

In Sunlight and in Shadow Study Guide

In Sunlight and in Shadow by Mark Helprin

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Plot Summary

"In Sunlight and In Shadow" is a novel about romance and morality by author Mark Helprin. Set against the backdrop of post World War II New York, a young man, Harry Copeland, has recently returned from his duties as a soldier in the front lines of Europe, and he falls instantly in love with a young woman from an extremely wealthy family. Catherine Hale returns Harry's interest, but is already meant to marry Victor, another wealthy individual that she has essentially been engaged since she was thirteen.

As Harry tries to convince her to call off the wedding, his father's business, Copeland Leather, comes under assault from the mafia, who extort him and his co-owner, a black man named Cornell, to the extent that they cannot possibly stay afloat. Harry struggles with these difficulties at the same time he works to bring himself close to Catherine, going so far as to crash her engagement party, where, to his utter surprise, he discovers she has broken the wedding off with Victor by herself. She had been engaged to him for such a long time, she never thought of calling off the wedding before she had met Harry, but found it impossible to go through with once she had in fact met him.

The two quickly fall in love, and Harry finds her family surprisingly welcoming and understanding, despite the fact that he is Jewish, and the fact that most people clearly disapprove of the fact that he is with Catherine. Meanwhile, tensions with the mafia worsen the more Harry tries to resolve the situation. Meanwhile, Catherine's singing career comes under fire from bad reviews, despite the fact that she is clearly an excellent singer. The two struggle through these difficulties together, until one night, they rescue James Vanderlyn, quite possibly the richest man in the United States. Vanderlyn is also still working with the U.S. government and military, and has contacts powerful enough to get him supplies that will help Harry kill Verderame, the mob boss who has been harassing him. Harry and Catherine marry quickly, and Harry travels across the country to collect the soldiers he once fought with in order to help him fight against Verderame. They plan an ambush carefully, but they all know that risks are involved, despite the fact that this exercise should be safer than most of the things they did in the war. The night of the ambush arrives, and Harry and his men attack Verderame, but Harry is wounded, and dies shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, Catherine has remained a singer in no small part because of Harry's brave example in the face of injustice. She is offered a major singing role with a large production, and discovers a letter Harry wrote to her before he died.



Prologue-Chapter 4

Prologue-Chapter 4 Summary

In the prologue, the story begins in an apartment building high above a park in New York.

In chapter one, Harry Copeland, a Jewish businessman, leaves the Turin at incredible speed, watched by the doorman as he leaps over a bench and seems to disappear. Harry has lived in the apartment on and off since he was born, but he left both for college and the war, where he worked in reconnaissance. He walks through the streets of New York, heading towards the reservoir of the Hudson, where he also swims frequently. Harry is fairly eccentric. He waits for the ferry to reach the shore. When it arrives, he watches passengers pour out of the ferry, and spots a woman he finds very beautiful.

In chapter two, Harry visits his aunt Elaine, who was his father's brother's wife. Elaine wants to know what Harry plans to do with the rest of his life, as the war has just ended. Harry explains that when things were beautiful during the war, they were made more beautiful by the terror of the war surrounding them. He has been to the cemetery, which is seriously understaffed since most of the mortuary detachments are still actively picking bodies up off of the fields in Europe. After lunch, she asks about his father's business, and specifically about the man Harry's father left in charged, named Cornell Wright. Cornell is a black man, and he was able to successfully manage the business after Harry's father passed away. Elaine says that Harry's father would have wanted Harry to finish his education, but Harry insists he can't do this, and he blames the war for feeling that way. Their family business made clothing articles and accessories for the US Army during the war, and was able to remain stable in the leatherworking business throughout. Harry is now worried about competition from Europe, since small businesses such as leatherworkers will be the first to start up again over there, and prices will be incredibly low because European workers will work for far less. Harry worries that this reality might destroy American business. He also tells his aunt that he is going to marry the girl he noticed exiting the ferry earlier. He makes his way back home in the evening, and daydreams about that woman. He discovers that she is at the shore, staring into the water. She introduces herself. Her name is Catherine.

In chapter three, Harry finds himself totally in love with Catherine almost instantly. She indicates that she saw him that morning, and that she threw her paper away next to him in order to wake him up. She reveals that she'd been waiting for a corvette on Staten Island, but it didn't show. Harry reveals to her that he doesn't like Manhattan, finding it too blocky. They connect deeply with each other in the course of their conversation.

In chapter four, neither of them can disengage from one another. Harry finally asks her to dinner. He calls it a date, which frightens Catherine, but she leads him into the automat, which she lies about having eaten at often. Harry tricks a woman behind the



food dispensers into getting him an extra hot dog. After dinner, Harry and Catherine part. Harry knows the last name "Sedley," that Catherine gave him, is false, but does get her number and plans to call her Sunday evening. He spends time resting on a bench afterwards, watching playing children.

Catherine, too, has deep feelings about their encounter, but is very nervous about them, because she is already engaged. She spends her time waiting until he calls her Sunday night, vacillating back and forth between joy and fear. Her fiance's name is Victor. She meets her friend Marisol the next day, as they often meet to play tennis with each other. They are several hundred yards from Harry's apartment window, but he is walking through the city looking for signs of her elsewhere. As eight o' clock arrives, Catherine takes her phone off the hook and goes out onto her terrace to watch ships on the water, then takes the phone outside with her. Harry calls her very shortly after this. After they both describe parks they can see, Harry asks to see her again.

Prologue-Chapter 4 Analysis

This novel depends a great deal upon both the place and time in which it is set, as much of the narrative is devoted to describing the city of Manhattan after World War II, especially areas in it most closely associated with nature, such as parks and waterways. Harry is introduced first as the main character, and it is clear from very early on that he is somewhat offbeat, which is described in the novel as him being "farsighted." This gives him the ability to see details from very far away. Harry understands, in some way, that this is part of his life's purpose, and appears to see things in people in a similar fashion to the way that he catches visual details from long distance. Cornell, for example, is not someone that anyone but Harry or Harry's father would trust with a business, due to the color of his skin. Harry also sees something in Catherine instantly, to the extent that he appears able to comprehend instantly when she is telling the truth or lying, although it is unclear if he realizes that she is already engaged, he appears to suspect that she is. Catherine, on the other hand, returns his feelings a great deal, but is frightened by the reality of her situation and finds herself compelled to lie in order to continue to see Harry again. Their behavior can very easily be described as neurotic, but they seem to complement one another perfectly in this respect.



Chapters 5-9

Chapters 5-9 Summary

In chapter five, Catherine turns out to be a young actress playing a role about a girl from a rural area who arrives in New York for the first time. Her stage name is Catherine Sedley, and the production depends on her performance in the second act. She is slightly myopic or shortsighted. The director runs her through her song, and is so impressed that he has her sing it again. Afterwards, she suggests that her character marries Charles, a returning soldier, but the director refuses the idea. On her way home, she imagines a boy swing on a rope above the El. This is a memory from long ago.

In chapter six, Harry enjoys arriving late at work in order to travel through a series of industrial lofts. He is often invited to the Harvard Club in the afternoon, but is always distracted by observing the workers on this stretch of the city. He makes his way to Copeland Leather's apartment on the fourteenth story of a building, which he has been very familiar with from a young age. This floor is usually filled with the employees of Copeland Leather, who are better paid than unionized employees and of unusually ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Cornell greets him Monday morning and complains that Harry is taking so much time off from work, to which Harry responds that he has been gone from New York for over four years, and that he can't readjust to life in the city once again just yet. They both express concern about the upcoming competition from Europe. It is possible that they will open other stores in large cities, but that is still no guarantee that they'll be able to stay in business.

From there, Harry leaves to meet Catherine. She told him over the phone that she was an actress, and the name of the play she is presently in is called "Homecoming." He arrives early for their dinner date and watches the end of her rehearsal, and is amazed by her voice and her performance.

In chapter seven, Harry meets with Catherine after the rehearsal. He's had his face cut from the leather punch, which happened on Friday afternoon. He tells her about his time in the war and all the small cuts he used to get, then they decide to take a bus down to a restaurant that sells grilled fish. Catherine tells him she was in college during the war. They reach the restaurant and find it almost completely empty. There, Harry talks about the thesis he'd wanted to write in college, and Catherine tells him she studied music at Bryn Mawr. She suddenly figures him to be about eight years older than she is. He gives her a profound compliment about her singing, and she suddenly realizes from his cut that he is from Copeland Leather. She has made him agree to allow her to pay for half the meal, and he attempts to explain why this is. He says that when you love someone, the last thing you want is to feel obligated to them. Finally, Catherine breaks down and tells him about her engagement to Victor. He jokes about Victor's name, after which they realize they need a break from that discussion. Nonetheless, they continue



talking about other matters. Eventually Catherine talks about her wealthy background somewhat. She explains that the yacht she waited on for Friday was sent by her fiancé, and that they can't simply cancel the wedding because everything has already been arranged. She says she has been "more or less" engaged to Victor since she was thirteen. He asks her to at least postpone the wedding.

In chapter eight, Harry walks Catherine home, and she insists that he not see or call her. Next Thursday, Catherine shows up late to her rehearsal, and the director, Sidney, offers to let her take a break the next day. Catherine agrees, but walks away that moment.

Meanwhile, Harry gets news from Cornell that they've suddenly lost a large chunk of their business. Harry, however, is too in love with Catherine to worry about it. He talks to Cornell about Catherine. Cornell is skeptical that Harry is actually in love. When Harry describes her singing, Cornell tries to explain that it isn't Catherine that Harry is in love with. Cornell suggests that he try to break off the wedding announcement on Sunday. He tells Harry to go on a raid, which is what he is trained to do from the war. This makes Harry nervous, but Cornell persists with the idea.

In chapter nine, Harry makes his way towards the event of the engagement party of Catherine and Victor. The news has spread throughout the area, and people seem to know that the Georgica club will be difficult to enter. He has a taxi drop him about half a mile west of the club. He comes across a stream, which he decides to swim across naked. He waits until he is dry, then dresses himself and makes his way into the celebration. He searches all over for Catherine. This goes on for a long time and he sits with very wealthy people and listens in on their conversations, waiting for any sign of Catherine. Finally, he spots who he assumes to be Victor, but Catherine is still nowhere in sight. Suddenly, he spots her come in from the terrace. She rushes past Harry and whispers something to a man Harry takes to be her father. Victor rejects something that Catherine says, and she hurls a glass of wine at him.

Chapters 5-9 Analysis

The secrets of Catherine's life are partially revealed, and she turns out to be from a very wealthy family, and seemingly destined to marry into yet another wealthy family, to a man almost twice her age. Yet, the reader is not entirely clear on every aspect of Catherine's personality, even if Harry believes that he is. After all, the question of why Catherine would bother to take small roles in theater production when her family wealth could easily support her on its own is left unanswered. The reader is, perhaps, to assume, that Catherine's natural singing talent has compelled her into this career. She did, after all, graduate with a degree in music. For Harry to see her surrounded by wealth and power and acknowledge that she is enveloped by this lifestyle does not appear to dissuade him in the least, to the extent that even the revelation she is engaged does not lower his spirit. Instead, he merely wonders how he can break off the wedding.



Harry's role in the war is a large factor in this decision. On the one hand, it is certainly true, as Cornell suggests, that the war has made everything seem heroic and romantic to Harry, but his feelings for Catherine still go beyond even that. Harry's farsightedness seems to play a symbolic role in his life where Catherine is concerned. He has spoken to her a total of twice at this point in the novel, and yet seems to know an extraordinary amount about her character and personality. While Harry does seem to be a fairly reliable character at first, he reveals to Cornell that he cares little for what happens to his families' own business after being given the news of a major account being lost. This should not be anyone as "farsighted" on the part of Harry, who even admits readily that nothing matters to him anymore but Catherine. How else was Cornell supposed to respond other than encouraging him?

The fact that Catherine and Victor clearly don't get along suggests she may have found a way to cancel the wedding on her own, without Harry's help. This speaks volumes to her character.



Chapters 10-14

Chapters 10-14 Summary

In chapter ten, Harry tells Catherine how he made it to the party, and asks her for a ride home. Manhattan is very far, but they talk and joke along the way, even though they make many wrong turns towards the city. She tells him that her mother took her to see a play when she was young, which is when she decided to become an actress and singer. He finally stops them at a diner where they eat. She asks what he'd planned to do the night before—it is now three in the morning. She tells him that everyone could tell that he'd crashed the party, then calls her parents, who have been asleep. She reveals to Harry that Victor raped her very long ago. He tells her that he wants to take things slowly, and that the war taught him how important things like that are. She tells him to call her the next day. Throughout their conversation, she explains why she feels that everyone feels insignificant despite whatever they do. They make it back to the city after four in the morning, and they kiss briefly before a police vehicle signals Catherine to continue moving.

In chapter eleven, Harry gets to work at ten thirty the next day, and Cornell immediately takes him to lunch. Once at lunch, Cornell tells him that two men in overcoats came into work that morning. He also reveals that Harry's father has been paying off authorities since the mid-twenties in order to avoid inspections. The men who showed up are new, and demanded to talk to a white owner. They arrive back at the shop that afternoon, and still all that Harry can think about is Catherine. When they speak to him, Harry gives them four hundred dollars, but they tell him the payment has gone up to two thousand. Harry decides to try and fight them off eventually, but pays them anyway.

In chapter twelve, Harry considers how to fight against a person he does not even know. He realizes that the city is probably filled with veterans who could fight. Later, on the phone, Catherine tells him to come see him at two. When they meet again, Harry kisses her again at the end of their date.

In chapter thirteen, Harry is at Penn station, which is the last place Harry saw his father. He has returned there to wait for Catherine, who descends a staircase shortly. She has not driven because she has used the car to embarrass her parents by breaking off the wedding with Victor. The two take a crowded train to the Hamptons. Catherine tells him that she told her parents that Harry loves her and wants to marry her.

Meanwhile, Billy Hale, Catherine's father waits with his wife in preparation to meet Harry. Catherine's father picks them up and drives them. Harry and Billy talk briefly about college, and Billy says that he is glad Catherine found someone else to marry. Evelyn is waiting for them at home, and though Harry is nervous about meeting her, he realizes instantly that he and Billy will get along well. The Hale's home is right next to the ocean. Harry spends a few minutes getting ready for dinner with Catherine's family



once he is shown his guest room. The dinner is somewhat awkward, and as it turns out, Billy has rented an orchestra. Catherine and Harry dance to the live music.

In chapter fourteen, Harry speaks with Billy in front of the ocean the very next morning. Billy is concerned that America has mistaken nice for good. Catherine arrives and they go down to the beach in order to eat breakfast. Catherine tells Harry to change into his bathing suit before breakfast. The beach is packed with neighbors, which Billy and Catherine refer to as "sand fleas." Victor is amongst them, and Evelyn introduces him to Harry. When they shake hands, Victor scratches the inside of Harry's palm with his index finger, which Evelyn explains is a sign that Victor is interested in knowing more about him. A movie star named Harley is also present on the beach.

A psychiatrist tells Harry that he can tell he was a soldier until very recently. Harley continues to try to insult Harry and demands to know what he does for a living once Harry insults the man's acting. The entire crowd rebuffs Harry, but the psychiatrist guarantees peace between everyone if Victor and Harry walk to the club and back, which they do. They do not get along well at all, though, and begin arguing almost immediately. Victor intends to take Catherine back, but Harry insists he never took Catherine from anyone in the first place. Harry warns him that if he tries to fight, Harry will kill him. Victor tries to provoke him by insulting Catherine, but Harry manages to rise above the insult. From there, they make their way back to the group.

Chapters 10-14 Analysis

Despite what Harry says about wanting to court Catherine slowly, the two grow close almost the instant that Catherine breaks her engagement to Victor, and they find themselves preparing to adjust to their newfound situation. Catherine still appears to be sincere and caring, though admittedly she has far less to adjust to. Her parents, far from being opposed to Harry, seem pleased that he has entered Catherine's life, which should run against the reader's expectations. Both Billy and Evelyn seem to understand how fortunate they are, and Evelyn is an especially compelling character due to her similarities and her vast differences with her daughter Catherine. Still, Harry must struggle through perfunctory conversations with Billy. However accommodating the Hales are, Harry still has virtually nothing in common with them, and typically fumbles for things to say.

Harry's introduction to the wealthy neighborhood crowd on the beach is a stark contrast to his relationship to the Hales. Fighting breaks out almost immediately, and Harry's attempts at playfully disarming the crowd backfires. To make matters worse, Victor is every bit as unpleasant as the reader could possibly expect him to be. This would generally signal to the reader that much of the novel will devote itself to exploring Harry's struggle against him, but there is not any clear path that Victor can take against Harry.



Chapters 15-19

Chapters 15-19 Summary

In chapter fifteen, Harry is watching the three who threatened him at Copeland Leather. It is Sunday morning, and at eleven, when they enter a bar, Harry goes in for an appointment to see Mr. Verderame, the man extorting Harry's business. Harry explains to Verderame that he can't afford the new amount, but that simply angers the mobster, who insults Harry's father. Harry pretends to comply, even though Verderame raises the price to twenty-five hundred a week.

In chapter sixteen, Harry and Cornell visit their accountant, Ludwig Bernstein. Bernstein tells them that his fees have gone up, and also that he used to bribe the IRS agents to overlook fraudulent accounting practices. In order for them to stay in business, they have to start making half again what they already make. Bernstein tries to insist that Harry not try to fight his way out of the situation.

In chapter seventeen, Catherine and Harry, at Catherine's parent's house a second time, are asked by Evelyn if they will stay for dinner. The Holmes' are also coming, and Evelyn warns them that they are a very boring couple. She also asks them to pick up the clams and corn, which they do, driving Billy's Mercedes into town. Harry remarks on how the wealthy and non-wealthy each deny the validity of the other's existence, but he also admits that a wealthy lifestyle appeals to him in many ways.

Back with Billy, the older man teases Harry for not drinking much, and tells him that Rufus Holmes prints money for other countries. Bridget and Rufus arrive. Rufus is rude to Harry from the very start. During the dinner, Rufus remarks that there are many Jews in theater, and complains that Catherine has chosen to spend a career too close to Jews. He goes on to make openly racist remarks about them.

In chapter eighteen, Harry talks to Catherine about his parents while they drive across the Hudson River. He also tells her that he will never get over her, the war, or the loss of his parents. Meanwhile, Billy acts stunned at how Catherine and Harry are behaving, but Evelyn reminds him that they did the same. Harry has driven Catherine to where his parents are buried.

In chapter nineteen, the cast of Catherine's play has discovered her real name. Sidney, the director, invited her and Harry to dinner at his apartment, along with the rest of the cast. Sidney is also in love with Catherine. He expects Catherine to be with someone very different from Harry. Catherine also introduces Harry as her fiance to all of her friends and associates there. Harry quickly gets bored of them, and starts an argument with a girl he thinks of as "Cat Woman from the Moon." Sidney asks about his service in the military, and Harry tells them that he is now in the leather business. They mock him for that somewhat, until Catherine speaks to defend him. Harry insists that his life's work is not what makes him who he is.



Chapters 15-19 Analysis

Harry continues to be introduced to Catherine's world. This is not a reciprocal arrangement, yet. Catherine has yet to meet anyone of importance in Harry's life, namely Cornell or Harry's aunt, and it is presently unclear why this should be the case. Harry's struggle against the mob boss who is extorting his company is certain to become very important in the chapters to come, especially since several characters—Cornell, the mob boss, and Copeland Leather's accountant, have all warned Harry that trying to oppose a person who robs and kills for a living will in fact get Harry killed. Harry continues to meet friction amongst Catherine's friends, but rather than it being a source of problems for them, it seems instead to be a powerful attractor. Harry is often humorous, but he clearly has little time for anything disingenuous or petty. His intensity is part of what draws him so deeply to Catherine as well as being a part of what drives him to find a way to combat against the mafia.



Chapters 20-24

Chapters 20-24 Summary

In chapter twenty, Harry is still in a happy mood despite the dangers of his situation. Cornell informs him that costs have risen once again, and that Toney Angello—a shirtmaker—is joining them for lunch. Harry and Tony are friends from childhood, and Tony himself went to the war. Tony thinks that the next war they have will be against the Russians. He also says that silk is incredibly cheap right now because of the war. He also still pays Mickey Gottlieb, who was the gangster Harry's father used to pay. Tony has never heard of Verderame. Harry begins to suspect that something strange is going on, and that Verderame might have been sent by a business competitor known as the Cypriot to drive Copeland Leather Under.

In chapter twenty-one, Harry and Catherine walk along the beach. Earlier, in Harry's apartment, she talked about what being with Victor was like. She revealed that her family owns a boat and homes in several states. Catherine's parents still don't know that Harry is Jewish. He also tells Catherine that the business is going under, but she knows offering money to help him save it would not help. She tells him that he's going to figure the business out soon.

In chapter twenty-two, Catherine is again with Harry, swimming in the ocean. Later that evening, in the Hale's garden, Harry sees a crop-duster fly overhead. He reminisces about some of his battles and thinks about Town Coombs, another soldier who was much younger than Harry while they were in Northern Africa together. They made a jump from a plane and came under fire, and the jumpmaster realizes their own ships are firing at them. Their plane is hit badly, Coombs is killed, and the jumpmaster pushes them all out of the plane just before it is destroyed. American guns down nearly two dozen of their own planes that night. Harry tells Catherine about Townsend Coombs, and she insists that he is in a happier place now.

In chapter twenty-three, Catherine and Harry are in Saks. It is very warm out, and Harry tells her that he wets his shirt and wrings it out to stay cool in this kind of weather. Catherine tells him that her father used to be tickled by Franklin Roosevelt, who would then throw him into a pool. Years later, at the White House, Billy rushes up to Roosevelt and tickles him. As Harry and Catherine walk, Harry grows nervous over the lost business of Copeland Leather, which is noticeable everywhere. He introduces her to a few of his associates, who are nervous about the fact that she is a non-Jew marrying a Jew. Later, she wonders aloud why Harry doesn't fight the people who look down on them. He gives a weak answer, but tells a story about a similar couple, and how the man warned Harry against marrying money. This man died in the British RAF, then tells her that his business is going under.

In chapter twenty-four, Harry is again with Catherine at Amagansett. He is in a hospital. Catherine visits him very frequently. At the moment, Harry lies in a bath. His left knee is



bruised heavily. He has been beaten after seeing Verderame again on the streets and trying to talk to him once more. At first, Verderame doesn't even recognize him. Harry asks Verderame why they are being charged so much compared to the other businesses, and Verderame has his bodyguards beat him. Catherine speaks to him about her play later. Her parents know Harry is Jewish now, but have no complained.

Chapters 20-24 Analysis

Catherine, surprisingly enough, appears to be growing somewhat dissatisfied with the situation, or rather Harry's handling of it. Her questions regarding his choice not to take a stand against people's anti-semitism hint to different expectations on her part. The fact that her parents have discovered he's Jewish is unsurprising, especially since it turns out that the Hales know enough of Harry's business associates for such information to travel quickly. This section gives us a real glimpse of the very first real conflict between Harry and Catherine, and it may even be said that, by standing on principle in the context of his business and feelings for Catherine, yet letting people's racist views slide by unchallenged, Harry shows an odd deficiency of character. For, at the same time he attempts to take Verderame on, he refuses to address the fact that he's Jewish to Catherine's parents. Yet, he attributes both decisions to his time in the war, and seems alternately exhausted by his time there and willing to fight on.



Chapters 25-29

Chapters 25-29 Summary

In chapter twenty-five, Harry considers what he must do next. Though he is still injured from the beating, he has returned home and is running and swimming once more. Catherine has sent a taxi to pick him up, and he expects to be taken to a train station, but she takes him to lunch instead. But first, they go to an air terminal. They board a small plane, which Harry finds unsettling because he's only ever boarded one during wartime. The sea is calm, and they are able to take off and land on the ocean. They pick up Catherine's parents along the way and fly to Maine, and go to the Hale's residence there. Billy announces that they are going sailing tomorrow. Catherine tells him that they could give everything up to live like this, but Harry needs something more to live for. During dinner, Billy asks Harry why he was in the hospital, and Harry tells him about his troubles with the mafia. Billy has no connections or dealings with them, but tells Harry about a Turkish neighborhood the mafia never interferes with. The mafia has tried to break into big money extortion, but has never been successful. On one attempt, the money brokers got the support of the army and government behind them. They also hired thousands of guards to protect Wall Street. Harry tells Billy that the mafia appears to want him out of business. Billy complains that Harry will not accept any help. He also asks, outright, if their children would be raised as Christians or Jews. Harry admits that they have not addressed that problem yet. After Billy convinces him that it is okay, Harry asks for Catherine's hand in marriage, which Billy gives to him. He also tells Harry that Evelyn's mother was born a Jew. He tells Harry that this sort of thing happens more than most people realize, but that Catherine does not know any of it yet.

In chapter twenty-six, Billy tells Catherine that he has given Harry his blessing, and also tells her that she is of Jewish heritage. This shocks Catherine, who dwells on it for quite some time, then tells Harry that this news completely changes everything, and she begins to cry.

In chapter twenty-seven, Sidney coaches the group of actors as it readies for the first night of the production. Harry makes his way to the theater, nervous for Catherine. At gatherings, Catherine often stands up for and protects an older cast member named George Yellin. Harry admires her for doing this. Harry goes inside, finds his seat, and Catherine begins her song, which brings thunderous applause from the audience. Billy is amazed at the depth of her performance afterwards, but he and Evelyn leave quickly, as they do not wish to be seen by Catherine. He goes to see her where the group has gathered afterwards—at Lock-Ober, and George greets him there. Catherine eventually appears through a crowd of admirers. Later, Sidney reads a disappointing review of their performance. The Boston Herald gives them a terrific review, however, even though it gives Catherine a horrible one. The Globe and American arrive, along with the Boston Daily Record. These papers all give horrible reviews to Catherine, who takes the news in stride and is congratulatory to the other performers, then announces that she wants to leave the party so as not to ruin it for anyone else.



The next morning, Catherine and Harry discuss the future of George. Catherine wants to quit, but Harry tries to talk her out of it. She responds that she got nine bad reviews, but Harry suggests Victor might be responsible for them, even if they don't know how yet.

In chapter twenty-eight, Harry travels through Central Park West, and meets a woman he'd loved fourteen years ago, working in a reweaving shop. He is surprised to see her there, so he goes inside. She neither recognizes him nor remembers his name. She tells him her husband is presumed killed in Saipan.

Harry calls Billy, but his secretary says he'll be in meetings all morning. He is, however, invited to lunch since both Billy and Evelyn will be present. There, they discuss Catherine's reviews. Billy has already written letters to each of the papers, but going any further would make matters worse for Catherine. Evelyn tells Harry about a fight between Victor and Catherine's cousin that ended with Victor fleeing and spending about a week in Manhattan all by himself when he was only nine. He got through the week by robbing the Chinese. Billy says that the entire world is made of problems that can't be solved.

When Harry returns to Copeland Leather, he is told that the polisher was beaten and hospitalized. Harry sends everyone home and goes to the hospital where he meets up with Cornell. He wakes up Velez to tell him he's giving his wife a thousand dollars and keeping him on the payroll for six months, and that he can return any time he wants with a raise. They take Velez's wife home, and one of her children opens the door. On their way, Cornell insists that Harry close the business, but Harry still can't do that.

In chapter twenty-nine, James Vanderlyn, who was a very important officer during both World Wars, is now an investment banker, dissatisfied with his life. He sails his boat during a storm, and his boat is badly damaged. He makes out the coastline from flashes of lighting, and begins swimming towards it once his boat sinks under water.

Chapters 25-29 Analysis

The situation threatening Harry's company deepens as the mafia begins to target his employees. The reason behind the attack is unknown, however, since Harry has been paying them. Harry feels directly responsible for the beating, which is in no small part the reason he resolves to take such good care of the victim and his wife. Still, Harry adamantly rejects Billy's offer of help. The two of them appear to have become very close to one another in the short time that they have known each other. Billy's insight on the workings of the Mafia is useful to Harry, and it serves as an interesting comparison to Billy's description of the press and the way newspapers behave when they publish incorrect facts. Both organizations are fundamentally dishonest and unjust, and Catherine's challenge is to overcome the false reviews that claim the play was bankrolled by her father. This is the reason Harry insists that she cannot quit. The newspapers represent unfairness and oppression for Catherine in much the same way that the mafia does for Harry. Catherine, however, is prepared to give up the fight.



Despite whatever strength Harry might see in her, she does not appear to possess that same streak of defiance in her, at least, not without Harry's encouragement. The introduction of James Vanderlyn is unexpected so late in the novel, but he may be an important ally to Harry in the near future, as what little the reader does know about him is that he is an aging war hero with something in common with Harry. His profession of investment banking may be of some assistance to Harry as well, but Harry does tend to reject such help.



Chapters 30-34

Chapters 30-34 Summary

In chapter thirty, Catherine has become very frustrated over the bad reviews. Harry and her parents try to convince her to go to the Hamptons to see the storm and relax, which they finally manage to do. On their way to the house, Billy is driving and nearly hits a man on the side of the road. Billy is upset, but stops the car, and Harry suggests giving him a ride, because his clothing indicates that he is from the 101st division of the army. It's James Vanderlyn, and Billy refuses to pick him up. When they arrive at the home, Catherine suggests she and Harry go get him anyway. She takes him across their property to bicycles. He takes two of them, riding one, and goes looking for Vanderlyn. He finds him and they talk briefly. Harry leads him back to the Hale residence. Harry and Catherine feed him and offer him shelter in the guest house, without Billy's knowledge. He tells Catherine he lost his boat and money, but conceals the truth about who he really is. Harry thinks that he is unemployed and offers him work, but explains his firm's situation.

They take him to the train station the next morning. Vanderlyn has made up his mind that he very much likes Harry and Catherine. He is very grateful for the assistance they have given him. At the station, he makes Harry give him his address. He discovers that Harry is in charge of Copeland Leather, and promises to contact Harry soon. He tells Harry that his name is Baucus. Harry jokingly asks him not to rob a jewelry store in order to pay him back. An obviously wealthy man recognizes James and asks him why he's at the station, and then they board the train before Harry can learn anything more.

In chapter thirty-one, Sidney has decided to have Catherine go onstage wearing gloves. Catherine must select them herself. She suggests later to Harry that he kill both Victor and Verderame. Harry refuses, but she still insists that he make some kind of stand.

Vanderlyn calls Harry in October and the two meet in Weehawken. Vanderlyn tells Harry a little more about who he is, and tells Harry that he has two options at this point. He can either move and give up the business, or he can attack and kill Verderame. Vanderlyn also hints to Harry that he is involved in restructuring foreign intelligence.

Catherine's play opens once more, and she has continued with it despite the reviews. The next morning, she is shocked to find no mention of her performance whatsoever. After this news, she demands that Harry marries her immediately, and Harry agrees. The two travel to Massachusetts to deal with the marriage license straightaway.

In chapter thirty-two, Harry is in a cave, reflecting on a battle that took place during the war.

In chapter thirty-three, Harry recalls a night in London where he attended a dinner party hosted by his former Oxford tutor. During this party, he meets a woman named Claire,



and argues with an intellectual he thinks of as "Chester," but who was actually named Nigel. Though Claire and Harry both are very interested in each other, they never see one another again after that night.

In chapter thirty-four, Harry's leave is cancelled and he must return to the fight immediately. Him and his paratroopers are given orders to sabotage and frighten a division of German soldiers still well past enemy lines. They are all dropped off in different places. Harry sleeps in a barn, and gets information from a farmer on the German soldiers the next morning. From this and a slight reconnaissance mission, Harry determines where they will most likely send their heavy weaponry though. He makes his way to this area and manages to destroy an important bridge with a train on it. During his escape, he is shot in the shoulder. He passes out in his hiding place and awakens the next morning with a high fever. Expecting to die, he injects himself with morphine and waits for the end.

Chapters 30-34 Analysis

Not surprisingly, Harry, Catherine, and her family encounter James Vanderlyn on the road. This course of events is somewhat confusing because Vanderlyn deliberately conceals his identity from Harry and Catherine, even after they rescue him, which happens because Harry cannot stomach the idea of leaving a soldier behind in absolutely any situation. The fact that Catherine helps Harry rescue him despite her father's wishes suggests that she is nonetheless very strong and still possesses that streak of defiance. It was also an interesting choice on Billy's account to refuse to pick up Vanderlyn in the first place, and seems to run counter to his nature. Catherine is still well-liked by her fellow cast members and the audience. However, her insistence that Harry kill both Verderame and Victor seems like a joke at first, as it is so extreme, but this turns out not to be the case. The fact that Harry must either fight or flee is confirmed by Vanderlyn, who stuns Harry by turning out not to be a fisherman after all, but instead someone of vast importance to both the economy and the government. He is actually in the process of creating what will become the CIA, and more than anyone else that Harry has encountered, understands the situation that Harry is in. In fact, he tries to convince Harry that moving away is a better solution, to which Harry again responds that such a thing would be unthinkable. Then again, Harry and Catherine's marriage was, by Harry's own account, unthinkable, according to him, but Catherine convinced him of the necessity. It is not entirely clear what changed his mind in that regard, unless, perhaps, he expects to die. In this case, he may simply wish to die married to Catherine. His retreat into the cave and subsequent recollection of having met Claire and having nearly died after the assault on the bridge in France signals that he is in fact preparing to go back to war, this time with Verderame, and he seems to expect that he could die in the process. His participation in the war is also fairly extensive, and to this point, though it is clearly an important part of his life, the level and depth of the memory serves to reconnect Harry with the drive to fight, kill, and possibly be killed.



Chapters 35-39

Chapters 35-39 Summary

In chapter thirty-five, Harry begins his recovery in the hospital. He was captured by Germans after having bombed the train. He suffered from three separate gunshot wounds, which he did not know about until much later. The hospital he is in is excellent, and he is able to be very happy there. He asks about his pathfinder team, and the doctor says they were looking for him before he regained consciousness.

In chapter thirty-six, Harry continues with his other pathfinders toward the liberation of France. The winter of 44-45 is especially cold, and his group winds up adopting a dog, which Harry names Debra.

Harry struggled with Irish thugs before the war, demonstrating he had a history of standing up to bullies. It has served him well through the war. One night, when Harry is relieved, he is sent behind the front line to take a warm shower and eat a hot meal. A captain reminds them of certain tactical procedures, and then Harry is sent back to the front. A tank unit arrives to advance the front lines the next morning. Germans begin firing artillery at them, but the snow serves as concealment. His group jumps onto a tank, and Harry cannot board it because he is weighted down. An anti-tank gun appears suddenly and destroys the tank his group has boarded. Several of his men are killed and wounded.

In chapter thirty-seven, Harry reaches the Cold Spring train station. He meets up with Catherine, and she insists that he allow her to help him kill Verderame.

In chapter thirty-eight, Harry meets with Vanderlyn once again. Vanderlyn gives him a fake police badge that would actually check out if anyone questioned him. Harry meets with Cornell afterwards, who shows him a batch of deliberately destroyed leatherwork. Harry has dinner with the Hales that night, and it comes out that they know Vanderlyn, and also that his son died during the war. Catherine tells her parents that she and Harry are married. Billy again offers to help Harry by buying the business, but Harry refuses.

Catherine and Harry spend some time locating Verderame's house and trying to determine the best way to attack him. Finally, Vanderlyn visits Harry for dinner, offering him one last chance to flee, but Harry refuses.

In chapter thirty-nine, Harry meets with Bayer, one of his former troops, and tells him that he is planning an attack on a mob boss.

Chapters 35-39 Analysis

Harry's extended flashback sheds a great deal of light and understanding on his situation during the war. His group of soldiers was clearly above average, and they also



had a rather exceptional responsibility throughout the war. Their actions during the war are the focus of Harry's flashback, and they go a very long way towards what Harry means when he talks about the effect that the war had on him. As an interesting side note, Harry includes a few past romances, like the one he shared with Claire, and it is difficult to determine if his feelings for Catherine have mainly to do with her or the fact that she's the first person Harry has thought of in that way since the war ended. Whatever the case, Harry was clearly an intense thinker, even before the war, as when he stood up to the Irish in Hell's Kitchen and began exercising vigorously as a young man.



Chapters 40-44

Chapters 40-44 Summary

In Chapter forty, Johnson, another of Harry's former soldiers, is traveling from Bayfield to Chicago in order to speak with Harry. His leg was crushed by the tank, but was able to fully heal. Harry asks Johnson to fight against Verderame, and Johnson agrees.

In Chapter forty-one, Harry goes to Gary, Indiana, to find Sussingham. Sussingham works at a steel mill, and since he can't get over having been in the war, he agrees to help Harry.

In Chapter forty-two, Catherine accompanies Harry out to California to speak with Rice. The plan is to convince him to help kill Verderame with the others, but Harry decides against it when he discovers that Rice is married. Rice's wife is also named Catherine.

In chapter forty-three, the group arrives in New York and waits for Harry's instructions. Cornell is convinced that Copeland Leather is going under, but he is also resolved to keep going for as long as he can. Harry meets the group after attending a musical performance with Catherine's family. Afterwards, he meets up with Johnson, Sussingham, and Bayer. They travel toward Newark, where Vanderlyn's associates give them explosives and other equipment. They decide to strike the first week of November. Harry writes a letter to Catherine.

In chapter forty-four, James Vanderlyn decides to visit his lawyers and wants to change his will so that Harry, or Harry's children, would be his beneficiaries after his death.

Chapters 40-44 Analysis

Harry has intentionally gathered his old soldier friends to help him deal with Verderame, but this isn't any sort of revenge or retaliation. Each of them seems to understand that Verderame represents something from the war that they all fought against and equally despise. The resources that Harry has for doing this are incredible, thanks to Vanderlyn, who, in helping create the CIA, also seems to be doing the FBI a favor, for when Verderame's associates attempt to purchase heavy weaponry for themselves, federal agents will be waiting for them. This is important because it is an attempt to distinguish what Harry is doing from a crime. To be sure, it is a crime of the most violent sort, but is occurring only because the law refuses to protect people like Harry—almost anyone, except for Wall Street, according to Billy—and the novel has tried to frame this course of action as the only thing that Harry can do in order to defend his father's business.



Chapter 45-Epilogue

Chapter 45-Epilogue Summary

In chapter forty-five, Catherine is invited to see a man named Mike Beck after a poor performance. Beck offers her a lead role in a major production. Catherine turns it down at first, because she is pregnant, but accepts when he assures her it will not be a problem.

In chapter forty-six, Harry and his men land off of a boat near Verderame's house. They make their way carefully to the planned site of the ambush, and make the necessary preparations. Afterwards, they wait. A car stops on the overlook, but Harry watches Verderame's own men chase it away. Once Verderame's cadillac is in place, Harry and his men begin the attack. Men come out of the house with thompson guns, firing at Harry. When they escape, Harry realizes that he has been shot.

In chapter forty-seven, Catherine awakens the next morning, leaves her parent's home, and goes into New York towards the Esplanade to meet Harry. When he does not show, she slowly begins to realize that he has been killed.

In the epilogue, Catherine enters Harry's apartment just before Thanksgiving. She finds a note from Harry, instructing her to marry again, which she does.

Chapter 45-Epilogue Analysis

Catherine's extraordinary success comes through as result of her bravery and insistence on continuing to sing. That it comes so suddenly and unexpectedly is very similar to the way in which the two found and rescued Vanderlyn, or indeed how they found themselves. Harry's death should not come as any surprise, as he had grown to expect it more and more throughout the progress of the novel. What is surprising, however, is that Harry did not make arrangements for any of those with him to contact Catherine and inform her, especially since he went through all the trouble of writing out a letter for her. The novel ends with many tragic uncertainties—Vanderlyn, Cornell, the conflict with Victor, are all unresolved. Yet, that is Harry's point all along about the war. He feels he has never left it completely, and the war was filled with countless such tragedies for which no resolution could ever suffice.



Characters

Harry

Harry Copeland is an eccentric ex-soldier. He is of Jewish descent, maintains excellent physical health, and displays a great deal of intelligence and character throughout the novel. He falls madly in love with Catherine Hale, who he appears to understand almost instantly, and who returns his love almost as quickly. He comes into conflict with the mafia, led by Verderame, who appears to be extorting his business with the objective of making it go under, and this concerns Harry a great deal. Despite the fact that he has every opportunity to leave the business behind and start afresh anywhere he chooses, he is concerned for what will happen to his father's business and its employees if he simply abandons them. This causes him to confront the mob boss a number of times and places his life at great risk. Harry takes every available opportunity to begin arguments with people he finds boring and inconsequential, and this leads him into a number of such conflicts, as he sets a high standard for personal conduct. He is well liked by Catherine's parents, despite his Jewish heritage, and develops a brief but very important friendship with James Vanderlyn, who helps him as much as he can against Verderame and the mob. Harry cites three things that have shaped him as a human being: his love for his parents, his love for Catherine, and his participation in World War II. During his time in the military, he was a pathfinder, which meant it was his job to find likely routes the enemy would take in their attacks.

Catherine

Catherine is the daughter of the super wealthy couple Billy and Evelyn Hale. She is extremely headstrong and tends to be defiant of many social conventions, but at the beginning of the novel is uncertain about breaking off her engagement to Victor, who belongs to another very wealthy family. She fell in love with singing at a young age, and grew up to be a great singer herself, but her breakup with Victor has caused serious problems for her, as the wealthy began bribing theater critics to give her poor reviews or ignore her performance altogether. She responds well to Harry's bravery, and is very eager to marry him, although he grows frustrated with him for not telling her parents that he is Jewish. She herself turns out to be of Jewish heritage, a fact that is not known to her until late in the novel and surprises her greatly, forcing her to insist that everything has changed for her. Nonetheless, she marries Harry happily and insists that she be a part of helping him defeat Verderame. Tragedy strikes her when Harry is killed in that assault, but her singing career nevertheless flourishes as she is offered a major part in a large production by virtue of her performances seen by the play's producer. Catherine is just as brave as Harry in her own way, and persisted in singing in much the same way that Harry persisted in fending off the mafia. She realizes at the end of the novel that Harry was the young man she saw swinging above the El, and that she has loved him her entire life.



Billy

Billy Hale is the father of Catherine. He is somewhat gruff at times, but extraordinarily understanding of Catherine's love for Harry. He respects Harry very much on his own, and offers many times to help him with his mafia troubles, but Harry always refuses.

Evelyn

Evelyn is Catherine's mother. Her own mother was adopted into the family, and is of Jewish descent. In some ways she is more understanding of Catherine and Harry's love for one another than Billy.

Cornell

Cornell is part owner of Copeland Leather. He was friends with Harry's father and very close to Harry throughout Harry's young life. He is black, which makes him unusual as a choice for part-owner of a company, but both Harry and his father knew he was the best choice for the job. Cornell warns Harry not to fight Verderame and makes several attempts to convince him to end the business. He is the character who suggests that Harry break up Catherine's engagement party to Victor.

Verderame

Verderame is a mafia boss who extorts Harry in order to try and close the business. He threatens Harry a number of times, and ignores Harry's attempts at finding some other way to proceed. He is eventually killed by Harry and Harry's former soldiers.

Victor

Victor is the wealthy fiance of Catherine Hale at the beginning of the novel. She quickly leaves him once she meets Harry, but Victor swears to Harry that he will get her back, and begins bribing critics to give Catherine bad reviews.

Elaine

Elaine is Harry's aunt, who worries about what he will do now that the war has totally ended.

Claire

Claire is a young woman that Harry falls in love with briefly during the war while he is on leave in London.



Rufus

Rufus Holmes is a crude man who makes racist remarks during a dinner with the Hales. Billy is friends with him out of loyalty.

Sidney

Sidney is the director of homecoming, the play that Catherine is part of. He is in love with Catherine, but quickly realizes he can't compete against Harry.

George

George is an older member of the cast of Homecoming. He is often protected by Catherine.

Martin

Martin is Harry's tutor at Oxford. He is disabled when Harry visits him in London.

Johnson

Johnson is one of Harry's soldiers. He becomes a teacher after the wars, and agrees to help Harry against Verderame.

Sussingham

Sussingham is one of Harry's soldiers. He works at a steel mill after the war, but cannot get over it. He agrees to help Harry against Verderame.

Bayer

Bayer is one of Harry's soldiers who agrees to help him against Verderame.

Rice

Rice is one of Harry's soldiers. He is married to another woman named Catherine, and because of this Harry decides not to ask him to help against Verderame.

Vanderlyn

Vanderlyn is an ex-soldier of both world wars. He is extremely wealthy, but also deeply depressed over the loss of his son in World War II. He is possibly the richest man in America, and likes Catherine and Harry very much, to the extent that he uses his influence in the American government to secure help for Harry against Verderame.



Objects/Places

Briefcases

Briefcases are one of the major articles made at Copeland Leather. They are noticed several times throughout the novel.

Thompson Guns

Thompson Guns are automatic assault weapons popular with the mafia.

Bazooka

A bazooka is a rocket launcher that can be carried by one person. Sussingham uses this to blow up Verderame's cadillac.

Planes

Harry rides a plane for the first time since the war with Catherine.

Ferries

Ferries take New Yorkers to different islands.

Manhattan

Manhattan is the major metropolitan area in New York.

Central Park

Central Park is a large park in New York.

Staten Island

Staten Island is an island off the coast of New York City. Harry's aunt Elaine lives there.



The Hamptons

The Hamptons are a wealthy neighborhood by the sea outside of Manhattan, where the Hales currently reside.

France

Much of Harry's military tour of duty occurred in France.



Themes

Love

Harry's time in the war has drastically altered his perception of the world. Love is the emotion that guides his life far more than any other. The novel articulates love as a compelling force for good and justice. Harry falls in love with Catherine the moment he sees her, and, in fact, Catherine falls in love with Harry much, much earlier, when she saw him swinging from the El as a young man. Harry is sympathetic to those characters throughout the novel who have love in their lives and have lost it, and he goes so far as to refuse to ask for Rice's help when he discovers that Rice is in love, married, and has a child. Harry himself seems to have fallen in love more or less constantly throughout his life, and tends to feel this emotion permanently, as he did with Eugena Ebla, whom he confesses to still loving, despite the fact that he loves Catherine more. Moreover, he seems utterly unselfconscious about admitting his love, at least for Catherine, and begins speaking in terms of love very early on after he meets her. Catherine does not rebuff these advances. Much like Harry, she seems unwilling to accept a life filled with little consequence, and though she at first envisions great difficulty in dissolving her engagement to Victor, this she does quickly, and it is because of her sudden love for Harry, a possibility which she never considered, but would never go without once her feelings become clear to her.

War

War drives the narrative in many ways. World War II was one of the most important wars ever fought in American history, and the country lost many young men to its cause. It is rarely cited as a war in which Americans endured great tragedies, but that is a symptom of the times in which it was fought rather than the reality of the situation. Harry, along with each of his men, all experienced great tragedies during the war's unfolding, and each of them has been left to deal with these tragedies in a different way. It has not made all of them better people, as Sussingham's inability to cope with the experience provides testament to. In many cases, just as they do now, these soldiers returned to difficult prospects, on top of which they had yet to fully incorporate their experiences into a way that could allow them to live in society. Harry explains many times that the war changed everything, and never really left him. He expected to die many times over throughout the battles in which he fought, and that reality for him has caused him to live life on a very intense wavelength. He finds many people difficult to cooperate with when he returns home, as his encounter with the Hale's neighbors and the other actors in Catherine's play prove. And, ultimately, Harry cannot live outside the scope of the war, as he sees his only solution in dealing with Verderame in terms of combat. His tragic end is a result of his wartime experience, which taught him that life is fleeting, but that it cannot be lived in less than the full.



Fate

Although it is rarely mentioned in all but the strictest terms, the novel explores fate in a number of subtle and not-so-subtle ways. The first of these ways is Catherine's initial meeting of Harry, when she was a child and spotted him swinging under the El in the spirit of adventure. Harry thinks little of this moment, and in fact it is likely his young life was filled with similar events, but Catherine's sight of him made an impression on her that would last until the two met as adults. Harry seems to think that they are so fated to be together that he takes it for granted. To him, he was clearly meant to meet Catherine on the ferry and spend the rest of his life with her. It is also quite arguable that he began to understand that his fate was to die in his fight against Verderame, as he always refused financial assistance from Billy, Cornell's insistence that he consider leaving the business behind, and even Vanderlyn's suggestion that running was better. It seems, to each of these characters, that Harry would have a wonderful life if he simply did not stand his ground on this issue, but Harry is completely obstinate in this respect. He is not, however, equally obstinate in fighting racism when it is directed against him, and tends to let other matters slide without discussion. Harry perceives that his fate is in the confrontation between himself and Verderame, and his fellow soldiers appear to agree with him. Harry's end is tragic, just as most confrontations with fate turn out to be.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of "In Sunlight and in Shadow" is third person. The narrative typically follows Harry as he makes his way throughout the city of New York. Harry is a deeply intelligent and driven man, but his reliability is often questionable. He tends to come to many conclusions about people, and about Catherine in particular, without much discussion. He also quickly dismisses people he regards as small or unimportant, and is very apt to begin arguments with just this type of person. Catherine is also commonly the point of view character. She may be said to be more reliable, and certainly has very powerful ideas about how the world works, which is part of what draws Harry to her so deeply. Other characters serve as points of view briefly, to introduce or expand on ideas and themes in the novel. James Vanderlyn is the largest example of this.

The story is told mostly through exposition. There is a great deal of dialogue and, in certain passages, also a great deal of action. The scenery is very important to the novel, and as such takes up a very large portion of the narrative through its description. The point of view works well within the novel, giving the reader the perfect balance between the characters and the setting.

Setting

The novel is set mainly in New York City, just after the close of the World War II. This war has "changed everything," according to all of the characters. The large city is fueled by a massive economy, and in this time period is still heavily plagued by organized crime and corruption in government. Its citizens range from the super wealthy population in the Hamptons, whose lifestyle is the envy of all others, to lowly wage earners like those who work in Harry's leathershop. These people are separated by very little space, and it is very common that associates from one social circle are familiar with those in another. Many of Harry's friends seem to know the Hales, and news of his marriage to Catherine spreads quickly.

Racism is still common in this time period, and Harry is constantly meeting people who disapprove of his marriage to a non-Jew. He also encounters bigoted people who are outright anti-semitic in their conversations with them, which is made somewhat humorous because these people are rarely aware that he is a Jew.

The novel also includes several detailed flashbacks to his time in the War. Harry is a pathfinder, which means he spends his time on the front lines trying to find out where the enemy will be coming from. War-torn Europe is described in thrilling detail.

The setting of the novel is extremely important to the novel, and is very well established and authentic. The author describes any locale with seeming ease in extraordinary



vibrance. This creates a very masterful story, and as such, the setting works wonderfully in the context of the rest of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel tends to be somewhat florid and complex. As the scenery tends to occupy much of any passage, actions or instances where something of importance takes place can be difficult to locate. A passage that begins, for example, with a description of a building, may take some time in explaining what the characters are doing at that particular location. Each of the different viewpoints is structured somewhat differently, however, and Catherine's point of view is highly recognizable from Harry's or Vanderlyn's. This makes it easy, after a time, for the reader to become familiar with each character in a very internal way, and it may even become common that the reader is aware of which character he or she is following without it being expressly stated in the text.

The dialogue tends to be very straightforward, as although it was written and set in the middle of the twentieth century, the speech patterns of this time are not vastly different from contemporary ones. Harry tends to use very complicated stories and words to explain his points, and again, this can be somewhat difficult to cope with, since he is generally not speaking unless he is making a point of some importance. In all, the language seems to reflect the time and society which the story is meant to encompass, and as a result, works very well within the context of the novel.

Structure

"In Sunlight and in Shadow" is divided into forty-seven chapters, with a prologue and an epilogue. Each of the chapters has a title that expresses the main idea or event that takes place within the chapter. The chapters themselves range from about six pages to over twenty, and most are filled with long descriptive passages about the setting, or a series of memories possessed by one of the characters. The internal nature of these passages can make them something of a challenge to follow, especially if something critical has just occurred in the passage before. Nevertheless, each of the chapters contains some important event that shapes the novel as it continues forward.

This is a fairly complicated novel plotwise, with the two major plots often conflicting with one another and serving as a source for dramatic tension. On the one hand, Harry has met the love of his life, Catherine, and could potentially spend the rest of a long life with her and be happy. On the other hand, Harry's perceived responsibilities to his deceased father and Copeland Leather make it imperative that he do everything he can in order to keep the business alive, and, for Harry, that means fighting Vanderame and risking his life, which he ultimately does. Other plots involve Catherine's struggle towards a successful singing career and societies failure to accept the marriage between a Jew and a Christian.



Quotes

"There is an echo to people's passing, a wake in the air that says more about them than can be said in speech, a fragile signal that doormen learn to read as if everyone who disappears into the turbulence of the city is on a journey to the land of the dead." chap. 1, p. 9

"He drew back a little as he surveyed her—a lovely task—as if trying to solve a riddle. 'You're flushed with sun. You were on the beach.' She seemed pleased by his desire to work through this. 'You weren't waiting for a boat, were you?' She brightened, impressed by his sharpness." chap. 3, p.33

"The higher she climbed, the more the activity below, seen through a black matrix of ropes, bars, wires, and flats, seemed like a miniature city itself." chap. 5, p. 52

"He wanted to kiss her right there as she stood in the middle of the sidewalk. He wanted to draw her to him, to feel her body through the silk, and he thought that she would have let him, and that she would have kissed him back with the same urgency and heat, but he dared not, and instead just let it wash over him." chap. 7, p. 73

"He was a pathfinder, whose job it was to go first and set the flares and smoke that others would follow. With the first major actions in Sicily and then in France, Holland, and Germany, he discovered that no matter how well he might show the way, he was following a course that had already been set." chap. 9, p. 99

"Go to Darien or Scarsdale, he said, and you'll see Colored people all over the place, working in the houses, taking care of the children. A Jew they think of as unclean, and they would be horrified to have one in the house, like a pig." chap. 11, p. 129

"For Harry, Penn Station was a gate to the underworld. When he and Catherine had been in the automat and their conversation had returned to architecture rather than drift into anything too revealing of what had been rapidly building between them, or, rather, what had somehow always been there, he had said of Grand Central and its great counterpart, 'God help the city if they tear them down. It's been proposed. I don't know why. It would be the first act of national suicide.'" chap. 13, p. 143

"They seemed like gangsters, because they were gangsters, but on a sunny morning in June they looked as much like everyone else as they ever do. With the exception of the nervous one, they apparently forgot what kind of world they lived in and who they were." chap. 15, p. 175

"At three o'clock, Catherine and Harry came in from the beach. For seven hours they had walked, they had swum in the bracing, boxing surf, and now they were burnished with sun and throbbing with health. Whatever reservations the Hales may have had because they still did not know Harry, his background, or his prospects—this was only the second time they had met him—these were held in abeyance as the young couple



stood before them, a gift of nature in its prime, their youth, strength, and love enlivening the house like the summer colors that drifted through the rooms in yellows and blues." chap. 17, p. 187

"The cast had recently discovered, though no one seemed to know how, that Catherine Sedley was in fact Catherine Hale. Not only was she a Hale, but the Hale, in that she was the only child of William Hale." chap. 19, p. 204

"When he had said that he would court her, he meant it. He recoiled at the thought of what Victor had done, and though now she was not thirteen but twenty-three, and had been through ten years of an apprenticeship that had fully acquainted her with any and every part of sexual mechanics, they held back." chap. 21, p. 223

"According to the New York idiom, Catherine and Harry were in Saks. In London, one might have been at Harrods, but in New York one was in Saks or Macy's, though, inexplicably, at Gimbels. No one was ever in Gimbels." chap. 23, p. 241

"At the end of a wooden pier sloping toward and then projecting into a back bay of Long Island Sound, a huge gray clipper, its wings projecting into the fine points far from the fuselage, faced outward toward a run of open water. Several men were working atop it, some now more than a hundred feet apart, inspecting the four enormous engines, the ailerons, and the flaps." chap. 25, p. 264

"Just being in the theater began to change their voices into the powerful and perfectly calibrated instruments that project strongly and, as in the mechanics of seabirds riding on the wind, are elevated as they push against resistance. For the singers, this was the echo of their own voices." chap. 27, p. 292

"Although his wife lived with him in the same house and slept with him in the same bed, she had begun to leave him before the war had permanently sealed their lack of a bargain. She was a charming hostess, still physically attractive, and always amusing, but love is indifferent to talent, and the something deeper from which love springs had in the case of the Vanderlyns become dust billowing in the air." chap. 29, p. 325

"For Catherine, part of being rich was that she would get no sympathy from anyone but those closest to her. It is for some reason incomprehensible to many that owning a fair persian carpet or a mahogany table is no compensation for the death of a child, a life without love, or a failure of ambition." chap. 31, p. 345

"Harry Copeland, formerly of the 504th Regimental Combat Team, but now Captain, Special Advance Element, 2nd Battalion Pathfinder Team, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82 Airborne Division, walked from one end of London to the other, with neither plan nor schedule except that in late evening he was expected at an address in South Kensington." chap. 33, p. 378

"They could see that he was trying to remain composed, and they were not surprised, as they had discovered that wounded men are often very emotional. 'They weren't your mother,' the major said. 'Your mother is okay.'" chap. 35, p. 431



"By the time Harry reached the station at Cold Spring the morning trains had gone. Pacing on the platform, he waited for at least an hour until a desultory local arrived, and on it he slept to recover his strength, until the train rushed into the Park Avenue tunnel near the place where as a boy he had swung from the girders of the El." chap. 37, p. 475

"With every step he took toward Madison Square he grew less and less certain not only of the chances of recruiting Bayer or anyone else to his plan but of the plan itself. 'My enemy is not the law,' he found himself saying under his breath as he walked—talking to himself was not a good sign—but the enemy of the law, against which the law is too weak to defend itself. If the law is complicit in crime, is it the law?" chap. 39, p. 523

"After he talked his way in, they put him in a place where, although Sussingham didn't know it, he could watch him work. It was as if Sussingham were still at war. The noise of the steel furnace was like the roar of tank engines or bombers. Sirens, claxons, and engines, and the wind blowing through as if the enormous shed were a mountain range, made a counterpoint that stood up the senses." chap. 41, p. 543

"Already changed and left standing like a rube, he then humiliated himself by asking where his hotel was. It might have been less humiliating had he not asked at the information book, which sat in the center of the marble sea, encased in brass, beneath a giant turnip that thought it was a clock. At the information booth, questions were suffered indignantly." chap. 43, p. 567

"After her last song, she left the theater, so upset that she neglected to take off her costume or remove her makeup. She explained to the puzzled guard at the stage door that she would have the dress fixed the next day, since she would have to be in it anyway while it was pinned. He didn't know what she was talking about, but he agreed that it was a sensible idea." chap. 45, p. 609

"In a generation or two, we vanish without a trace, and if against all odds we manage to engrave a line in the stone, to impress upon history an act or deed, we become it and nothing more, and so depart according to the original premise." chap. 47, p. 653



Topics for Discussion

Discuss Harry's relationship with Catherine. Does he "decide" to love Catherine and then find everything about her wonderful, or is there something more complicated about the situation?

List three things about the Hales that make them unusual from what people would expect of a very wealthy family in the 1940s.

When does Harry actually decide to go through with his attack on Verderame? What finally convinces him to attempt it?

What about Harry draws Vanderlyn to him? Is Harry really that impressive of a human-being? What in Vanderlyn's past would cause him to leave his fortune to Harry?

Why does Harry insist on taking on the mafia? Is he right that fighting Verderame is the only way?

Catherine seems to become more brave as the novel progresses. Briefly describe why this could be the case, and what role Harry plays in her apparent transformation.

Compare the characters of Victor and Verderame. Using their own words and actions, what makes these two characters villains in the novel?

Harry is supposedly a very perceptive person, and yet he fails to recognize that Vanderlyn is not a poor fisherman for a very long time. Why would Harry mistake the richest man in the world for someone so poor?

Who is braver, Catherine or Harry, and why?

Billy seems to respect Harry almost immediately after they meet. Explain two reasons this is the case.