

# **Island of the Sequined Love Nun Study Guide**

**Island of the Sequined Love Nun by Christopher Moore**

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# Plot Summary

The island of the Sequined Love Nun, by Christopher Moore is the hysterical tale of the redemption of Tucker Case, a self-involved pilot who lives life to the fullest until finally realizing that his life is quite empty. Through a series of mishaps and with the help of a cross-dressing navigator, a talking fruit bat and the ghost of a World War II bomber pilot, Tucker finally turns his life around and becomes a decent man.

The novel begins with Tucker happily assisting a prostitute in joining the mile high club on the private jet he pilots for Mary Jean Cosmetics owner, Mary Jean Dobbins. While his mind and body are otherwise occupied, Tuck does not realize the plane is low on fuel and crash lands at an airport in Seattle. Before the plane slams to the ground a voice asks Tuck if this is how he wants to die. Tuck survives, though the appendage that he has spent most of his adult life thinking with, his penis, is severely damaged in the crash. While recovering Tuck learns from his friend Jake that not only is he going to be fired, but likely prosecuted, and has lost his pilot's license. With nowhere to turn, Tuck accepts a job on the remote island of Alualu, flying a jet for a missionary, Sebastian Curtis.

After more mishaps and strange interventions that keep Tuck on task, Tuck arrives at Alualu with the help of his new friend, Kimi, the cross-dressing navigator and his pet fruit bat, Roberto. Their arrival on the island introduces the two men to Sarapul, an old cannibal and member of the native tribe on the island, the Shark People. The chief, Malink's announcement that he has dreamed that Vincent says a pilot will arrive, sends the natives scurrying to take Tuck to the compound of Sebastian and Beth Curtis. Once there, Tuck is cared for medically by Dr. Curtis and settles in. Shortly thereafter Tuck makes his first flight for the Curtis's to Japan, a quick trip with Beth Curtis carrying a small cooler. Tuck does not really question this, as the money is good and he feels it is none of his business. Things change for Tuck when he begins to get to know the people on the island while searching for Kimi, trying to discover if his friend is alright.

Tuck discovers that the Curtis's are using the Shark People to harvest their kidneys and sell them on the black market in Japan. The couple is able to accomplish this by using the native's beliefs against them. Years ago when Malink was a boy, a B-26 bomber piloted by Vincent Bennidetti had landed on the island and the young boy, chief because his father and brothers have been killed by the Japanese, believes the man to be a god. Vincent had taken the boy under his wing for his short stay on the island and had promised to return, but had been shot down and killed shortly thereafter. Beth Curtis, dressed as the Sky Priestess, the pin-up girl painted on the side of the bomber, delivers messages to the natives, supposedly from Vincent, and selects the pilot's 'chosen.' These natives, matches through Sebastian's data base, then have a kidney harvested and the couple sells it.

Tuck also discovers that the mysterious voice he sometimes hears, and the figure he sometimes sees, is the ghost of Vincent. The pilot, unable to return himself, has arranged for Tucker to save his friends on the island. This is more difficult than it needs



be, as Tuck is at times too selfish to recognize that others might be unable to help themselves. Eventually, however, Tuck manages to escape from the island, taking a young girl, Sepie with him. Sadly, Kimi is killed as they try and escape. Arriving in Hawaii after several days at sea, Tuck tries to convince the police and FBI to help, to no avail. Unsure where to turn, Tuck calls Mary Jean Dobbins, who is thrilled that Tuck has turned his life around and arranges to get the natives off the island.

With more intervention from Vincent and the discovery of the truth by the Shark People, Tuck is able to fly the natives off the island to safety. The Japanese business men that Sebastian and Beth Curtis had been dealing with turn on them and leave them stranded on Alualu, where they fall into the hands of Sarapul, the old cannibal. Tuck winds up in the Cayman Islands with Sepie, the young native woman, happy and in love.



# **Part One, The Phoenix, Chapters 1-5, The Cannibal Tree, I Thought This Was a Nonsmoking Flight, And You Lost Your Frequent Flyer Miles, Pinnacle of the Pink Pyramid, Our Lady of the Fishnes Stockings**

## **Part One, The Phoenix, Chapters 1-5, The Cannibal Tree, I Thought This Was a Nonsmoking Flight, And You Lost Your Frequent Flyer Miles, Pinnacle of the Pink Pyramid, Our Lady of the Fishnes Stockings Summary**

In chapter one, Tucker Case wakes up hanging from a tree with a native watching him. The native pinches Tuck's cheek, says 'yum' and walks away. Tuck twists on the rope he hangs from and sees Kimi the navigator hanging nearby. Tuck knows that this is a result of one night in a bar in the Seattle Airport Holiday Inn. There he met Meadow, a prostitute who wants to have sex in a plane. Though Tuck knows he shouldn't fly because he is drunk, he cannot resist the woman that leads him to the pink jet he captains.

In chapter two Tuck tries to land the jet but has trouble since he is not only drunk, but Meadow the hooker is straddling his lap. Tuck stares at the end of the runway and knows he is going to crash when a voice asks him if this is how he wants to die. Glancing over Tuck sees a man in a grey flight suit sitting in the co-pilot's seat. Tuck says no, and the stranger tells him that it will cost him, then disappears. The plane skids to a halt and Tuck picks up the unconscious Meadow and tries to leave; however, his pants are around his ankles and he stumbles back. As he does the handle of the flap actuator lever punctures his scrotum and is effectively sheathed in his penis where it bursts from the tip. In excruciating pain, Tuck tells the fireman who pries the door open, 'I've torn off my dick,' and passes out.

In chapter three Tuck is in the hospital where he asks about Meadow and is told she has a mild concussion. Tuck is also relieved to find out that his penis is still attached but some blood vessels have been damaged. Tuck wakes up to find his friend, Jake Skye sitting in his hospital room. Jake tells Tuck that he has really messed up this time, has lost his job, wrecked millions of dollars in equipment and will be lucky not to go to jail. As Jake is leaving Tuck tells him that he thinks there was someone else in the cockpit, but



his friend brushes it off, thinking that maybe Tuck is trying to pretend he is crazy to stay out of trouble. Jake leaves to call Mary Jean, their boss, and tell her that Tuck is awake.

In chapter four Mary Jean Dobbins, the head of a large cosmetics company arrives at the hospital to see her pilot, Tucker. Tuck's exploits changed that and now her picture is all over the newspapers with stories of prostitutes and penises. Mary Jean tells Tuck that he will get out of the hospital the next day and disappear, never speaking to reporters or anyone else. As she leaves, Tuck tries to tell Mary Jean that he had a spiritual experience on the plane but she does not believe him either.

In chapter five The High Priestess of the Shark People watches television in the nude, and sees the story of Tucker Case. Calling the Sorcerer on the phone, the woman informs him that she has found their pilot.

## **Part One, The Phoenix, Chapters 1-5, The Cannibal Tree, I Thought This Was a Nonsmoking Flight, And You Lost Your Frequent Flyer Miles, Pinnacle of the Pink Pyramid, Our Lady of the Fishnes Stockings Analysis**

The reader is introduced to several important characters in the book, most importantly, Tucker Case. Tucker is an attractive thirty year old pilot, who works for Mary Jean Dobbins, the owner of Mary Jean Cosmetics. Tuck flies Mary Jeans pink Gulfstream jet, taking Mary Jean around the country to various meetings for the company.

It becomes clear to the reader early in the novel that Tucker Case does not take life very seriously. Case likes to have a good time, evident when he leaves the airport bar with a hooker so that she can have sex in a plane. Tuck knows that flying is not a good idea, but cannot resist. It seems that though Tuck knows the difference between right and wrong, he will make the wrong choice every time if that option offers more pleasure.

Tuck's choice of pleasure over responsible behavior has consequences beyond what Tuck has normally dealt with in this case, a classic case of hitting rock bottom. In the act of trying to save Meadow the hooker from the smoldering plane crash, Tucker impales him scrotum and penis on a lever in the cockpit. As Tuck's desire for pleasure and sex is what has gotten him into the situation to begin with, it is ironic that he might now have lost use of his penis altogether. Tuck also loses his job, the one thing he likes and is good at. Tuck still thinks mainly of himself, barely recognizing the fact that Jake is also out of work, since he is the airplane mechanic for Mary Jean.

The strange incident in the cockpit of the crashing plane is important, and provides the reader a small idea of what may come. The fact that the person speaking disappears presents several possibilities. Tuck may have had a hallucination due to the stress or the fact that he has been drinking, or he might have actually had a spiritual experience.



It is clear that the people he knows do not believe he is the type to do anything spiritual. The comment the stranger makes to Tuck, that not dying in a crash will cost him is obviously cryptic, leaving the reader wondering what will happen as much as Tuck does.

The High Priestess of the Shark People is introduced briefly, as well as a character called the sorcerer. Not much information is provided, but the woman believes that she has found the pilot they have been looking for after seeing footage of Tuck on the news.

It is clear to the reader that Tuck seems to find trouble, as the novel opens with him suspended upside down from a tree with a native pinching his cheek and commenting that the pilot looks 'yum.' No more information is provided, but one can reason that if a woman who is a High Priestess shows interest in Tuck, and he has somehow wound up suspended from a tree with a native nearby that the two things are connected in some way.





# **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 6-10; Who's Flying This Life, Travel Tips, The Humiliation of the Pilot As a Passenger, Cult of the Autopilot: A History Lesson, Coconut Telegraph**

## **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 6-10; Who's Flying This Life, Travel Tips, The Humiliation of the Pilot As a Passenger, Cult of the Autopilot: A History Lesson, Coconut Telegraph Summary**

Mary Jane puts Tucker up in a hotel room with Dusty Lemon, a church going football player from SMU where he stays for two weeks. Jake arrives with pizza and beer, as well as Tuck's mail. Jake tells Tuck that a missionary in the pacific wants to hire him and has sent a check for all expenses. Jake inquires about how long it will be before Tucker can move and Tuck tells him the doctor says in about a week. Jake hits Dusty with his beer bottle, knocking him unconscious. Tuck is horrified but Jake tells him that it is time to make a decision.

In chapter seven Jake and Tuck drive to the airport so he can catch his plane. Jake fills Tuck in on the type of jet he will be flying and takes him to his gate. Tuck asks Jake if he ever thinks about God, but Jake brushes him off. Tuck boards his plane and Jake places a call to inform someone that Tuck is on the plane and asks where he can pick up his check.

In chapter eight, Tuck reflects on his life while considering why Sebastian Curtis wants to hire him. Raised in San Diego, Tuck had a girlfriend, Zoo, the daughter of his father's attorney. While away at school Tuck gets a call that his father is dead. Tuck rushes home and runs over Zoo's father in the driveway, killing him. Zoo takes a pill and drowns in her hot tub. Tuck flees, from his family horror and Zoo's brother who promises to kill him. Meeting up with two girls who suggest naked sky diving, Tuck gives it a try, only to discover that the girls have taken off with his clothes. Tuck meets Jake Skye who takes him under his wing, teaches him to fly and gets Tuck the job with Mary Jean Cosmetics.

In chapter nine, Tuck arrives on the island of Truk where he is given a ride to the Paradise Inn. At the bar he meets Jefferson Pardee, the editor of the Truk Star. Pardee give Tuck a brief history of Alualu, the island where he is headed, as well as the cargo cults on the island. Though the islands are remote, during WWII, the natives began to worship the planes and pilots that brought goods to the island. Pardee warns Tuck that



he should be careful, and not to go out at night while in Truk, then heads in to work on the newspaper.

In chapter ten Jefferson Pardee calls a friend at the governor's office, wondering if the man has heard any rumors about a new Learjet on Alualu. Pardee tells him that he has heard about this jet twice, from a pilot a few months ago and today from Tuck. The man checks and tell Pardee that no one has seen a jet but the crew of the Micro Trader, the boat that delivers supplies to the island has seen Japanese soldiers on the island. Unsure of what is going on, Pardee believes that he might have a new story for the newspaper.

## **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 6-10; Who's Flying This Life, Travel Tips, The Humiliation of the Pilot As a Passenger, Cult of the Autopilot: A History Lesson, Coconut Telegraph Analysis**

Tuck receives a strange job offer, delivered with his mail by Jake to the hotel room where he recuperates. Jake encourages Tuck to jump at the chance in front of him but Tuck is indecisive, unsure of what to do, or if he will ever be able to fly again. Jake takes matters into his own hands, knocking out the security guard and forcing Tuck to make a decision.

It becomes clear after Tuck reflects on his life that decisions are not something that comes easily to him, nor has he ever really had to make them. Even becoming a pilot, which Tuck loves, came to him by accident after a series of events in his life.

Tuck also begins to question religion, wondering if he is missing something. The young man guarding him reads his bible while they wait for Tuck to recover, and Tuck still does not understand what some people see in belief in a higher being. This is a precursor to the religious aspects of what takes place on the island of Alualu.

Tuck meets Jefferson Pardee, the editor of the Truk Star, the only newspaper on the island. Jefferson is happy to meet a fellow American, as well as to share his knowledge of the area with Tuck. Tuck learns about the phenomenon of cargo cults; tribes of natives that began to worship the pilots of World War II who delivered supplies to the area. Pardee also warns Tuck about dealing with missionaries in the area, as well as questions the truth about the Learjet that Tuck was hired to fly. Having been on the island for thirty years, the editor knows most of what goes on in the area and believes the arrival of a plane worth millions would have been noticed by many.

Pardee calls his contact in the government to see if the information Tuck has is true. The reader learns that Tuck is not the first pilot to have been hired by Curtis to fly his plane, leading the reader to believe that there might be more to the job than Tuck is aware of. Pardee also learns that Japanese soldiers have been seen on the island of

Alualu. Though Pardee plays down this information, he begins to wonder what is really going on with Curtis and the island missionary.



# **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 11-15: Paging the Goddess, Friendly Advice, Out of the Frying Pan, Espionage and Intrigue, The Navigator**

## **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 11-15: Paging the Goddess, Friendly Advice, Out of the Frying Pan, Espionage and Intrigue, The Navigator Summary**

Native drums beat as the High Priestess prepares for her performance. The Sorcerer enters, telling her that Missionary Air's plane is down for a month and there is no way to get the pilot off Truk. The Priestess is angry, but is reassured that alternate arrangements are already in place. Soon enough she will be living in a palace in France.

In chapter 12 Tuck gets a message from Dr. Curtis about the change in travel plans. Tuck heads out to find Jefferson Pardee but before he enters the bar a man stops him and tells him to wait. At the same moment two men spill out the door brandishing knives and slicing at each other. Inside the bar Tuck asks Pardee what might be going on with Dr. Curtis on Alualu. Pardee doesn't think there is anything to worry about, but warns Tuck that there are Japanese guards on the island and that another pilot that no one has seen since he pasted through a few months ago.

In chapter 13 Tuck wakes up and showers, considering his injured penis constantly, then heads down to the lobby and wakes Rindi for a ride to the airport.

In chapter 14 Tuck arrives in Yap to find that the Micro Trader has already left port. Tuck is no closer to Alualu but a man suggests hiring a dingy and pilot to take him to the island. Discouraged Tuck heads off and sees a beautiful blond strolling away from him.

In chapter 15 Tuck discovers that the beautiful blond is a male native in drag named Kimi. Kimi and his fruit bat, Roberto, obtain a boat and arrange to take Tuck to Alualu. Tuck asks if they should check the weather before they leave and Kimi tells him everything is fine. As they head out a large swell rolls through spraying Tuck with mist. The pilot looks up and sees clouds forming overhead.



## **Part One, The Pheonix, Chapters 11-15: Paging the Goddess, Friendly Advice, Out of the Frying Pan, Espionage and Intrigue, The Navigator Analysis**

The reader learns of two characters, The High Priestess, and the Sorcerer. As the two are discussing the pilot on Truk, it seems that the Sorcerer is Dr. Sebastian Curtis. Reference is made to the former pilot, as well as the fact that the pair will be living in a palace when things are over. This coupled with Jefferson Pardee's warning to Tuck to be careful leads the reader to believe that there is more going on than missionary work on the island of Alualu.

The mysterious stranger from the cockpit makes another appearance, warning Tuck not to enter the bar just as a knife fight spills onto the street in front of him. Though Tuck is not sure who the man is, he is beginning to wonder why the man has saved him twice.

The majority of the writing in these chapters concerns the comedy of errors that seem to be keeping Tuck from reaching Alualu. The Missionary Air flight that would have delivered him will be unavailable for at least a month. Flying to Yap to catch a ride on the supply boat, the Micro Trader, does not work out as he misses the launch. Meeting Commander Brion Frick of the Australian Navy is no help either, but gives the reader an idea of how disorganized things are on the islands.

Tuck meets Kimi, a cross-dressing native who claims to be descended from a great navigator. Tuck, still mortified because he was attracted to the woman he believed Kimi to be, agrees to the native's arrangements to get him to Alualu. Kimi, along with his fruit bat, Roberto, rent a boat for the trip, with Kimi telling Tuck that traveling by night will make navigation by the stars possible. Tuck asks about the weather and is reassured that there is not a problem. The swells that rock the boat and the spray of mist that wets Tuck foreshadow one more upcoming obstacle in the pilot's path.



# **Book One, The Pheonix, Chapters 16-20: And Now the Weather Report, Foul- Weather Friend, Land Ho, Water, Water, Leadership's a Bitch**

## **Book One, The Pheonix, Chapters 16-20: And Now the Weather Report, Foul-Weather Friend, Land Ho, Water, Water, Leadership's a Bitch Summary**

The High Priestess gets a panicked call on the intercom to come to the Sorcerer's office. The Sorcerer, Sebastian Curtis, tells Beth that their pilot missed his connection and has chartered a boat which will arrive tomorrow. Beth asks what the problem is and is told that Marie, a typhoon is headed right through the path of the pilot.

In chapter 17 Tuck is violently ill as he and Kimi plow through the violent seas. Once again Tuck hears the stranger's voice, calling Tuck a 'fuckin' Mook' and telling him to tie the tarp in his bag over the boat. Tuck does, then takes control of the boat from Kimi, steering into the waves. Though the moment is frightening, Tuck feels elated, in control of something for the first time since the plane crash.

In chapter 18 the boat that Tuck pilots is caught in the tunnel of a wave, and torpedoed onto the island of Alualu. The trees catch the boat, rolling it over, tossing Tuck and Kimi like rag dolls tethered to the bow. The boat comes to rest and Tuck pulls Kimi back aboard, pumping the water from the navigator's lungs.

In chapter 19, Tuck and Kimi argue about Kimi's abilities as a navigator until Kimi spots a shark and the men begin to bail. The shark rides a swell and winds up in the boat as Tuck is washed overboard. The pilot struggles back into the boat and another shark attacks Kimi. He fends it off, cherishing the small victory until Tuck points out that more are swarming the small boat.

In chapter 20 the Shark People of Alualu clean up the mess left behind the typhoon. Malink, the leader of the tribe, wakes after a strange dream, unsure of how to handle the message he has received while sleeping. The chief, with a shark tattooed on one arm and a B-26 bomber on the other, knows that he has to call the Sorcerer. Sebastian wakes Beth, worried about his call from Malink. Sebastian tells Beth that Malink has had a dream of Vincent. According to Malink, Vincent has told him that the pilot is alive and to wait for him. The Curtis's are a bit confused, as neither has informed the chief about the pilot they have hired. Sebastian tells Beth that she must meet the Shark People and reassure them. Their operation depends on the natives believing that they are the voice



of Vincent. Beth wonders if Malink is right about the pilot arriving and Sebastian tells his wife not to be stupid. Beth threatens him if he ever calls him stupid again.

## **Book One, The Phoenix, Chapters 16-20: And Now the Weather Report, Foul-Weather Friend, Land Ho, Water, Water, Leadership's a Bitch Analysis**

Tuck and Kimi battle the waves that toss the boat through the typhoon. Tuck is resigned to die, ready to give up when the stranger's voice angrily tells him that he is not going to die and advises him to cover the boat with the tarp in his pack. For the third time, the voice has saved Tuck. Piloting the boat through the storm, Tuck begins to feel alive again and in control for the first time since the plane crash. As Tuck has never really been in control before, riding his life like the waves that carry the boat, this is symbolic of what will come.

The two men argue about who's fault it is that they barely survived the storm, but when push comes to shove they act as a team when the sharks attack the boat. This is important as well, as the two men from different backgrounds and cultures immediately band together and act as one when needed.

The reader is introduced to the lives of the Shark People and their chief, Malink when the native wakes from a disturbing dream with a message from Vincent. Unsure of what to do with the information he has received, Malink calls the Sorcerer. This step, while seemingly innocent, upsets the Curtis's greatly. Sebastian Curtis is worried that the 'operation' depends on their being the only method of communication between Vincent and the Shark People. Beth, while confused, is more interested in whether what Malink has said could possibly be true and the pilot is still alive. Sebastian's comment that she not act stupid angers his wife, and Beth shows clearly that she angers quickly and can be unstable at times.



# **Bood One, The Pheonix, Chapters 21-22: How the Navigator Got from There to Here, Finding Spam**

## **Bood One, The Pheonix, Chapters 21-22: How the Navigator Got from There to Here, Finding Spam Summary**

Thirty minutes pass and the sharks move on to easier meals. Kimi tells Tuck about his life, having been sold to a pimp named Malcolme by his mother. Tuck refrains from commenting on Kimi's training as a navigator, feeling bad for the native, and checks his damaged penis. Tuck can see infection around the stitches but looks on the bright side; he will die of thirst before his penis falls off.

In chapter 22 Sarapul hunts octopus in the reef, unhappy when the creature gets away. Spying a boat drifting off the coast, Sarapul swims out and finds a man and woman. Happy as it has been so long since he has tasted the human flesh. Pinching the man Sarapul is even happier. He can feast on the dead woman and save the live man for later.

## **Bood One, The Pheonix, Chapters 21-22: How the Navigator Got from There to Here, Finding Spam Analysis**

After the battle with the sharks Tuck makes a giant step forward from his old life when he considers drinking all of the water but shares it with Kimi anyway. Tuck, formally concerned with himself only, shows concern for another. The fact that Kimi drinks some water but returns the rest to Tuck shows the reader what type of character Kimi has as well. Kimi is a fair and kind person, despite the fact that he had been sold to a pimp by his mother when he was twelve.

Tuck spends his time on the drifting boat ministering to his wounds. The time on the water and battling the sharks has not been kind to him and his penis is clearly becoming infected. Rather than grow angry about his fate, Tuck is resigned, almost happy, that he will be dead long before he can miss the pleasure his sex life used to be.

The native Sarapul hunts octopus alone, unlike the other Shark People who spend their time in large groups. This is important information which will prove important later in the novel. At the moment, it appears to be trouble for Tuck and Kimi who the native believes at first are dead. Sarapul also believes that Kimi is a woman, as the navigator is still





wearing his dress. Sarapul considers finding the two on the boat great news, as it has been too long since he has tasted the long pig, or human flesh. It appears that Tuck and Kimi have been rescued by a cannibal.



## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 23-27: Deus Ex Machina, Valhalla: From the Runyones, We Ask the Gods for Answers and They Give Us Questions, Swing Time, Girl Talk**

### **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 23-27: Deus Ex Machina, Valhalla: From the Runyones, We Ask the Gods for Answers and They Give Us Questions, Swing Time, Girl Talk Summary**

The Sky Priestess, a B-26 bomber piloted by Vincent Bennidetti lands roughly on the island of Alualu. On her side is painted a blond woman clothed only in a red scarf. The crew leaves the plane and are greeted by a group of children. Vincent tells the child in the center to get his chief. The child introduces himself as Malink, the chief of the Shark People.

Half a century later, Sarapul hears the drums announcing the arrival of the Sky Priestess. The native has hoped that the others would once again revert to cannibalism now that he has found the people in the boat. Sarapul does not live in the village, having been banished when one of the chief's children had disappeared and the native was found in the jungle building a child size oven.

Beth Curtis takes the stage dressed as the Sky Priestess on the side of the B-26 that had landed on the island so long ago. The Shark People fall to their knees with the mothers pushing their children forward hoping they will be Vincent's chosen. The Sky Priestess reminds Malink that she is the only person who brings the word of Vincent, despite his dream. Beth tells Malink there will be no sugar or coffee for a month and leaves the stage.

In chapter 24 Vincent relates his tale to the five men he plays cards with. When the Sky Priestess made an emergency landing on island of Alualu, Vincent met the chief, Malink. The boy tells Vincent that his father and brother have been killed by the Japanese, making him chief. Malink cries as he tells Vincent that he is worried about his people surviving since the Japs have taken most of their food and provisions. Vincent radios his quartermaster to send supplies when they come for them.

Three days later Vincent and his men prepare to leave the island and Malink wonders why the great man is leaving. The pilot fully intends to, but days later the Sky Priestess is shot down and the crew is killed. Vincent has been playing cards with the dead,



including Jesus, who annoys the pilot because he knows his hand before the game is finished.

In chapter 25 Tuck and Kimi try to find a way out of the tree where Sarapul has them hanging while the native goes to the drinking circle. Sarapul believes that he is being punished for turning away from his old ways after Father Rodriguez tried to convert the natives to Christianity. After the Japanese had killed the priest, as well as Sarapul's family, he had gone insane. In the circle Sarapul asks Malink about his dream. The chief is not willing to talk about it, aware that the Sky Priestess is angry with them. Sarapul tells Malink that his dream is true and the pilot is on the island, telling the chief to follow him for proof.

In chapter 26 Tuck and Kimi are almost free when a group of natives arrives. Angry that the chance for escape is past, Tuck threatens the group. Malink asks Tuck if he is a pilot and he tells them he is. The chief orders the men cut down. Tuck continues his threats until he passes out, and the threats make the chief happy. Beth speaks with Sebastian about her performance while he performs a tissue tying in his lab. Beth's head is swelled with the way the natives react to her, but Sebastian is still concerned that their credibility is slipping. Beth reaches into her husband's pants, stimulating him, in order to convince him not to worry.

In chapter 27 Malink negotiates with Sepie, the island mispel to care for Tuck and Kimi. It is the job of the mispel to service the bachelors of the island and she is not happy about taking care of the sick men. Kimi wakes and speaks to Sepie, telling her that Tuck needs a doctor or he will die. He then asks about Roberto and Sepie tells him that she believes Sarapul has eaten the bat. Abo, one of the natives takes the news of Tuck's condition to Malink. The chief tells Abo to take Tuck to the runway and leave him there. Malink hopes that the Sorcerer will think the pilot walked there and not punish him for having his dream come true.

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 23-27: Deus Ex Machina, Valhalla: From the Runyones, We Ask the Gods for Answers and They Give Us Questions, Swing Time, Girl Talk Analysis**

The reader learns that Vincent is Vincent Bennidetti, a pilot of a B-26 bomber that had landed on the island of Alualu during World War II. At the time, Malink was a boy, chief of the Shark People because his father and brother had been killed by the Japanese. The arrival of the plane on the island, piloted by a man who claims to be stronger than a chief is a relief to the young boy who has been afraid that his people would not survive. Vincent feels horrible for the youngster and promises to return with more supplies at his first opportunity. The vision of the Sky Priestess painted on the side of the plane entrances the natives and Vincent confirms her importance to them as well. Vincent is unable to fulfill his promise to Malink since the Sky Priestess is shot down a few days later, killing all on board.



It is clear that whatever the Curtis's are up to they are using the beliefs of the Shark People in Vincent to accomplish their goals. It is still unclear what the husband and wife are up to, but it involves something medical as Sebastian is performing some type of work with human tissue in his laboratory. It is also clear that though Beth believes she still has a hold over the natives, Sebastian is worried about the dream that Malink has about the pilot.

Sarapul's character provides more information about the islanders. The cannibal remembers Father Rodriguez, who had tried to convert the natives to Christianity during the war. Though the idea of eating the body of Christ had excited the man, the taste is not pleasing, causing him to stop believing in the priest's God. That, coupled with the Japanese beheading the priest is all the proof Sarapul needs. The cannibal's life effectively ends when the Japanese kill his family. When trying to seek revenge by killing a soldier, Sarapul witnesses the wrath of the soldiers who kill several women and children as punishment.

Sepie is introduced, a young girl of 19 who services the bachelor's of the island. Sepie is not happy about having to take care of Tuck and Kimi, making Malink promise to speak to some of the men about their hygiene before they are back in the bachelor's hut, as well as making them clean the pilot should he need bathing.

Sepie agrees with Kimi that Tuck needs a doctor, putting Malink in an awkward position. The Sky Priestess, Beth dressed as the image on the plane, has reminded them that she is the only one who brings word from Vincent. Despite this, Malink knows that he has to do what he can to save Tuck, as Vincent has told him that the pilot would be coming.



# **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 28-32: Chose Your Own Nightmare, Safe in the Hands of Medicine, Fashion Statements, Revenge: Sweet and Low in Calories, The Missionary Position**

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 28-32: Chose Your Own Nightmare, Safe in the Hands of Medicine, Fashion Statements, Revenge: Sweet and Low in Calories, The Missionary Position Summary**

Tuck wakes in a small hospital with Dr. Sebastian Curtis and his wife Beth. The two seem concerned with Tuck's mention of his friend and a tree, but brush it off. Tuck falls asleep, dreaming of a cannibal and a beautiful young girl caring for him. Jefferson Pardee goes to the dock and watches as men load jet fuel onto the Micro Spirit, the sister ship to the Micro Trader. Pardee arranges transport to Alualu to the surprise of the captain. Pardee has not left Truk in ten years.

In chapter 29 Tuck speaks to Sebastian again while being examined. Tuck is insistent that he has a friend and they were tied in a tree by a cannibal. Beth tells her husband that the natives are restless because no one has been chosen in two months. Curtis reminds his wife that Tuck is not ready to fly and she tells him to make him ready.

In chapter 30 Kimi searches the island for signs of the cannibal that he believes ate his friend Roberto while Tuck speaks with first Beth then Sebastian Curtis. Sebastian arrives with Tuck's medicine and promises that he will look into what happened to his friend, warning Tuck when he is more mobile to keep within the compound as the Shark People have their own rules and ways. Tuck is invited to dinner that evening, where Sebastian promises to tell him more about himself and his wife, Beth.

In chapter 31 Kimi arrives at Sarapul's hut. Sarapul assures the navigator that he has not eaten the bat. The two men agree to be friends, with Kimi teaching Sarapul to navigate by the stars, and the cannibal teaching Kimi to bring thunder. Kimi gets his things to move into Sarapul's hut.

In chapter 32 Tuck has dinner with the Curtis's. Beth cooks while Tuck asks the doctor once again about his navigator. As they speak, Roberto swoops onto the porch. Sebastian goes to check on dinner and Tuck gives Roberto a piece of mango then



shoos him away. Roberto tells Tuck to be careful of the Curtis's and not to push them. Stunned, Tuck heads to dinner, asking if the drugs he has been on might cause hallucinations.

After dinner the Curtis's wish Tuck well and he heads back to his bungalow. Sebastian says he will check with Malink to see if there is any truth to Tuck's insistence that he was not alone. In his bungalow Tuck feels wonderful at first, but his mood plummets when he realizes that he should have demanded more information from the husband and wife. Tuck does not think much of himself at the moment.

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 28-32: Chose Your Own Nightmare, Safe in the Hands of Medicine, Fashion Statements, Revenge: Sweet and Low in Calories, The Missionary Position Analysis**

Jefferson Pardee needs a headline for his newspaper, growing more disgusted with himself as well as the lack of news. Having been on the island for thirty years Pardee begins to feel washed up. Making arrangements to travel on the Micro Spirit, Pardee plans on finding out what is going on with Tucker Case and the island of Alualu. Despite his resolve, the editor wonders if he is making the right decision.

Tucker meets the doctor and his wife for the first time, waking in their small hospital. Though he is still groggy, Tuck is alert enough to notice that the equipment in the room is state of the art and everything seems very modern. The Curtis's are taken aback when Tuck asks for his friend but brush his questions aside, assuring him that he was found alone. Beth thinks that Tuck might be hallucinating because of his fever, but Sebastian is once again concerned that the natives have begun to slip from their control. This point is reiterated each time either of the Curtis's are with Tuck until Sebastian feels that he should check with Malink. Beth's comment that the natives are restless because no one has been 'chosen' in two months is a bit cryptic, leading the reader to wonder what the couple are really up to on the island.

Tuck feeling better, has dinner with the couple four days after he wakes up in their hospital. Intent on finding out the truth about their operation on the island, Tuck is nearly bowled over when Roberto the fruit bat arrives and warns him not to push Sebastian and Beth too far. Though he is concerned that he is seeing things, Tuck does not mention his visitation to the doctor or his wife. In his element, Tuck neglects to ask the Curtis's anything about what they do on the island, accepting their restrictions without argument. Later in his room, Tuck berates himself for failing to ask about Kimi and standing up for himself. The strides that Tuck has taken in standing on his own two feet seem to be slipping away.

Kimi begins to develop a relationship with Sarapul, a strange relationship at first, but one that will serve both well later in the novel. The girl-man, as the natives call Kimi, and the banished cannibal appear to be building a strange, but truthful, friendship.



## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 33-37: Chasing the Scoop, Water Hazard, Free Press, My Ass, Return to the Sky, Bombs and Bribes**

### **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 33-37: Chasing the Scoop, Water Hazard, Free Press, My Ass, Return to the Sky, Bombs and Bribes Summary**

Jefferson Pardee is dropped on the far side of Alualu so that he can swim to shore to his consternation. Meanwhile, Malink is awakened by the boys in the village who tell him that the ship has arrived and that the Sorcerer is coming. Malink meets Sebastian outside his hut and the doctor tells the chief that the Sky Priestess will give back the natives coffee and sugar if the man that had been with Tuck is found. Malink takes Sebastian to Sarapul who denies knowing where Kimi is. Sebastian tells the old man that if Tuck's friend is not found the guards will search for him. Sarapul is happy that the Japanese might enter the village and waves his machete in glee. Malink and the Sorcerer leave and Kimi comes out of hiding, worried about the guards. Sarapul is not willing to take revenge where he can for the loss of his family.

In chapter 34 Tuck is informed by a business-like Beth that they will fly to Japan in two hours. Meanwhile, Jefferson Pardee completes his swim to Alualu only to be met by Japanese guards on the beach. Afterward, the guards comb the village of the Shark People for the navigator, Kimi. The men leave frustrated, unable to find him.

In chapter 35 Jefferson Pardee is greeted by Beth Curtis. Beth wants to know why Pardee is on the island and he tells her that a pilot passed through Truk a few months back, mentioning a jet. The editor does not mention Tuck. Beth tells Pardee there is an outbreak of encephalitis on the island and gives him a shot to battle the disease. Pardee feels odd and Beth tells him there is not outbreak and he will die soon. Meanwhile Sebastian meets the first mate of the Micro Trader and tells the man that Pardee will be staying on the island for a while.

In chapter 36 Tuck acquaints himself with the jet as Beth Curtis boards. The two fly to Japan with Beth refusing to answer any of Tuck's questions. Once there two men meet Beth, take a cooler and place a carton in the plane. Mission completed, Beth tells Tuck to return to Alualu. On the island the men of the tribe are in the drinking circle, wondering why the Japanese have searched their houses. Sarapul arrives and asks for an ax to cut down a tree. Malink gives him permission to cut down the tree and the cannibal fetches an ax.



Chapter 37 finds Tuck bored and discouraged. No one will answer his questions about Kimi or what is going on on the island. Deciding on a swim Tuck is accompanied to the beach by the guards who he finally gets to leave him alone. Disgusted when he bangs his knee Tuck throws his swim fins onto the beach which promptly explodes. Racing to the clinic Tuck confronts Dr. Curtis who calms him and gives him a check for ten thousand dollars. Sebastian tells Tuck that they are conducting secret research on the island and if he wants to continue being paid he will stay in the dark. To further calm the pilot, Sebastian gives Tuck Beth's television, a fact that greatly annoys the woman.

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 33-37: Chasing the Scoop, Water Hazard, Free Press, My Ass, Return to the Sky, Bombs and Bribes Analysis**

Tuck's life changes again when he is informed he will fly to Japan in two hours by Beth Curtis, displaying yet another side of her many personalities. Though Tuck is unaware of how volatile the woman can be, the reader has been exposed to the varied moods that strike Beth. This leads one to wonder exactly how Beth Curtis will affect the events that take place on Alualu.

Despite his questions, Tuck is thrilled with the fact that he is once again flying a plane, and the textbook landing reassures the pilot that he is more than capable of doing the job he loves. Once on the ground Tuck once again begins to question what is going on around him, considering the small plastic cooler that Curtis delivers to the men on the ground. Beth once again refuses to answer his questions, and the fact that he is not even allowed to leave the plane is telling.

There is obviously more going on than the research Sebastian claims judging by the way events unfold once Jefferson Pardee arrives on island. The armed guards take him to the clinic where the editor is met by Beth Curtis, dressed in medical gear. Pardee tries to play his cards close to the vest, telling Beth that he is simply investigating the news that there is a Learjet on the island, something that most missionaries don't have the money for. Beth plays along, telling Pardee that the island is under quarantine for an outbreak of encephalitis. Worried for his own health, Pardee gives Beth some information, saying he talked to a pilot a few months ago, leaving out the fact that he has met Tuck as well. This seems minor, but will play a large part in Tuck's actions later in the novel. Beth injects Pardee with a supposed vaccine against the encephalitis, but as the man grows weak Curtis mocks him, telling him he will be dying soon.

Tuck continues to wage an internal battle, bored and worried about his friend, Kimi. Guilt eats at the pilot for accepting the money from Sebastian rather than pushing for information about what is going on and where Kimi might be. The discovery of the minefield is a bit of a shock, though it is explained easily enough by Sebastian. Tuck still wonders about it, though he is still easily placated by money and the use of a television to alleviate his boredom.





Sarapul's request for an ax to cut down a tree seems innocent enough, however it will factor into the novel later in a very important way. The cannibal, though exiled to the other side of the island by the others, will contribute more to the outcome of events than others, simply because in what the Shark People perceive to be his madness, Sarapul questions things rather than following others like sheep.



# **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 38-41: Native Customs, Showtime, Unfriendly Skys, What's a Kidney?**

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 38-41: Native Customs, Showtime, Unfriendly Skys, What's a Kidney? Summary**

Tuck discovers a means of escape from his bungalow, through the bottom of the shower stall. Walking through the jungle Tuck sees Sepie bathing in the ocean and is happy to discover that he has the beginnings of an erection. Sepie walks ahead of him, and announces his arrival to the men gathered in the drinking circle. Tuck greets the chief and Malink tells him that Vincent told him in a dream that he would come. Tuck is confused by tales of the Sky Priestess, then realizes that the men are talking about Beth Curtis. One of the men calls Tuck a 'fuckin' mook' and the events of the past few weeks and the stranger that had called him the same thing are back in the front of his mind. Malink describes Vincent to Tuck and the pilot realizes that the man who has saved his life many times is the dead pilot of a World War II bomber.

In chapter 39 Sebastian Curtis wakes his wife and tells her they will have to fly in six hours. Beth asks who the chosen is and Sebastian gives her a name. Sepie. In the jungle the natives hear the music begin and tell Tuck that he needs to go back, the Sky Priestess is coming. Confused and drunk, Tuck does as he is told. On the way back he spots something on the beach and finds a notebook with the name Jefferson Pardee written on it. A few hours later Beth arrives at Tuck's bungalow, knocks and enters where she finds. With little fanfare Beth tells Tuck they are to fly in half an hour.

In chapter 40 Tuck flies Beth to Japan though this time she sleeps on the way. While Beth deals with the men on the runway Tuck checks her briefcase and finds a few copies of People magazine and a gun. Unsure what to do with any of it, Tuck takes out Jefferson's notebook and reads it, confused by Pardee's reference to another pilot. Beth returns and they take off for Alualu. Curtis invites Tuck to dinner but he tells her he is tired so she suggests the following night.

In chapter 41 Tuck prepares to return to the village but is interrupted by a flirtatious Beth Curtis. Beth pays Tuck and kisses him on the forehead, then asks if they can discuss the way the jet works. Tuck brushes her off and sees anger flash and disappears so quickly he is unsure if it was ever there. Curtis leaves and Tuck heads to the village to find the natives in the drinking circle subdued. Malink tells Tuck that Sepie has been chosen so no men will sleep with her in the bachelor's house until she returns.



Confused, Tuck asks about being chosen. Malink tells Tuck when the music plays the Sky Priestess chooses someone who then goes with her to the clinic. Abo tells Tuck that he has been chosen and shows him a scar on his back. Kimi relates to Tuck that Sepie has told him the chosen sleep then wake with tubes in them and in pain. Once they recover they return to the village. Tuck is stunned and tells the men that the doctor and his wife are selling their kidneys in Japan. As the men do not know what kidney's are, they are not really concerned.

## **Part Two, Island of the Shark People, Chapters 38-41: Native Customs, Showtime, Unfriendly Skys, What's a Kidney? Analysis**

Life becomes more interesting on the island when Tuck discovers that by lifting the bottom tray from the shower he can escape his bungalow undetected. Finding his way to the village of the Shark People, Tuck runs across the bathing Sepie and is happy to realize that his penis is recovering. The joy he feels at being complete once again gives him the strength to continue and he finds Malink and his men. Sharing their tuba, Tuck is happy to have companionship and alcohol, as well as to hear that Kimi is not dead. Before they can go find Kimi, Tuck is stunned to learn that the men on the island knew he was coming because Vincent had told Malink in a dream. Tucker Case realizes that the stranger that has saved him several times on his journey to Alualu is a ghost, one the Shark People have been worshiping since Malink was a boy. This coupled with Roberto the talking bat, gives Tuck the first clue that whatever he is involved in is somehow more than natural. The music that announces the arrival of the Sky Priestess prevents Tuck from finding Kimi that evening, but he arranges to return the following night. On his way back to the camp, Tuck stumbles across the notebook of Jefferson Pardee, which will add an important factor to the events that follow.

Beth Curtis finds a sleeping Tuck and tells him they will fly. Once in the air, Tuck once again loses his ability to ask a question and get answers as he is the focus of a beautiful woman. Tuck is beginning to grow more and more frustrated with himself, angry at his lack of resolve. This leads him to search Beth's bag while she is off the plane and he discovers her gun. Unsure of what good the weapon could do him Tuck reads Pardee's notebook and discovers the existence of another pilot. Tuck realizes that Pardee has been on the island, and has been investigating Sebastian and Beth Curtis, something that he knows he should be doing as well.

Returning to the drinking circle, Tuck finally discovers what the Curtis's are up to on Alualu. Happy to be reunited with Kimi, it is the navigator that explains the sequence of events that take place one a person is 'chosen' by the Sky Priestess. That, coupled with the scar on one of the men's back finally wakes Tuck up to the truth. The Curtis's are selling the kidneys of the natives to someone in Japan. The horror of what he is involved in turns Tuck's stomach, though the natives do not understand why he is so outraged.



## **part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 42-46: Bedfellows, Boiling the Puppets, Revealed: The Perfect Couple, Confessions Over Tee, Beans and Succubus**

### **part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 42-46: Bedfellows, Boiling the Puppets, Revealed: The Perfect Couple, Confessions Over Tee, Beans and Succubus Summary**

Tuck returns to his bungalow. Shoving the coconut from his bed, Tuck is startled when it shoves back. Vincent Bennidetti, the pilot of the Sky Priestess introduces himself to Tuck and tells him that rather than running to Sebastian and demanding answers he should swim tomorrow. A bit drunk, Tuck isn't frightened but when he asks why, Vincent tells him that he owes him. The following morning Tuck swims out to where he is directed and finds two things. Dog tags from James Sommers, and a piece of cloth with flying pigs wrapped around a piece of pelvic bone. Tuck is not sure what these things mean but he is more cautious when he swims back to shore.

In chapter 43 Tuck has dinner with the Curtis's. Despite Vincent's warning, Tuck asks Beth why she and her husband can drink and perform surgery and he can't have a drink with dinner. Sebastian tells Tuck of his arrival on the island 28 years ago with hopes of converting the natives only to find they worshiped the pilot of a WW II bomber. Nothing changed their minds. Beth interrupts, pantomiming the truth with lobsters she is preparing for dinner. Beth tells Tuck that Sebastian had traveled to San Francisco to learn about organ transplant and they had met and married. A surgical nurse, Beth was a wonderful addition and it was she who figured out a way to get the native to cooperate with the organ donations. Sebastian seems sincere when he tells Tuck that the money they make is for the natives care only. The pilot is told when the mission is over they will give him the plane as well as his pay as compensation. Tuck tells the Curtis's that they have got themselves a pilot.

In chapter 44 Roberto flies to the house of Tuck, who is disgusted for accepting the offer of Sebastian. Roberto flips open Pardee's notebook to a page with the name James Sommers, followed by the date of September ninth. Tuck knows that the Micro Trader had visited on that day, and he had flown the following day. Wondering if Pardee is in the clinic missing a kidney, Tuck sneaks to the clinic.



Tuck does not find Pardee, but Kimi and Sepie, sharing the girl's morphine drip. Pardee is not there but Kimi tells Tuck that Sarapul saw the guards take Pardee who had been wearing flying pigs. Horrified, Tuck realizes the pelvic bone he saw in the reef belonged to Jefferson Pardee. Tuck tells Kimi that the doctor and his wife are bad people who will kill him if they find him. Urging Kimi away, Tuck tells his friend that he will check on Sepie and meet him at the drinking circle the following night.

In chapter 45, Tuck is awakened by Sebastian for a game of golf. Tuck learns that Sebastian met Beth while she was an exotic dancer in San Francisco. Tuck stops the guard and confronts him while Sebastian plays ahead. The man tells Tuck in broken English that James Sommers had been killed when he tried to take the plane, and that they had taken Pardee to the clinic. Pardee had died in the clinic and the guards had taken his body to the reef where the sharks could find it. They had done the same with the pilot.

In chapter 46 Beth arrives at Tuck's bungalow, dressed as the Sky Priestess. Stunned, Tuck can do no more than follow her commands. Pushing him on the bed, Beth straddles Tuck and has sex with him, barely glancing at him. When finished she dismounts and tells Tuck they will fly in three hours, and to watch her performance from behind the fence.

### **part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 42-46: Bedfellows, Boiling the Puppets, Revealed: The Perfect Couple, Confessions Over Tee, Beans and Succubus Analysis**

Tuck comes face to face with the ghost of Vincent Bennidetti and is told not to react to hastily to the information he received from the natives. Vincent tells Tuck to swim in the morning and where he should do so. Though Tuck is drunk he asks why and is reminded that he owes the dead pilot, who has saved his life frequently since his adventure began with the crash of Mary Jean's plane.

Between swimming and the visit from Roberto, Tuck uncovers some more information, though he is unaware of what all of it means at the moment. While swimming Tuck finds the dog tags and the cloth, both of which present another puzzle. It is not until Roberto flips to the page in Pardee's notebook that Tuck realizes the tags belong to the former pilot, Sommers. The date in the notebook pushes Tuck to head to the clinic, believing that Jefferson Pardee might have become an organ donor unwillingly.

Discovering Kimi in the clinic with Sepie is a bit of a turn for Tuck who had expected to find Pardee. Asking about the man brings Tuck the truth. The editor from Truk is dead, his pelvic bone all that remains on the reef. Knowing that Sebastian and Beth Curtis would have no problem killing someone in their way, Tuck convinces Kimi to leave Sepie though the navigator is so wired on morphine Tuck is forced to help him escape the guards. Even the escape provides Tuck with some information, as the guards do not



report his presence on the beach to the Curtis's. Tuck realizes this and questions the guard that accompanies him while he and Sebastian golf. The guard admits that they killed the first pilot when he tried to steal the plane, and Pardee had died in the hospital. Both bodies had been disposed of in the ocean for the sharks to dispose of.

Eating dinner with the Curtis's provides Tuck with the opportunity to question them, though Vincent has advised against it. Sebastian is a bit reluctant, telling Tuck that he has done everything only to help the natives on the island. Beth performs a bizarre display with the lobsters they will have for dinner, and relates the tale of the organ transplants that they perform. Sebastian still insists that everything they do is for the good of those that live on Alualu and offers Tuck the plane as payment for his service. Tuck accepts, later berating himself for giving in so easily. The inner turmoil of the pilot over doing the right thing or going along with things since the natives don't seem to mind grows stronger for Tuck.

Beth Curtis proves herself to be even more unstable each time she interacts with others. The bizarre episode with the lobsters made Tuck uncomfortable, however her appearance dressed as the Sky Priestess and her subsequent taking of Tuck leave him more worried than ever. Though as a man Tuck is more than happy to have sex with Beth, he knows that she is nothing but trouble.



## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 47-51: Grand Theft Aircraft, Too Many Guns, The Bedside Manner of Cannibals, Don Quixote at the Miniture Golf Course, Where Losers Flourish**

### **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 47-51: Grand Theft Aircraft, Too Many Guns, The Bedside Manner of Cannibals, Don Quixote at the Miniture Golf Course, Where Losers Flourish Summary**

The Shark People are called by the music of the Sky Priestess without the Sorcerer's usual warning. Sebastian normally tells Malink when Beth is to make an appearance, but he had been watching his wife have sex with the pilot. In the plane, Beth discusses how she came up with the idea of being the Sky Priestess and shows Tuck a picture of the plane and Vincent she found in the library in San Francisco.

In chapter 48 the natives are sitting in the drinking circle when they hear gunfire. Sarapul runs up, telling the men that the navigator has been shot. Meanwhile Beth returns to the plane. Tuck asks about why she dresses as the Sky Priestess and she explains that by controlling the religion of the cargo cult she is controlling the people. Beth tells Tuck they will have fun together, that is why she chose him. Tuck remarks that she might not be the one who chose him, making Beth confused and irritated.

In chapter 49 Tuck waits for nightfall and heads to the village, only to be told that Kimi has been shot. Sarapul begs Tuck not to take Kimi to the Sorcerer because they will kill him. Tuck agrees and takes care of the ailing Kimi who tells him that one of the Japanese guards shot him. Tuck gives Kimi a drink from Sarapul that makes him numb and he cleans his friend's wound and stitches him up.

In chapter 50 Tuck wakes up to find Beth in his bungalow with champagne and candles. Tuck tells her to leave but she strips and he relents. After they have sex Tuck is startled when Sebastian knocks on the door announcing a golf game. Tuck shoves Beth in the bathroom and opens the door to find the doctor and the guard who had shot Kimi. Tuck gets dressed and opens the bathroom door to tell Beth to wait for them to leave, but she is gone. Tuck joins Sebastian and the guard and the two men play golf. Tuck asks for a driver and when the guard is not looking, slams him in the face, breaking his cheekbone. Sebastian orders the other guard to take Tuck to his house and get Beth.



In chapter 51 Sebastian tells Beth he wants to find another pilot. Beth argues, telling Sebastian that Tuck is a loser, and islands breed them. Sebastian is upset, wondering what that makes the two of them. Beth switches tactics, calming her husband by reminding him that they control the island, they are winners. Sebastian still argues, pointing out that dinosaurs ruled for billions of years but are now extinct. Beth, angry tells Sebastian that if he wants to have sex he'd better choose his side.

## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 47-51: Grand Theft Aircraft, Too Many Guns, The Bedside Manner of Cannibals, Don Quixote at the Miniture Golf Course, Where Losers Flourish Analysis**

The Sky Priestess performs her ritual and she and Tuck leave for Japan shortly thereafter. Neither is aware that Sebastian has witnessed them having sex before her performance. Tuck tries to find a way to stop the Curtis's by flying into restricted air space, but Beth catches on and directs him back on course. Tuck learns that it was Beth Curtis that came up with the idea of dressing as the woman on the side of Vincent's plane to entice the natives into being 'chosen.' Tuck wonders why the performance is necessary since there are men with guns on the island, but Beth insists that the Shark People give up their organs willingly, believing that Vincent, their god, wishes them to do so.

Tuck is once again unsure if Sebastian and Beth are really hurting anyone and spends the day in his bungalow thinking things through. All his doubts are washed away when he discovers that Kimi has been shot by the guards while trying to visit Sepie. Caring for his friend in the hut of Sarapul, Tuck knows that Malink had made the correct decision in not taking Kimi to the Sorcerer, Sebastian Curtis.

Beth's changes in mood are quick, and her appearance at Tuck's bedside the night after he took care of Kimi's wounds shows this. Though the first time they had sex it was almost rape, this time Beth wants to be romanced by the pilot. Tuck is not willing to play her games, telling Beth that she is insane. Rather than get angry, Beth simply laughs it off and strips, ending Tuck's resistance. The arrival of Sebastian at the door makes Tuck hide Beth in his bathroom while speaking to the doctor. Beth's disappearance leads one to wonder if she has known of Tuck's wanderings at night all along.

Tuck gets some revenge, severely injuring the guard that shot Kimi. The doctor is shocked by Tuck's behavior and tells his wife he wants to find another pilot. The two discuss Beth's ability to control the pilot, and though it is never stated it seems that Sebastian is aware that sex might be involved in this control. Beth argues with her husband and while they do it becomes clear that while Sebastian is concerned about losing the belief the natives have in them, Beth is concerned that she is losing control of her husband.





## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 52-56: Don't Know Much About History, How the Shark People Got Their Name, Selling Tucker, Pay No Attention to That Man Behind the Computer, Escape**

### **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 52-56: Don't Know Much About History, How the Shark People Got Their Name, Selling Tucker, Pay No Attention to That Man Behind the Computer, Escape Summary**

Tuck sneaks past the guards and checks on Kimi, who is working with Sarapul on the canoe that they have repaired. Malink wonders why the Sorcerer did not know that Vincent was sending Tuck. Tuck knows that he needs to reassure the men if he is to help them, so he tells them that Vincent is mysterious and does not tell everyone everything.

In chapter 53 Beth arrives at Tuck's door and takes him to the village of the Shark People. On the beach the tribe is hunting. Sharks patrol the baited waters and the men swim out, mount a shark and herd it back to shore where it is slaughtered. Tuck, at first afraid for his friends, is amazed. A small girl touches him and as she turns away Tuck sees the scar on her body from surgery. As they leave Tuck sees a woman holding her child in her arms. Approaching Tuck sees something that makes him very angry as the woman tells Tuck her son was 'chosen.'

In chapter 54 Beth returns to her bungalow angrily, knowing that she is losing control over Tuck. Beth tells her husband about Tuck's reaction to the boy in the village; they had harvested his corneas. Sebastian tells Beth that there is nothing to worry about. He has hired another pilot and she will pick him up that night with Tuck. He has arranged a heart/lung transplant, and Tuck is the donor.

Tuck is in his bungalow and Beth arrives, acting contrite and apologetic. Tuck questions Beth's motives, wondering how she got to this place in life. Beth cries, telling Tuck all she wants is a friend. When that doesn't work she seduces him, though he resists. Tuck realizes, and tells Beth, that she is just like him. Despite this Beth takes him in her mouth and brings Tuck to climax. Vincent makes an appearance and tells Tuck that despite Beth's convincing performance he might want to check the doctor's computer.

In chapter 55 Tuck sneaks into the clinic and access the computer. He discovers the database of the natives and continues to search. Tuck discovers that the Curtis's plan



on harvesting his lungs and heart that day. A close call with the guards aside, Tuck gets back to his bungalow and grabs his swimming gear, hits the beach and swims for the Shark People's village.

In chapter 56 Tuck arrives at the village and asks Sarapul to use his boat so that he can escape the island. The man agrees as long as he can go. Sepie wants to go as well and Tuck agrees. Sepie goes to Malink and tells the chief that Tuck needs supplies. Malink is distraught about Tuck leaving though the pilot promises to return if he can. Tuck manages to convince Malink that the Curtis's are evil and the chief tells his people to help Tuck. The boat is in the water with Tuck, Sarapul, Sepie and Kimi when the guard that Tuck had his appears on the beach, shooting randomly. Tuck pushes Sepie down and Kimi is struck, falling overboard. Sarapul leaps into the water. As the guard reloads he does not see a shape swimming toward him and Sarapul leaps from the water, stabbing him in the head with his spear.

## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 52-56: Don't Know Much About History, How the Shark People Got Their Name, Selling Tucker, Pay No Attention to That Man Behind the Computer, Escape Analysis**

Events begin to speed up as Tuck becomes more aware of himself and what is going on around him. It is becoming harder for the pilot to reconcile his desire to be successful and what is happening to the Shark People. The visits from Vincent have been eating away at Tuck, who knows that he owes the pilot his life, though he is still unsure what he has been chosen by the ghost, or what it is he is supposed to do. Meeting with Malink on his way to visit Kimi, Tuck realizes that the chief has also been torn between doing what he believes is right by Vincent and his people. Tuck does what he can, reassuring Malink because even if he does not believe that Vincent is a god, he finally realizes that it is important to believe in something.

Beth Curtis does what she can to continue to control the two men in her life, her husband Sebastian, and Tucker Case. Despite her constant attention to both men, or perhaps because of it, it is clear that as the novel progresses both men are becoming disillusioned with the personalities that Beth exhibits. Sebastian knows that his wife is having sex with Tuck and confronts her about it, though he seems to mock her about when he does. Sebastian knows his wife and her need to control. The fact that even sex has not kept Tuck from questioning the motives of the Curtis's bothers Beth most of all.

When Beth once again tries to win Tuck over he finally realizes that she is just like he was. Tuck had spent his life using people, whether it was his friends to get him out of trouble, or women for his convenience. Looking into Beth's eyes he sees what he used to be and is disgusted by it. He is still unable to resist her sexually but tries as the ghost of Vincent makes another appearance, telling Tuck that the Shark People will be building ladders. Though Tuck is unsure what the pilot is referring to, he realizes for the

first time that everything is not about him, and he needs to do something to help the people of the island.

Tuck's realization and Vincent's strange message prompt Tuck to check the computer in Sebastian's lab where he discovers that he is the next transplant victim. Knowing that the only chance for survival is escape, Tuck must tell the Shark People that once again their pilot is deserting them. The chief, once again exhibiting more faith in Tuck than the pilot has in himself, helps him escape the island. In the escape, Kimi is wounded by the guard that tuck had hit with the golf club and falls from the canoe. Sarapul, enraged for the injury to his friend and acting on the rage he has bottled up for so many years, kills the guard.



## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 57-61: West with the Bat, Malink's Song, Call in the Cavalry, Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, Roundhouse Aloha**

### **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 57-61: West with the Bat, Malink's Song, Call in the Cavalry, Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, Roundhouse Aloha Summary**

Malink and Sebastian discuss the dead guard, with the chief telling the doctor that Tucker killed the man and sailed away with Sarapul. Sebastian orders the guard buried. Meanwhile, Tuck tries to navigate the boat, unsure of where he is heading. Roberto arrives and tells Tuck which way to go. Vincent appears shortly thereafter and tells Tuck that the natives are building ladders.

In chapter 58 Sebastian tells Beth that their partners are flying another pilot in the next day. Beth does not seem concerned at all, and predicts that Tucker is already dead at sea. Sebastian is not so sure. Vincent appears to Malink and instructs the chief to have his tribe build ladders. Wondering about the anger of the Sky Priestess, Malink is stunned when Vincent tells him that Beth is a fake.

In chapter 59 Tuck and Sepie discuss life and the way things are in America, keeping themselves occupied. Tuck is resigned to the fact that they will die when Roberto appears with a tube of mascara. Sepie hears water breaking on a shore and a man calls out. Tuck and Sepie have made it to Hawaii. Tuck leaves Sepie at a hotel and tries to convince the authorities that Sebastian and Beth are committing horrible crimes, but no one seems interested or able to help. At his wit's end, Tuck can think of only one person to call, and does.

In chapter 60 Tuck calls Mary Jean Dobbins and tells her the story of the Shark People. Mary Jean is intrigued and has her secretary contact Jake Skye.

In chapter 61 Tuck meets Jake at the airport. Jake plans on flying Tuck home but Tuck wants Jake's help to rescue the Shark People. Offering Jake half of the money in the numbered bank accounts he discovered in Sebastian's office, Tuck and Jake plan on finding a 747 and using it to rescue the islanders.



## **Part Three, Coconut Angel, Chapters 57-61: West with the Bat, Malink's Song, Call in the Cavalry, Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, Roundhouse Aloha Analysis**

Tucker and Sepie are at sea, unsure of where they are headed or if they will live. Despite the help from the talking bat and an appearance by Vincent, Tuck still feels that he has failed in some way, but knows that at least he has tried, something he would never have done a few short weeks ago. The couple bonds while they are at sea, and Tucker learns how others might see him when Sepie describes what men are like through the eyes of a woman. It is a revelation for Tuck, who has never thought of anyone other than himself for so long.

Vincent appears to Malink, not in a dream but in the jungle and tells the chief to have his people build ladders. Malink, having felt so old for so long, feels an inner strength that encourages him. After listening to the voice of Vincent through the Sky Priestess for so long, the pilot is now speaking directly to the chief. Malink's realization that all of the natives problems are a result of the Sky Priestess's anger are calmed when Vincent informs him that the woman is a fake, not the real Sky Priestess at all.

Tuck calls on Mary Jean Dobbins after the authorities refuse to become involved with what is taking place on the island of Alualu. Dobbins is pleased to hear from Tucker and sends Jake Skye to get the pilot. Amazingly, Tucker refuses to go back to Texas, instead he wishes to save the islanders. Skye is game, as there is a great deal of money involved, and the two plot to steal a jet in order to set the plan in motion. Tuck knows that he will get into serious trouble, but cannot allow the sacrifices that the Shark People are making to continue.



# **Part Three, The Coconut Angel, Chapters 62-67, Epilogue: Like Clockwork Spies, No Frills, Deliverance, Down to the Promised Land, If They'd Only Had Her at the Alamo, The Cannibal Tree Revisited, Epilogue**

## **Part Three, The Coconut Angel, Chapters 62-67, Epilogue: Like Clockwork Spies, No Frills, Deliverance, Down to the Promised Land, If They'd Only Had Her at the Alamo, The Cannibal Tree Revisited, Epilogue Summary**

Malink and Sarapul meet briefly when the chief delivers the cannibal food and discuss the frequency of the villagers being chosen. Sarapul tells the chief they will fight if needed, and shows Malink a gun he took from a Japanese soldier during the war.

Jake calls Tuck and the two meet at the airport. Jake has rented a helicopter with which he flies Tuck to a waiting jet and drops him on the roof. Tuck enters through the hatch, followed by Roberto the bat and sits in to wait until it is safe to start the engines.

In chapter 63 Sebastian finds a drunk Beth and tells her they have an order for a kidney. Beth tells her husband that she is not going to work but Sebastian tells her they have no choice. The new pilot works for their employers and it appears that the Curtis's are no longer in charge.

Tuck takes off from the airport and is soon met by F-18 fighter jets ordering him to land in Guam. Tuck refuses, and continues toward Alualu, where Vincent tells Malink to gather his people and the ladders and head to the runway.

In chapter 64 Beth and Sebastian hear a low flying jet and rush outside to see Tuck land and the Shark People head toward the plane. Beth orders the guards to shoot but a gunshot sounds and one guard is struck. Beth grabs the fallen man's gun and fires into the trees, emptying the weapon as the last of the natives board the plane.

In chapter 65 Tuck flies the plane to Costa Rica where he thinks the Shark People will be happy. Tuck believes he will be in trouble when they land he will be in trouble, but is happy that he has finally done something right. Malink feels that since Vincent sent Tuck



everything would work out. As they prepare to land Mary Jean calls Tuck on the radio and tells him she has a plan. On the island Sebastian and Beth discover that they are now prisoners of the guards. Their jet arrives but the guards are planning to kill them. Sebastian takes Beth into the water and the two watch from the jungle as the compound is blown up.

In chapter 66 Tuck lands and the Shark People deplane. Tuck does the same, quickly and then boards Mary Jean's jet which promptly takes off again. Mary Jean happily tells Tuck that the media event the rescue of the Shark People will be is better than any advertising, and that Tuck has redeemed himself with his heroics.

In chapter 67, Beth wakes up hanging from the same tree that Tuck had been in at the beginning of the novel. Sebastian's clothing is in a pile near an oven being tended by Sarapul. The cannibal pinches Beth's cheek and says 'Yum.'

In the Epilogue the reader learns that the Shark People are welcomed in Costa Rica and live happily there. Tuck and Sepie live happily, running a charter business. A year later, Vincent appears to Tuck and he asks the ghost why he did what he did. Vincent tells Tuck that he had bet the group of men that he plays cards with in the afterlife that he could find a man, a Moses, and that he would save the day. Tuck is that Moses, and he and Vincent are now even. Vincent walks into the water where he joins Kimi in a boat and the two vanish.

## **Part Three, The Coconut Angel, Chapters 62-67, Epilogue: Like Clockwork Spies, No Frills, Deliverance, Down to the Promised Land, If They'd Only Had Her at the Alamo, The Cannibal Tree Revisited, Epilogue Analysis**

Tuck is able to steal a jet and fly to the island of Alualu, where the Shark People wait with the ladders that Vincent has told them to build. All manage to escape except Sarapul who chooses to stay behind. Tuck flies toward Costa Rica, knowing that Malink and his people will be happy with the climate and the relocation. Tuck realizes that though he will be in enormous trouble when he lands, he is still happy because he has done something for someone other than himself for once. Tuck's change in the way he thinks has been a long time coming, and when he realizes at last that he needs to think of others he does it in a grand way. Malink is sure that things will work out, his ever strong faith in Vincent still proving to be true.

Mary Jean rides in to the rescue, happy that Tuck has finally become the man that she knew he could be. This, coupled with the media play her rescue of Tuck and the Shark People will garner, has redeemed the pilot in her eyes.



Sebastian and Beth receive the justice that they deserve, losing everything they have worked toward by stealing the organs of the Shark People. The Japanese partners destroy the compound and leave the Curtis's to their fate on the island. Ironically, the couple suffer the same fate as Tuck and Kimi in the beginning of the novel. Beth wakes in the tree of Sarapul as the native tends an oven which presumably contains the body of her husband as his clothes are nearby. Sarapul greets the Sky Priestess, who he has never believed in the same way he had greeted Tuck, by pinching her cheek and saying "Yum."

The lives of the natives goes on in Costa Rica and they are happy, as are Tuck and Sepie who live quietly, in love, running a charter business. Vincent's appearance explains that he had set his plan in motion over a card game in the afterlife. Vincent had chosen Tuck, someone who was lost, to save the Shark People, and Tuck had not let him down. The two men are even. Vincent saved Tuck's life and his soul.





# Characters

## Tucker Case

The main character in the novel, Tucker Case is a thirty year old pilot, intent on living his life to the fullest by any means necessary. At the outset of the novel Tuck doesn't have a care in the world, working as the private pilot of Mary Jean Dobbins, the head of a multi-million dollar cosmetic company. Flying from city to city, occupying himself with different women and alcohol during layovers, Tuck is a classic case of immaturity, believing that life is for living and any problems will work themselves out by themselves or with the help of a friend or two.

Things change for Tuck when he meets a woman in a bar and takes her for a quick flight involving sex so that she can join the 'mile high club.' Meadow distracts Tuck sufficiently so that they crash. Tuck is severely injured, nearly ripping his penis off. This is significant, as Tucker Case has spent most of his adult life being ruled by his penis and pleasure. Taking sex out of the equation for him presents him with options and insights he has previously ignored or missed.

Taking a job on a remote island for a missionary and his wife, Tuck begins to realize that he is not the center of the universe and he needs to be more concerned with the world around him. After discovering that the missionary and his wife are actually harvesting the kidneys of the innocent islanders under the guise of religion, Tuck takes matters into his own hands, enlisting the help of his former employer to save the islanders and in the process, himself.

## Elizabeth Curtis

The wife of Sebastian Curtis, Elizabeth met her husband in San Francisco while working as an exotic dancer. Though trained as a surgical nurse, Beth found she made more money as a stripper, and rationalized that at least she was being paid to be treated like meat, as the doctor's at the hospital treated nurses badly.

Beth develops the plan of harvesting the natives organs when she discovers the fact story of the Shark People's religious beliefs. As the Sky Priestess, Beth is able to convince the natives that she is acting for Vincent Bennidetti, the pilot that the islanders worship. Selecting the 'chosen' based on the blood typing that Sebastian does in his lab, Beth uses her looks and acting skill to make the couple very wealthy.

Beth is extremely self involved and selfish, willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish her goals. Control is very important to Beth and her mood can change quickly and sometimes viciously when her plans are questioned. Beth meets her match in Tucker Case because though the pilot is more than willing to have sex with her and allows her to lead him for a bit, he eventually recognizes that they are very much alike. Tucker is



able to break free of his past because Beth epitomizes what he will become if he remains on the same path.

## Vincent Bennidetti

Vincent Bennidetti is the ghost of a B-26 bomber that crash landed on the island of Alualu during World War II. Vincent met Malink, a boy at the time, the chief of the Shark People when he and his crew disembarked. Touched by the plight of the young boy who needed to care for the tribe, Vincent radioed for help from the Americans and provided them with food and an array of treats that created a deep love and respect for the pilot. Vincent in turn feels badly for the young boy forced to be chief due to the death of his father and brothers at the hands of the Japanese soldiers. Vincent promises Malink that he will return on the Sky Priestess with more supplies and care for the Shark People, but unfortunately is shot down on a mission and killed.

Despite the fact that he is a ghost, Vincent orchestrates the arrival of Tucker Case on the island of Alualu to save the Shark People from Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis. Vincent saves Tuck's life when the Mary Jean Cosmetics plane crashes due to Tuck's carelessness, and saves him again several times throughout the novel. Though Vincent clearly wants Tuck to help his friend Malink and the other natives on the island, the ghost pilot does not tell Tuck what to do, he simply warns him cryptically about the doctor and his wife, and points him in the general direction of the truth. Vincent allows Tuck to choose his own path, which makes the decisions that Tuck ultimately makes honest and true.

## Jake Skye

Tucker's friend, Jake originally got Tuck the job with Mary Jean Cosmetics. After Tuck crashes the jet, Jake arranges for him to work on the island of Alualu with Sebastian and Beth Curtis. Jake returns at the end of the novel to help Tuck with the escape of the Shark People.

## Sebastian Curtis

The doctor on Alualu who harvests the kidneys of the Shark People for a price, Sebastian originally went to the island as a missionary. After discovering how deeply entrenched the natives were in their own religion, Sebastian gave up trying to convert them, but was afraid to return to life in the States after so long. Feeling a failure, Sebastian meets his wife, Beth, while attending a conference in San Francisco and the two develop the scheme of using the Shark People's religion as a means to wealth.



## Jefferson Pardee

The editor of the newspaper on Truk, Pardee has spent thirty years reporting the mundane news of the island. After Tucker, the second pilot in a few months passes through on the way to Alualu, Jefferson decides to investigate what is really going on. Jefferson lands on the island but is quickly captured by the Japanese guards that patrol the compound and taken to Beth Curtis. Tucker Case finds all that remains of Jefferson Pardee in the reef off the shore of the island after his body is left for the sharks that patrol the waters.

## Mary Jean Dobbins

The owner of Mary Jean Cosmetics, Mary Jean washes her hands of Tuck after he crashes her jet, but still maintains her faith in him. When Tuck is at a loss as to how to save the people on the island of Alualu, he calls Mary Jean who happily lends a hand. Mary Jean has a deep belief in God, but also believes that anyone can make themselves a better person by strength of will.

## Dusty Lemon

The college football player hired to keep watch on Tuck while he is recovering from the injuries sustained on the plane crash.

## Sarapul

The old cannibal on the island of Alualu, Sarapul finds Tuck and Kimi on the beach after their boat is washed ashore. Though Sarapul considers eating the two men he alerts Malink to the arrival of the pilot after he hears of the chief's dream. Sarapul and Kimi become friends, and Sarapul kills the Japanese guard that shoots Kimi while Tuck makes his escape from the island.

## Kimi

The cross-dressing navigator, Kimi is hired by Tuck to get him to the island of Alualu after a series of mishaps. Kimi and his fruit bat, Roberto, prove to be true friends, something that Tuck is really unfamiliar with. While on the island Kimi becomes friends with Sarapul, the old cannibal, and the two repair a boat that has been on the island since the second World War. This is the boat that Tuck will use to escape the island, but Kimi will be killed in the process.



## Sepie

The mistral of the island, Sepie lives in a separate hut from the others and is meant to meet the sexual needs of the single men on the island. At nineteen, Sepie is strong willed and full of life, a challenge to Malink and all the men of the tribe. Sepie at one point is one of Vincent's 'chosen' and has a kidney removed to be sold on the black market in Japan. Sepie's sacrifice to the religious beliefs of the Shark People is one of the final straws for Tuck, as he knows that Sebastian and Beth Curtis are using the islanders to further their needs.

Tuck escapes from the island with Sepie and the two wind up together, in love, after the Curtis's plot to exploit the Shark People is ended.

## Malink

The chief of the Shark People, Malink has ruled since he was a young boy due to the death of his father and older brothers at the hands of the Japanese during World War II. As a boy, Malink met Vincent Bennidetti, the pilot of the Sky Priestess, a B-26 American bomber. Vincent impressed the young chief with his ability to supply the villagers with food and treats. As a result of the power that Vincent seems to have, Malink believes him to be a god, and the Shark People, fed up with the missionaries that arrive periodically to try and teach them about God, begin to worship Vincent and his amazing airplane.

## Roberto

The fruit bat that Kimi keeps as a pet, Roberto speaks to Tucker Case periodically, reminding him to be careful around the Curtis's. After Tuck and Sepie escape from the island Roberto keeps the two company on the boat while they drift on the open sea, returning with a tube of mascara to let them know they are close to humanity.



# Objects/Places

## Alualu

The island of the Shark People, Alualu is also inhabited by Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis, as well as their Japanese guards.

## Truk

Another island, where Tuck meets Jefferson Pardee, the editor of the local newspaper.

## The Sky Priestess

The B-26 bomber flown by Vincent Bennidetti during World War II. The image of the woman on the plane is emulated by Beth Curtis in order to convince the Shark People that she is speaking for Vincent when she selects a kidney donor.

## The Chosen

Members of the Shark People that Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis select in order to be an organ donor. Beth tells the natives that Vincent has chosen them, and the scar they will bear after the surgery is the mark of the pilot.

## Mary Jean Cosmetics

The cosmetic company owned by Mary Jean Dobbins, where Tuck was employed until he crashed the company jet.

## Micro Trader

One of the boats on Truk that transports goods to the island of Alualu.

## Truk Star

The newspaper that Jefferson Pardee publishes on the island of Truk.

## The Micro Spirit

The sister ship of the Micro Trader. The Spirit transports Jefferson Pardee to the island of Alualu.



## **The Compound**

The series of buildings on the island of Alualu where Sebastian and Beth Curtis live and operate their organ harvesting.

## **Hawaii**

The island where Tucker Case and Sepie arrive after being lost at sea after their escape from Alualu.



# Themes

## Religion

Religion and the belief in a higher being plays a central part in the novel. The Shark People who live on the island of Alualu, worship Vincent Bennidetti, the pilot of the Sky Priestess, as their god. Vincent landed on the island during World War II, and impressed the chief, Malink, with his seeming endless intelligence and ability to provide care for the natives. At a time when the people of the island were much oppressed by the Japanese, Vincent brought them hope, something the boy chief had all but lost as his family and the majority of the men in the tribe were killed or taken by the Japanese soldiers to perform slave labor. Vincent's arrival, coupled with the murder of the priest on the island that had been trying to convert the natives to Christianity, leads Malink to worship the spirited pilot as a god.

Elizabeth and Sebastian Curtis are able to exploit the Shark People's belief in Vincent by taking one of their symbols and using it against them. The Sky Priestess, a B-26 bomber had the image of a pin-up girl painted on its side, and Elizabeth Curtis transforms herself into this image in order to deliver messages from Vincent to the Shark People. As images and symbols are important in any religion, by making the Sky Priestess a living being, Curtis is able to convince the natives that Vincent is speaking through her, and she is acting in the god's interest when 'choosing' someone to donate an organ.

## Redemption

Redemption is an important factor in the novel, for Tucker Case as well as the ghost, Vincent Bennidetti. Tucker's case of redemption is much more evident, as his personal journey delivers him from selfishness and lack of caring to the savior of the Shark People on Alualu. At the outset of the novel, Tucker thinks only of himself and his pursuit of what he believes is happiness. Self involved and unaware that his actions can and will affect those around him, Case winds up with no job and no prospects. Thinking again of himself he takes a job working for missionaries that in reality harvest the organs of the island natives to sell on the black market. After meeting the people of the island and witnessing their belief that they are acting out the wishes of their god, Case finally begins to think of others, eventually saving the entire tribe and ending the wrongs committed against them.

Vincent Bennidetti, the ghost of the pilot that the natives worship is also redeemed in the novel. After promising the young Malink that he would return with more supplies and treasures for the Shark People, Bennidetti was shot down and killed during the war. Despite this somewhat major setback, Vincent orchestrates the arrival of Tucker Case on the island, in order to save the people that have worshiped Vincent for so long.



Because both men, one alive and one dead, manage to overcome the obstacles in their path and work together to save the innocent victims of the Curtis's they both feel redeemed, one in life and one in death. Redemption is the end result of the struggles of the two men.

## Love

Love is a factor in the novel, though not in the usual sense. At the outset the only love that Tucker Case feels is for himself, as he is very self involved, worrying only about his needs and desires. As the novel progresses, Tucker begins to realize that other people do matter, and he strives to do right by them. Even in friendship there is love, as in the relationship that Tucker has with Kimi, the navigator who helps him get to Alualu.

As the novel progresses and Tucker begins to realize that other people have feelings and depend on him, he begins to care for the Shark People, though he still struggles with their undying belief that they are carrying out the wishes of a dead World War II pilot. Once Tucker realizes that the religion the natives have developed is a central part of who they are, and their love for the man that saved them so many years ago, he begins to miss such caring in his own life.

Tuck's relationship with Sepie, after they are finally free of the island and the Shark People are safe, is an example of true love. Though they are obviously quite different, the two find happiness and contentment with each other, something that they have missed in their lives. Having overcome his inability to think of anyone but himself, Tucker finds that love is really all he needs in order to be happy.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view is third person, which allows the reader to better understand the feelings as well as the actions of the characters in the novel. This is very helpful, especially in the case of the main character, Tucker Case. Case experiences many life altering moments in the novel and the reader is able to not only experience the moments with him, but judge him less harshly because of the writing style.

The novel is filled with both dialogue and descriptive passages, both of which move the reader along at a quick pace, giving one the feel of the urgency involved in the storyline. The dialogue allows the reader to get a better feel for the characters by the way they interact, as well as their motivations for their behaviors. This is especially significant when dealing with the main character, Tucker Case, as the novel basically tells the story of his life and self redemption. Though the novel is comedic, the dramatic changes in Case are evident to the reader because of the insight the author allows into the characters opinions and thoughts.

## Setting

There are several locations visited in the novel, though the majority of it takes place on the fictional island of Alualu, the home of the Shark People. The novel begins in Seattle, Washington at the airport where Tucker Case's life changes after crashing the jet of his employer. After Case is left jobless with no prospects, he flies to Alualu by way of another island, Truk. It is on Truk that Case meets Jefferson Pardee, the editor of the local newspaper. After leaving Truk, Case arrives in Alualu, the small island owned by no government, that is the home of the Shark People, and the base of operations for Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis.

Alualu is a small island of no use to anyone in the time frame of the novel, but once an important bit of land during World War II. At that time the Japanese and Americans used the island and those around it for missions. It was during World War II that Vincent Bennidetti landed his plane, the Sky Priestess on Alualu, and met Malink, the chief of the Shark People. This chance meeting and the tribes subsequent worship of the pilot and the Sky Priestess allowed Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis to take advantage of the natives and use them as organ donors to further their desire for wealth.

The island itself is small, containing the compound of the Curtis's and the village of the Shark People, separated by areas of jungle and surrounded by water filled with sharks that patrol the reefs that lie in the water surrounding Alualu.



## Language and Meaning

The language in the novel is modern, as the story takes place during the 1980s. The characters all speak in English, even the natives, though reference is made to a language of their own. The characters are clearly educated and well spoken, using sarcasm and sometimes bitterness to express themselves or their anger with each other. There is no apparent difference in the intelligence of the different characters, though humor is used at times to highlight the ease of misunderstandings.

An example of this would be Kimi's dealings with the Shark People while dressed as a woman, and his belief that Sarapul had eaten his bat, Roberto. The author employs humor to clarify situations for the characters, creating a level of understanding without bitterness.

The novel is written in such a way that the plot moves quickly, allowing the reader to enjoy the novel without getting bogged down in unnecessary details. The dialogue is balanced nicely with any descriptive passages, allowing the novel to move forward without losing the meaning of what is taking place.

## Structure

The novel consists of 67 chapters of varying lengths, from half a page, to ten pages. Each chapter has a name which relates in some way to the text contained. Most of the chapter titles tend to be humorous, either referring to the result of the previous chapter, or what is to follow. In addition the novel is broken down further into three parts, each having a title as well. The three sections differentiate the different stages of Tucker Case's life and the changes that take place for him. The novel also has a short epilogue which allows the reader to see what has become of the different characters in the Island of the Sequined Love Nun.

The main plot of the novel is the life of Tucker Case, the main character in the novel. Case is introduced as a selfish man, not bad, necessarily, but caring very little for others as long as he is happy. Interestingly, Case is not even sure what happiness is, he simply exists, living comfortably, unaware that in reality he is quite alone. Things change when Case's selfish nature leaves him jobless. Taking a position with Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis, Case is still very self involved, but as he becomes more aware of the people around him he realizes that before he can help the Shark People, he needs to change himself. The fact that his internal dialogue often takes place with a ghost makes the novel that much more enjoyable.

A sub plot in the novel is the Curtis couple taking advantage of the Shark People's religious beliefs in order to harvest their organs and sell them on the black market in Japan. This act, though obviously wrong, is the catalyst that pushes Tucker Case to change, for once thinking of others instead of himself.



The novel is very enjoyable, and the reader is able to get a very good understanding of the motivations and feelings of the characters involved. Written with an abundance of humor and sarcasm, the author creates a fantasy that is believable, even with the presence of ghosts and talking bats.



## Quotes

"Tucker fell back with an exasperated sigh. He didn't understand religion. It was like heroin or golf: He knew lots of people did it, but he didn't understand why. His father watched sports every Sunday and his mother had worked in real estate. He grew up thinking that church was something that simply interfered with games and weekend open houses."

Chapter 6, pg. 20

"Tuck's first thought of the new morning was 'I've got to catch a plane.' His second was, 'My dick's broke.'"

Chapter 13 ,pg. 53

"Never mind the ghosts, the talking bats, the three-hour flight with a woman who could have been the model for the new Multiple Personality Barbie. 'She's elegant, shes fashionable, and she's the reason that Ken has no genitals! Have fun, but remember to hide the sharp stuff!' Never mind all that. He was a pilot."

Chapter 35. pg 163

"Vincent is pilot too. He come long time ago, bringing cargo. He send the Sky Priestess until he come back. You see her with the Sorcerer. At hospital. She have yellow hair like yours."

Tuck nodded, as if he had any idea what the chief was talking about. Right now he just wanted the cup to finish it's lap and get back to him. 'Yeah right. I've seen her. She's the doctor's wife.'

Abo, who was drunk and for once not angry, laughed and said, 'She is nobody's wife you fuckin' mook. She's the Sky Priestess.'

Chapter 38, 177

"Kimi, do you know what's going on here?"

"A pretty white woman with yellow hair. She come out of the fence and take the girl away. They will put her to sleep and when she wakes up she will have a cut her." He drew his finger across the back of his ribs."

Chapter 41, pg. 190

"She's selling your kidneys. The doc is taking out your kidneys and selling them in Japan."

This revelation didn't have quite the effect that Tuck though it would. In fact, he seemed to be the only one concerned about it at all.

'Did you hear me?'

Malink looked a little embarrassed. "What is a kidney?"

Chapter 41, pg. 192

"If you stay until we finish our work, we will sign the plane over to you, plus your salary and any other bonuses you've accumulated. You can go anywhere in the world you want, start a charter business if you want, or just sell it and live comfortably for the rest



of your life."

Chapter 43, pg 206

"Tuck had met a number of doctors in his life, but he had never met one who could bear to admit that he was incompetent at anything. It was a running joke among the flight instructors that doctors made the worst students. 'They think they're gods. It's our job to teach them that they're mortal. Only pilots are gods.'"

Chapter 45, pg. 218

"What's wrong with you?' She said. "Bolts in your neck too tight?"

"My entire body has an erection."

Chapter 46, pg 222

"Still, there was nothing he could do to stop the, and if he had to do nothing, a great salary and his own jet were pretty good compensation. He'd spent most of his life not doing anything. Was it so bad to be paid for what you're good at?"

Chapter 48, pg. 233

"I twisted up a joint of skunky green bud the size of your dick.'

"I hope you had help carrying it,' he said, still under the covers.

'I rolled it on the inside of my thighs the way the women in Cuba roll cigars.'

'Don't tell me how you licked the paper.'

Chapter 50, pg. 240

"I was shabby to you, Tucker. Not that you didn't deserve it, but I wasn't feeling so good about myself for doing it. I always kinda looked at you like my wayward little lamb.

Course, I'm from cattle folk."

Chapter 66, pg 318



## Topics for Discussion

What type of person is Tucker Case at the beginning of the novel? How does he change?

Who is Vincent? Why does he choose Tuck to help him?

What reason do the Sebastian and Elizabeth Curtis give for hiring Tuck? What is the reality?

What character does Elizabeth Curtis play? Why?

What happens to Jefferson Pardee?

What happens to Sebastian and Elizabeth?

How does Tucker redeem himself?