while at the same time aware that Elizabeth not only walked out on a husband but a child as well.

Smiley then goes to visit Elizabeth Worthington's parents. Worthington's parents prove themselves to be controlling, the type of parents that might drive a child to foreign lands. Smiley learns that Elizabeth kept in contact with her parents until a few months ago. In these letters Elizabeth sent home, she told her parents about her relationship with



Ricardo. Elizabeth also claimed to be working for the British Secret Service, convincing Smiley not only that Elizabeth and Liese are the same person, but that Collins knew Elizabeth better than he revealed.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 9, Craw's Little Ship, and Chapter 10, Tea and Sympathy Analysis

Craw, who the reader now knows works with the Circus, visits a young woman. This woman is also an agent for the Circus, using journalism as her cover like Craw and Jerry. However, this woman, Phoebe, has reached the end of her usefulness, but is unaware of this fact. Phoebe is frightened for her safety, convinced that any day her enemies will learn the truth about her double life and place her life in danger. Craw shows his gentle side as he tries to soothe Phoebe's fears while also attempting to get from her the name of Ko's mistress without Phoebe being aware that it is this information in which he is interested. Craw does learn the woman's name, Liese Worth, but also learns it is a pseudonym. This information pleases Smiley, because he has already learned the woman's other name, and it fits with the information Phoebe has provided.

Smiley needs to learn more about this woman. Instead of sending one of his other agents, Smiley does this investigation on his own, something that will lead to some criticism when the case is over. The fact that Smiley investigates on his own suggests to the reader that Smiley is aware that this information must be obtained with some diplomacy, and he feels that he is the best person to go about it. The reader sees in this action Smiley's understanding of the characters of those people on his team as well as his deep insight into the people he is about to interview. Smiley learns that Elizabeth Worthington is an unhappy young woman with controlling parents and a boring, straight-laced husband. Elizabeth ran away to find adventure and a little freedom. Smiley also learns that Elizabeth claims to have been working for the British Secret Service with a man named Mellon. Smiley knows this is Sam Collins, which means Collins was not all together truthful about his relationship with Elizabeth. Now Smiley has the information he needs to take the next step in the investigation, though the reader must wait for the next chapter to find out what that is.



Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 11, Shanghai Express, and Chapter 12, Resurrecting Ricardo

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 11, Shanghai Express, and Chapter 12, Resurrecting Ricardo Summary

It was Christmas time, and the investigation began to slow. Smiley made a request to the Cousins for more information on Ricardo, but that, too, was delayed by the holiday. Sam Collins returns to the Circus in January, though there was no one to greet him, and he ended up cooling his heels in a dank office for many hours. When Smiley finally interviews Collins again, he admits to knowing Elizabeth Worthington, a young girl who showed up in Vientiane with a couple of hippies whom Collins had one of his agent assist in finding a job. Collins also admits to having her help him out with a couple of drug-related jobs. Shortly after this, Doc di Salis discovers the whereabouts of a man who was a missionary in China who has a connection with Drake Ko. Connie and di Salis go to visit this man, who is now old and tends to get lost in the stories he is attempting to tell. The man, Mr. Hibbert, and his daughter tell Connie and di Salis how they ran a small orphanage in China. During his time there, Mr. Hibbert took in two small boys who had been orphaned when their mother was shot. Mr. Hibbert could not recall the boys' given names, but only the Christian names they gave them, Drake and Nelson.

Drake was the oldest, always watching out for his brother. Nelson had a badly broken arm when he came to Mr. Hibbert's school. The two boys settled in well at the school and began to learn some English. Both boys developed a deep affection for Mr. Hibbert's wife, Liese. When the political atmosphere got too dangerous, the Hibberts were forced to leave. During this time, Liese died. When it was safe, Mr. Hibbert and his daughter, Doris, returned. Drake and Nelson found them again. Both boys were saddened by Liese's death, especially Drake. After this, Drake developed an affection for Doris. Drake and Nelson continued to be close. Drake went to war, leaving Nelson behind because of his damaged arm. However, when Drake returned he sent Nelson to school. Again the political atmosphere changed. Young Chinese boys were expected to join the growing anti-English movement. Nelson was with a group of students one night that destroyed the Hibberts' school. Drake berated his brother only to learn that Nelson had done it just to keep the boys from knowing his real feelings. Nelson continued his studies, even going to Russia for a time and became a talented engineer. Di Salis becomes annoyed with Mr. Hibbert, so Connie ends the interview. However, before they leave, Mr. Hibbert tells them Drake came to visit them a few years before and told them Nelson was dead. Back at headquarters, di Salis searches records until he can find some proof of Hibbert's story and possibly Nelson's real first name.



While still researching the Ko brothers, a message comes from the Cousins. Smiley and Guillam rush to Martello's office where they find him waiting with two strangers. The strangers are introduced as agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration. These strangers tell Smiley how Ricardo approached one of their agents, a man who would remain unnamed, and sold him drugs. This sale took place after the time in which Ricardo was believed to have been killed. It seems Ricardo had taken possession of a brand new Beechcraft in order to transport more than four hundred kilos of opium but had decided not to make the trip. Instead Ricardo wanted to sell all the opium to the Americans for a large amount of money, but the American agent decided not to enter into a deal with Ricardo. Ricardo has since disappeared. The American drug agents, however, want to take over the Dolphin case in Hong Kong because of the possible drug connection. Smiley asks them to wait. The agents agree, but only for three months. After that time, the Americans will take over no matter where Smiley is in the investigation. The agreement is written down in a letter. Guillam is supposed to take it to Martello himself but instead gives it to Sam Collins to take to Martello. Now under pressure, Smiley decides that they have gathered all the information they can. Now it is time to turn up the heat on Ko. Smiley decides to make a few subtle moves that will let Ko know they are on to him in order to see how he reacts.

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 11, Shanghai Express, and Chapter 12, Resurrecting Ricardo Analysis

Smiley sends Connie and di Salis to interview a man who knew Drake Ko as a child. This is interesting in that Smiley did the interviews himself in the previous chapter, but now he sends Connie and di Salis. The difference in characters is clear immediately. Di Salis becomes annoyed with the man they are interviewing, often urging him to speed up. Most obvious about this, however, is Smiley's knowledge of what is needed. Clearly Smiley sent Connie and di Salis because of their expertise in Russia and Asia. Smiley knew with them conducting the interview, the proper questions would be asked.

The most important thing Connie and di Salis learn is that Drake Ko has a brother named Nelson. Drake was very close to this brother, but it is also reported that the brother has died. Di Salis and Connie immediately begin researching this information and do not find a death certificate but are able to find possible student records that could lead to Nelson Ko's real name. This information is significant because the reader already knows that someone named Nelson is a person that Drake Ko grieves very deeply, and it suggests a possible identity for the person for whom Drake Ko opened the trust account. If Nelson still lives in China and has access to certain information, it is possible Russia could be paying for this information. If this is true, it could prove to be a big break in the investigation.

At the same time, Smiley and his team learn that Ricardo, the pilot from Vientiane who was involved with Elizabeth Worthington, is still alive. Not only this, but Ricardo came into possession of a great deal of drugs that he attempted to sell to the Americans.



Unaware of who Ricardo was or his significance in the Dolphin case, the Americans let him go but now want to take over the case. Now Smiley only has three months to wrap up the case or risk handing it over to the Americans. However, Smiley also now has a new lead with the knowledge that Ricardo is still alive. The fact that Ricardo also has a large amount of drugs that he most likely got from Ko gives Smiley an avenue to explore. Also important in this chapter is the fact that Guillam gave Sam Collins a letter to deliver to Martello. This letter is very important to the British, outlining their role in the investigation. The fact that Guillam entrusted the letter to Collins could prove to be a poor decision in later chapters based on Sam Collins' reluctance to be completely truthful with Smiley up to this point.



Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 13, Liese, and Chapter 14, The Eighth Day

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 13, Liese, and Chapter 14, The Eighth Day Summary

Jerry goes to a lush apartment building and waits outside a specific apartment for the occupant to exit. When she does, Jerry pretends to be an old friend, calling her Elizabeth Worthington and claiming to be someone she sold several kegs of whiskey to a few years before. Elizabeth was involved in a scam, selling the whiskey to as many men as she could convince, so she assumes Jerry is a customer she simply cannot recall. A rapport develops between them, and Jerry convinces Elizabeth to go to dinner with him. Before dinner, they make the rounds of a few popular night clubs. Jerry finds Elizabeth fascinating, if a little slow, and begins to wonder where she got a couple of scars visible on her chin. Jerry imagines the scars came from one of Elizabeth's many lovers and thinks to himself that he would never hurt her if she was his girl. Jerry stirs the conversation to Ricardo. Elizabeth claims Ricardo is dead, but she also claims her parents are filthy rich, something Jerry knows to be untrue. Jerry tells Elizabeth that he has reason to believe Ricardo is still alive. Jerry claims that Ricardo fathered a baby after his supposed death and that the whiskey deal she was involved in with Ricardo was all a scam. Elizabeth is growing uncomfortable until suddenly Mr. Tiu shows up. Under Tiu's watchful eye, Elizabeth tells Jerry about Charlie Marshall, a friend of Ricardo's who lived with them in Vientiane. Elizabeth tells Jerry that Charlie might know where Ricardo is. Finally, Jerry mentions that Ricardo might have had some ties with the Russians, that he was getting money from them, and that it is rumored that it was for the Russians that he was flying during his last, supposedly fatal, flight. Elizabeth denies it and Tiu ends the conversation.

That night, Jerry makes his report to Crow. Afterward, Jerry goes back to the apartment building where Elizabeth lives, standing in the shadows on the street where he can see her windows. Jerry notices someone else watching Elizabeth's apartment from a car, recognizing the man as Sam Collins. Jerry is upset by this, afraid Elizabeth is in danger, and he notifies Smiley. Later people think Smiley should have been warned by Jerry's reaction to seeing Collins, that he should have taken Jerry off the case at that point. However, Smiley did nothing. Back in London, a meeting takes place in Smiley's office on the eighth day of their remaining ninety. Di Salis has found Nelson's real name and his school records. There is no death certificate. Nelson spent a much time in Russia while a student, and it is possible he was approached by a Russian agent at that time and recruited as a spy. There is no mention of a brother in most of Nelson's records. Nelson returned to China and became a well respected figure, but suffered a social and political blow during the Cultural Revolution when many people with Russian connections were made outcasts. However, in recent years Nelson has once again become a trusted figure in China and has many highly-placed acquaintances, as well as



involvement in the building of a submarine similar to a Russian sub, making him again a valuable resource for Russia. This, Smiley surmises, explains the slowly increasing sum of the deposits made in the trust account Drake Ko opened. Finally, Nelson is part of a group that appears to be part of China's intelligence effort. Smiley thinks all this over and realizes that the money has been placed in an account outside of China because Nelson wants to leave China. Smiley believes that Drake Ko plans to smuggle his brother out of China and bring him to Hong Kong.

At the same time, Jerry gets a call from Luke to go with him to the morgue. Something has happened and the Rucker wants them to come. When Jerry and Luke arrive at the morgue, they discover that Frost, Jerry's connection inside the bank, has been killed. Not only was he killed, but he was horribly tortured. Jerry knows immediately that Ko's people must have done it in order to find out to whom Frost showed the account records. Smiley and his people are shocked because they had not thought Ko would do such a thing. However, no one knew about Frost except for Jerry, Craw, Smiley and his team, and possibly the Cousins. Smiley decides to continue as they had planned by sending Jerry to speak to Charlie Marshall.

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 13, Liese, and Chapter 14, The Eighth Day Analysis

Jerry takes Elizabeth Worthington to dinner in order to allow Ko, through her, to know that someone is on to him. Jerry finds himself fascinated with Elizabeth from the moment they meet, possibly the beginning of a romance, at least on Jerry's part. This idea is underscored when Jerry returns to watch her through the windows of her apartment and discovers Sam Collins doing the same thing. Jerry is upset, angry, and worried for Elizabeth's safety, showing the reader that he has already begun to develop some affection for her, touching on the theme of obsession and love. This obsession could quite possibly cause Jerry some problems later, especially since no one seems to know exactly how deeply involved in the case Elizabeth is.

Elizabeth reveals to Jerry that Ricardo has a friend, Charlie Marshall, who might know where he is. This Charlie Marshall is only a shadow figure at this point, but Jerry receives orders to go find him and learn the whereabouts of Ricardo. At the same time, Smiley and his team learn more about Nelson Ko, suggesting that Ko has access to a great deal of information that the Russians might want to buy, explaining the gold seam. Smiley's team also surmises that Nelson is planning to leave China, suggesting that Drake may be about to smuggle him out of China. Nelson is valuable to the Russians; therefore, he could also be valuable to Britain and America. This sets up a race of sorts to see who can get to Nelson first.

Jerry is called to the morgue with Luke and discovers that Frost, his contact at the bank, has been tortured and killed. Jerry is frightened by this because it proves that Ko can be ruthless. However, there seems to be some question as to who really committed the murder when the news gets back to Smiley and his crew. No one but trusted agents knew about Frost. However, the reader also learns that the Americans knew as well.



The reader must wonder if perhaps the Americans did not get a little ahead of themselves and decide to get the information from Frost in order to play catch up in the case. Perhaps the Americans are hoping to get to Nelson first and claim the ultimate prize at the end. Finally, Sam Collins has resurfaced. The reader does not know what Collins is doing in Hong Kong, but Smiley does not seem surprised by his reappearance in the case, suggesting perhaps that Collins is there with Smiley's knowledge and support.



Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 15, Siege Town, and Chapter 16, Friends of Charlie Marshall

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 15, Siege Town, and Chapter 16, Friends of Charlie Marshall Summary

Still reeling from Frost's death, Jerry is told to find Charlie Marshall. Jerry makes some inquiries and finds a book store where Charlie is known to frequent. Jerry asks about Charlie there and is given an address in Phnom Penh. Jerry buys *Candid* by Voltaire for Charlie because he is told Charlie likes French literature, hoping the gift will win him Charlie's favor. As soon as Jerry arrives in Phnom Penh, he goes to the address he has for Charlie. However, no one will answer the door. Charlie leaves a note and then goes to his hotel. For his cover, Jerry hooks up with a local reporter. Jerry, the reporter, and a female reporter go for a drive through town. The town is in the middle of a battle with bombs going off on the roadside as they drive past. They continue on, however, even stopping to walk through a field. Jerry asks the reporter about local airlines and pilots, but does not get the information he is hoping for. Back at the hotel, Jerry gets a message to attend a dinner that evening. At the dinner, Jerry hooks up with a Cousins agent who gives him the information that Charlie will be flying to Phnom Penh from Battambang the following day. Jerry is angry about the late notice. Jerry walks back to the hotel where he finds a note from the female reporter asking him to come to her room. However, when Jerry arrives it is really Luke.

Jerry and Luke drink most of the night. Luke tells Jerry that he got kicked out of his apartment in Hong Kong. Jerry gives Luke a spare key for his apartment and tells him he can stay there until Jerry goes back. The following morning, Jerry sneaks out of the apartment and flies to Battambang and hangs out at the airport, trying to find Charlie without being too obvious. To keep his cover, Jerry checks into a fancy hotel and interviews the governor. Then Jerry returns to the airport where he learns all flights to Phnom Penh have been canceled because the airport was attacked. Jerry walks the concourse anyway, hoping to find Charlie Marshall. Luck is on Jerry's side and he finds Charlie loading a plane outside one of the hangars. Jerry gives Charlie the book and requests an interview, claiming to be a reporter doing a story on Ricardo. Jerry boards the plane that is already occupied by a couple Chinese people and a man with a heavy beard, holding a rifle. Behind Jerry, a Chinese couple boards and then Charlie climbs aboard. Jerry rides in the cockpit with Charlie where he asks about Ricardo during the perilous flight. Charlie has little to say. When they land, Jerry suddenly realizes by Charlie's behavior that the man with the beard is Ricardo. Jerry chases after Ricardo as he leaves the plane and climbs into a waiting vehicle. Ricardo fires his gun at Jerry, managing to get away.



Jerry returns to the address for Charlie Jerry got at the bookstore. By now Jerry has figured out that the house is an opium den and Charlie goes there to get high. Jerry sneaks around back and climbs through a window, taking Charlie out of the house. Jerry and Charlie go down to the river where Jerry asks a nearly unconscious Charlie questions. Charlie talks about living with Ricardo and Elizabeth, of how he loved Elizabeth but knew he would never be with her. Charlie also talks about his disapproving, Chinese father who arranged for Charlie to get a job with Indocharter. While working for Indocharter, Charlie says Mr. Tiu approached him and asked him to take a dangerous flight for him. Charlie refuses but suggests Tiu go to Ricardo. Tiu does and Ricardo accepts, but something goes wrong. Ricardo is in trouble. Charlie and Elizabeth attempt to protect Ricardo by speaking to Tiu and Drake Ko. From that point, Charlie's story becomes jumbled, and Jerry decides to let him go rather than push him for more information.

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 15, Siege Town, and Chapter 16, Friends of Charlie Marshall Analysis

Jerry is back to work after learning of Frost's death. Jerry is disturbed by this murder and the change in setting seems to underscore Jerry's state of mind. Jerry goes from Hong Kong, a slow moving, somewhat peaceful place to a war-torn city where bombs are going off during dinner. Jerry finds Charlie and talks to him but learns next to nothing about Ricardo. However, Jerry discovers that Ricardo was right under his nose, but he is unable to convince him to stop and have a conversation. In fact, Ricardo fires his gun at Jerry, making it clear that he wants nothing to do with Jerry. This makes the reader wonder what Ricardo is trying to hide and makes finding Ricardo more interesting for the reader.

Charlie is an opium addict, and Jerry finally realizes the house he has been trying to visit Charlie at is really an opium den, a place for addicts to get high. Jerry drags Charlie out of the house and has a conversation with him that is rambling and confusing. However, Jerry is able to establish not only did Charlie have a thing for Elizabeth, something Jerry could sympathize with, but that Ricardo was offered a big job by Mr. Tiu. This definitely connects Ricardo to Drake Ko, the connection Smiley has suspected but unable to prove up until now. Now all they need to find out is what Tiu wanted Ricardo to do, but it seems only Ricardo knows that right now. Jerry shows some of his character during this meeting with Charlie, allowing him to go back to the opium den rather than pushing him for more information. Jerry feels sorry for Charlie, in part because he is something of a loser, but mostly because he empathizes with his feelings toward Elizabeth. Again, the reader sees how much Jerry cares for Elizabeth and wonders what other aspects of his job this will affect. One last important note in these chapters is Luke's arrival in Phnom Penh. Luke claims to be homeless. Jerry gives Luke his spare key to his apartment and allows him to stay there for a while. The author, in the authorial voice, suggests to the reader that this is the last time Jerry will see Luke, making the reader wonder if something bad is going to happen to either Luke or Jerry.



Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 17, Ricardo, and Chapter 18, The River Bend

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 17, Ricardo, and Chapter 18, The River Bend Summary

Pressure is mounting for Smiley and his crew as time quickly marches down to their deadline. Rumors are spreading around headquarters, especially about the relationship between Martello and Enderby, suggesting an alliance that could spell trouble for Smiley. At the same time, Drake Ko took his boat out on open water and was lost for a short time, causing a panic among those attempting to keep an eye on him. Through it all, however, Smiley is calm and keeps his eye on the ball. Jerry waits impatiently, filing stories with the newspaper to keep his cover intact. At the same time, Jerry is thought to have made a phone call to Elizabeth Worthington, but he did not say anything. Finally Smiley orders Jerry to find Ricardo. Jerry travels to Thailand where he hires a driver and locates a colonel who is known to be acquainted with Ricardo. After the colonel makes a great show of strutting his power for Jerry, he finally takes Jerry to Ricardo. Ricardo is aware of who Jerry is and repeatedly warns Jerry if he tells him his story, Ricardo will have to kill him. Jerry agrees but pushes for the story anyway. Ricardo says that Tiu hired him for a secret mission but refused to give him any information until the day of the flight. The flight is scheduled and put off many times, but finally is arranged. Ricardo meets with Tiu who tells him he is to fly into China with opium and exchange the drugs for a special package. Tiu tells Ricardo he will be a hero if he goes through with the mission, but a dead man if he does not.

Ricardo is aware of the conditions of the prisons in China and is frightened of being caught carrying drugs there. Ricardo decides not to fly the mission but lands his plane on a secret airstrip he remembers from his days of flying drugs for the CIA. Ricardo hides out for a while and then sells the drugs a little at a time for spending money. Ricardo did not mean for people to believe him dead but is glad because he hopes that means Tiu will not be looking for him. Eventually, however, Ricardo learns that Elizabeth has helped mend fences between him and Ko. When the story is complete, Ricardo sends Jerry on his way. However, before he goes, he disappears for a time, making Jerry think he might have done something to the car. Jerry checks the car, but finds it to be in good shape, so he and his driver leave. Soon, though, Jerry realizes what Ricardo has done and he urges his driver out of the car. A moment later the car blows up. It seems Ricardo put a grenade in the gas tank with a rubber band holding the trigger. Jerry and his driver make it back to a safe area where Jerry reports in at a military base. An American officer helps Jerry make his report, although the officer does not do it kindly. It seems the American Embassy in Saigon has just been evacuated, leaving all the Americans in a foul mood. Jerry receives orders to return to England as soon as possible.



Jerry decides not to return to England. Instead, Jerry leaves a traceable trail in Thailand before sneaking across the border to Laos and then into Hong Kong, carefully avoiding customs or anywhere else his movements might be documented. At the same time, Ko has retreated to his home in Hong Kong and not gone about his normal, daily routine. Smiley believes this means that he knows someone is on to him, and he has decided to push up his plans. Enderby and Lacon come to speak to Smiley, demanding to know what is going on with the case. Guillam feels they are trying to hone in on the case and steal Smiley's thunder. It makes Guillam uncomfortable, because he is afraid that it has something to do with Sam Collins and the letter Guillam gave him to deliver to Martello, especially since that letter has disappeared. About this time, Jerry arrives in Hong Kong, feeling guilty for going against his friend, Smiley's, orders, but sure he is doing the right thing for Elizabeth. Jerry goes to his apartment, only to find Luke murdered on the floor.

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 17, Ricardo, and Chapter 18, The River Bend Analysis

Again there is a delay in the action even as pressure is mounting from the passing of time. Smiley is cautious, unwilling to move until he knows all the tangents and has prepared for them. Finally Smiley orders Jerry to find Ricardo, which he does. Jerry learns that Ricardo was supposed to fly into China and pick up a package. The reader by now should know that the package was Nelson Ko, that Ricardo was supposed to bring Nelson home to his brother. Unfortunately, Ricardo got scared and decided not to, setting off the chain of events that led Smiley to Vientiane and the gold seam. Jerry is nearly killed when Ricardo sets a grenade to go off in his gas tank, but Jerry is smart enough to recognize the danger and save his life. However, Jerry is not smart enough to follow his friend's orders and return to London. Jerry decides he must return to Hong Kong to save Elizabeth, touching on the theme of obsession and love, and setting up a chain of events that could place Jerry's life in danger again.

While Smiley is dealing with the various agents and investigations that make up this case, it seems his superiors are conspiring behind his back. Enderby and Lacon show up demanding to know what is going on. At the same time, the letter Smiley wrote to the Americans outlining their role in the case has disappeared. This letter was given to Sam Collins to deliver, causing Guillam to think that Collins is in on whatever conspiracy might be going on between the Americans and Enderby. All this infighting does not seem to bother Smiley, who is either not aware of it or choosing to ignore it, again showing the reader his own sense of obsession. Finally, Jerry arrives in Hong Kong to find Luke dead. The foreshadowing of several chapters before has come true, leaving the reader and Jerry both wondering who killed Luke and if they thought they were killing Jerry. It seems very likely, suggesting Jerry's life is now in danger as long as he remains in Hong Kong.



Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 19, Golden Thread, Chapter 20, Liese's Lover, Chapter 21, Nelson, and Chapter 22, Born Again

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 19, Golden Thread, Chapter 20, Liese's Lover, Chapter 21, Nelson, and Chapter 22, Born Again Summary

Smiley, Guillam, and Fawn have arrived in Hong Kong with Martello and his people to end the case. Smiley believes Ko is about to bring Nelson to Hong Kong and believes he plans to do it with his junk fleet, bringing Nelson home the same way he himself arrived many years before. Martello's people are monitoring the weather and the movement of the fleet, hoping to intercept Nelson as soon as he makes land fall. At the same time, Smiley has learned that Jerry did not return to London as expected. Smiley hasn't the time to worry about it at this point, though he has assigned agents to search for any sign of Jerry. While Smiley discusses possible landing places for Nelson, Jerry makes his way to Elizabeth's apartment building. Jerry follows Elizabeth to a fashion show where he escorts her back to her apartment with a gun at her back. At the apartment, Jerry asks Elizabeth questions about Drake Ko. Jerry, too, has realized what Drake Ko plans to do and hopes Elizabeth has an idea where Nelson will arrive. However, while they talk the phone rings. Jerry assumes it is Drake Ko and tells Elizabeth to invite him upstairs. However, when the door opens, it is Smiley. Jerry, not knowing who would be standing there, attempts to take the visitor out, only to have himself beaten by Fawn.

Smiley tells Jerry he is interfering in something that is bigger than he understands. Smiley then orders Guillam and Fawn to take Jerry to the airport and fly back to London with him. However, on the way to the airport Jerry manages to fight his way out of the car and run away. Jerry is still worried about Elizabeth even though it seems to him she is not as slow as she had seemed. Jerry goes back to her apartment and convinces her to go away with him. Jerry takes Elizabeth to a brothel where they are able to get a room for the night. Once there, Jerry asks Elizabeth to tell him all she knows. The only thing Elizabeth can tell him however is that something big is about to happen. Jerry sleeps on this information and finally puts it all together. Jerry knows where Nelson is going to land. It is Po Toi island where a festival is taking place the following day. The festival will keep all the people on one side of the island, leaving the other side completely isolated. Drake Ko is repeating his own escape from China. Jerry takes Elizabeth and arranges for a boat to take them to the island. Once they arrive, Elizabeth shows Jerry a cliff where Drake Ko once took her. Jerry looks down the cliff and sees a beach that would be a perfect place for a clandestine meeting. Jerry tells Elizabeth to



get a ride back to Hong Kong with an English family while he stays at the beach to wait for Drake Ko. At the same time, the Rocker is searching for Jerry and has reported to Smiley that he believes Jerry is on Po Toi. There is nothing Smiley can do to protect Jerry now.

When Drake Ko arrives, Jerry takes out Tiu before trying to convince Drake Ko he only wants to help. Jerry tries to warn Drake Ko that the Circus and Cousins know about Nelson, but Nelson arrives before Jerry can get his full warning out. As the brother's embrace, a Cousin helicopter descends. Jerry is shot and Nelson is taken away, never to be seen again. Elizabeth is arrested and charged with drug trafficking. Smiley retires and is replaced with Enderby. Most of Smiley's team is either forced out or relegated to desk jobs.

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 19, Golden Thread, Chapter 20, Liese's Lover, Chapter 21, Nelson, and Chapter 22, Born Again Analysis

The entire operation moves to Hong Kong now that Smiley has come to the conclusion that Drake Ko intends to bring his brother home soon. Jerry's disappearance comes to light during this time, but not in time for Smiley to do anything to stop him. Jerry is obsessed with Elizabeth, a theme of the novel and convinced he must save her from herself. Jerry tries to save Elizabeth, but discovers there is more to this investigation that he originally believed. Jerry is forced to return home. However, Jerry's obsession makes it impossible for him to simply walk away. The authorial voice questions Smiley's actions toward Jerry, making the reader wonder as well why Smiley did not do more to restrain Jerry. Perhaps Smiley knew what Jerry was up to and was silently hoping he would be successful. At any rate, Jerry put it all together and attempted to help Drake Ko save his brother, but failed. The Americans rushed in and stole Nelson away, leaving Drake alone and Jerry dead.

At the end, Smiley is replaced by Enderby, something the narrator saw coming and warned the reader about in his authorial voice. However, Smiley does not seem upset by the changes going on around him, or perhaps he saw it coming and felt as though he must be satisfied with stopping Karla in one avenue at least. Smiley's critics have always believed that the Circus should forget about Karla and go on with the business of spying, so Enderby's appointment seems to be taking the Circus in that direction. Perhaps this, too, is something Smiley saw coming and has come to accept. The end of the novel seems disappointing, as though in some way the bad guys won on the backs of the good guys, but at least Smiley stopped the Russians once and was able to clear his conscience of one misdeed by his friend, Bill Haydon. Perhaps that is enough for Smiley.



Characters

Jerry Westerby

Jerry Westerby is the son of a famous newspaper magnate and a journalist in his own right. Upon his father's death, Jerry learned that he was penniless but continues to pretend otherwise in order to protect his father's reputation as well as his own. When the novel opens, Jerry is living in Tuscany attempting to write a novel. The townspeople call Jerry the Honourable Schoolboy because he often carries around a bag full of books and has received correspondence addressing him as the Honourable Gerald Westerby. While in Tuscany, Jerry receives a telegram requesting his services to the British Secret Service. Jerry travels to London where he meets with George Smiley, the new head of the service and one of Jerry's close friends. Smiley is working on a case and he wants to send Jerry to Hong Kong.

Jerry arranges to work for a local newspaper covering the news in Hong Kong as a cover to his spy work. Jerry arrives in Hong Kong and takes over an apartment from a friend and then waits for his orders. The first thing Jerry is told to do is befriend an employee at a local bank who handles an account that the Circus believes is the end point of a gold seam. Jerry gets the information required, providing the Circus with the identity of the person who opened the account and the amount contained in it. Then Jerry is told to wait. Jerry waits for weeks, growing frustrated with his supervisors so decides to do some investigating on his own. Jerry goes to the horse races and garners an introduction to Drake Ko, the owner of the bank account. Jerry also sees Drake Ko get into a car with an English woman, which Jerry tells the Circus immediately.

Jerry's next assignment is to take Drake Ko's mistress out to dinner to get some information from her. Jerry finds Elizabeth Worthington fascinating and falls head over heels in love. However, Jerry does not forget his assignment and manages to get enough information from her that the Circus is able to send him to investigate the gentlemen who led to her coming to Hong Kong and meeting Drake Ko. Jerry does his job, but his thoughts continue to be with Elizabeth Worthington. Jerry is eventually told his role in the case is over, but he cannot abandon Elizabeth. Jerry returns to Hong Kong in secret and sneaks into Elizabeth's life. While talking to Elizabeth and attempting to convince her that she is involved in something much bigger than she understands, Jerry discovers that Elizabeth actually knows more than he believes. This does not stop Jerry, however. Jerry convinces Elizabeth to go away with him and show him where Drake Ko might intend to sneak his brother into Hong Kong. Elizabeth does this and Jerry sends her away, assuming the Circus will not harm her. However, Jerry underestimates both the Circus and the Cousins, finding himself in the middle of a mission the scope of which he does not understand. Jerry is killed while watching the touching reunion of brothers Nelson and Drake.



Elizabeth Worthington or Liese Worth

Elizabeth Worthington is an unhappy woman who is the product of dysfunctional parents. Elizabeth's mother lives vicariously through her daughter, urging Elizabeth to take on romantic and glamorous roles in order to live them along with her. Elizabeth's father, too, is obsessed with his daughter. Elizabeth's father orders her around, controlling her life to such a degree that Elizabeth feels insufficient, as though she can never do enough to please her demanding parents. Elizabeth finds solace in her marriage to a young school teacher, but the role of wife and mother also make demands on Elizabeth that she finds difficult to live up to. Finally, Elizabeth leaves the country, running away from all the demands of her life, leaving behind a husband, child, and doting parents.

Elizabeth ends up in Vientiane where she becomes involved with a couple of pilots. Ricardo and Charlie Marshall were trained by the CIA to traffic drugs in Southeast Asia during the early years of the Vietnam War. When the CIA stopped needing their services, Ricardo and Charlie found other ways to make ends meet, finally ending up working for a small airline in Vientiane. Elizabeth, too, was given a job as a receptionist. During this time, Elizabeth meets a Circus agent who got her involved in illegal drug trafficking as well. It was also during this time that Drake Ko's men asked first Charlie Marshall and then Ricardo to take a very dangerous flying mission for them. Ricardo agreed but failed to complete the mission, leaving him in the dangerous position of being a powerful man's enemy. Elizabeth went to Hong Kong to plead for Ricardo's life and, as a result, became Drake Ko's lover.

Charlie Marshall and Ricardo

Ricardo and his friend Charlie Marshall are pilots. During the early years of the Vietnam War, both Charlie and Ricardo became pilots for the CIA, flying drugs. When the CIA no longer needed these services, Ricardo and Charlie moved around a lot, finally ending up in Vientiane where Charlie's father got him a job with Indocharter, a small airline owned by Drake Ko. During this time, Charlie was able to get a job for his friend Elizabeth. One of Drake's men approaches Charlie and asks him to take on a dangerous job, but Charlie refuses. Instead, Charlie suggests the man ask Ricardo, who was in need of work at the time. Ricardo takes the job, but when he learns that it entails flying drugs into China, he changes his mind. Ricardo does not want to spend the rest of his life in a Chinese jail. Ricardo lands the plane and hides it, eventually selling the drugs to an American drug enforcement agent. Through the investigation of the Dolphin case, Jerry is sent to speak to both these men. Eventually it is deduced that Ricardo was supposed to use the drugs to pay for Nelson Ko's escape from China, and it was Nelson who was to be his package on the return trip.



George Smiley

George Smiley is a British Secret Service agent. When a traitor is found among his fellow agents, Smiley finds himself promoted to the head of the agency. Smiley is emotionally tortured by the traitor because the man was a friend of his. Not only this, but the traitor was having an affair with Smiley's wife. Smiley finds himself without friend or wife, adrift in a time of turmoil, both personally and professionally. Smiley makes it his goal to repair some of the damage done to his beloved service. Smiley assigns his team to find evidence that a case was ended not because of the evidence, or lack thereof, but because continued investigation might lead to the Russians. Smiley's team finds one such case in which there was evidence of a gold seam, a money laundering account. Smiley tracks the account first in Vientiane and then in Hong Kong where it was moved after the traitor became aware of the investigation. Smiley's team then connects a Hong Kong business man, Drake Ko, to the account. With further investigation, it is discovered that Ko has a brother living in China who has connections to key political figures. Smiley works with his American counterparts to keep the Russians from getting their hands on Ko's brother and the secrets he could reveal to them, only to find himself outsmarted and replaced.

Drake Ko

Drake Ko is a business man living in Hong Kong. As a child, Drake was orphaned by wars in China and raised by English missionaries. Drake loved his adopted family and idolized their ways, finding it difficult to embrace the political atmosphere that prevailed in China. As a young adult, Drake escaped China and went to live in Hong Kong where he made a life for himself. Drake is successful in many legitimate businesses, but also indulges in illegal business. As a result of this illegal business, Drake has made many questionable friends and enemies. Smiley becomes aware of Drake when first his business, Indocharter, is associated with a gold seam from Russia and later the same gold seam is discovered to be collecting in a bank account under Drake's name in Hong Kong. Further investigation into Drake's business dealings and his past reveal that Drake has a brother who is assumed to still be living in China. Smiley comes to believe that Drake wants to rescue his brother and bring him to Hong Kong and that Russia supports this choice, explaining the money. Drake has attempted to rescue his brother once before, but the attempt failed. Drake makes a second attempt, succeeding in bringing his brother home only to have him taken away again.

Nelson Ko

Nelson Ko is Drake Ko's younger brother. Nelson was headstrong and determined as a child and would often get into fights with his brother over politics. Nelson is highly intelligent and was trained as an engineer in Russia as well as the best schools in China. However, after Nelson's career began, he had some trouble that caused him to be an outcast, not trusted among the Chinese elite. Soon this condition reversed, and Nelson found himself once again trusted by some of the most important political figures



in China. As a result, Nelson begins to learn a great number of secrets that Russia might find interesting. As Smiley investigates the gold seam that moved from Vientiane to Hong Kong, he comes to believe that the money is intended for Nelson Ko. Smiley believes that Nelson has agreed to sell certain secrets to Russian in exchange for money to live on once he is able to escape China. However, Nelson's arrival is predicted by both the Circus and the Cousins. Nelson is whisked away by the Americans moments after his arrival and never seen again.

Bill Haydon

Bill Haydon is the traitor that was discovered in the British Secret Service. Bill Haydon was a high official in the service and was able to stop certain investigations that were getting too close to the Russians. Haydon was also able to stop particular agents from working in the field if he thought they were getting too close to the truth. Haydon was well trusted by his fellow agents, and his betrayal was a shock. Smiley was the one who was most hurt by Haydon's actions. Smiley was a good friend of Haydon's and took his betrayal personally. Not only this, but Haydon was having an affair with Smiley's wife. Haydon died shortly after his betrayal was discovered.

Karla

Karla is the code name of the Russian who recruited Bill Haydon. It is rumored that Karla was the name of a favorite lover of the Russians. Smiley once met Karla when they were both younger. Ironically, Smiley attempted to recruit Karla to work for the British. As a direct result of Haydon's betrayal, Smiley takes it upon himself to crush Karla. Smiley hangs a blown-up photograph of Karla in his office so he will never forget what has taken place or who his enemy is. Smiley is determined to never allow Karla to infiltrate his beloved service again. As a result, the Dolphin case is born. However, the Dolphin case will prove to be Smiley's last stand, ending with his retirement from the service.

Martello

Martello is Smiley's American counterpart. Martello is the head of the London office of the CIA and the man with whom Smiley works during the Dolphin case. Smiley arranges to work with the Americans because he believes he needs their support in order to complete the case successfully. However, the Americans are supposed to be a support team, not the lead team. Unfortunately, Martello is friends with a man in the British Secret Service who hopes to take Smiley's job. As a result, Martello conspires behind Smiley's back to take over the case. When Drake Ko successfully brings his brother Nelson to Hong Kong, Martello swoops in and takes Nelson, then takes credit for the entire case. Smiley is replaced by Martello's friend, and Martello gets a promotion through his own agency.

Sam Collins

Sam Collins is an agent with the British Secret Service. Sam Collins was a field agent, but under Bill Haydon was reassigned to a more administrative job. Sam Collins ran the service office in Vientiane. During his time in Vientiane, Collins befriended a young woman named Elizabeth Worthington and enlisted her help with his side job of selling drugs. While involved with Elizabeth, Collins happened to find evidence of a gold seam moving from Russia through Vientiane. When Collins reported his findings to Haydon, the case was found to be irrelevant and put on a shelf. However, it was the discovery of this file that led Smiley to the Dolphin case. Collins was called in and asked to report on every detail of the file. With the evidence that Collins gives him, Smiley begins investigating the gold seam only to find it has moved to Hong Kong. Smiley brings in Westerby and begins investigating deeper, soon finding that the money in the account is meant for Nelson Ko, a Chinese man who has been selling secrets to the Russians. Collins becomes a peripheral part of the case, but later it is revealed that he has sold his own secrets to the Americans, making it possible for the Americans to take all the glory in the Dolphin case, leaving Smiley out in the cold.



Objects/Places

Gold Seam

The gold seam is an account that the British link back to the Russians that is used to launder money. Smiley comes to believe that this particular gold seam is to fund Nelson Ko's escape from China and the sale of important government information by Nelson to the Russians.

The Circus

The Circus is a slang name for British Secret Service.

The Cousins

The Cousins is a slang name for the American CIA.

Dolphin

Dolphin is the code name for the investigation into the gold seam that Smiley has connected to Nelson Ko.

Green Phone

Smiley has a direct line installed between his office and that of the Cousins that is green.

Horses

Drake Ko races horses in Hong Kong. Ko's most successful horse is named Nelson, which the Circus at first assumes is in honor of his son until they learn that Ko's brother is also named Nelson.

Voltaire

Jerry Westerby gives Charlie Marshall a copy of Voltaire's *Candid*, hoping to befriend him long enough to get information about Ricardo and Drake Ko. Due to this gift, both Charlie Marshall and Ricardo take to calling Westerby Voltaire.



Beechcraft

Ricardo is given a brand new Beechcraft airplane to fly into China and retrieve Nelson Ko. However, Ricardo does not want to be arrested in China for drug trafficking, so Ricardo lands his plane and sells the drugs on board to a Cousin agent.

Liese's Apartment

Liese has an apartment in Hong Kong that is owned by Drake Ko. Jerry learns the truth about Elizabeth's role in the Dolphin case in this apartment.

Ko's Junk Fleet

Drake Ko owns a junk fleet. Drake Ko uses this fleet to sneak his brother out of China. Unfortunately, the plan is discovered and the brothers are once again separated when Nelson Ko is taken away by the Cousins.

Indocharter

Indocharter is a dummy airline company owned by Drake Ko that is a cover for some of his illegal activities. Indocharter is also where Ricardo, Elizabeth, and Charlie Marshall worked and where the gold seam first appears.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is an island nation off the coast of China that is governed by Britain. Hong Kong is where Drake Ko lives and is where Jerry Westerby begins and ends his part of the Dolphin case.

Vietnam

Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country. Vietnam is involved in a civil war during the time period in which the novel takes place. The Cousins are actively involved in the Vietnam conflict, and it is in Vietnam where Ricardo and Charlie Marshall begin their careers as drug transporters.

Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh is a city in Cambodia that is embroiled in fighting during the time period during which the novel is set. Jerry Westerby travels to Phnom Penh to find Charlie Marshall, Ricardo's partner and possibly a source of information in the Dolphin case.

Vientiane

Vientiane is a city in Laos. Jerry Westerby travels here to investigate Elizabeth Worthington and her companions, Ricardo and Charlie Marshall, who spent a large amount of time in this city. The gold seam also began in Vientiane.



Themes

Betrayal

The novel begins with a discussion about the Dolphin case and what might have gone wrong with it. However, the story begins long before the Dolphin case with the revelation that one of the British Secret Service's most loyal men was never truly loyal. Bill Haydon was found to be a traitor, secretly working for the Russians. Due to the fact that Haydon and the new head of the service were good friends, the head, George Smiley, is determined to fix some of the destruction Haydon leveled on Smiley's beloved Circus. Smiley begins investigating cases that Haydon may have falsely ended. Smiley finds an investigation into a gold seam, or money laundering, in Vientiane. Smiley and his team investigate this case only to find that it is a scheme by the Russians to free Nelson Ko, a highly-respected Chinese government official, and buy some of his knowledge about China. Smiley hopes by solving this case, the Dolphin case, successfully, he will be able to repair a small amount of the damage his friend did to the Circus.

At the same time, however, Smiley also learned that his wife was cheating on him. Not only did Haydon betray Smiley in a professional nature, but he betrayed him privately as well. Smiley is devastated by both Haydon and his own wife's betrayal. Smiley cannot go home and finds himself becoming obsessed with Karla, the man Smiley believes recruited Haydon for the Russians. Smiley moves in to his office, no longer living at home with his wife. This betrayal motivates Smiley, giving him a reason to hunt down cases Haydon worked on and to try in his own way to make things right.

Not only did Haydon betray Smiley, he also betrayed his country. Haydon gave secrets to the Russians that affected many levels of the British government. Haydon also ended investigations into Russian activities that might have led the British into discovering some of Russia's plots and helped them stop their enemies. Haydon was a cold man who turned his back on everything he claimed mattered to him and left his friend, the man whom he betrayed on both a professional and personal level, to deal with the fall out. It is because of Haydon's multiple betrayals that this is a theme of the novel.

Love and Obsession

Jerry Westerby is something of a romantic, the type of man who likes to be in love as witnessed by his many failed marriages. At the beginning of the novel, Westerby is living with a woman referred to only as the orphan. Westerby regrets having to leave this woman behind in order to participate in the Dolphin case but knows his loyalty to his country must come first. During the course of his involvement in the case, Westerby is told to have dinner with a young woman, Elizabeth Worthington, who is known to be Drake Ko's mistress. Westerby knows this young woman is married and that she left her husband to live in Vientiane with a crazy pilot. However, this knowledge does not stop Westerby from falling in love with Elizabeth.



Westerby begins standing outside Elizabeth's apartment, watching the lights go on and off, wondering what she is doing and with whom she might be doing it. Westerby becomes enraged when he sees a fellow spy standing outside her apartment, apparently watching her as well. Westerby decides he must protect Elizabeth from the case and its fall out, believing she is too innocent to understand fully what she has gotten herself into.

Westerby sticks with the case through his obsession with Elizabeth, hoping that in some way he will be available to save her when the case comes to its explosive conclusion. After Westerby gathers all the information the Circus needs to conclude the case, he is ordered home. However, Westerby decides to go back to Hong Kong instead to rescue Elizabeth. Westerby forces his way into Elizabeth's apartment and forces her to encourage Drake Ko to come to her apartment. However, instead of Ko, Westerby finds himself face to face with Smiley and another agent Westerby believes to be rogue. Westerby is told that there are things going on that he does not understand. This causes Westerby to change his opinion of Elizabeth, but he still believes himself in love with her and is still convinced that he must save her. Westerby sneaks Elizabeth out of her apartment and has her show him where Ko will be welcoming home his brother after his escape from China. Unfortunately, Westerby underestimates the Circus and the Cousins, finding himself and Elizabeth caught in a web that neither can get out of. It is Westerby's obsession and love for Elizabeth that makes these things a theme of the novel.

Family

Family is an important theme in this novel because it is the motivation that propels several of the main characters and a motivation that repels another. Drake and Nelson Ko are refugees of the terrible fighting in China in the early part of the twentieth century. Drake is an intelligent man who adores his little brother. Nelson is more volatile than his older brother, more entranced with the political climate within which he and his brother grow up. Nelson is also intelligent, attending university and attaining a high position within the country that allows him access to important Chinese political figures and government secrets. Drake, on the other hand, left China and built a large business in Hong Kong, telling the world that Nelson died. Nelson is very much alive, however, and Drake reveals his love for his brother by naming his son after him.

Smiley uncovers a gold seam that ends in a bank account that Drake Ko owns. Smiley eventually is able to get background on Drake and surmise that the money is payment to Nelson for secrets he has or potentially can give the Russians. Smiley continues to investigate and soon comes to the conclusion that Drake is planning to sneak Nelson out of China. It turns out that Drake has never forgotten about his brother and wants to bring him to Hong Kong, but the situation could be dangerous for them both. Drake tries twice to bring his brother out of China, once paying a pilot to fly Nelson out, but the pilot backs down on the deal. The second time, Drake uses his own junk fleet to bring Nelson home. This time it works, but Nelson and Drake only have a few minutes together before the Cousins swoop in and steal Nelson away in order to stop him from



trading any more secrets with Russia. If not for Drake's deep love of his brother, he never would have become involved in the gold seam or tried to get his brother out of China, making family a theme of the novel.

Elizabeth Worthington has a husband and son in England, but has run off to live in places such as Vientiane and Hong Kong. Elizabeth also has a mother who lives vicariously through her and a father who is obsessed with her every thought and decision. Elizabeth could not bear the pressure of living up to her parents' expectations any more than she could survive under the expectations of her husband and son. Elizabeth ran away to escape these pressures and to find out who she was in her own right. Now Elizabeth is Drake Ko's mistress and the Circus' best hope of finding out how Drake is connected to the Russians and why. Elizabeth ran away because of her family, making family a major theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person point of view. However, unlike other novels of this type, the point of view is not omniscient. In fact, the point of view is written hand in hand with the authorial voice, giving the reader the impression that the author is simply telling a story, allowing the reader to know the thoughts of his main characters and some of the emotion, but not allowing a complete picture of these emotions. The reader, therefore, is kept at arm's length from the characters, allowed only to know what is necessary in order to follow the plot of the novel at any given time. The author also interjects certain comments or information throughout the novel, keeping the reader up on what's going on without having to learn it from the narrating characters.

This point of view is complicated for the reader. On the one hand, the reader is allowed to know the thoughts and feelings of the narrating characters, allowing some intimacy between reader and character. However, this intimacy is limited by the author's choice not to reveal all the reader might need to know about a particular character. For example, the reader knows Smiley is obsessed with Karla because of the huge picture Smiley has hung in his office. However, the reader does not ever see Smiley express his emotions toward Karla in any way other than his bulldog attention to the Dolphin case. Another aspect of this point of view that is difficult for the reader is the authorial voice. While it is interesting to have the novel presented as though it were a review of the case, the interruption of the author to present certain information or conclusions keeps the reader at arm's length and makes it difficult for the reader to care about the main characters, an essential element in any novel.

Setting

The novel takes place in many different locations. The Circus, Smiley, and his team all remain in London for the majority of the novel. The reader often accompanies Smiley on tours of London as he walks the street in an attempt to think through the evidence presented to him in the case. Smiley's team, on the other hand, spends a great deal of time in Circus headquarters where they scour files for cases that Haydon may have squashed prematurely in order to hide a Russian connection. The main player in the Dolphin case, Drake Ko, lives in Hong Kong, so the case naturally takes several Circus agents to Hong Kong. Westerby, one of these agents, takes a room in Hong Kong and waits until it is necessary for him to be of service. When Westerby is given a task to undertake, he finds himself traveling all over Hong Kong, ending up on a small island off the coast of the island. Other places important to the novel are Vientiane and Phnom Penh. Both these settings are places that are experiencing heavy fighting at the time the novel takes place, which places Westerby in danger when carrying out the orders he has been given by the Circus.



The settings in this novel are appropriate to the tone of the novel. When the novel is in London with Smiley, it is a quiet, rainy setting that complements Smiley's quiet, contemplative character. The team that works with Smiley finds themselves often stuck inside the building that houses the Circus—a dark, dusty place that also compliments their characters as they are all relics of a time past, agents who saw their heyday many decades before. In Hong Kong, the reader is filled with a sense of the exotic, of tradition and freedom. These traits also complement the tone of the novel at this point because Hong Kong is the place Drake Ko has gone to find freedom from the oppression of China and where he hopes to bring his brother. Vientiane and Phnom Penh are dark, dangerous places, places where a bomb might go off while the main characters are bathing or swimming, leaving them dead. This is important because it complements the characters Westerby comes to these places to locate, dark, dangerous men who make a living transporting illegal drugs.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is a precise English that includes some common slang and the special slang of the spy business. The British Secret Service calls their American counterparts the Cousins while they refer to themselves as the Circus. Money laundering is a gold seam. The newspaper is the comic. Haydon is a traitor who might have left behind a mole or a sleeper. Karla is the code name for the Russian who recruited Haydon.

The language of the novel works well because it integrates slang that is common to the spy business with the dialogue. The novel is clear English, allowing readers of all abilities to understand. The slang tends to be a little confusing if the reader does not catch the meaning the first time it is presented. However, the slang is used so often that the reader cannot help catching its meaning and comprehend the writer's intention.

Structure

The novel is divided into twenty-two chapters. The chapters are very long, some as long as fifty or sixty pages. The novel also is divided into two parts. The first part is very long, encompassing twelve of the twenty-two chapters. The second part is shorter, but contains the most exciting chapters of the novel because these are the chapters within which the novel begins to come to and reaches its climax. The novel is written with both exposition and dialogue. The exposition takes a leading role in this novel because of the way in which it is told, with the authorial voice. A great deal of action takes place off the stage and is presented to the reader in exposition.

The novel has one main plot that is enhanced by several subplots. The main plot is the Dolphin case, a case jointly investigated by the British Secret Service and its American counterpart. This case involves the investigation into a bank account that has been linked to both the Russians and a business man in Hong Kong. One of the subplots involves a young woman who is the mistress of the Hong Kong business man who turns

out to also be working with the British. Another subplot revolves around Jerry Westerby, the Honourable Schoolboy, who is also a spy for the British and is assigned to investigate the Dolphin case. Westerby becomes obsessed with the young mistress and this leads him into a great deal of trouble as he decides to ignore his orders and go out on his own in the Dolphin case.



Quotes

"Afterwards, in the dusty little corners where London's secret servants drink together, there was argument about where the Dolphin case history should really begin. One crowd, led by a blimpish fellow in charge of microphone transcription, went so far as the claim the fitting date was some sixty years ago, when 'that archcad Bill Haydon' was born into the world under a treacherous star. Haydon's very name struck a chill into them. It does so even today."

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 1, How the Circus Left Town, pg. 3

"He called British intelligence 'the Circus.' He said the name derived from the address of that organization's secret headquarters, which overlooked a famous intersection of London streets." Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 1, How the Circus Left Town, pg. 45

"Only George Smiley, said Roddy Martindale, a fleshy Foreign Office wit, could have got himself appointed captain of a wrecked ship. Only Smiley, he added, could have compounded the pains of that appointment by choosing the same moment to abandon his beautiful, if occasionally errant wife."

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 3, Mr. George Smiley's Horse, pg. 86

"Time spent in preparation is never time wasted runs the Nursery's laborious maxim on counter-surveillance." Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 6, The Burning of Frost, pg. 251

"There is a kind of fatigue, sometimes, which only fieldmen know: a temptation to gentleness that can be the kiss of death. Jerry lingered a moment longer, staring at the orchids and the stone boy, and setting them in his mind beside everything he had seen and learned of Ko till now. And he had an overwhelming feeling—only for a moment, but dangerous at any time—of completeness, as if he had met a family, only to discover it was his own."

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 7, More About Horses, pg. 357

"We colonize them, Your Graces, we corrupt them, we exploit them, we bomb them, sack their cities, ignore their culture, and confound them with the infinite variety of our religious sects. We are hideous not only in their sight, Monsignors, but in their nostrils as well—the stink of the round-eye is abhorrent to them and we're too thick even to know it. Yet when we have done our worst, and more than our worst, my sons, we have barely scratched the surface of the Asian smile." Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 9, Craw's Little Ship, pg. 415

"It has been laid at Smiley's door more than once since the curtain was rung down on the Dolphin case that now was the moment when George should have gone back to Sam Collins and hit him hard and straight just where it hurt. George could have cut a lot



of corners that way, say the knowing; he could have saved vital time. They are talking simplistic nonsense."

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 10, Tea and Sympathy, pg. 455

"Under orders from Martello's headquarters at Langley, Virginia, the 'British liaison,' as they knew the Circus, was placed on the arm's length list, equating it with Yugoslavia and Lebanon, and for a while the two services in effect passed each other on opposite sidewalks, scarcely lifting their eyes. They were like an estranged couple in the middle of divorce proceedings."

Part 1, Winding the Clock: Chapter 12, The Resurrection of Ricardo, pg. 562

"It is also the pardonable vanity of lonely people everywhere to assume that they have no counterparts." Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 13, Liese, pg. 659

"Sometimes you do it to save face, thought Jerry, other times you just do it because you haven't done your job unless you've scared yourself to death. Other times again, you go in order to remind yourself that survival is a fluke. But mostly you go because the others go—for machismo—and because in order to belong you must share."

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 15, Siege Town, pg. 742

"Over the river two white flares shed an amazing daylight, inspiring Charlie to reminisce on the hardships of their early days together in Vientiane."

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 16, Friends of Charlie Marshall, pg. 831

"Soon there was once more no sound but the surf flopping on the beach and Drake Ko's hopeless, choking grief against the victorious armadas of the West, which had stolen his brother and left their hard-pressed soldier dead at his feet."

Part 2, Shaking the Tree: Chapter 21, Nelson, pg. 1137



Topics for Discussion

Who is Bill Haydon? Why is he important to this novel? What has Bill Haydon done to initiate the Dolphin case? What is the Dolphin case? Why does the novel begin by questioning the events within the Dolphin case? What has gone wrong? Why has it gone wrong? What does this case have to do with the developing plot?

Who is George Smiley? Why does Smiley have a picture of Karla in his office? Who is Karla? What has Karla done? What does Smiley hope to learn about Karla? Why does Smiley have his staff searching through old files? What does Smiley hope to find? What does Smiley find?

Who is Jerry Westerby? Why is he called the Honourable Schoolboy? Is Westerby really a writer? Why does Westerby struggle so much with his novel? Why is Westerby called to London? What is Westerby's connection with Smiley? Why does Westerby get a job working in Hong Kong? What is his job? What is his real assignment? Why?

Who is Elizabeth Worthington? Why does Smiley's team investigate Elizabeth? What do they learn about Elizabeth from her husband? From her parents? How does this information relate to the Dolphin case? What does Smiley plan to do with this information?

Who is Drake Ko? Why is Westerby investigating one of Ko's bank accounts? Who does Westerby and Smiley believe the account is really intended to benefit? Why does Smiley's team investigate Ko's past? What do they learn? Who is Nelson Ko? How is Nelson connected to the bank account? Who does Smiley believe initiated the bank account? For what purpose?

Why does Westerby go to Phnom Penh? Who does Westerby need to speak to in Phnom Penh? Does Westerby find the man he wants to speak to? What is the house Westerby keeps attempting to visit? Why is Westerby not allowed inside? What happens when Westerby finally gains access to the house? Why does Westerby want to interrogate this man? Does Westerby learn what he needs to know?

Why does Westerby interview Ricardo? What does Westerby hope to learn from Ricardo? What information does Westerby get from Ricardo? How does this affect the Dolphin case? Why is Westerby sent home after visiting Ricardo? Why does Westerby ignore his orders? Why does it take so long for Smiley to find out Westerby ignored his orders? Does Westerby do damage to the case by returning to Hong Kong? How?