

Kiss the Girls Study Guide

Kiss the Girls by James Patterson

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Plot Summary

Kiss the Girls is a mystery/thriller tale of obsessive kidnapping and murder. Casanova, a serial killer and kidnapper, has killed several women in the vicinity of the University of North Carolina. In addition to the girls that have been killed, several others are missing. Among the missing girls is the niece of renowned detective Alex Cross. Cross, through his connections at the FBI, is allowed to work on the case. The killer seems to have a taste for extremely beautiful women and is known for his near perfect crimes.

Casanova stalks his prey with great care and attention to detail. His most recent victim is Dr. Kate McTiernan, with whom Casanova became fixated because of her stunning looks and great intelligence. He holds her captive, along with several of his other victims, in an underground hideaway in the woods. Casanova is secretive, always wearing a mask when he meets his girls. Fearing death for breaking the house rules, Kate breaks free and returns to civilization. Kate recounts the odd phenomenon that the house of the killer disappeared after she exited. Kate and Cross meet and become fast friends.

Investigators learn of a connection between Casanova and a California serial killer calling himself the Gentleman Caller. They seem to share information. The Caller has a similar taste for beautiful women. He murders them outright, however, often retaining pieces of their anatomy. The Caller is much more brazen than Casanova, regularly communicating with and taunting the media. A break in the Caller case leads Cross and Kate to travel to Los Angeles to assist in his capture. Authorities are tantalizingly close to catching him when he makes a brazen escape. They do, however, learn his identity: he is Dr. William Rudolph, an accomplished plastic surgeon and a graduate of Duke medical school. A photograph found in his apartment seems to give away the identity of Casanova.

Back in North Carolina, the investigation focuses on Dr. Wick Sachs, a professor with a taste for odd and serious pornography. Sachs is arrested after a tip leads police to evidence from the murdered and kidnapped women in his house. Shortly after Sachs' arrest, Kate is beaten severely and left for dead by Casanova and Rudolph. This confirms Cross' suspicions that Sachs is not Casanova.

Cross and his fellow D.C. detective friend, John Sampson, continue with the investigation. Cross has a hunch that the disappearing house where Casanova keeps the girls may be an old underground structure built during slavery times as a "station" on the Underground Railroad. A local history professor prepares maps of all such underground structures in the area. While searching the local woods, Cross and Sampson find the underground dwelling and find the captive girls. Casanova and Rudolph, disguised in masks, ambush Cross and Sampson as they approach the dwelling. . Cross chases them down and fatally wounds Rudolph, but Casanova gets away.



The FBI is convinced that Casanova will never be caught because he is too good. Cross, however, doggedly continues his pursuit. He develops a theory that Casanova is actually a police officer because of his ability to commit the "perfect" crime and the fact that he fired a gun using a professional crouch. Cross pursues Detective Davey Sikes of the Durham Police Department, but learns that he is not the killer.

Cross leaves the case and returns home for a few months. At the behest of his FBI contact, he and Kate take a late-summer vacation to the Outer Banks in the hopes of setting a trap for Casanova. Their plan works—Casanova attacks. Kate and Cross team up to kill him and his identity is finally revealed: He is Detective Nick Ruskin of the Durham Police Department.



Prologue—Perfect Crimes—Casanova

Prologue—Perfect Crimes—Casanova Summary

The young killer stalks the inside of a Boca Raton mansion in June of 1975. He sneaks through the crawlspace in the walls and attic and sleeps in the basement behind a refrigerator. He is hunting the two daughters of the house, Coty and Karrie Pierce. For three weeks he lives in the house secretly watching Coty, the girl he fell in love with at school. He paints himself in red, orange and yellow the night he pounces, quite literally, from the ceiling above Coty's bed. At 3:00 a.m. he climbs down carefully from the ceiling through an air duct and crawls into bed with Coty. He caresses her hair and inhales its sweet smell. When she awakens, he tells her that he is Casanova and that he has selected her from all the beautiful girls in Boca Raton. He covers her mouth with a kiss before she can let out a scream. He kills Coty and then kisses her thirteen-year-old sister Karrie before killing her as well.

Prologue—Perfect Crimes—Casanova Analysis

These are Casanova's first kills and the genesis of his game: "kiss the girls." He finds the most desirable women he can, women that are unattainable, and has a sexual experience with them before killing them. This acts as an introduction to the methods and mindset of this serial killer, one of the two who act as the antagonists in this novel.



Prologue—Perfect Crimes—The Gentleman Caller

Prologue—Perfect Crimes—The Gentleman Caller Summary

This killer prides himself on being a perfect gentleman. It is May of 1981 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He stalks a couple who sneak onto University Lake in a "borrowed" row boat for some late night escapades. He is the quarterback of the Duke football team; she is the Azalea Queen of the University of North Carolina. The killer swims out in pursuit of the rowboat. Mid-act, he snatches the quarterback from the boat and pulls him into the water, slashing his throat. The killer climbs into the rowboat and tells her that he has been watching her for two years, and proceeds to kill her.

Prologue—Perfect Crimes—The Gentleman Caller Analysis

The Gentleman Caller is similar to, but very different from, Casanova. They are both killers who target beautiful women as their victims. Casanova, as his name suggests, is a lover. He falls in love with his victims before killing them. He truly wants to be with them. The Caller, on the other hand, lusts after his prey and kills them more for sport. The Caller kills for spite because he cannot have them. Casanova kills them after trying—and failing—to love them.



Chapter 1-2

Chapter 1-2 Summary

Dr. Alex Cross, a homicide detective, sits at his home with Washington D.C. with his two young children, Damon and Janelle, in April of 1994. On this evening, he and his two children sit on the piano playing blues songs when they are interrupted by repeated ringing of the doorbell. When Dr. Cross fails to answer, there is pounding on the door and a woman calls his name. He looks outside to see Rita Washington, a 23-year-old crackhead from the neighborhood. Her shirt and hands are stained with blood. She tells him that little Marcus Daniels has been stabbed down the street and is calling out for him. Cross scoops up 11-year-old Marcus Daniels and makes a mad dash for the emergency room. Marcus bleeds profusely along the way and cries out to Dr. Cross. Cross knows his way around the emergency room intimately and quickly and finds a nurse he knows that is willing to provide assistance in an emergency room full of staffers that failed to bat an eye when he ran in with a bleeding boy in his arms. Marcus is unconscious. Dr. Cross tells the nurse that Marcus tried to cut his neck and both wrists.

Chapter 1-2 Analysis

Cross is a devoted father and a well-respected neighbor. He is the first one people call if there is trouble in the neighborhood. This introduction shows Cross to be both heroic and well liked, able to act calmly in a crisis and knowledgeable regarding the way to deal with dangerous situations. These are all traits that will prove vital to him later on.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Casanova opens the trunk of his car and pulls out a young woman who has been bound and gagged. He walks her deep into the woods at night. She wants to scream and beg for her life, but she cannot. Casanova is tall and athletic and knows he could have most women, just not the way he wants to have them. He tells her she should have listened to him. Since she did not obey his rules, she must suffer the consequences. He wears a mask as he escorts her into the woods and injects her with a barbiturate that knocks her out. He then proceeds to have intercourse with her. She thinks she will die soon when she awakens to find herself tied to a tree. Casanova kisses her before leaving her there.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Casanova insists that his captives play by his rules. He craves power and demands respect. The penalty for breaking his rules is death. Kissing her before leaving her to die demonstrates the bond he makes with his captives. He chooses each as his potential ideal mate.



Chapter 4-5

Chapter 4-5 Summary

Dr. Cross waits at St. Anthony's Hospital for news about Marcus. John Sampson, his lifelong friend and fellow police officer, arrives to console him. The two men took much different paths to the police department: Dr. Cross earned a Ph.D. in abnormal psychology from Johns Hopkins while Sampson had a stint in the army before joining the force. Sampson offers to visit Marcus' parents, who run a crack house, and kill them. The parents used Marcus and his siblings to run crack for them. A nurse informs them that Marcus has died and was likely nearly dead by the time he arrived at the hospital. Dr. Cross is saddened over losing a patient, Marcus, who had sought him out for psychiatric help. Sampson takes Cross home and he is unnerved to see cars belonging to several family members parked in front of his house. He fears something terrible has happened. He walks inside and is greeted by his two children and finds every relative he can think of inside his home. He is convinced that someone has died. Finally, he asks what is going on and his grandmother tells him that Naomi is missing.

Chapter 4-5 Analysis

The different paths taken by Cross and Sampson to their line of work as police detectives demonstrates their vastly different character: Sampson is a former military man, a tough guy, while Cross is a much more sensitive and cerebral psychologist. Cross enjoys a very strong and supportive family. His grandmother helps him care for his children. He is very close to his niece Naomi who is now missing. The family turns to him to find Naomi.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Casanova lets out a scream as he runs through the woods, thinking about the girl he left tied to the tree and the horror he had inflicted. Inside, he feels like going back and saving her, but realizes he cannot do that because he removed his mask in her presence. He was aware of what he had done, but was unable to stop himself. He thinks to himself that things would have been different if she had listened to him. He is unlike other mass killers in that he has the ability to feel everything he does. He needed to change personas. He could no longer be Casanova. He needed to change back into his true self.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Casanova shows that he feels sorrow and remorse for his actions. The scream he lets out indicates that he is horrified by his actions. He also shows the nature of his split personality. He is a stickler for the rules—his victim simply broke the rules.



Chapter 7-8

Chapter 7-8 Summary

Dr. Cross' 22-year-old niece Naomi, also known as Scootchie, has turned up missing. Naomi is a law student at Duke University and has been missing for four days. She is the pride of the entire family. Sampson knows the situation as he spoke to a Detective Ruskin in North Carolina earlier who explained the circumstances. Naomi's law school friend Mary Ellen Klouk reported her missing. They wonder why it took four days for the police to call when they would normally start looking for a missing person after two days. The detective told Sampson that there were extenuating circumstances that he could not talk about on the phone. Dr. Cross thinks perhaps the FBI is involved in the investigation. Cross is forced to explain to his children that something terrible has happened to their aunt Naomi. They suspect as much, despite their tender years. Cross' grandmother, Nana Mama, encourages Cross and Sampson to do their best to find Naomi. Cross knows he will have to start thinking and acting like a Southern policeman and not like a grief-stricken relative.

Chapter 7-8 Analysis

Sampson and Cross work together as a team. They are, in fact, like brothers, and Sampson is already on the case. Cross foresees the problems he will face during the investigation. He realizes he cannot be a detached policeman because his own flesh and blood is a victim. He also realizes that the rural South is a world away from his urban city life, a place that is foreign to him frightens him.



Chapter 9-10

Chapter 9-10 Summary

Casanova stalks the Duke campus looking for his prey. He thinks to himself that he is the perfect predator; his eyes never ceasing to search for beautiful, sensual women. He studies each beautiful Duke coed as she passes and assess whether she should be the next victim. He looks specifically for women of great beauty. He found his next victim near the Duke University Hospital. Casanova thought she was the most beautiful woman in the South. She was also incredibly intelligent and Casanova had studied her intently. Her name is Kate McTiernan, a girl working at the terminal cancer wing to pay her way through medical school. Kate was extremely dedicated to her work and studies. Casanova loved everything about her. He had seen many other men attempt to hit on her, but all seemed to fail. Once she finished medical school, she planned on returning home to West Virginia to practice. She was not in medicine for the money, but to help people. Kate's unique character was demonstrated by her irreverent manner of dressing in weathered trousers and black high-top tennis shoes. She was very casual and seldom wore makeup. She put on no airs. Casanova wanted Kate to love him and he wanted to love her back. He had watched her for four weeks and knew she was the one. He wanted desperately to believe that he could love her more than all of the others.

Chapter 9-10 Analysis

Casanova is self-confident and sure of himself. He walks the campus with no fear of apprehension. He blends in very well and fancies himself a predator with a heart. He is not looking for a woman to kill; rather, he is looking for the perfect woman to keep.

Kate is down to earth and sensible, coming from humble roots in West Virginia. Kate is an individual who does her own thing. Casanova is drawn to unattainable women such as Kate and he also respects her great intelligence. Casanova feels he is very intelligent and needs a mate that is his equal. He feels he deserves the unattainable and will take it.



Chapter 11-15

Chapter 11-15 Summary

Naomi was raised by her mother after her father died at age thirty-three. She was a precocious young girl, graduating first in her high school class. In between studies, she found time to write about growing up in the projects and to play the violin.

Cross and Sampson make the four-hour trip from Washington D.C. to North Carolina. The two are not particularly welcomed at Durham Police Headquarters. They wait over an hour before being met by detectives Nick Ruskin and Davey Sikes. They take Cross and Sampson to see a woman's body in Efland. The case has been assumed by the FBI. This scene is the third murder associated with Casanova, a serial killer stalking women in the Southeast region of the country. Eight to ten women, all in their late teens or early 20s, have disappeared. Casanova has left his first note with the most recent victim. All of the victims were extremely attractive. The police have a bulletin board of pictures with the missing girls. Naomi's picture is on the board.

Cross prays that Naomi is not a victim. They are deep in the woods searching. When they arrive they find the road littered with all sorts of police officers and unmarked FBI units. They walk a mile into the woods while crime scene technicians search the area for evidence. Cross is so wound up that he thinks to himself that he is not a police officer, but a civilian on this crime scene. They see what is left of the naked body of a young woman bound to a tree. When Cross spots the body, he knows immediately that it is not Naomi. This victim had been eaten by birds and animals. Cross finds the scene more gruesome than virtually any he had seen in Washington D.C.

Cross notes the unusual position of the body and that both arms were dislocated. He believes this may be due to the victim's attempt to extricate herself from being bound to the tree. Casanova has been very careful. He has not left pubic hairs, semen or even perspiration on the bodies of any of his victims. The FBI suspects that this is Bette Anne Ryerson, a mother of two and a graduate student at North Carolina State.

Cross and Sampson are still at the murder scene after 10 p.m. Cross thinks of everything he knows about the original Casanova, an eighteenth-century adventurer and writer. He wonders why the killer chose that name. A helicopter lands on the highway near the scene. FBI Deputy Director Ronald Burns steps out. Cross knows Burns from some interdepartmental work he did with the FBI. Burns thinks the suspect may be a policeman, army veteran or someone with intricate knowledge of police procedures. Burns thinks the killer might be a "collector," meaning that he may be keeping a harem of girls somewhere nearby.



Chapter 11-15 Analysis

Naomi is developed as a highly intelligent and hard-working character. She is both industrious and artistic, and is highly respected by Cross, who will do anything he can to rescue her.

Cross' apprehension about the South may be due to a fear of encountering racism. Never in the novel are any of the local North Carolina policemen described as black. The cold shoulder given by Ruskin and Sikes could be either an act of racism or territorialism. There is also tension between local law enforcement and the FBI. Cross' personal feelings are getting in the way of being an objective, detached police officer. Cross' personal involvement in the case cuts two ways: it makes things more difficult for him emotionally and it opens doors that permit him access he might not otherwise have.



Chapter 16-18

Chapter 16-18 Summary

Kate McTiernan walks home on Saturday night thinking about her latest karate instruction. Kate enjoyed life in a college town. She would stay there and never move back home to West Virginia if she had not made a promise to her dying mother. She considers stopping at a bar for a drink to read the paperback novel she just purchased, but thinks better of it. Kate resides at the end of a long, sparsely populated street on the top floor of an otherwise-empty house. She falls asleep soon after arriving at home and before having chili or hot chocolate. She has absolutely no idea that she was followed home and that there is someone inside her house watching her.

Kate awakens, realizing there is someone else in her apartment. She is somewhat concerned about the recent killings in the news and resolves that she will put up a fight if she has to. She gets out of bed to feel a hand come down hard over her mouth and nose. A large and very strong man tackles her, placing a cloth over her mouth. The cloth likely is dampened with some sort of chemical to knock her out. She momentarily breaks free of his grip, and he tells her "Bad idea, Kate." She is shocked to realize he knows her name. Kate feels a powerful drug starting to take hold of her. She knows she must strike. She kicks him in the groin, but strikes something hard. He is wearing an athlete's cup. He tells her that he knows about her karate and that she fascinates him. She tries to escape her apartment, but discovers he has turned out every light and closed every curtain. He is stronger than any instructor at her karate school. She is about to pass out because of the drug. He shines a bright flashlight in her face and Casanova has a gun pointed at her. Kate pleads for her life. He shoots her point-blank in the heart.

Chapter 16-18 Analysis

Kate's karate lessons, and especially her timing, will prove essential to her survival later in the novel. Kate is portrayed as dutiful and hard working. She made a promise to her dying mother and she intends to keep that promise. Before seizing his victims, Casanova stalks them to the point of knowing absolutely everything about them.



Chapter 19-21

Chapter 19-21 Summary

It is Sunday morning and the case is beginning to heat up. Sampson needs to return to Washington D.C., and Cross gives him a ride to the airport. Later, Cross has a meeting with the Dean of Women, Browning Lowell. He reflects that the time he spent around Naomi when she was a child prepared him to be so close to his own children. Dean Lowell knew Naomi for all five of her years at Duke. They were very close and Naomi considered him a friend. He was tall, handsome man in his mid-30s.

Cross next pays a visit to Naomi's dorm to visit Mary Ellen Klouk, Naomi's best friend. Cross had met her several times before. Mary Ellen had not seen Naomi for six days. Mary Ellen phoned the police about Naomi. Naomi was missing almost two and a half days before a bulletin went out. Mary Ellen later learned that a person usually only needs to be missing for 24 hours before an investigation would be initiated. She asks Cross if he knows why it took so long. At the end of their conversation, Mary Ellen confides that she and Naomi had not been close recently. This is another mystery for Cross to solve.

Chapter 19-21 Analysis

The fact that the police did not act immediately on the report of Naomi's disappearance suggests that the institutional racism Cross feared is present in the new South. Perhaps the white police did not feel that a black woman could be considered one of their "Beauties."



Chapter 22-24

Chapter 22-24 Summary

Casanova secretly watches as Cross visits with Mary Ellen. He thinks to himself that Cross is wasting his time talking to Naomi's roommate. Casanova follows Cross across the campus. He knows that Cross is a renowned psychologist and detective who earned a reputation by tracking down a famous kidnapper-killer in Washington called Gary Soneji. Cross stops to write a note and Casanova mockingly thinks to himself that Cross' thought is of no consequence. He is nowhere close to being on the trail. The idea that Cross might track and capture Casanova was unthinkable. The fact that no one has a clue is really a clue, thinks Casanova.

Cross spends Monday morning interviewing people who know Kate McTiernan as he prepares a psychological profile of Casanova. The FBI is not helping and neither is Detective Ruskin. One of Kate's professors calls her the most conscientious student she had taught in twenty years. Other interns were impressed by Kate as well. Kate's old boyfriend is devastated.

Cross misses his kids, his family, Sampson and his home. He wishes he were in a comfortable place without serial killers, which he refers to as "monsters." Thinking about the case, it occurs to him that Casanova does not just pick out physically beautiful women, he takes the most extraordinary women he can find. He takes the "heartbreakers" that everyone wants but no one seems to get. Casanova must think that he, too, is extraordinary.

Cross returns to his hotel room and drifts off to sleep in a comfortable armchair. He has vivid dreams about a monster from an Edvard Munch painting chasing Naomi. He is powerless to help her; all he can do is watch in horror. He is startled out of his sleep when he thinks he hears someone in his room. He grabs his gun and searches carefully and notices that something has been slipped under the door. It is a colonial British postcard from the early 1900s. The postcard featured an Odalisque smoking a Turkish cigarette in an acrobatic position. She was dark, young and beautiful. Cross carefully flips the card over with a pencil. On the back is a printed caption describing how Odalisques with great beauty and intelligence were trained to be concubines. They learned to dance, write exquisite poetry and play musical instruments. The note is signed in ink with the printed name "Giovanni Giacomo Casanova de Seignalt." Cross is excited to see that Casanova has left a calling card. Cross realizes that Casanova knows he is in Durham and knows who he is.

Chapter 22-24 Analysis

Cross continues to be stonewalled by Ruskin and the local police. His frustration that Naomi's involvement makes this case personal is shown by the fact that he is helpless

to save her in his dream. Cross is excited to receive the postcard from Casanova as it is a clue that confirms his suspicion that Casanova only takes the best of the best. It also confirms FBI theories that he is a "collector" and is holding several girls. This gives Cross hope that Naomi is still alive. The scene depicted on the postcard suggests accurately that Casanova maintains a harem.



Chapter 25-26

Chapter 25-26 Summary

Kate McTiernan awakens to realize that she is alive. She lies in a bed in a dimly lit room, remembering being shot in the chest with a stun gun. Her joints are stiff and her head feels bloated. Despite how bad she feels, she vividly remembers her attacker. Her room looks as though it has been recently remodeled or constructed. It was tastefully decorated in a way she might have done herself. Colorful scarves are tied to the bedposts, exactly like she did at home. That is very peculiar to her. There are no windows, only a heavy, wooden door. Inside a small closet she notices something that disturbs her even more than the scarves: her clothes are inside. Looking closer, she realizes that they are not her clothes, but new clothes exactly like hers. On top of the dresser are three bottles of her favorite perfumes. Next to the bed is a copy of the book she bought on the night she was abducted.

The drugs have an effect on Kate. She falls asleep, then awakens, then falls back asleep. She does not know what time of day it is or even what day it is. Her abductor had been inside the room while she slept and left a note for her that details the rules of the house. He picked her from thousands of women. Her stay will be temporary and she will leave if she follows the rules. The first rule is that she must never try to escape. If she tries, she will be executed within hours. Rule number two is a special rule just for her: she must never attempt to use her karate skills on him. The final rule threatens facial and genital mutilation if she tries to call out for help. After reading the note, all Kate can think about is how to escape. She analyzes her possibilities every way, then reverses the assumptions and breaks each down to its component parts. She examines every floorboard and every two-by-four in the wall. She refuses to accept that there is no way out and no apparent solution. She momentarily considers trying to seduce him, but knows it would never work. She resolves to find a way out.

Chapter 25-26 Analysis

Casanova is so thorough and attentive to detail that he has not only furnished the room in a style to Kate's liking, but he has also duplicated her closet with new versions of the exact same clothes. Foretelling a major theme of the novel, Casanova has "twinned" her room and her clothing. Casanova tries to break strong-willed Kate with his rules and threats. Despite his own physical strength and power, he takes special care to warn her not to use his karate on him. She is physically strong as well as strong-willed.

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

Cross visits Sarah Duke Gardens, the last place Naomi was seen. Casanova picked a great site for his kidnapping. He took her in broad daylight. Cross cannot figure out how he did it. He is overwhelmed to think that Naomi had been taken from that spot. He was especially impressed by an area called the Terraces. He knows it is a place that Naomi would have loved. He kneels on the ground and weeps for her.

Chapter 27 Analysis

Naomi's involvement makes this case much more personal than any other for Cross. The fact that she was abducted in broad daylight in a public place becomes a clue for Cross. It indicates to him that Casanova can blend into any scene and go unnoticed.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

Casanova walks into Kate's room wearing a mask. He is slender and athletic, dressed in tight blue jeans, black cowboy boots and no shirt. Kate's attention is drawn to the mask. It is elaborate and decorative, like something from Venice. Kate thinks about using karate against him, but Casanova, seemingly reading her mind, cautions her against it. He has seen her perform and is impressed with her strength and quickness. She is terrified to think that he almost seems sane.

She asks him why she is there and why her clothes and things are there as well. He responds that he wants to fall in love with her for a while. He wants to feel real romance and intimacy. He is no different than anyone else except that he acts instead of daydreams. He asks if he may tell her how beautiful she is. When she responds that she wishes he wouldn't, he pulls out a stun gun and shoots her with a jolt. Casanova proceeds to strip her and have sex with her. He cautions her not to pass out and to keep her eyes open. Kate realizes he is not going to kill her. Instead, he will come back each day and take her whenever he wants. Kate passes out before he gives her a soft goodbye kiss and tells her that he loves her and that he feels everything.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Casanova is a different breed of kidnapper/serial killer. He does not take the girls purely for a sexual thrill or to unleash his brand of violence; he takes them because he intensely desires to be with them. He wants them to be his lovers, not his victims. He wants Kate conscious when he has sex with her. He intensely desires that a bond form between them. He loves her and tries to force her to love him back.



Chapter 29-32

Chapter 29-32 Summary

Cross receives a phone call from Florence Campbell, one of Naomi's law school classmates. She tells Cross that Naomi caused some problems in the dorm when she started dating Seth Samuel Taylor, Florence's cousin. She fell in love with Seth months earlier. The other students in the dorm were uncomfortable to have Seth, a black man and social worker who worked in the projects, spending time at the dorm. Seth was angry about racial injustice and chided some of the black female students as well as the housekeepers.

Next, Cross visits Taylor, who looks like he has not slept in days. He lives in a working-class area of Durham. His living room is filled with friends and neighbors there to help search for Naomi. He tells Cross that he has absolutely nothing to do with her disappearance and Cross believes him.

Special Agent Kyle Craig of the FBI contacts Cross for a meeting in the hotel bar. Craig and Cross met during the manhunt for serial kidnapper Gary Soneji. Craig was candid and direct, unlike most FBI agents. Cross tells Craig about his psych profiles on the murdered women. Cross calls them the "rejects." At least two of them had very strong personalities and likely gave Casanova a lot of trouble. He may have killed them to get rid of them. Bette Anne Ryerson was different, however; she may have had a nervous breakdown. Craig is impressed with Cross' work. Despite having no information, he is one step ahead of the FBI analysts. Cross presses Craig for more information, but Craig resists. Cross suggests that Casanova is someone who blends into the community well. No one has come close to catching him. He is probably driven by the same sexual fantasies since he was a boy. He may have been the victim of abuse or incest and is researching women to find the perfect one for him. Craig asks Cross to work directly with him on the case and Cross agrees.

When Cross returns to his room, he calls Nana to check in. The kids are doing fine. Nana, playing the role of detective, asks him directly how he is holding up. She can tell he has not been sleeping and he has not made much progress on the case. After hanging up, his thoughts turn to Casanova. Casanova is winning so far and he seems invincible and uncatchable. He does not make mistakes or leave clues. It occurs to Cross that perhaps Casanova read his book about Gary Soneji. Maybe he took Naomi to challenge him.

Chapter 29-32 Analysis

Cross' suspicions are true. Racial issues still haunt the South. Naomi caused an uproar in her dorm simply for dating a strong-willed black man. Taylor is a little too wrong-side-of-the-tracks for the well-to-do Duke crowd. Taylor seems to be something of a young



Dr. Cross. He is strong-willed and physically strong too, just like Cross. He stands strong against racial injustice and is also not afraid to let his emotions show—also like Cross.

Agent Craig is Cross' official way into the case. He can now start operating more like a detective than a concerned relative. Cross is getting deeper and deeper into the psyche of Casanova. He correctly deduces that the women who have been killed are Casanova's "rejects," those who gave him too much trouble. Cross knows he has a worthy adversary in Casanova. Casanova's methods are so perfect Cross suspects Casanova read his book. There is something extraordinary in the way he commits the perfect crime.



Chapter 33-35

Chapter 33-35 Summary

Kate is sleepy and nauseous, feeling as though she has been drugged. She remembers every detail of the rape. She thinks about Casanova and the drug he may have used on her and thinks perhaps he is a doctor. She meditates for over an hour to gather her focus and strength and can focus on just one thing: escape. Kate feels better after her hour of meditation. There is an outhouse styled hole-in-the-ground toilet. She peers down it but sees nothing below. It seems to drop ten to twelve feet. She does not think she could slip down the hole. Casanova walks in behind her and cautions her not to try to slip down the hole; that it has been tried before. If she went in, he would not help her out, but would let her die there. He wants to make love to her again and asks her to put on a fancy dress, nylons and high heels. She refuses, saying she doesn't feel up to it and that she has a headache. He yanks her violently to her feet. Furious and panicked, she pulls down on his mask and catches a glimpse of his face. He has a smooth pink cheek, no facial hair and a blue eye. He stuns her with the stun gun, and then kicks her. One of his kicks knocks out one of Kate's teeth.

Naomi is in another room in the house, listening to Kate's screams. When the screaming stops, she fears Casanova has killed again. Casanova knows everything about Naomi. He knows the clothes she likes to wear, her favorite colors and her underwear sizes. He knows about Cross and Seth Samuel. He knows about her friend Mary Ellen Klouk. He is very kinky and often talks about extreme pornographic acts. He also quotes poetry. He tells her he picked her because she is smart enough to understand him.

Naomi hears Kate scream for help again. Naomi thinks to herself that Kate must stop. Naomi finally yells back, telling Kate to stop screaming or he will kill her. Kate asks for Naomi's name and how long she has been there. Naomi refuses to answer. Kate offers that they can help each other. Naomi refuses to shout back. Naomi is impressed with Kate's fearlessness and tenacity. Finally, she answers, "My name is Naomi Cross. I've been here for eight days, I think."

She adds that he hides behind the walls and watches her all the time. Other girls shout through the walls: Maria Jane Capaldi has been here one month; Melissa Stanfield, nine weeks; Christa Akers, two months; and Kristen Miles.

Chapter 33-35 Analysis

Kate's inner strength is shown once again. She uses yoga concentration drills to ward off the debilitating effects of the drugs she was given. She is gathering and focusing her strength for an escape. Kate's meditation has steeled her will and convinces her to look everywhere for a way out. She will not give in to Casanova's sexual demands. She pulls



down the mask that protects Casanova's identity, crossing the line. She pays the price when he knocks her out with the stun gun and beats her.

Naomi's experience with Casanova is identical to Kate's. He knew Naomi just as intimately before taking her as he did Kate. Naomi wants to follow the rules of the house, but cannot help herself from responding to Kate's desperate screams. The other girls feel the same way. If they combine their power and energy, perhaps they can fight Casanova and escape.

Chapter 36

Chapter 36 Summary

Beth Lieberman, a 29-year-old reporter for the *L.A. Times*, has been contacted by the Gentleman Caller, Los Angeles' serial killer, with his sixth "diary" installment detailing the location of his latest murder victim. The victim is a 14-year-old Japanese girl. Her body is found in Pasadena. The Gentleman Caller left his signature and fresh flowers with the body. The Gentleman Caller chose to communicate with Lieberman because of an article she wrote about mail-order pornography. He chose her to be a liaison with the citizens of the "City of Angels." The editorial board of the newspaper decided to publish each of his diary entries partly because the Gentleman Caller threatened additional killings if the diaries were not published. In one diary entry, he wrote, "I am the latest, and I'm by far the greatest." The FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department have no leads. They tell her that the Gentleman Caller commits perfect crimes.

Beth dreads that they would soon arrive at her office to talk to her for hours about the details of the murder scene. She knows that the feet had been cut from the young Japanese girl's body with some sort of razor sharp knife. The Gentleman Caller is brutal. He had mutilated genitalia and removed a heart.

Chapter 36 Analysis

The Gentleman Caller is a different breed of serial killer than Casanova. He brutally kills his victims and collects their body parts. The Caller enjoys taunting the police through the media. He craves that attention rather than the attention of the women themselves as Casanova does.



Chapter 37

Chapter 37 Summary

Casanova sits outside a Victoria's Secret store in a mall, tracking his latest conquest, Anna Miller. He had just read a newspaper article about the Gentleman Caller's 6th victim. He feels the Gentleman Caller was out of control, taking souvenir body parts, killing as many as two girls a week and playing mind games with the *L.A. Times*, the LAPD and the FBI. Anna Miller is a stunningly beautiful law student at North Carolina State. To Casanova, she is nearly as beautiful as Kate McTiernan.

As Anna leaves the store and walks towards him, another woman blocks Casanova's view: his wife approaches, laden with shopping bags. He kisses her on the cheek as he helps her with her bags. Casanova thinks to himself that he had done a very good job picking her out. She chides him for checking out the young girl saying, "As long as all you do is watch." He thinks to himself that the authorities will never catch him. They do not know where to look. They could not see past his brilliant disguise—his mask of sanity. They would never suspect him.

Chapter 37 Analysis

Casanova is already searching out Kate's replacement. Kate has broken the rules and will soon be a "reject." Anna Miller seems a worthy replacement and addition to his collection. Casanova worries that the Gentleman Caller is going too far. Casanova controls himself in a way that the Caller does not. Casanova prides himself on his mask of sanity and enjoys the fact that he blends in. He does not call attention to himself the way the Caller does. His hidden identity, his mask, includes a loving wife.



Chapter 38-39

Chapter 38-39 Summary

Cross takes a well-needed trip home to spend a day with his family and give them an update on the progress of finding Naomi. He tries his best to be hopeful and tell them about possible leads that he knows just aren't there yet. Afterwards, he gives Sampson a more thorough update. Detectives Ruskin and Sikes have been better than they were at first, keeping him up to date on what they know. The FBI, however, continues to shut him out. Sampson theorizes that one of the victims may be related to someone important or that the number of victims is much higher than the FBI is letting on. Cross thinks that Casanova enjoys the fact that he has committed perfect crimes and has stumped Cross and other authorities. Sampson asks Cross to consider what would happen if he could not solve the case. For Cross, that is the one possibility he will not consider.

Chapter 38-39 Analysis

Cross' strong family life—his relationship with his children and his grandmother—keeps him well-grounded. Cross tries to be hopeful with his family, even though he has no leads yet. He can be honest with his close friend Sampson. Cross' resiliency is shown that he will not consider the possibility that he will not solve the case.



Chapter 40-41

Chapter 40-41 Summary

Kate awakens and realizes that something is wrong. Her vision is blurred and her pulse is jumpy. In just a few moments, her mood swings from detachment to depression to panic. If she can only figure out what he has drugged her with, she can prove to herself that she is still sane. She will not allow him to kill her for no good reason. She has to stop him. The house is quiet so she shouts out to the other girls for support. She yells out that he has drugged her and that she thinks he is going to kill her soon. Naomi warns her against fighting him and tells her to be brave and be strong.

Kate felt like she was going mad. Casanova admonishes her for not following his rules. He wears the most gruesome mask he has worn yet. Kate now believes that his masks reflect his mood. He holds a syringe in one hand and his stun gun in the other. She tries to talk to him, but nothing comes out of her mouth. She knows he is there to kill her and must do something. She concentrates on her karate training and focuses on delivering a kick to his kidney. Her kick misses its intended target but strikes hard on his hip. He lets out a scream as he hits the ground.

Chapter 40-41 Analysis

Kate's medical training comes in handy. She analyzes herself and realizes that she has been drugged and even guesses as to what with. She will not allow Casanova to kill her and will do whatever is necessary to escape. She has broken the rules and fears what he will do. Despite her drugged condition, she is able to focus enough to make a desperate, last-chance karate kick that sends him to the floor.



Chapter 42-43

Chapter 42-43 Summary

Cross returns to the South. He thinks this may be an impossible case to solve. The FBI and local police are doing everything they can. Eleven suspects are under surveillance, ranging from professors to doctors and even a retired cop. Because of the "perfect" crime aspect of the case, all area policemen were checked by the FBI. Cross was not concerned with these suspects—he is there to look where others are not looking. Cross looks into all open serial murder cases across the country. The Gentleman Caller case attracts his attention and he reads the Caller's newspaper/diary entries. The Caller, in his next to last entry, talks about a woman being held captive in California: Naomi C., second year law student, black, very attractive, twenty-two years old. Cross' Naomi is 22 and a second year law student. How could the Caller know about her?

Cross phones Beth Lieberman, The Los Angeles Times reporter to learn what she knows. Cross learns that there are mentions of Casanova in the unedited diaries the Gentleman Caller has sent her. There is a theory that they are talking to each other and sharing exploits. Cross thinks that the FBI is covering up the fact that there are coast-to-coast serial killers.

Chapter 42-43 Analysis

Agent Kyle Craig wants Cross to work on this case in his own special way. Craig wants Cross to look at this case independently of the traditional investigation. Cross' unique methods may be just what is needed to solve the case. Cross' eye for detail leads him to discover the Caller's message. Other investigators likely would not have made the connection between the bi-coastal killers.



Chapter 44-45

Chapter 44-45 Summary

Kate tells herself to run, but her body does not want to listen. She knows that Casanova will chase her and kill her. She climbs a steep wooden stairway outside her door. She calls out for the other girls, but hearing no answer, decides she must run and bring back help later. She comes upon another flight of stairs. It seems ancient, as if from a different era. When she reaches the top of the staircase, she realizes she is outside. She feels free. She tries to run, but falls. Looking back, she realizes that the house she just escaped from is gone, having completely disappeared.

Kate runs and stumbles through the forest as best she can. She knows Casanova cannot be far behind. He is going to chase her down and kill her. She resists the urge to stop and rest and let the drugs wear off. She hears him crashing through the woods behind her. He is shouting her name and demanding that she stop. Kate runs up a steep hill and believes that she is going to die right there on the hillside. She sees Casanova, still wearing his mask and holding his stun gun, climbing the hill behind her. The hillside abruptly ends overlooking a steep, sheer rock canyon. She estimates that the drop is 100 feet. Casanova is fast approaching. Kate jumps off the cliff, aiming for a stream below. She would rather die this way than be killed by him. She hits the water hard and quickly hits the bottom. She feels shooting, terrible pain everywhere. She swallows water and believes she is going to drown.

Chapter 44-45 Analysis

Relying on instinct and sheer panic to overcome her drugged condition, Kate makes her way out of the hideaway. Kate cannot figure out how the house she just exited disappeared. Kate would rather die by jumping off a cliff than let Casanova take her back to the house or kill her in the woods.



Chapter 46

Chapter 46 Summary

Detective Nick Ruskin calls Cross to tell him that Kate McTiernan was pulled from the Wykagil River by two young boys who skipped school to go fishing. Ruskin picks Cross up and drives him to the hospital to see Kate. Cross feels Ruskin is starting to come around—that Ruskin perhaps believed that Cross had information that might help him with the case. This could be Ruskin's big case. Ruskin tells Cross that Kate's survival is a miracle. She did not even suffer a major broken bone. However, she cannot talk and is suffering from post-traumatic shock. No one knows how she got in the river or how she escaped from Casanova. As they approach the hospital, media is everywhere.

Cross reviews all of Kate's medical charts, nursing notes and write-ups. He reads the police reports detailing how the two twelve-year-old boys found her. Kate's face was badly swollen with two black eyes and swelling around the jaw. She had lost a tooth at least two days earlier. Casanova had beaten her. Cross tries to tell the near-catatonic Kate that she's alright now. He wants desperately to ask her about Naomi, but knows she cannot respond.

Chapter 46 Analysis

This chapter is very revealing. Cross' sharp detective skills may be clouded by the fact that Naomi is still held captive. A truly astute and aware Cross would have questioned why Ruskin said Kate's survival was a miracle and why he pointed out that she did not suffer any broken bones. How could Ruskin have known her survival was a miracle? How did he know that it was strange she did not break any bones? No one knew how she ended up in the river. Ruskin slips up by giving a little too much information. He gets away with the slip-up when Cross fails to catch on.



Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Summary

Casanova is peering into the window of Anna Miller, the law student he watched at Victoria's Secret, as she enjoys a bottle of wine in bed with her fiancée. Shortly after they fall into a tender embrace of lovemaking, Anna senses that she is being watched. She turns to see Casanova standing there wearing a mask. Casanova shoots and kills the fiancée with a Luger, then pulls out his stun gun and uses it on Anna. He carries her off to be his next great love.

Chapter 47 Analysis

Casanova's methods change. Instead of waiting patiently to take Anna, he wants her immediately. He kills her fiancée in order to abduct her without haste. Perhaps he is rattled at Kate's escape. He is acting more like the Caller than himself.



Chapter 48-50

Chapter 48-50 Summary

Kate regains the ability to speak, but no one can understand her. She talks gibberish or as though she was speaking in tongues. She suffers tremors and convulsions. Cross sits with her for long stretches. He suspects that she has been drugged and, reviewing a toxic screening test on her urine, discovers Marinol in her system. Cross theorizes that because Marinol is hard to obtain, Casanova may be a doctor or pharmacist. Cross does not tell the local police or the FBI about Kate's drugged state. He wants to be the first one to talk to her. Cross spends the night with her just in case Casanova is a local doctor who might come back to finish the job.

Kate awakens with a startled scream. She wants to know who Cross is. He tries to calm her by telling her he is a policeman. He tells her she is in the hospital and everything is OK. He tells her that she was drugged. Kate can't resist crying since she had done everything she could to hold back the tears when she was being held captive.

Kate and Cross talk about the case. Cross tells her he is there looking for his niece. Kate informs him that there were other women in the house. Kate broke the house rules by talking to a girl named Naomi. Cross is very excited to hear that Naomi is still alive. Kate tells him about the location. She remembers the thick Carolina pines and how the house disappeared.

Chapter 48-50 Analysis

It seems a stretch that no one would have checked Kate's urine sample for drugs in her system yet, but the ever-resourceful Cross thinks to do it and discovers Marinol in her system. This gives Cross a new theory that Casanova may be a doctor. Cross turns the tables on the local police and FBI he suspected of withholding evidence from him earlier by withholding something from them now. He will be the first to interview Kate when she awakens. He wants to find Naomi. His interview with Kate gives him the good news he has been hoping for: Naomi is likely still alive. He also learns an important and mysterious clue: that Casanova's hideaway house disappeared as soon as Kate left.



Chapter 51

Chapter 51 Summary

Casanova tries to sleep, unsuccessfully. He tosses and turns in bed, thinking about the mistake he made letting Kate slip away. This was his very first mistake. He is startled by a touch to his shoulder and a woman's voice. He quickly shifts from Casanova mode to husband mode as his wife asks him why he can't sleep. It is 3 a.m. and he needs to talk to someone. He realizes it is only midnight in Los Angeles. He phones the Gentleman Caller and tells him that he's feeling a little crazy and that he picked up a new and exquisite beauty, Anna.

Chapter 51 Analysis

Casanova can easily change his masks, from serial killer to loving husband. He is upset that he made a mistake by letting Kate get away and feels the need to talk to someone. He calls the Gentleman Caller, the one person who understands him.



Chapter 52

Chapter 52 Summary

Cross learns about the abduction of Anna Miller. The murder of the fiancée to get her was a new twist. Casanova left no clues. Casanova commits another perfect crime after his recent mistake of letting Kate get away.

Kate does everything she can to help with a psychological profile of Casanova. There were at least six girls in the house, including herself. Casanova stalks his targets for weeks before abducting them, learning intimate details of their lives. He seems to have built the house himself. He is very active sexually, capable of several erections a night. He is jealous, possessive and controlling. He could also be thoughtful and romantic. He loves to sit and talk with the girls for hours. He tells them he loves them.

Kate agrees to do a press conference, accompanied by Det. Ruskin and Sikes. She is calm and confident in front of the press and the news cameras. She was in control of the situation. To Cross, she acted like the doctor she was. She has a message for the family members of the other women still held captive. She tells them that she believes they are safe and that Casanova will not harm them unless they break the rules like she did. Cross feels like Kate is sending a message to Casanova too—she wants him to blame her and not the other girls for her escape.

As he watches Kate in the news conference, Cross wonders if Casanova takes not just extraordinary beauties, but women extraordinary in every way. He wonders what this means. Cross suspects that Casanova is obsessed with physical beauty, but cannot stand to be around women who are not as smart as he is. At the conclusion of the press conference, the media applauds Kate. Cross wonders whether Casanova is there clapping too.

Chapter 52 Analysis

Kate confirms some of Cross' suspicions about Casanova: he carefully chooses his abductees and gets to know them for several weeks before taking them; he is very romantic and enjoys talking to the girls for hours. He really is in love with them. Kate's strength and extraordinary nature are demonstrated when she delivers her news conference. She really is a special woman. This fact hardens Cross' belief that Casanova only takes the extraordinary women, as opposed to the extraordinary beauties.



Chapter 53

Chapter 53 Summary

At 4:00 a.m., Casanova packs a backpack with food and supplies for a morning trip to see the girls. He has a name for his forbidden game: Kiss the Girls. On the drive and hike to the hideaway, he fantasizes about Anna, his newest captive. He thinks of an F. Scott Fitzgerald quote to the effect that kissing originated when the first male reptile licked the first female reptile in a way that suggested she was as tasty as the small reptile he ate for dinner the night before. Once inside the hideaway, he cranks the Rolling Stones on the stereo. He dresses in a fancy robe purchased long ago in Bangkok and wears a beautiful costume mask purchased in Venice. He admires his well-muscled body in the mirror as he prepares to see Anna. Anna is exquisite and untouchable. It will be necessary to break her early. He prepares a bottle of warm milk, some rubber tubing and a wicker basket with a surprise for Anna.

Chapter 53 Analysis

The F. Scott Fitzgerald quote reveals much about Casanova's personality. Like the kissing reptiles described, Casanova blurs the line between lust and violence. Women are to be tasted and consumed. After devouring its prey, the reptile moves on to his next victim. "Kiss the girls" is his name for this reptilian game. He kisses them, tastes them, and then kills them. Casanova prepares himself thoroughly for his encounters with the girls as if he was preparing to go on a date. In fact, his time with the girls is a date.



Chapter 54

Chapter 54 Summary

Casanova feels a little out of control as he watches Anna Miller. He feels not like himself, but more like the Gentleman Caller. Anna is naked except for the jewelry he wanted her to wear and lying on the bedroom floor with her legs suspended in the air and a pillow underneath her buttocks to prop them up. He can do anything he wants to her. He uses the rubber hose and nozzle to insert the warm milk inside of her anus. She reminds him of Annette Bening, but she is real and there for him, not some image on a movie screen. Anna will help him get over Kate. He wonders what it takes to break someone's will. Anna pleads for him to stop. The wicker basket contains a small black snake. The snake is attracted to the smell of the milk and follows that smell inside Anna. Casanova tells her that the snake cannot harm her because its mouth is sewn shut. Casanova wonders how many men have watched this spectacle performed. It was a sexual practice for enlarging the anus that he had learned about on his trips to Thailand and Cambodia. He could not stop himself and neither could the police, the FBI or Cross.

Chapter 54 Analysis

Casanova relishes the control he has over the girls. He marvels that no one has ever controlled the unattainable Anna the way he has. He desires to break her independent spirit. Casanova feels great power in his ability to impose bizarre and unusual sexual practices on his victims. This power is so great that he cannot stop it himself and neither the police nor cross can stop him.



Chapter 55-56

Chapter 55-56 Summary

Cross hypnotizes Kate in the hope of jogging her memory of the abduction and she is able to remember much more. She recalls being carried effortlessly by Casanova through the woods to the hideaway. He has animal-like strength. She remembers the masks he wore. One was a death mask that is sometimes used to recreate the face of a severely disfigured accident victim for identification purposes. She does not remember much about her escape because she was drugged at the time. She remembers kicking him and him going down. Kate cries as she remembers that she left the other women there. She stops the process and asks Cross for a moment alone. Cross wonders why the investigation is going nowhere. Later that week, Kate is released from the hospital. She tells Cross that she wants to speak with him everyday—not for therapy, but just to talk. Cross and Kate form a quick and strong bond.

On a Monday afternoon, Kate and Cross go for a walk through the woods surrounding the Wykagil River, near where Kate was found. If she could remember just one detail, it might crack the case. Kate recalls happy childhood memories of walking through similar forests and swimming in streams with her sisters. These woods make Cross uncomfortable. They make him think about the tobacco farms once operating in those very woods that used the slave labor of his ancestors. They, too, had been kidnapped and abducted. None of the terrain looks familiar to Kate. She only remembers escaping from the house into a densely packed, dark and eerie forest. Kate tells Cross she wishes he could hear Casanova talk and that he is very bright. Cross responds that they are too. Casanova will make a mistake and they will catch him. They walk four or five miles, but find no clues of Casanova or his disappearing house. Cross and Kate are getting to know each other well. Cross tells her about his wife Maria who was killed in a drive-by shooting. He tells her about his children. Cross wonders how Casanova got so good at what he does. "Practice, practice, practice" is Kate's response.

Chapter 55-56 Analysis

Cross' hypnosis of Kate gives him a very important clue about Casanova, he just does not realize it yet. Kate recalls Casanova's animal-like strength. This will be very important later. Cross and Kate are developing a romantic relationship. Working together on the investigation brings them together. They share intimate details of their pasts. Kate wants to give Cross all the information she can about Casanova. She was impressed by Casanova's intelligence and guile. Kate unwittingly suggests a clue when she tells Cross that Casanova is so good at what he does because of his dedicated practice. As we learn later on the Gentleman Caller stakeout, police surveillance is something of an art form involving blending into the surroundings and patiently observing a target. This is exactly the methodological technique that Casanova employs. This is another indication that he is perhaps a police officer.



Chapter 57

Chapter 57 Summary

Kate and Cross stop to eat at a downtown Chapel Hill restaurant on their way back from the woods. Kate wants to forget about everything and just get drunk with Cross. Kate tells him a story about her family that she has never told anyone before. She trusts him and feels that he is a wonderful listener. Cross admires her stunning beauty and understands what Casanova saw in her.

Kate had four sisters, including a twin. Her mother kicked her mean-spirited father out of the house when she was four. She tells Cross how times were tough growing up. First her sister Margie died of ovarian cancer at age 26, leaving behind three children. Then, two of her other sisters, including her twin, and then her mother, died of either breast or ovarian cancer. That left only her sister Carol Anne and herself. Kate told him the story because she wants to be his friend. She asks Cross to tell her a secret and he tells her that he has been screwed up ever since his wife died. He was involved in one relationship since, but it ended badly. He doesn't know if he will ever be able to have a relationship again. She tells him that he is ready. Cross feels a spark.

Chapter 57 Analysis

Kate's humility has to come from somewhere. She shares her deep dark secrets that she grew up poor and that three of her sisters and her mother have died of cancer. Her difficult upbringing makes her a thoughtful and humble person. Cross shares his personal failings as well. He has not been able to have a good relationship since his wife died. The relationship between Kate and Cross is progressing.



Chapter 58

Chapter 58 Summary

Casanova's harem has been summoned to join him in the living room. Naomi walks among the other girls. Their number has ranged between six and eight. When a girl left, there always seemed to be another to take her place. Casanova sits, wearing a festive party mask, waiting for them. He wears a gold silk robe and is naked underneath. He holds a stun gun and a pistol. Naomi's heart skips a beat when she notices that her violin is on a table near Casanova. He brought her violin to the house. Casanova waltzes around the house in an elegant and sophisticated style, as though he were the host of a fancy dinner party. Naomi wishes they could all rush him at once. Casanova informs the harem that there will be a special treat: Naomi will play the violin for them. Naomi plays beautifully, though not perfectly. She wishes she could talk to the other girls, but that is not allowed. Casanova tells her that she will stay with him that evening. He tells her that she is the most beautiful woman there.

Chapter 58 Analysis

Casanova's masks reflect his moods. He is in a good mood this evening. Naomi wants desperately for the girls to join together and rush him. His rule against communication prevents that from happening. Casanova not only forces the women into sexual performances, but he makes Naomi perform the violin as well. He will command her in both ways this evening.



Chapter 59

Chapter 59 Summary

Kate and Cross retire to her apartment to talk more about the case. They can't unravel the mystery of the disappearing house. FBI Agent Kyle Craig tracks down Cross at Kate's with some urgent news. The Gentleman Caller has killed Beth Lieberman, the reporter. He cut off her fingers and burned down her apartment building. Cross guesses that there was something important inside that needed to be destroyed. Kyle is one step ahead of Cross this time. He tells Cross that Lieberman did have important information and it was kept on her work computer, not in her apartment. She had a possible identity for the Caller: Dr. William Rudolph of Los Angeles. FBI West wants to see Kate immediately.

Chapter 59 Analysis

The case is beginning to open up with the discovery of the possible identity of the Gentleman Caller. Interestingly, the suspect is a doctor from North Carolina. Perhaps the earlier theories about Casanova being a doctor are correct.



Chapter 60-61

Chapter 60-61 Summary

The Gentleman Caller strolls down Melrose Avenue on a sunny afternoon in Los Angeles. He strolls Melrose "shopping" for another conquest. The Southern California streets are littered with beautiful young women in their early- and mid-twenties. He enjoys their fancy perfumes, their designer shoes, their spandex mini-skirts and their form-fitting suits. The Caller is a strikingly handsome man. In fact, one of his most private secrets is that the women almost always choose him. He receives approving glances from many young women.

He spots a target: a beautiful young blonde who gives off the impression that she is untouchable. She glances at him, noticing his wrinkled medical jacket. He has broad shoulders that make him look like an athlete. His brown curls are tied back in a ponytail. She speaks the first words: "Was it something I didn't say?" He is excited that she chooses him. He laughs and apologizes for being caught staring. As they flirt, he considers just how he will shatter and destroy her.

As the Caller stalks his prey, so too do Cross and some West Coast FBI Agents stalk him. They have been watching him all day from a mini-van. They wait expectantly as he makes his move on the blonde. Cross thinks that although Dr. Rudolph does not look like a killer, he does fit the description that Kate gave of a handsome man, attractive to women, with a strong build and blue eyes. The Caller and the blonde exit the store. Once on the street, she gives him the blow-off as she gets in a car with her girlfriend. They wave to Dr. Rudolph as they drive away. He smiles back. With high-tech directional microphones, the FBI Agents hear him mutter under his breath that he would like to chop them up into little pieces and feed them to the seagulls.

Chapter 60-61 Analysis

The Gentleman Caller is a much different psychopath than Casanova. The Caller finds the most desirable and unattainable woman he can in order to have the pleasure of destroying her, acting solely on lust. Casanova, on the other hand, is a lover who patiently learns everything he can about a potential target before he takes her. He needs a woman superior in mind as well as body. The Caller only desires the superior beauty. Interestingly, the women choose the Caller. They pick him up because of his dashing good looks.

There is an interesting parallel here: Cross is hunting Rudolph as Rudolph hunts his prey. Similarly, Rudolph tries to pick up the blonde at the same time she decides to turn the tables and play a little trick on him. Rudolph sensed that she was unattainable, he just did not realize why: she prefers women to men.



Chapter 62-64

Chapter 62-64 Summary

Cross and the agents track the Caller back to his luxury apartment. They know where he lives, but have declined to share this information with the LAPD. They are playing a dangerous game of withholding information from local law enforcement. Cross tires after four hours of stakeout and is taken back to his hotel room. He visits Kate and tells her everything that happened that day. Cross has arranged for Kate to ride with him on stakeout the following day. Cross retires to his own room and lies in bed, semi-conscious. He fantasizes that Kate will walk down the hall and knock on his door. The knock never comes.

Just after 8 a.m., Cross and Kate sit in a car across the street from Dr. Rudolph's hospital. Cross spots him exiting his BMW and points him out to Kate. Kate notices he is good looking and carries himself with confidence. Dr. Rudolph wears a very expensive suit. Cross marvels that the serial killer terrorizing Los Angeles is a smug doctor at an exclusive Beverly Hills hospital. After watching him enter the hospital, Kate thinks they are not the same person. She believes that Rudolph has a different build and carries himself differently than Casanova. Cross wonders if the two bi-coastal serial killers are competing. At two o'clock in the afternoon, he emerges and drives to his clinic. He is a plastic surgeon. Most of his patients are women. They choose him to sculpt them.

Cross runs down an index card of notes that he always keeps with him that include key features of both Casanova and the Gentleman Caller. A psychological condition called "twinning" occurs to Cross. It may explain the relationship between the two serial killers. Twinning was caused by an urge to bond between two lonely people. They twin each other and the two become a whole. They become obsessively dependent on one another and sometimes become highly competitive with one another as well. Twinning is a fusing of two people for their own individual needs, which were not mutually healthy. Cross runs the idea by Kate, since she is a twin. Kate points out that often there is a dominant twin. The dominant twin acts more as a male role model. The dominant twin may not be the more manipulative one, however. Kate has studied the twinning phenomenon and knows that twinning creates a powerful structure in which the pair can operate in very complex ways. Cross wonders how and where they originally met. Perhaps they met at Duke when Dr. Rudolph was in medical school.

Chapter 62-64 Analysis

The FBI dangerously withholds information from the LAPD. This is likely a plot device, since more officers on the surveillance may be able to prevent Rudolph from making an escape later. Cross, pushing away his earlier apprehensions about a relationship with Kate, now hopes that she will come knock on his door.

The idea of "twinning" is introduced to the story. Twins abound: Casanova and the Caller are twins; Cross and Sampson are twins in a similar, though healthy way; and Kate had a twin sister. The twin serial killers join forces to become more powerful together. Their competition escalates their killing sprees.



Chapter 65-66

Chapter 65-66 Summary

Cross and Kate sit and chat during their stakeout, delving into personal issues. Cross notices sparks starting to fly between them as they talk about the reasons they both avoid relationships. Cross still misses his deceased wife, while Kate fears a relationship because she thinks she could die of cancer. They both fear loss. Kate offers that maybe its better to love and lose than to be afraid.

At 10:20 Rudolph emerges from his apartment dressed in all-black party clothes. He gets into his white Range Rover instead of the BMW and drives through the city to the Pacific Coast Highway heading north. Cross and the FBI tail unit follow as he drives up the PCH for hours. Some six hours later, he pulls onto a side road in Big Sur. Once he pulls off the highway, Cross does not want to raise suspicion, so he allows him to pull out of sight. Cross does not notice that Rudolph has pulled off the road. As they pass his parked Range Rover, he glares at them.

Rudolph has stopped at a cabin in the woods. Cross uses the two-way radio in the car to communicate with the FBI Agents. They are already behind the cabin. Cross parks up the road a bit and he and Kate walk through the woods, approaching the cabin from behind. Kate full of terror, reliving her experience with Casanova. Cross feels a little nervous, too, and thinks this could be a trap. Naomi may have been moved across the country to this cabin. He takes out his pistol as he approaches the cabin. He is startled at Rudolph's appearance inside: he is sweaty as he paces back and forth inside the cabin. Rudolph is screaming and shouting at someone, but there is no one else inside. Cross hears Rudolph scream, "Goddamn you, Casanova! Kiss the Girls! Kiss the fucking girls yourself from now on!"

Chapter 65-66 Analysis

Why does Rudolph wear party clothes for a long late-night drive up the coast? He does not stop anywhere along the way and he goes nowhere once he finally arrives. Is he playing a game with the police? He likely burnt down Lieberman's apartment because he knew that she knew his identity. Maybe he knows the police are moving in. Rudolph seems upset about the escalating killing competition. He has been reckless and perhaps fears the noose of the police tightening around him.



Chapter 67-72

Chapter 67-72 Summary

Agents John Asaro and Ray Cosgrove patiently watch Cross from the woods and wonder why he is getting so close to the house. They joke that he may be a peeping tom. They mildly resent his presence, but understand that Washington has made a special accommodation for him. They speculate that perhaps Beth Lieberman was wrong about Rudolph being the Gentleman Caller. Maybe he really is just a plastic surgeon from L.A. On the other hand, Asaro thinks, if Rudolph was a serial killer, this could be his big case.

After eavesdropping on Rudolph, Cross returns to Kate and they retreat to a stand of trees a safe distance from the cabin. He tells Kate he heard him scream. He saw an absolutely crazy and evil man talking to himself. They watch the cabin all night long but Rudolph does not appear again until after one o'clock the next afternoon. He dances around in the nude as he walks outside to take an outdoor shower. Kate remarks that he is very sure of himself. After finishing his shower, he picks some wildflowers and walks inside.

A few hours later, he re-emerges dressed in tight black jeans and a plain t-shirt. He drives down Highway 1 to a restaurant called Nepenthe. Cross and Kate follow him inside. The bar at the restaurant is filled with beautiful women—the perfect place for the Caller to hunt. Cross tells Kate that he is sure Rudolph is the Gentleman Caller. Rudolph checks out several beautiful women, but apparently they aren't beautiful enough for him. Cross grabs Kate's hand to make it look like they are together. Kate responds that maybe they are and gives him a wink.

They watch him approach a striking young blonde. Cross thinks that she is the Gentleman's type, as well as Casanova's. Rudolph and the young woman immediately hit it off. Cross and Kate realize that they are watching the Caller at work. Kate tells him that Rudolph can have any woman he wants because of his looks. He has a rebellious look but is also very handsome. To many women, that combination is irresistible. Kate opines that she picked him up. Perhaps that is how he never gets caught. They wonder why Casanova does not work the same way. Maybe he is ugly or disfigured. Kate thinks that might explain his masks. Cross has a different theory about Casanova and the masks, but he will save it for later.

Rudolph and his new friend order hamburgers. So too do Cross and Kate. When it comes time for Rudolph and his new girl to leave, Cross notices that they did not touch as they walked out to the parking lot. He theorizes that one of them was secretly shy. The Gentleman held the door for her and bowed as she got in. Cross thinks to himself that she chose him. No kidnapping has taken place yet; no crime has been committed. At this point there is nothing they could get him for. He commits perfect crimes just like Casanova.



Cross is apprehensive as they tail Rudolph back to the cabin, wondering what is about to happen. Perhaps the missing body parts of the other women will be found inside. They park a quarter mile down the road and walk back. Kate cannot stand the thought that Rudolph might kill the girl. Cross tries to calm her by telling her that the Gentleman Caller always keeps his victims a day before killing them. He hopes he is right this time. He thinks back to his work on the Gary Soneji/Murphy serial murder case and desperately wants to break into the cabin and stop things immediately. Shortly after arriving, a bloodcurdling scream is heard from the cabin. The young woman is shouting for help. Cross and five FBI agents immediately run towards the cabin.

Cross reaches the cabin first and breaks through the back door. Inside, he finds the woman handcuffed to a bed in a back room, still alive. There is no sign of Rudolph. Cross hears gunshots from outside. Cross shouts at them not to kill Rudolph. He runs out in time to see the agents shooting at Rudolph as he makes his escape in the Range Rover. Cross runs to the road to head off Rudolph. He grabs hold of the door as Rudolph tries to speed off. Cross climbs onto the roof of the vehicle and holds fast to the roof rack. Rudolph accelerates and then slams on the brakes to try to throw Cross off the car. Cross, thinking about Naomi, holds on. Rudolph speeds down the highway with Cross on the roof to the amazement of other drivers and pedestrians. As they approach the busy coast highway, Cross can see that traffic is backed up. Rudolph intentionally tries to fish tail the car, hoping to spin out and smash rear-first into the backed up traffic ahead. Cross realizes that holding tight to the roof is not going to help him. He relaxes his body before impact and flies through the air into a tree. As he crashes to the ground, he knows that Rudolph is going to escape.

Cross is shaken and bruised from his crash into the tree, but managed not to break any bones. The EMS team wants him to check into a hospital for the night, but he refuses, knowing he has work to do. He needs to be present when Rudolph's house is searched. Meanwhile, Rudolph is running loose. He stole a car to leave the scene and has already abandoned it. Cross and Kate catch a flight back to L.A. Kate is upset with Cross, wanting him to go to the hospital because he could be suffering from internal injuries. Cross is aware of their growing connection.

Chapter 67-72 Analysis

Cross is sure he's got the Caller now, after witnessing his raving lunatic screams up close. Kate offers an interesting take that the Caller can have any woman he wants because of his good looks. Like the woman at the Los Angeles boutique, this woman seems to pick him up. There is an interesting line here about Cross' theory on the masks that he will share later. He never does. Perhaps Cross was wrong about Rudolph sticking to a pattern of holding his women for a day before killing them. One would think that five FBI agents might be able to keep him from escaping a cabin so small it has an outdoor shower.

Kate's growing affection for Cross is demonstrated by her demand that he go to the hospital. Their relationship becomes a little closer. He plays the tough cop, though, and

thinks being inside during the initial search of Rudolph's apartment will help him with the case.



Chapter 73-75

Chapter 73-75 Summary

From blocks away, Cross and Kate can see the commotion around Rudolph's apartment. The police situation is a mess. The LAPD is upset that the FBI kept them in the dark for so long. Inside, they find a sparsely decorated penthouse apartment. Cross takes mental notes of everything inside. The china cabinet is full of expensive tableware. On his desk are sheets of formal writing paper and fancy silver-trimmed envelopes. Included among a dozen expensive suits in his suit closet are two tuxedos. The closet is more a shrine to his clothes than a closet. Speaking to the detectives and agents present, Cross learns that they have found absolutely no clues linking Rudolph to the murders. Cross is frustrated that Rudolph commits perfect crimes just like Casanova.

Cross and Kate return to the hotel where Kate performs an impromptu examination on Cross. She pokes and prods and listens to his breathing. She finds no broken bones or other significant injuries. They lie down together and finally Kate breaks the ice. They kiss, then kiss again. Cross likes this. Kate, however, stops and starts to cry. The investigation has been wearing on her. They fall asleep holding each other. Cross awakens shortly after 5:00 a.m. with a theory. They must return to the apartment immediately. He calls ahead and tells the FBI agent in charge where to look and what to look for.

Cross suspects that there is a secret compartment hidden behind the suit closet. It is an idea that came to him as he drifted in and out of sleep. The closet is too narrow. It was a shrine, as he first thought, but not to Rudolph's clothes. A small refrigerator contains the body parts sliced from various victims. Carefully placed in numbered Ziploc bags are clothing souvenirs taken from the victims, including panties, bras and pantyhose. Many of the items still smelled of perfume. The most significant clue, however, is a small photograph. On the back of the photo is written: "Dr. Wick Sachs, Durham, North Carolina, Casanova."

Chapter 73-75 Analysis

Finally Cross and Kate share a romantic moment. The emotions of the entire case seem to well up inside her as she starts to cry. Apparently a good detective never sleeps. Once Cross wakes up with a theory at 5 a.m., he must leave immediately to verify it.

Rudolph's strategic ploy, the photograph of Dr. Wick Sachs, probably makes up for his mistake of keeping souvenirs of his victims. This will lead the investigators straight to the phony Casanova. As perfect as their crimes are, it would be odd for Rudolph to leave such a blatant clue behind.



Chapter 76

Chapter 76 Summary

Naomi is awakened by loud rock music and lights flashing in her room. Something bad has happened. Casanova opens the door and tells her to get to the living room. He does the same with the other girls. As they walk down the corridor, the girl next to her whispers her name, Kristen Miles. Kristen tells her that they have to do something soon. Naomi knows the rules and knows they cannot be caught talking. Naomi acknowledges Kristen by lightly brushing the back of her hand with hers. Any touching between the girls is forbidden. Inside the living room, Naomi is shocked at what she sees. Anna Miller hangs from the ceiling beams. Anna broke the rules by calling out for help. Casanova tells the girls her name and warns them that Anna did this to herself by plotting escape. There is no escape, he tells them. Naomi looks at Kristen and nods her head. They know they must do something soon.

Chapter 76 Analysis

If the girls had any doubts about the house rules, Casanova shows them what will happen if they disobey. This strengthens the resolve of Naomi and Kristen. They know they have to do something soon.



Chapter 77

Chapter 77 Summary

The Gentleman Caller stops in Arizona to play his game. He feels himself switching from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde. He watches Juliette Montgomery's husband leave for work and then walks up to the door. It is unlocked. He finds Juliette in the kitchen making breakfast, wearing a sheer negligee. The smell of the bacon she fries reminds him of his childhood. He was raised by a strict Army colonel who was never pleased with his accomplishments, even though he was a standout scholar and athlete in high school and college. The sound of pulling the cleaver from the knife block alerts Juliette to his presence. She demands to know what he is doing in her house. He tells her to relax and nothing will happen to her. She is afraid of him, but his soothing voice and calming words relax her a bit. He removes her panties and then slashes her.

Chapter 77 Analysis

Rudolph's strict upbringing is a clue to his monstrous personality. He was not brought up in a loving family, but rather by a terribly strict authoritarian. Nothing was ever good enough for Rudolph's father. Perhaps likewise, no woman is ever good enough for him.



Chapter 78-80

Chapter 78-80 Summary

Kate returns home and tries to tell herself she is safe there, but thoughts of Casanova enter her mind whenever she closes her eyes. She knows he is out there on the loose. She hears creepy noises throughout her house: wind chimes, creaking wood, banging shutters. She misses Cross more than she expected. She has a crush on him. She wants desperately to call him at his hotel and picks up the phone to do so several times. She thinks better of it, however. Nothing could happen between the two of them—their lives are too different. She falls asleep with the help of a glass of wine.

That same night, Cross decides he needs to see Dr. Wick Sachs' house. He knows Dr. Sachs has a wife and two young children. The doctor lives in the stately Hope Valley subdivision of Durham. Cross knows that a "human monster" can live anywhere. Some of the clever ones picked ordinary all-American-looking houses. Cross feels a little out of place as he drives through the community. He is struck by the meticulous upkeep of the house. The bricks on the walkway perfectly match those on the house. There is not a weed to be found in the perfectly mown grass. Dr. Sachs and his family are not home.

Cross is a little apprehensive about breaking and entering. He justifies his actions by thinking that Naomi and the other girls are still out there. Cross suspects the FBI may be watching him as he breaks in. Would they stop him? Probably not, he thinks. Agent Kyle Craig wants him to be a loose cannon. By not being there in any official capacity, Cross can do things that police officers and FBI agents cannot. Cross breaks a small window pane and enters the house.

The inside of the house is as neat and orderly as the outside. It reminds Cross of Rudolph's apartment: so perfect that it looked like no one lived there. Cross finds a small study. Professor Sachs' notes are strewn everywhere. This seems out of character for someone so neat and orderly. Cross continues to the basement where behind a heavy oak door he passes a small furnace room. On the far side of the furnace room is another wooden door that looks like a door to a closet. Inside, however, was a twenty-five by forty foot room. This was Sachs' secret room. It is laid out like a library with books and magazines from floor to ceiling on all four walls. Sachs' library was a collection of erotica; the largest Cross had ever seen or heard of. Cross peruses some of the bizarre and unusual titles detailing strange sex acts and torture methods. Cross finds several books on Casanova. Cross feels a connection to Sachs. He is getting to know Sachs now. He wonders where he keeps the girls. Are they nearby? Could they be hidden somewhere in town where the police and FBI would never think to look? Cross returns to his hotel room. Almost as soon as he walks in, his phone rings. Agent Craig wants to know what he found inside.



Chapter 78-80 Analysis

Cross always has to be the first inside. He's something of a cowboy. He justifies illegally entering Sachs' house because it might lead to solving the case and saving Naomi. As a private citizen Cross would not jeopardize the case by breaking in and snooping around. Sachs' messy office seems out of character to Cross. This should be a clue that Sachs is not Casanova. On the other hand, the pornography library, with multiple books about Casanova, is a clue that is almost too perfect.



Chapter 81-83

Chapter 81-83 Summary

The following morning Cross and Kate are on surveillance once again. They scout out Sachs' home. He makes his first appearance to pick up the morning paper. Sachs is tall and professional looking with horn-rimmed glasses complementing his sandy blonde hair. He has a very good build. A short while later he reappears with his two children to take them to school. They are dressed perfectly. Sachs returns shortly after dropping them off. Sachs skips his teaching duties for the day and leaves the house around eleven.

Cross and Kate follow Sachs out of the neighborhood. At the same time, Agent Craig is doing a financial investigation of Sachs with the IRS. Craig is trying to connect Sachs and Rudolph. They were classmates at Duke, both honor students. They knew each other, but were not good friends in school. Agent Craig was a student at Duke Law School himself at the time. Cross was curious when the twinning of Sachs and Rudolph had occurred. Something did not make sense to him yet.

Sachs drives to downtown Chapel Hill. The surveillance of Sachs is upsetting to Kate as it awakens memories of her abduction. She is frustrated to be that close to him and not be able to catch him or beat him. Cross thinks he is too smug and self-confident. Sachs stops at the retro Varsity Theater in front of a community billboard covered with all sorts of posters and hand-written notices. He seems to be waiting for someone. Cross and Kate watch Sachs from inside a store across the street. Kate thinks he looks like Casanova without the mask. Cross notices that Sachs stands underneath a poster that reads: "Women and children are starving ... as you walk by with loose change in your pocket. Please change your behavior now! You can actually save lives." Cross believes that Sachs is trying to play a sick mind game with them.

Kate understands the significance of the poster: Sachs is sending a message that as long as he is followed, he will not visit and feed his captives. Cross wants to take out Sachs right there, but he knows they have nothing on him. Kate notices an attractive older woman walking down the street to Sachs. She does not look like the young women Casanova has taken. Kate knows this woman. She is Professor Suzanne Wellsley, an English professor at Duke. She has a reputation around campus as sexually outgoing. Sachs and Wellsley kiss and engage in a hot embrace.

Cross has a second thought about the poster/message. Maybe it is a coincidence. Perhaps Professor Wellsley has something to do with the house. Maybe the abductions are part of an underground sex cult. The couple walk into the movie theater. After the movie, they go to a nearby restaurant for a late lunch. They sit near the window, holding hands and kissing. Cross wonders if Sachs is doing this on purpose. A lunchtime affair with another professor did not make sense. After lunch, they parted and Sachs drove home. Cross is convinced that Sachs is playing a cat and mouse game with them.



Chapter 81-83 Analysis

If Sachs is Casanova, he uses his family to blend in perfectly. His fancy house in a wealthy subdivision and his children are perfect covers. Given the games played by both Casanova and the Gentleman Caller, it is appropriate for Cross to think that Sachs is toying with them when he stands underneath the poster. Could Sachs have been so devious as to have known about the poster and planned to meet with a woman underneath it? That is doubtful. Cross correctly picks up mixed signals from Sachs. His fling with a professor does not make sense if he really is Casanova.



Chapter 84

Chapter 84 Summary

Cross and Kate plan a late dinner that evening. When he picks her up, Cross is impressed that she dressed up for the occasion. Cross also dressed up a little. As they dine, Kate tries to walk Cross through the issues preventing a relationship between the two of them. They are both afraid of commitment. Cross is afraid of losing someone the way he lost his wife. Kate is afraid of loving someone and then becoming sick with cancer like her sisters and mother. Cross takes Kate home. They share a bottle of wine and Cross spends the night with her. They do not have sex, though, because they do not want to ruin their friendship.

Chapter 84 Analysis

Despite both of their previous misgivings about a relationship, Cross and Kate both seem eager to go out on a proper date. They try to work through the emotional issues that have prevented a relationship so far. In the end they know that a sexual relationship will ruin their strong friendship.



Chapter 85

Chapter 85 Summary

Naomi sits in her room, losing her last remaining bits of sanity. She has just hallucinated Cross killing Casanova. Casanova has not been seen in two days. She worries that something has happened to him. Perhaps he has been caught or shot. She senses that something has changed about the situation. Naomi is desperate now and tries to call out to Kristen, the green-eyed girl she briefly spoke to before. She speaks, but no words come out of her mouth. Naomi is afraid of breaking the house rules. It occurs to her that she is so desperate she could kill Casanova herself. She shouts out for Kristen and Kristen calls back. Naomi tells her that their only hope is for all the girls to jump Casanova the next time he calls them together. Perhaps one or two of them would be hurt, but he would be unable to stop them all. Just after explaining her plan, her door creaks open. Will Rudolph introduces himself. He tells her he likes her plan, but he will tell her why it won't work.

Chapter 85 Analysis

Naomi is a strong character, but not nearly as strong as Kate.. She has tried to work up the courage to fight back for quite some time. Now that she is unafraid to plot with the other girls, a new roadblock appears in the form of Rudolph. Naomi will have to wait for Cross to save her after all.



Chapter 86-87

Chapter 86-87 Summary

Cross picks up Sampson at the Raleigh Airport and brings him up to speed on the investigation. Cross wants to check out the Wykagil River area to search for the disappearing house. On a hunch, he has enlisted the help of Dr. Louis Freed, a noted black historian with expertise in slavery and the Civil War Era. Cross wants to know more about the history of slaves and the Underground Railroad in the area. Sampson asks if Cross thinks Casanova enjoys his newfound celebrity status. Cross thinks Casanova enjoys his game. Cross tells Sampson about his "twinning" theory. The FBI is starting to believe it now. Rudolph and Casanova share some big secret. Their abductions of beautiful women are only part of the twinning. One of them considers himself a lover and artist, while the other is a brutal killer. They complete each other and make up for each other's weaknesses. Working together they are almost unstoppable. Cross thinks Casanova is the leader. Cross is not sure if Sachs is Casanova. Sometimes Cross thinks Sachs is playing a clever game watching them squirm. Other times, Cross wonders if Sachs has been set up. Casanova is very bright and very careful. He may have sent out the misinformation that led them to Sachs.

As they drive back through Chapel Hill, a man with a gun jumps into the street in front of them and yells, "Chapel Hill police ... Get the hell out of the car. Assume the position."

They have been stopped by young Chapel Hill Police detectives. Cross and Sampson are "suspects." Cross tries to tell the detectives who he is, but one cuts him off and pops him in the small of the back. The detective tells his partner that he thinks Cross is high. Cross can take no more. He yells at the detective and swings around to grab him by the throat. Sampson throws the other one to the ground. Sampson and Cross take the detectives' revolvers. Sampson berates them for their racist antics. Cross tells them that they know the serial killer is not black. Cross and Sampson keep their guns as souvenirs—they will turn them over to the detectives' supervisor later. Cross believes that he and Sampson are "twinning" now, just like the Caller and Casanova.

Chapter 86-87 Analysis

The "twinning" theory is further explained. The two killers complement each other and are stronger as a pair. They cover each other's mistakes. Casanova is the lover and artist. He picks women to love. He encourages them to demonstrate their artistic abilities, whether it is playing an instrument, singing or reading poetry. Rudolph, on the other hand, is the brutal killer, killing for sport. Sachs is likely being used as a decoy.

Cross' worst fears about being a black man in the South are realized when he and Sampson are stopped by local police for no apparent reason. Cross and Sampson

refuse to put up with Southern racism. Now Sampson and Cross are twinning. They are just as unstoppable when they work together as Rudolph and Casanova.



Chapter 88

Chapter 88 Summary

Cross and Sampson pay a visit to Dean Lowell during his workout at the faculty gym to learn all they can about Professor Sachs. Cross and Sampson, both frequent weightlifters, are impressed with the former Olympian's workout. Sachs is known around campus as something of a carouser. Despite his reputation, he has done nothing bad enough to lose his tenure. Sachs was a murder suspect years prior when he was an undergraduate, but he had an airtight alibi. The case was a famous double murder that rocked the community: the murders of Roe Tierney and Tom Hutchinson. Lowell told the FBI about Sachs several weeks earlier. Lowell believes the FBI interviewed Sachs weeks earlier.

Later that evening, Cross and Sampson meet with Detectives Ruskin and Sikes. Ruskin and Sikes apologize for being territorial. All they want to do is stop the killings. They want to nail Sachs, but their supervisor has them tracking several other doctors in addition to Sachs. Cross does not trust them; he thinks the detectives want to use Cross and Sampson or keep them out of the way. He thinks they are holding back evidence as well. There is still a distinct possibility that they have no idea about Casanova's identity.

Chapter 88 Analysis

Lowell could be a Casanova suspect. He has the powerful and athletic build as well as the good looks. Lowell provides Cross with new information about Sachs and his connection to the 1981 Tierney murders. Wasn't Ruskin a Duke student in 1981? Why doesn't his photo in the Duke yearbook raise Cross' suspicions?

Ruskin and Sikes try to be more cooperative with Cross and Sampson. Earlier in the investigation, perhaps Ruskin wished to create misdirection however possible. Now that Rudolph has slipped up and Sachs is a suspect, Ruskin wants to work cooperatively with Cross. Busting Sachs will be the ultimate diversion.



Chapter 89-90

Chapter 89-90 Summary

Casanova is out hunting again, having missed the feeling the last few days. He walks through a special doctor's entrance into the Duke University Medical Center. He walks quickly through the corridors nodding and smiling at doctors and nurses. He fits in perfectly with his surroundings and can go anywhere he chooses. He fears he might be followed and looks back often.

Casanova knows his spree is coming to an end. He thinks that he and Rudolph should move elsewhere. A college town full of young co-ed targets would be optimal. Maybe they should move their operation to Europe. Casanova fears the police will soon figure everything out. In fact, he knows that they will, eventually. Everything can be traced back to the Roe Tierney and Tom Hutchinson murders. There are clues. That was where he met Rudolph. Rudolph made him feel better when he was around. Rudolph understood him like no one else. Casanova emerges on the opposite side of the medical complex feeling strong and sure of himself. This will be a great night. On this night he will meet Kate again. He misses Kate.

The Gentleman Caller is also on the prowl. He has waited patiently for this opportunity. Casanova did not want him out roaming the streets of Durham. He is out to take care of Kate because she has become his competition. Casanova was fixated on her and had bonded with her. She may have been the "lover" that Casanova had obsessively searched for. Rudolph and Casanova had a very special relationship. No one else understood him. He had grown up very lonely, but his loneliness ended when he first met Casanova. It was years ago, just after he killed Roe Tierney and Tom Hutchinson. One night, while in his dorm room, Casanova appeared at the door. Casanova knew what he had done. Casanova complimented him on his near perfect crimes. Casanova told him that he understood why he did it and told him that they were a lot alike. Rudolph felt a powerful connection with Casanova from that very moment, strong enough to be love. Rudolph notices two black men standing on Kate's porch. One of them is Cross.

Chapter 89-90 Analysis

Casanova gathers power and strength through his ability to slip through unrecognized. He worries that because of Rudolph's mistakes and the clues in the Tierney murder case, they must leave North Carolina.



Chapter 91-94

Chapter 91-94 Summary

Cross and Sampson visit Kate at a little after ten o'clock that evening. Cross notices that she left her porch light off. He tries to decide whether she does not want to attract bugs or whether she wants to attract Casanova so that she can have another crack at him. Kate and Sampson hit it off immediately. Kate has been reading an essay about the sexual urges of the modern male. The point of the essay was that many men want to assert their masculine identities, but that contemporary society frustrates them. Sampson feels that men will be men and that they are still lions and tigers at heart. Cross feels that men are incredibly repressed and insecure. He feels that Rudolph and Sachs are asserting their masculinity in an extreme way. They will not be repressed by society. Cross tries to talk Kate into staying at the hotel that night, but she refuses. She will not let Casanova chase her out of her own house. Cross does not ask if he can stay because he had Sampson there.

Kate checks and double-checks the doors and windows after Cross and Sampson leave. She climbs into bed still anxious about Casanova and fantasizes about killing him. She wishes that Cross had stayed with her, but she knew he would be embarrassed in front of Sampson if she had asked him to stay. She wants to be in his arms. She says a few prayers, though she still is not sure about God. She thinks about the girls still trapped in the disappearing house as she falls asleep. She does not hear Casanova enter the house.

Kate hears a noise coming from the right side of her bedroom. She never thought he would come back for her. She sits on the edge of the bed, ready to attack. She hears another creak and then sees his silhouette. She remembers his eyes. He strikes first, catching her with a blow to the shoulder. She springs up and strikes back with a kick to his face and can hear a bone crunch. She follows with a kick to the stomach. She thinks she has him; she is going to catch him all by herself. She punches him again. As he falls to the floor, Kate is struck in the back with something. She is struck a second time and realizes that there is someone else in the room.

Kate stays on her feet after the first two blows. The second man swings something hard and hits her square in the forehead. She hits the floor incapacitated. She hears two voices, one of which is Casanova's. Casanova asks his partner why he is there. Rudolph responds that he is the one who should be there, since he has no connection to Kate. Casanova and Rudolph laugh and joke as they decide what to do with her. Kate smells their body odor, a powerful musk that combines to form something overpowering. Before the two murderers leave, they turn on Kate's bedroom lights so the investigators can have a good look at her.



Chapter 91-94 Analysis

The thesis of the essay Kate describes is basically the central theme of the novel: modern men want to assert their masculine identities, but society frustrates them. Rudolph and Casanova are two modern men who will not be frustrated by society. They take what they want and show no remorse about it. Though Rudolph can have virtually any woman he desires, he cannot have them all. He must take some. Casanova has a wife, but he thinks there is a more perfect lover out there for him.

Kate is going to get Casanova this time. She is ready and she has not been drugged. Her karate skills are good and she has him beat until Rudolph joins into the fight. The killers "twin" to take down Kate. Were it not for Rudolph's clandestine trip to take care of Kate, Casanova would have been caught.



Chapter 95-98

Chapter 95-98 Summary

Cross cannot keep his arms and legs from shaking as he drives from Durham to Kate's Chapel Hill house after hearing what happened. He and Sampson were with her only three hours earlier. He sees the somber faces of a crowd gathered near Kate's house. He realizes how much Casanova has changed the town from a quiet, safe place to a place terrorized and held captive. Cross walks up the street through the crowd and towards the house. Detectives Ruskin and Sikes are present. Cross goes inside to take a look. Something is wrong with the scene, but he cannot put his finger on it. Cross asks Craig about Sachs—he never left the house that night. Cross later realizes why something seemed so wrong about the inside of Kate's apartment. It was not an artistic scene of violence suggesting Casanova, but more like a scene reminiscent of the rage and violence of Dr. Rudolph. Cross knows that Rudolph was there and fears that the two killers are "twinning," merging together as one. He thinks Rudolph tried to kill her because she was getting in the way of his relationship with Casanova.

Early the following morning, Dr. Sachs is brought in for questioning even though local police have no evidence on him yet. This is a decision that might jeopardize the case. Cross and Sampson watch Sachs being interrogated by a top agent from Washington. Ruskin and Sikes sit with them behind a two-way mirror. Two hours of interrogation accomplish nothing but getting Sachs to admit he collects pornography and enjoys consensual encounters with other professors and students. Cross cannot understand why he was brought in. Agent Craig tells him that they do have a little something on Sachs: he is an owner of an upscale Escort service in Raleigh. He will soon have problems with the IRS.

Around 11:00 a.m., Cross gets his chance to interrogate Sachs. Sachs knows who he is from reading stories about the case in the newspaper. Sachs maintains he is not a violent person. Cross reveals that he broke into Sachs' house and knows about the violence portrayed in his erotic collection of books. Sachs counters that he studies eroticism in the same way that Cross studies the criminal mind. Cross tries to throw Sachs off by asking him why he does so well with young women. Sachs teases him with the answer, telling him that he knows how to sexually liberate women and that he liberates as many as he possibly can. This answer upsets Cross and he jumps over the table, knocking Sachs to the floor. Cross resists throwing a punch. Sachs is powerless to stop him, as he is neither strong nor athletic. Other officers rush into the room and pull Cross off of Sachs. Cross whispers to Sampson that Sachs is not Casanova. Sachs is not strong enough to be Casanova.



Chapter 95-98 Analysis

The case has become even more personal for Cross. He was with Kate only three hours earlier, but left her alone at her apartment, a sitting duck for Casanova. He senses the despair of the entire town. Cross is right on with his analysis of the crime scene: this is a Rudolph scene, not a Casanova scene. Rudolph is the brutal twin. Rudolph moved in against Kate because she distracted Casanova.

Sachs is the perfect patsy. He has a secret life as a pornography collector and proprietor of an Escort service. Casanova knows this information and uses it to shift the spotlight away from him. Cross will later claim that he intended to provoke Sachs and jump the table. Whether that is true or not is irrelevant: he learns that Sachs does not have the physical strength to be Casanova.



Chapter 99-100

Chapter 99-100 Summary

Cross and Sampson discuss the case over dinner. Kate's condition remains poor. Whether she would recover enough to ever be a doctor is in doubt. Sampson asks if they are more than friends. Cross feels closer to her than anyone except maybe his deceased wife.

The Durham Police have found physical evidence in Sachs' house linking him to the murders and are about to arrest him. Cross believes they have the wrong man. The press is aware of Sachs' impending arrest and surrounds his house. Agent Craig stops Cross before he can get near the house. The Durham Police Chief is responsible for the arrest. He surprised the FBI by acting so quickly. Clothing from the victims was found inside Sachs' house, including one of Kate's t-shirts. Cross maintains that Casanova would not do that, that it is not his style. Instead of keeping souvenirs, Casanova keeps the girls. The clothing was found after a search prompted by an anonymous tipster.

Cross watches as Sachs is paraded out of his home led by the Durham Police Chief Robby Hatfield and escorted by Sikes and Ruskin. Ruskin and Sikes joke with the other officers present. Ruskin has primped and preened for the anticipated media attention. Cross wants to tell the two detectives to keep searching their list of suspects because Casanova is still out there. The clue they found—the photograph with Sachs' name—stinks of a setup. Cross believes that Casanova called in the anonymous tip. Sachs, being led away in handcuffs, pleads to Cross that he did not do anything. He tells Cross, "I don't hurt women. I love them." Sachs is just a patsy. He is nothing but a model used for Casanova. The killer set him up to take the fall from the very beginning. Sachs is another victim.

Chapter 99-100 Analysis

Cross can smell something fishy in the investigation. He knows Sachs is not Casanova and he wonders who called in the tip. Casanova must have planted evidence inside Sachs' house. Anyone could be Casanova. Not even the Chief of Police should be above suspicion. Casanova is a lover, not a killer. Sachs is not the man. His arrest will put an end to the investigation and take the spotlight off of the real Casanova.



Chapter 101

Chapter 101 Summary

Rudolph introduces himself to the seven lovely ladies of Casanova's harem. He and Casanova are going to play "kiss the girls" one final time. The girls are assembled in the living room, wearing their finest evening attire. They have been instructed to smile and not show fear. He approaches them one by one, asking them each a question or two. Casanova hoped he would not choose Naomi and considered making her off limits. Rudolph chooses Christa Akers because of the fear he sees in her eyes.

Chapter 101 Analysis

Casanova grants Rudolph one last opportunity to play their little game. He will sacrifice one of his collection to Rudolph's murderous ways. Perhaps this is Rudolph's reward for saving Casanova from Kate.



Chapter 102

Chapter 102 Summary

Casanova walks the halls of Duke Medical Center the morning after Sachs' arrest. He walks right into Kate's room and sits beside her. He feels free and at peace now that Sachs has been arrested. Being in her room excites him. He considers his next move. He does not want to move from North Carolina, but he feels that might be best for him and Rudolph. Rudolph was very unstable in California, using many different drugs. Casanova himself felt very lonely without Rudolph. Casanova greets Cross with a smile when he enters the hospital room and tells him that her condition has not changed. Casanova marvels at the way his "perfect mask" allows him to fit in anywhere.

Chapter 102 Analysis

The heat is off of Casanova with Sachs' arrest. He is so free that he can walk right into Kate's room and slip right past Cross without him suspecting a thing. Although he is free, Rudolph is not. The past year has shown him that the two of them cannot live apart. They must move somewhere else together.



Chapter 103

Chapter 103 Summary

Cross relaxes by playing a little late night blues piano in the barroom of his hotel. He thinks about the basic points of his investigation: the killers committed "perfect" crimes on two coasts and obviously had some knowledge of police forensics; the two were "twinning"; the girls were held in a disappearing house; and Casanova kept a harem and killed his rejects.

Cross pays Kate a visit later that morning. She remains in a coma. After the hospital visit, he and Sampson meet Dr. Freed, the historian, to retrieve a map he has prepared. He and Sampson will use it to try to locate the disappearing house. Cross stumbled across this idea when reading about the murders of Roe Tierney and Tom Hutchinson. Tierney's body was found near an abandoned farm in the woods where runaway slaves seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad would hide in large, underground cellars. He read that some of the cellars were large enough to hold a dozen rooms. Cross is sure that one of these cellars is Casanova's hiding place.

Chapter 103 Analysis

Finding Casanova's hideaway is likely the best way to find Casanova and rescue the girls. Cross has had the underground hideaway idea for some time. Did he not share it with the FBI? Why have they waited so long to scour the old tobacco farms? It makes too much sense to be overlooked.



Chapter 104-106

Chapter 104-106 Summary

Cross and Sampson hike through the woods in Brigadoon, North Carolina looking for clues as to the location of Casanova's hiding place. The tall pine trees form a canopy that shut out the light. This spooks Sampson. He thinks the place looks sinister. Cross wonders if Casanova is lurking in the woods with an eye on them. Cross consults Dr. Freed's map, looking for the remnants of farms that might hold the underground cellars he seeks. The cellars were called "stations" on the Underground Railroad. The farms are gone now. All that remains are the underground cellars.

After hours of walking through the woods and coming up empty at three other old farm sites, they arrive at the site of the old Jason Snyder farm. Physically, there are no remnants of the farm to be seen. The only reason Cross knows they have found the farm is the map he holds. Whatever was there in the past has disappeared. Vegetation has grown tall and thick. Cross is spooked at the thought that these were the lands where his ancestors were held captive as slaves. Cross instructs Sampson to look for a trapdoor. According to Dr. Freed's map, this particular cellar was two levels and very large. It would make the perfect hiding place for Casanova's lair.

It occurs to Cross that Kate's story of the disappearing house may be attributed to someone having cleared away every last remnant of the old, above-ground farm house. Perhaps whatever remained of the old farmhouse was used to build the underground hideaway. Cross is frustrated that they cannot find the cellar and wants to shoot something. He pulls out his gun and pumps a clip into an old tree stump. When he finishes, he and Sampson hear the muffled screams of girls coming from underground. They have found Casanova's lair. Cross and Sampson locate a trapdoor intricately hidden in thick grass and a layer of pine needles. Even someone carefully searching the area would probably walk right over the trapdoor. Cross and Sampson go down the old wooden staircase with guns drawn. They find a heavy oak door that looks almost new. Cross shoots out the lock and they find the decomposing body of a girl in the living room. Down a hallway they find the girls' rooms. The girls warn them that Casanova is inside. Cross opens the first door, hoping to find Naomi.

Chapter 104-106 Analysis

The ghosts of slavery haunt Sampson and Cross. The ghosts of the South have made Cross uneasy since he first left Washington. The Grimm Fairy Tale analogy is appropriate to this case: a pair of monsters hide innocent young girls in the forest. After a day of scouring the woods, it takes reaching the point of total frustration for Sampson and Cross to find the girls. Shooting at an old tree stump alerts the girls that there is help above. Violence is the key in this forest of violence—home to brutalized slaves and

terrorized women—to saving the girls. If Cross had not fired his gun in frustration, they likely never would have found the trapdoor to the cellar.



Chapter 107

Chapter 107 Summary

Rudolph and Casanova watch Cross and Sampson enter their lair from a hiding place a short distance away. They have been watching Cross and Sampson all afternoon. They wonder why Cross and Sampson did not bring the FBI. Casanova calls it "policeman's arrogance." Casanova believes that Cross and Sampson are much like them. Cross only trusts himself. Rudolph was paranoid about Cross ever since Cross almost caught him in California. He thinks Cross is a worthy rival and opponent. Casanova analyzes Cross the same way Cross has analyzed him, weighing Cross' strengths and weaknesses. Cross certainly outperformed all of the other police in finding the hiding place. That Cross was a detective and a psychologist intrigued him. Casanova figures that Sampson is Cross' weak point. If he can get to Sampson, he can get Cross. They will go after Sampson first, and then Cross. If they can attack him two-against-one, they will beat him. Casanova has been studying Cross ever since Cross first came South to work on the case.

Chapter 107 Analysis

Twins battle twins. Casanova and Rudolph have watched Cross and Sampson all day. The killers are introspective enough to realize their mistakes. They respect the tenacity and intelligence of their adversaries. Working together, they have a plan to overcome two trained police officers with guns ready. The killers realize that Cross and Sampson are twins too. If they can wipe out Sampson, their odds double against Cross.



Chapter 108-112

Chapter 108-112 Summary

Cross goes room by room letting the girls out and hoping each time to find Naomi behind one of the doors. He cannot help himself from crying when he finds her. She knew he was going to save her. He realizes now that he had thought she was dead, but was just too stubborn to admit it. Cross' reunion with Naomi is disturbed by a loud scream from down the hall. The scream for help came from Sampson. Running out into the hall, Cross sees two men in masks standing over Sampson. He immediately fires a shot and clips the taller one in the shoulder. They have sunk a knife or ice pick into Sampson's back. As Cross fires another shot, the lights suddenly go out and loud rock music blares from a sound system. Cross works his way up the wall to Sampson. Sampson tells him he is OK and to chase down the killers. Cross runs up through the trap door and comes out firing. There is no one to be seen, no killers waiting. He looks back and sees that the house disappeared.

Cross runs out of the woods in the same general direction that he and Sampson had entered. He notices some blood on the ground: one of the killers is bleeding profusely. In the distance ahead, he spots them. One holds his shoulder. The injured killer lets out a primordial scream when he realizes Cross is behind him. The other killer lets one out as well. Cross is startled by a gunshot that narrowly misses striking him in the head. He hides behind a tree momentarily, trying to figure out which killer fired the shot. Cross has learned something about that killer. He saw something very important. Cross loses them over a hill. Cross runs toward the highway. He is almost there when he spots the pair of killers up ahead, heading towards a roadhouse tavern. They still wear their masks. This tells Cross that Casanova is in charge. He likes masks. The killers drive off in a blue pickup truck that was parked in the roadhouse parking lot. Cross commandeers a vehicle and instructs its driver to call the police and give them the location of the girls and Sampson. Cross follows the pickup with the two killers into downtown Chapel Hill.

Cross exits the vehicle and tries to sneak up on the killers. Unfortunately, they have spotted him. They exit and run in different directions. One of them crouches down and fires a couple of shots at him. He looks between the rows of cars for either killer. He spots one of them. They fire virtually simultaneously. Cross is saved when the killer's shot is deflected by a car's side view mirror. Cross sees a cop standing on the corner, but it is too late to shout out a warning. One of the killers has shot the street corner cop before he knew where to look. Cross fires a shot through the windows of a parked car to hit one of them. The killer goes straight down. Cross runs to see the killer lying on the ground. Cross carefully pulls back his mask. It's Dr. Will Rudolph. Rudolph is near death, having been hit in an artery. Cross demands to know who Casanova is. Rudolph refuses to tell him, saying, "You'll never find him. You're not good enough, Cross. You're not even close. He's the best ever." Rudolph dies there on the ground.



Chapter 108-112 Analysis

The masks worn by Rudolph and Casanova are not intended solely to hide their identity. If they were, why would Rudolph bother to wear one? Rudolph has not worn a mask yet. Kate recognized that Casanova's masks reflect his moods. The killers' masks represent their alter egos. Without the masks, they are a doctor and a police officer. With them, they are ruthless, cold-blooded killers. Maybe they cannot act as twins unless they look alike. Both the injured and the uninjured killers scream as they realize Cross is chasing them down. They really are twins: if one feels pain, they both feel pain. Cross notices something important when one of them takes a shot at him, but this is something that will not be revealed for several chapters. The clues about Casanova's identity continue to stack up. Cross will think it very significant later that Casanova parked his truck in the busy roadhouse parking lot. Cross sees a second shot delivered from a professional policeman's crouch, but the significance of this fact is not yet conveyed to the reader.



Chapter 113-114

Chapter 113-114 Summary

Cross is impressed by the emotionally festive scene at Duke Medical Center that evening. He tries to forget for an evening that Casanova is still on the loose. Families of the victims are arriving to see their daughters and sisters. Cross is congratulated by many. He muses that it has never felt so good to be a police officer. Cross visits Kate's room and finds her still in a coma. Sampson is doing very well after surgery and wants to leave the hospital. Naomi is doing fine as well. The rest of Cross' family, including Nana and his children, arrive in the hospital to greet Naomi. Cross loves nothing more than his family.

Two days later, Cross goes to revisit the underground lair. Police and FBI have spent the last two days searching for evidence. Some 200 police officers, including Agent Craig, are at the underground hideaway. Cross worries about Craig, thinking he is a little too involved with his work. Craig seems to become somewhat darker each time Cross sees him. He thinks to himself that Craig is rather secretive. He tries to look into Craig's eyes, but cannot. Cross and Craig watch investigators with pickaxes and shovels dig up a meadow near the underground hideaway. Casanova and Rudolph have been on a thirteen-year murder spree and there are bodies buried in the meadow. Cross believes they started killing women all over the South back in 1981. Their killing gradually morphed into the idea of kidnapping women and keeping a harem of the exquisite.

Cross thinks to himself that his theory about twinning was correct. The killers worked together for years, but then Rudolph moved to California and tried to work alone. It was then that the competition started that led to their downfall. Cross thinks that he knows who Casanova is. He thinks he has seen him without his mask. For now he keeps that information from the FBI. As Craig and Cross watch the excavation of the meadow, a man shouts out and holds up his arms. He has found victim number twenty-three in this mass grave. Craig tells Cross to go home: "You won't catch him, I promise you."

Chapter 113-114 Analysis

Cross is reminded of why he is a police officer: to help the helpless and victimized like Naomi and the other girls and little dying Marcus at the beginning of the novel.

Agent Kyle Craig seems to be raising suspicion as a possible Casanova suspect. Craig is too involved with his work. He is becoming more secretive. Cross cannot look into his eyes. Craig tells Cross to go home and that he will never catch Casanova. Craig was a Duke student at the time of the Tierney murder. He has police training. Craig would have a perfect mask: no one would suspect an FBI agent. This is likely why Cross will not share his new theory about Casanova's identity with the FBI.



Chapter 115-118

Chapter 115-118 Summary

Cross stakes out a small house in the middle-class Edgemont section of Durham. Earlier that night, Cross poured over the local newspaper's accounts of the Tierney/Hutchinson murders. In one of the stories, he found a name that appeared just once in all of the newspaper coverage. The name in the paper links Rudolph and Casanova. It also explained how they met and why they talked. He thought about his shoot-out with Casanova in Chapel Hill and the "perfect crimes" aspect of the cases. Detective Davey Sikes is Cross' suspect. Sikes was a detective on the Tierney case. Sikes went so far as to alter the date of a kidnapping in order to produce an alibi. Sikes met Rudolph during his investigation of the Tierney murders. Rudolph had been in "love" with Tierney and killed her because he could not have her. They shared their dark secrets and desire to kill and kidnap. Cross follows Sikes away from the house about thirty miles down the interstate. Tonight is the night he takes Casanova. Things are personal now.

Cross follows Sikes to a sports bar. Parking in a crowded lot was what helped Cross unravel the case in the first place. When he chased the killers out of the woods to their pickup truck, it had been parked in a crowded roadhouse parking lot. Casanova knew all the police moves. For this reason, Cross considered even Agent Craig a suspect at one point. The other factor that gave away Sikes was the fact that he went into a professional shooting crouch when he shot at Cross in the woods and in Chapel Hill. He knew Casanova was a cop. A newspaper story revealed that on the Tierney case, a young Detective Sikes interviewed Rudolph. Sikes never mentioned this to anyone.

After parking, Sikes walks across the street. Cross follows him into the neighborhood. Cross follows closely with gun drawn and finger on the trigger, just waiting for an opportunity to take out Casanova. Cross hears a voice behind him telling him to put the gun down. He turns to see Sikes pointing a gun to his chest. Cross knocks the gun out of his hand and they engage in a knock-down drag-out brawl. The brawl ends when Cross is hit in the back of the head by a woman with a shovel. She screams at him to get off of her boyfriend. Cross was wrong about Sikes. Sikes is not Casanova. Craig shows up, tells Cross that Sikes is not a suspect and tells Cross to go home.

Chapter 115-118 Analysis

Cross picks out Sikes as his suspect because of something in a dusty old newspaper story. How did Sikes alter the date of a kidnapping to create an alibi? Whose kidnapping did he alter? Was Roe Tierney kidnapped before she was killed? Did Rudolph just happen to dump the body of Tierney in the woods near the sight he and Casanova would later use as their hideaway house or was Rudolph using that cellar back then? We finally understand the clue that Cross picked up in the woods: firing a gun from a



trained crouching position. Sikes has been withdrawn during the entire investigation, never having shared information with Cross. Did he tell the FBI he had once interviewed Rudolph? Was it important to the case? Cross seems to be acting on insufficient information that Sikes is Casanova. Perhaps he should have spoken to the FBI before acting. Ruskin was right: Cross operates with a "police officer's arrogance." He does not trust anyone except himself. Cross' impulsive conclusion that Sikes is the killer is wrong. Sikes should have consulted Craig before acting on this impulse.



Chapter 119

Chapter 119 Summary

Kate is out of her coma and doing much better. Within ten days, Kate is walking with the aid of a walker. She has a half-moon indentation on the side of her forehead from the beating. She thinks it adds character and foregoes plastic surgery.

Cross spends the next month at home with his children, making a couple of trips to Durham to check on Kate. He worries that Casanova might hunt him down for killing Rudolph. Cross is pleased to see that no more women have been abducted in North Carolina. All local policemen, including Ruskin and Chief Hatfield have been investigated and cleared. Cross wonders where he could be hiding and how he could just stop killing. Nana Mama tells Cross he really needs to find a good wife and mother for his children.

Chapter 119 Analysis

Always out to make her own distinct fashion statement, Kate accepts her half moon indentation and foregoes plastic surgery. The indentation is her battle scar. Cross cannot understand how Casanova got away with it. All the local police officers have been investigated and cleared. Perhaps if Cross had done the investigation, things would have turned out differently.



Chapter 120-121

Chapter 120-121 Summary

Kate and Cross take a late summer trip to Nags Head, a beach resort town in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Kate is doing well and can even walk with a cane sometimes. They enjoy their holiday together. They cook for each other and take long walks on the beach. They dared Casanova to come after them, but he had not. During one casual evening, they talk about why their relationship has to end. They are both obsessive and strong-willed. If their relationship exploded, they could not be friends. Neither one wants that to happen. Kate wonders if Casanova is coming after them again. Cross hopes so.

Casanova remains obsessed with Kate. She and Cross worked together to ruin him. Casanova thought of Rudolph as the true embodiment of Jekyll and Hyde. Only Casanova was able to understand and appreciate both sides of that dark personality. Casanova felt like he had been cut in two when Rudolph was killed. He gave Cross credit for his police work: he never gave up. Casanova believes a trap has been set for him at the beach resort. Around midnight, walking down the beach, Casanova spots two FBI agents standing guard over Cross and Kate. He calls to them and tells them "it's only me."

Chapter 120-121 Analysis

Kate and Cross' trip to the Outer Banks is an opportunity for closure. They will not be forming a romantic bond. The trip is also a chance to set a trap for Casanova. Cross and Kate do some "twin" bonding of their own. They are stronger together, bringing out the best in each other. Why does Cross think Casanova would wait to attack them together? Why would he not have taken them individually? Casanova was a world traveler. Is it too much to assume that he could make the four-hour drive to Washington to hunt down Cross? Is he truly a regional killer who will only strike in North Carolina? Casanova has a grudge to settle. He feels the loss of his twin. He has not been the same since Rudolph was killed. Perhaps Casanova has not killed or abducted again because his "brutal" half was destroyed when Rudolph died. Casanova feels a trap, but proceeds anyway.



Chapter 122

Chapter 122 Summary

The following morning, Cross jogs to the market to buy some sticky buns for breakfast. Cross spots a man lying dead on the ground. The man is an FBI agent whose neck has been broken. He was one of the agents assigned to watch over him and Kate. Cross pulls out his gun and runs back to the beach house. On his run back, he almost trips over the body of the other FBI agent. Cross knows Casanova is at the house. He runs inside and calls out a warning to Kate. She is not in the bedroom. Kate is hiding inside a closet and is OK. They walk towards the kitchen to call the local police. In the hallway, Cross is hit with a dart from a stun gun. Cross rushes him anyway. Casanova is not wearing his mask this time. He wants Cross and Kate to know who he is. Cross had been close when he guessed that Sikes was the killer. Cross knew it was someone associated with the Durham Police Department. Detective Nick Ruskin was Casanova. He was a genius, thought Cross. He had an alibi for every situation. He blended in perfectly. As a detective, he was above suspicion. Cross recognized the madness in his eyes. Perhaps he had gone crazy after losing his twin.

Kate kicks him hard in the shoulder and punches him repeatedly. She catches him squarely with most of these punches. Cross lay paralyzed on the floor, trying to get up. After Kate knocks Ruskin to the ground, he reaches for his ankle holster and a semi-automatic. Just as he is about to shoot her, Cross draws his attention and fills him with a full clip. He dies almost instantly. The ordeal is over.

Chapter 122 Analysis

Ruskin is finally revealed as Casanova. He shows his unmasked face. Assuming he is there to kill Cross and Kate, why does he shoot Cross with a stun gun? Ruskin felt like he was walking into a trap. Why would he not lead with a real gun instead of the stun gun? Did he want to immobilize Cross and torture him by forcing him to watch him kill Kate? Ruskin has a different look about him now: disheveled hair and a crazed look in his eyes. Did he leave the force after the Casanova case? If he went on the run, would that not have raised suspicion that he had been the killer?



Chapter 123

Chapter 123 Summary

Sampson and Cross sit talking on Cross' porch on a fall afternoon. Sampson asks Cross if he is doing alright and if he misses Kate. Cross explains that Kate needs to set up practice in her hometown in West Virginia. Cross needs to tend to his children. Cross relays a story of Kate's toughness. When she was twenty, she found out that her father was working as a bartender at a honky-tonk near the Kentucky border. She went there one night to see him. She had not seen him in 16 years. She hated seeing him like that and left without talking to him.

Late that night, Cross hears a noise from his back door. He senses trouble and grabs his gun. It's Sampson. There has been another murder.

Chapter 123 Analysis

Sampson, as Cross' twin, realizes that he misses Kate. He realizes that maybe Cross missed an opportunity at a strong, romantic relationship. Cross tells the story of Kate going to see her estranged father as a way of deflecting Sampson's question and showing him that Kate will be alright without him. Cross never really does tell Sampson how he feels about missing out on a relationship with Kate.



Characters

Detective Alex Cross

Cross is a family man before all else. He loves his children and his grandmother, who is like a mother to him. He also loves Naomi, his niece, as though she were his own daughter. Cross is no normal detective. He has a Ph.D. in Psychology and is something of a serial killer profiler specialist. He caught a killer named Gary Soneji some years earlier and gained a bit of fame by writing a book about the experience. Cross is an African-American man of indeterminate age. He is likely in his mid- to late-30s. He is old enough to have attained his educational level and have two young children, but young enough to still be attractive to 30-year-old Kate.

As much as he would like to fall in love with Kate, he has trouble with a new relationship. He was permanently scarred by the death of his wife and now finds it difficult to get close to women.

Cross brings his unique psychologist point of view to the investigation. Cross is the first to figure that Casanova kills his rejects and keeps the rest as a harem. He makes the connection between Casanova and the Gentleman Caller. He develops the twinning theory. He later deduces that Casanova is a police officer, though he does not figure out the identity of the officer. As good as Cross is at figuring out theories about Casanova, he fails to develop any suspects.

Casanova

Casanova started killing beautiful women as a teenager. Even then, he chose the most desirable and unattainable women he could find. He had them and then killed them. Casanova is different. Like his namesake, he is a lover. He is not burdened with the emotional scars that affect Rudolph. Casanova leads a double life with his loving wife. He is not incapable of love like Rudolph. Perhaps the opposite is true: he loves women too much. He is always searching for the perfect woman. Casanova relishes power. The girls must follow his rules or they will be killed. He is a very strong man. Kate is shocked by his strength and thinks of him as an animal, he is so powerful. He neutralizes Kate's power with his strength, his stun gun and his drugs.

It is unlikely that Casanova ever would have been able to commit his crimes without joining forces and "twinning" with Rudolph. Rudolph, the brutal one, is an expert killer given to brutality. He brings that out in Casanova. Rudolph likely instructs Casanova on the use of drugs to subdue his victims. Remember, Kate thinks that Casanova is a doctor. In a sense he is, because of his link with Rudolph. Early in the novel, the "perfect crime" aspects of both cases make investigators think the killers are police. This is true as well. Casanova, the leader, shows Rudolph how to commit crimes without being



caught. Once Rudolph is dead, Casanova is lost without him. He does not attack or kidnap any other women, and his attack on Cross and Kate fails miserably.

Dr. Kate McTiernan

Dr. Kate McTiernan is an extraordinarily strong-willed person. She and her sisters grew up poor, after their father left. She was proud to have worked her way through medical school working as a waitress. It made her appreciate being a doctor that much more. Kate is an independent spirit. She dresses her own way—casually and comfortably and with no need to impress. She is a beauty, but does not work at it. Her combination of natural beauty, casual style, uncommon intelligence and reticence to be involved in a relationship make her one of the "unattainable" women. Kate is a very intelligent and a hard worker. Kate will make an excellent doctor. Her strong will hurts her, though. She insists on going back to her old apartment and staying there alone, even though she will become an easy target for Casanova.

Kate is not only strong-willed, but physically strong as well. She is a dedicated karate expert. This is something that Casanova admired in her. She is skillful and powerful enough to fight off Casanova. In fact, she does beat him three times: once to escape, a second time during the confrontation in her apartment, and a third time at the conclusion of the novel.

Kate wants a romantic relationship with Cross, but she is too practical. She knows there are too many obstacles in their way: they will reside in different cities, he has children to take care of, and she has a small town to take care of.

Detective Nick Ruskin

For most of the novel, Ruskin is a local detective who does not really appreciate having his toes stepped on by Cross and the FBI agents. He eventually apologizes to Cross for that attitude and wishes to work with him. In fact, Ruskin has been hiding a big secret all along: he is actually Casanova. Casanova the serial killer had the perfect mask: local detective working the case. No one would ever suspect him. Being a trained police officer, Ruskin knows how to stay one step ahead of the investigators. Had he not gone "mad," he would have never been caught. Cross never seriously suspects him. Ruskin's mask has completely hidden his identity. Only when he removes the mask does he slip up and die.

The Gentleman Caller

The Gentleman Caller is a brutal killer, a noted Los Angeles plastic surgeon named Dr. Will Rudolph. He began killing in college at Duke with Roe Tierney and Tom Hutchinson. He killed for sport. He killed beautiful women that were seemingly unattainable. The unattainable woman is something of an interesting paradox for Dr. Rudolph, for he seems to be able to get any woman he wants. Kate remarks that he has a unique



combination of looks: both rebellious and handsome. His looks are so appealing that women seem to pick him up.

Rudolph, the son of a very strict Army Colonel, had a tough upbringing. Despite being an excellent athlete and scholar, nothing he did was good enough to please his father. Perhaps he carries this attitude himself towards the women he meets. No woman, no matter how beautiful and intelligent, is good enough for him. He has been conditioned against love.

Rudolph and Casanova have a long history together. They work as a pair, as a unit, as "twins." After Rudolph moved to California, they began to compete with each other. This competition ultimately pushes Rudolph over the edge and makes him slip up. He is taking too many drugs and gets sloppy. Cross eventually finds him.

Naomi Cross

Naomi is Cross' niece who was abducted by Casanova and the reason that Cross becomes involved in this case. She and Cross were very close growing up. Naomi was like his baby sister. He credits her with teaching him the skills that will make him a wonderful parent. She is a hard working and intelligent scholar as well as a fine musician. Casanova was attracted to these traits as well as to her stunning beauty. Naomi wants desperately to join with the other girls and escape from Casanova, but they never get an opportunity. She is not strong enough, like Kate, to take him on by herself.

John Sampson

Sampson is Cross' best friend. They grew up together and they both became detectives, although by vastly different ways. Sampson enlisted in the Army before becoming a detective. Just as Casanova and Rudolph were "twins," so too are Cross and Sampson. Cross, the psychologist, is the brains and Sampson is the muscle. Cross and Sampson understand each other's feelings and are not afraid or embarrassed to be emotional with one another.

Dr. Wick Sachs

Dr. Sachs is Casanova's patsy. Casanova knows about Sachs' predilection for pornography. He likely knows that Sachs runs an escort service. Sachs is the perfect fall guy for Casanova. He loves to chase women and has had affairs with both professors and students. Sachs is a handsome man, but Cross discovers he is missing one crucial element as a Casanova suspect: he does not possess the incredible physical strength that Kate described in Casanova.



Agent Kyle Craig

Agent Craig is Cross' connection in the FBI. They had worked together on the Soneji murder case years before. Craig appreciates Cross' unique perspective on a case. He allows Cross to work his special magic. Towards the end of the story, Craig evolves into a suspect. He seems to fit the profile: he attended law school at North Carolina around the time of the Roe Tierney murder; he has law enforcement training; and he becomes rather secretive and mysterious after Rudolph is killed.

Dr. Louis Freed

Dr. Freed is a noted Civil War-era history professor who helps Cross by creating a map of the Underground Railroad "stations" in the area. Without Freed's knowledge and help in locating the stations, the girls may never have been found.

Beth Lieberman

Beth Lieberman is the *Los Angeles Times* reporter who the Gentleman Caller chose to communicate with because she had written an article about mail-order pornography. She is a young reporter who appreciates the attention she gets for these stories. She hates the gruesome stories she must tell, but she plans to profit from them by writing a book. Her greed leads to her death at the hands of the Caller. Had she shared information with Cross, she may have been protected or the Caller may have been caught before he killed her. Somehow she has learned his identity. The Caller fittingly chops off her fingers when he kills her so she will never be able to write her book about him.

Det. Davey Sikes

For most of the novel, Sikes is not much of a character. He is Ruskin's silent partner. The only trait exhibited is that he is uncooperative. Towards the end of the novel, Cross develops Sikes as a suspect. When Sikes doubles back on the trailing Cross and pulls a gun on him, what does he think Cross is doing? Does he realize that Cross developed him as a suspect? Might a phone call have straightened things out?

Seth Samuel Taylor

Taylor is Naomi's boyfriend. He is a strong-willed young black man. who works as a social worker in the housing projects and lives in a low-income Durham neighborhood. Taylor creates a stir at Duke in Naomi's dorm by encouraging black students and black University workers to rise up against racial injustice.



Objects/Places

Casanova's Hideaway

Casanova's hideaway is an underground lair that was formerly used to house runaway slaves searching for freedom on the Underground Railroad. Cross surmises that such a structure was used to hide the girls after speaking to Kate and hearing her description of the "disappearing house." Dr. Freed, a renowned historian, provides Cross with a map of all the old cellars in the area. It is an underground cellar with two levels. The first level holds as many as ten to twelve rooms. The second level below holds only one. Casanova has apparently used the broken down bits and pieces of the abandoned tobacco farm above to construct the rooms below. Not a shred remains of the old farm. This lack of evidence of the old farm leads Cross to suspect that they are close to finding the hideaway.

Casanova's Masks

Kate notes that Casanova's masks are indicative of his emotions and moods. They are festive when he is happy and they are mean and hateful when he is upset or disturbed. His masks allow him to get into the Casanova character. Casanova and Rudolph both wear masks in the shootout scene in order to fall into killer character. Rudolph does not need a mask since his identity is already known to Cross. The masks allow them to shed their alter egos and turn from Dr. Jekylls into Mr. Hydes. Casanova's mask also refers to the way in which his true identity allows him to go undetected and unsuspected by police.

Gentleman Caller's Cabin

The Caller's cabin at Big Sur contrasts with Casanova's hideaway. The Caller's cabin is a standard vacation home in paradise, located several hours away from his home in Los Angeles, but it is not necessarily hidden. Casanova's hideaway is completely hidden. One could stand right on top of it and not know it was there. The two killers operate in a manner consistent with their lairs. The Caller operates rather out in the open. He is safe because he lets the women pick him up. He does not really need to hide anything to capture his women. Casanova, on the other hand, cannot afford to blow his cover. His hideaway is masked just as well as his own identity. Up until the penultimate scene of the novel, Casanova can walk right up to Cross and shake his hand without arousing suspicion.

The woods

The woods outside of Durham are home to Casanova's lair. The characters of the novel have different reactions to being in the woods. Kate, having just escaped Casanova's



hideaway, is very happy to be in those woods. They are incredibly beautiful to her. The woods take her back to her childhood in West Virginia and happy afternoons spent running through the woods with her sisters. Sampson, however, is spooked by the same woods. When he and Cross are searching for the hideaway, he immediately thinks of Grimm Fairy Tales. Cross is troubled by different ghosts in the woods: the ghosts of slavery.

Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill is a quaint college town bordering the University of North Carolina. It is Kate's home. Chapel Hill has a bustling downtown with bars, restaurants and movie theaters. Kate lives just outside of downtown.

Pornography

Dr. Wick Sachs has an extensive pornography collection. He also has affairs with many students and professors, and runs an escort service. Casanova uses Sachs' taste for pornography to shift police attention to Sachs. Sachs' extreme tastes draw the attention of the police and make them think they have the right suspect.

Stun Gun

Casanova uses a stun gun to control and incapacitate his victims. Stun guns are commonly and almost exclusively used by police officers. This should have been a clue as to Casanova's identity.

Exotic clothing from Far East

Casanova purchased his masks and fancy robes on trips to the Far East to visit countries like Thailand and Cambodia. His beautiful gold robe and festive mask was purchased on one of his exotic trips. Though never mentioned explicitly, these may have been trips to engage in extreme sexual activities.

Los Angeles

Los Angeles is home to the Gentleman Caller, Dr. Will Rudolph. Rudolph is captivated by the endless supply of beautiful young women he finds in the local boutiques shopping just after work. Los Angeles is a virtual female shopping mall for him. The women are beautiful and exquisite. The city is large enough that he can blend in unnoticed. Los Angeles is a happy hunting ground for Rudolph.



Will Rudolph's Apartment

Rudolph's apartment is sparsely furnished and is so meticulously kept that it has the appearance that no one resides inside. Cross is first struck by the way the suit closet looks more like a shrine to Rudolph's dozen suits and two tuxedos than it does a closet. Later, Cross realizes that the suit closet hides a false panel with Rudolph's collection of body parts and other souvenirs from his conquests.



Themes

Contemporary society and modern man's sexual urges

The sexual urges of the modern man are frustrated by contemporary society. Casanova and the Gentleman Caller ignore society's constraints and choose the most fantastic and unattainable women they can find and take them. They do not abide by the modern mating rituals of long-term courtship. It is interesting to note that Rudolph does not need to worry much about this game. His handsome outlaw looks make him irresistible to almost any woman. He is not burdened by a wife—he is single and available. He is a very successful plastic surgeon. He seems to have everything a woman could want. Rudolph does not want to keep a woman. He is satisfied to keep little bits and pieces of them. He wants to sample all of the beautiful women.

Casanova presents a slightly different specimen. While he is physically strong, there is never a suggestion that he is handsome like Rudolph. In fact, Ruskin's looks are never described. If Ruskin were as strikingly handsome as Rudolph, perhaps he would not have succeeded in blending in to his surroundings well enough to stake out the girls and learn so much about them. Ruskin may have been jealous of Rudolph's looks and ability to attract women. He is married and seems at least somewhat satisfied by his wife. However, his primal lust and desire cannot be satisfied by his wife alone. Casanova needs to experience every outstanding woman he can.

A parallel can be drawn between the pursuit of Kate by Cross and Casanova. Casanova was attracted to her, then stalked her, learned everything about her and took her. Part of the reason he took her was her unattainable air. Cross takes things with Kate slowly. They meet, become friends, and eventually grow on each other. Kate enjoys his company and finds him attractive. Their relationship never fully develops, however, because of the practicalities of their lives. A relationship would be too difficult for them. Casanova, on the other hand, dispenses with all of the practical considerations and with the getting-acquainted period. He simply takes her.

Twins and twinning

Twinning is a psychological theory that Cross applies to the case. Twinning is a phenomenon when two lonely people have an urge to bond. It is a fusion of two to form a single unit. In an unhealthy twinning, the pair joins for negative reasons. Cross' theory of Casanova and the Caller twinning progresses throughout the novel. They met in college when Casanova confronted the Caller about his murder of Roe Tierney. Casanova was likely conducting his surveillance of Ms. Tierney when he saw the Caller kill her. Casanova reached out to the Caller because they both shared a desire to take the women they wanted. They feed each other's sexual appetites. They compete with one another and are more powerful together. When they take on Cross and Sampson at



the conclusion of the novel, they believe that if they work together, they can defeat them. By the end of the novel, Casanova is despondent because he has lost his twin. He has stopped kidnapping and is a shell of his former self.

The twinning is applied to Cross and Sampson as well. Like Casanova and the Caller, Cross and Sampson have a near-lifelong bond. They are two halves that form a whole. Sampson is the physically powerful half while Cross is the cerebral twin. When Sampson returns to join Cross in North Carolina, Cross can feel their increased power through their bond.

Kate is an actual twin. Her twin sister, however, died of cancer. Kate forms a "twinning" type bond with Cross that allows them to ultimately defeat Casanova.

Police Officer's Arrogance

Police officer's arrogance is how Casanova describes Cross and Sampson as they walk through the woods and discover his hideaway. Cross and Sampson are alone. They did not bring the FBI with them, nor do they have backup. They leave themselves open to attack. Casanova observes that Cross likes to act alone. Cross does not trust anyone else. Cross does not trust the FBI when he develops Sikes as a suspect and winds up making a huge mistake that he could have avoided had he shared his information. Police officer arrogance prevents the FBI from capturing Rudolph in Big Sur. If they had LAPD backup, Rudolph likely would never have escaped them. A form of police officer arrogance likely leads to Ruskin's demise. He feels he is walking into a trap even before he finds FBI agents guarding Cross and Kate's beach house. Even though he foresees a trap, he continues with his plan of revenge.

Racism and the South

From the start of the novel, Dr. Cross is troubled at the idea of going to the South. He is uneasy about being a black police detective in the South. He sees overt racism when he interviews Naomi's good friend Mary Ellen Klouk and she tells him that she and Naomi had not been so close lately. Later he figures out through a law school friend that Naomi created a stir by dating Seth Samuel Taylor who actively preaches and advocates against racial injustice.

Cross perhaps feels some unspoken racial bias when he is repeatedly stonewalled on the case by Ruskin. By the end of the novel we realize that the stonewalling by Ruskin was for a much different reason.

Again and again, Cross thinks to himself how uneasy he feels in the South. This uneasiness boils over when he and Sampson are stopped by two young Durham detectives. The detectives obviously stopped them simply because they were black. Cross and Sampson, made stronger through their twinning, do not stand for this racial injustice and fight back.

Cross feels the weight of slavery when he researches and later searches for the Underground Railroad "station" where he believes the girls are hidden. Cross often thinks about how the girls are held captive against their will just as the slaves were centuries earlier.



Style

Point of View

Kiss the Girls is told from the point of view of the featured character of each chapter. Most of the chapters are told from the point of view of either Dr. Alex Cross or Casanova. Other chapters are told from the point of view of Dr. Kate McTiernan. Several chapters are told from the point of view of the Gentleman Caller. One chapter is told from the point of view of an FBI agent conducting surveillance on the Gentleman Caller with Cross and Kate.

Setting

Several settings are featured in *Kiss the Girls*. The primary setting is the Research Triangle area of North Carolina: Durham and Chapel Hill. These towns are home to Duke University and the University of North Carolina, respectively. The history of these towns, and the tobacco farms surrounding them, figure prominently into the plot of the novel. From the very beginning of the story, Cross is apprehensive about visiting the South. He has reason to be. He must come face to face with the history of the South and slavery that he so desperately wants to forget.

California is another prominent setting. It is the home of the Gentleman Caller. He is tracked hunting down Melrose Avenue and then followed several hours up the Pacific Coast Highway to picturesque Big Sur. Big Sur is a charming community of redwood forests and ocean side hills where the Gentleman Caller owns a cabin. On Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles, the Caller has a happy hunting ground of beautiful women just off of work and shopping in upscale boutiques.

Washington D.C. is the opening setting of the novel. Cross lives in D.C. with his children amidst rampant street violence and crime. He tries to do what he can to make it a better place. He counsels young Marcus, the suicide victim.

Language and Meaning

Language of the novel is rather plain and direct, which is appropriate for a quick-page-turning mystery novel. The language of the novel is modern and reflective of a book written in 1995 and set around that time as well. Despite the fact that the novel is set in the South, the writing is devoid of any attempt to write in a dialect. No accents are represented in the writing.

James Patterson writes in a mystery style. There is foreshadowing early with prologues that give the reader a hint of the violence to come. Some clues are sprinkled here and there as to the identity of Casanova; however, other clues are withheld for many



chapters to allow suspense to build. After Kate first escapes the hospital, Patterson leaves a clue when Ruskin says it's a miracle she did not break any bones. How would he have known she should have broken a bone if he did not see her fall? On the other hand, the shooter's crouch clue is withheld for several chapters to allow suspense to build.

Structure

Kiss the Girls is divided into a prologue and 123 chapters. The prologue is divided with one chapter on Casanova and one on the Gentleman Caller. The novel is divided into five different parts. The story is told in linear fashion with periodic flashbacks within chapters.



Quotes

"It can't be Naomi. Nothing bad could happen to her, not to Naomi." Chapter 8, p. 43.

"I'm like a killer shark, with a human brain, and even a heart... I am a predator without peer, a thinking predator." Chapter 9, p. 44.

"I'm alive, but I'm in hell!" Chapter 33, p. 132.

"I saw you watching the young chippie. Nice legs... Just as long as all you do is watch." Chapter 37, p. 152.

"Kate McTiernan was half blinded by the streaming bands of sunlight, but the world had never looked so beautiful." Chapter 44, p. 174.

"He had been a Southern gentleman. A gentleman scholar. Now he was the very finest gentleman in Los Angeles. Always a gentleman, though. A hearts-and-flowers kind of guy." Chapter 60, p. 231.

"Black on black for the good doctor ... Dressed to kill?" Chapter 65, p. 252.

"Many women want to be freed from their inhibitions, especially young women. I free them. I free as many women as I possibly can." Chapter 98, p. 383.

"Looks sinister. Is sinister. That's my motto." Chapter 104, p. 405.

"You'll never find him. You're not good enough, Cross. You're not even close. He's the best ever." Chapter 112, p. 437.

"It's over now. You won't catch him, I promise you." Chapter 114, p. 446.

"Drive a stake through his heart." Chapter 122, p. 477.



Topics for Discussion

What is the significance of Marcus Daniels, the young Washington D.C. kid who commits suicide at the beginning of the novel?

How are Casanova and the Gentleman Caller both similar and different?

Explain the theory of twinning.

Why is Cross so reluctant to be in the South?

Explain how the twinning phenomenon is demonstrated in Cross and Sampson.

What are some clues that Cross misses?

Why does the romantic relationship between Cross and Kate fail?

Why is the Gentleman Caller more brutal than Casanova?

Why does the Gentleman Caller keep souvenirs of his victims?

How can Casanova kidnap and kill and also have a relationship with his wife?