

The Key to Midnight Study Guide

The Key to Midnight by Dean Koontz

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Contents

The Key to Midnight Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Part One, Joanna: Chapters 1-5.....	5
Part One, Joanna: Chapters 6-11.....	7
Part One, Joanna: Chapters 12-17.....	9
Part One, Joanna: Chapters 18-24.....	11
Part One, Joanna: Chapters 25-31.....	13
Part Two, Clues: Chapters 32-35.....	15
Part Two, Clues: Chapter 36-41.....	17
Part Two, Clues: Chapters 42-44.....	19
Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 45-52.....	21
Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 53-59.....	23
Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 60-70.....	25
Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 71-84.....	27
Characters.....	29
Objects/Places.....	34
Themes.....	36
Style.....	38
Quotes.....	40
Topics for Discussion.....	42



Plot Summary

The Key to Midnight is a novel by Dean Koontz that was originally published under the pseudonym Leigh Nichols. The novel tells the story of Joanna Rand, a nightclub owner and singer who discovers that she is really the daughter of an American senator who went missing twelve years ago. Joanna has been haunted by nightmares for many of those years and comes to find out the nightmares are really memories of a sadistic doctor who brainwashed her, wiping away all her childhood memories and creating a new persona to take their place. With the help of private detective Alex Hunter, Joanna sets off on an adventure that will either reveal the truth or leave her lost forever. The Key to Midnight is a novel of intrigue that will not disappoint those familiar with Koontz's unique narrative style.

Joanna wakes from another nightmare and is too agitated to return to bed. Joanna cannot understand why she dreams the same thing over and over again, and it leaves her exhausted. A few days later, Joanna has lunch with an American tourist, who shocks her by suggesting he believes her to be someone else. Joanna does not believe him and refuses to see him when he returns to her club later that night. However, when this man, this private detective, shows her definitive proof of his claims, Joanna is forced to face the possibility that she is not who she believes she is.

Alex Hunter finds Joanna to be a fascinating creature. Her beauty and her amazing voice speak to him, but there is something deeper that calls to his soul. Alex cannot stay away from Joanna even after he realizes she is the daughter of an American senator for whom he once spent nearly a year searching. The fact that Joanna seems oblivious to her true identity only serves to intrigue Alex all the more. When a man breaks into Alex's hotel room and another tries to kill a courier from his office, Alex is even more determined than ever to learn the truth behind Joanna's strange case of amnesia.

Alex shows Joanna his case files on Lisa Chelgrin, the woman he claims she is. Alex proves that Joanna and Lisa are one in the same by comparing their fingerprints. However, Joanna still has no recollection of her life as Lisa. Alex talks Joanna into trying hypnotherapy. The psychiatrist successfully takes Joanna back in time, revealing the truth behind her strange, recurrent dream. However, the psychiatrist has no luck helping Joanna rediscover her life as Lisa Chelgrin. Instead, the psychiatrist has been able to undo some posthypnotic suggestions that caused Joanna to have panic attacks whenever she became close to someone, or thought of leaving the country.

Alex feels Joanna needs to find out why she has been brainwashed and turned into someone else. Alex encourages Joanna to go with him to London to try to find the identity of the man who appears in Joanna's dreams. In London, Joanna and Alex are contacted by Lisa Chelgrin's father, Thomas. They are instructed to meet Thomas at his hotel, but before they arrive, Thomas is killed. In his hotel room, Alex finds a group of news clippings that tell him where they can find the doctor for whom they are looking. Alex decides they must go to St. Moritz and confront this man.



The moment Alex and Joanna arrive in St. Moritz, they are kidnapped and transported to the home of Dr. Rotenhausen. Alex wakes up in the kitchen and finds it too easy to get out of his bindings. Alex searches the house and finds his gun, again much too easily. Alex goes downstairs in search of Joanna and stumbles on a room of men discussing how to kill him. Alex breaks into the room and finds one of the men is Thomas Chelgrin, surprisingly alive and well. Chelgrin tells Alex that his death had been a perfectly-executed trick to put Alex and Joanna on the trail that would lead them here. Alex is then threatened by another man in the room and he kills him and his companion. Then Alex turns the gun on Chelgrin and finds himself unable to stop from pulling the trigger.

Joanna is strapped to a gurney and being groped by Dr. Rotenhausen. Joanna is supposed to be drugged, but someone has switched the vials and she is perfectly clearheaded. Joanna manages to get loose. Joanna fights the doctor and after a time is able to get the upper hand, killing Rotenhausen with a broken bottle. Down the hall, one of the men Alex has shot is not dead. This man comes after Alex, forcing him to run. Alex runs out of the house and into the woods where he and the man engage in hand to hand combat. Eventually Alex is able to get the upper hand and kill the other man only to be confronted by the fourth man, the only man left standing.

Joanna searches for Alex and runs across Thomas Chelgrin, still alive despite a fatal chest wound. Chelgrin tells Joanna how he was born in Russia and was part of a program called the Mirror program in which he replaced an American soldier in a Vietnamese prison camp. Chelgrin was instructed to go to America and become successful, making himself powerful enough to help the Russian government steal American secrets. Chelgrin did, becoming first a Congressman and later a Senator. When Lisa stumbled across this secret, Chelgrin had no choice but to allow his Russian comrades to take her away and brainwash her, keeping her alive but hidden for her own safety.

Alex returns to the house with the fourth man, Peterson, and finds Joanna. Joanna tells Alex what Chelgrin told her. Peterson confirms it, confessing he, too, is part of the Mirror project. However, Peterson turned double agent years ago and is working with the CIA to stop Chelgrin from becoming President of the United States. The CIA brainwashed Alex the year before and arranged for him to meet Joanna, to come to St. Moritz, and to kill Chelgrin in an act of self defense. Now Alex is supposed to call the police and give them a contrived story. Instead, Alex and Joanna decide to write their story down, give it to a dozen lawyers in different countries, and use it to guarantee that the CIA will not one day decide they are loose ends that need to be taken out. With that done, Joanna and Alex decide to return to Kyoto and live out their days in peaceful bliss.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 1-5

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 1-5 Summary

The Key to Midnight is a novel by Dean Koontz that was originally published under the pseudonym Leigh Nichols. The novel tells the story of Joanna Rand, a nightclub owner and singer, who discovers she is really the daughter of an American senator, who went missing twelve years ago. Joanna has been haunted by nightmares for many of those years and comes to find out the nightmares are really memories of a sadistic doctor who brainwashed her, wiping away all her childhood memories and creating a new persona to take their place. With the help of private detective Alex Hunter, Joanna sets off on an adventure that will either reveal the truth or leave her lost forever. The Key to Midnight is a novel of intrigue that will not disappoint those familiar with Koontz's unique narrative style.

Joanna Rand wakes from a nightmare where a man with a mechanical hand is standing over her reaching for a hypodermic needle. Joanna goes to the window and looks out over Kyoto, Japan, drawing comfort from the familiar sights. Joanna is an American by birth, but came to Japan a decade ago to become a lounge singer. Six years ago, Joanna found herself in Kyoto and fell in love with the gorgeous city. Joanna took the last of her inheritance and opened a nightclub, becoming the star attraction in her own lounge. Now Joanna goes downstairs into her nightclub, The Moonglow Lounge, and makes herself a drink. While sitting at the bar, Joanna is joined by Mariko Inamura, her manager and good friend. Mariko offers comfort and again asks her friend to visit her uncle, a psychiatrist, to undergo hypnosis and perhaps learn the cause of Joanna's recurrent nightmare. Joanna politely refuses.

Alex Hunter waits patiently for Joanna Rand to begin her first set of the night. Alex is in Japan on vacation and only intended to stay in Kyoto for a few days. However, Alex has become enchanted with The Moonglow Lounge and Joanna Rand. After the set, Joanna makes her way through the crowded lounge, speaking to as many customers as she can. When Joanna finds her way to Alex's table, he compliments her by comparing her singing to some of the greatest jazz singers of the past. Joanna is so flattered that she surprises Alex and herself when she agrees to have lunch with Alex the following day. That night, Joanna again has her recurrent dream, seeing the man with the mechanical hand and smelling disinfectants that leave her in the grip of a panic attack when she wakes.

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 1-5 Analysis

These first few chapters introduce the two main characters. The first, Joanna Rand, is a talented singer who owns a nightclub in Kyoto, Japan. However, Joanna is not a happy woman. Joanna is plagued by a recurring nightmare in which a man with a mechanical hand uses a hypodermic needle to do something unclear to her. Joanna always wakes



from this dream in the grip of a panic, but she is unable to understand what the dream means or why she suffers it nearly every night. It also seems Joanna is uninterested in learning the truth about the dream, perhaps afraid of finding out something she does not want to know. Joanna's friend and manager, Mariko, offers to send Joanna to a psychiatrist and undergo hypnotherapy in order to find the root of the dream. Joanna does not want to do this, giving the reader the impression that Joanna is afraid to find out where the dream comes from. However, the specific suggestion of hypnotherapy implies to the reader that this idea may come up again as the plot begins to unfold.

Alex Hunter is also introduced in these chapters. Alex is an American on vacation in Japan. Alex came to Kyoto as a brief stop in his tour of the country, but has decided to stick around Kyoto for a while longer after seeing Joanna perform at the Moonglow Lounge. Alex is clearly smitten with Joanna, and when he asks her to have lunch with him, it makes it seem to the reader that a romance might be in the air, touching on one of the themes of the novel.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 6-11

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 6-11 Summary

While sitting in bed reading that night, Alex suddenly realizes why Joanna seems familiar to him. Joanna bears a remarkable resemblance to the daughter of a United States Senator, who went missing more than a decade before. Alex, as the owner of a large private detective agency, was hired to investigate the case. Lisa Chelgrin disappeared from her father's vacation home in Jamaica twelve years ago, and the local police were of little use in tracking the woman down. However, Alex had no luck tracking her either. Alex calls his office and asks that the files on the Chelgrin case be sent to him via a courier as quickly as possible.

The next day, Alex and Joanna meet for lunch. Alex carefully directs the conversation to encourage Joanna to speak about herself, hoping to determine if she is Lisa without making Joanna suspect he knows. However, Joanna does not appear to have any secrets, and her vague stories of growing up in England appear genuine. After eating, Joanna offers to take Alex on a guided tour of Kyoto. They tour the city by taxi and then get out at Nijo Castle, an imposing monument in the heart of Kyoto. While looking at some artwork on the walls, Joanna sees a tourist coming toward her with a missing arm. Suddenly Joanna is overcome with terror, causing her to run from the building. Alex follows, concerned. Joanna slowly calms down in the courtyard but is unable to explain to Alex what set off the panic attack. Alex believes he knows, however. Alex calls Joanna by the name of the missing girl and watches closely for a reaction. Joanna does not react, however, except for confusion as to why this man would call her by another woman's name.

Alex and Joanna get another taxi to take them back to The Moonglow Lounge. On the way, Alex tells Joanna about Thomas Chelgrin, a Vietnam prison camp survivor and United States Senator. Alex tells Joanna how Chelgrin bought a car dealership after the war and made his fortune and then began his career in politics shortly after the death of his wife. Twelve years ago, Alex continues, Chelgrin's daughter was alone at his vacation home in Jamaica when she disappeared. Evidence at the house suggested the daughter was taken from her bedroom in the middle of the night. The Jamaican police proved useless in the investigation, so Chelgrin hired Alex to search for the girl. Alex also had little luck, leaving the Chelgrin case only one of two cases he was never able to solve. By the time Alex finishes his story, they have arrived at his hotel. Alex asks Joanna if she will allow him to speak to her about Chelgrin again later, but she is lukewarm, clearly disturbed by the story.

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 6-11 Analysis

Alex realizes he has seen Joanna before. Alex remembers a case he worked through his private detective agency years before in which the daughter of a United States



Senator disappeared in Jamaica. Joanna looks just like this woman. The chances that Alex would end up in the city where this woman has been hiding out for twelve years seems to be astronomical, tipping the reader off to the idea that something may be at work here that is not completely clear at this point. Later, Alex has lunch with Joanna and encourages her to talk, hoping he can get her to slip and say something that confirms she is this other woman, Lisa Chelgrin. However, Alex is delighted with Joanna, with her charm and gentle personality and is unable to get her to say anything that might suggest she is Lisa. The reader wonders at this point if it is possible Joanna is not Lisa, just a good look alike.

Joanna has a panic attack when she and Alex are walking through Nijo Castle. The attack appears to be set off by the appearance of a man who is missing his right hand. The reader thinks of the dream in which a mechanical hand appears to be preparing a shot for Joanna and assumes this has something to do with the panic attack. Afterward Alex calls Joanna Lisa Chelgrin in order to see her reaction to the name. Joanna has no reaction, suggesting she has not heard the name before. Perhaps Joanna really is not Lisa, just an innocent look alike. However, Alex does not appear to believe in coincidences as he continues to push the Chelgrin story on Joanna. Alex tells Joanna about Thomas Chelgrin and the disappearance of his daughter. Joanna becomes agitated and hesitates when Alex insists they continue this discussion. Now the reader is nearly convinced that Alex is wrong and Joanna is simply what she appears to be, a nice lady singer.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 12-17

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 12-17 Summary

Joanna has a panic attack as soon as she is alone in her apartment. Joanna knows that Alex is the cause and decides she must not see him again. As soon as Joanna makes this decision, her panic attack ends. At the same time, Alex enters his hotel room and suspects that someone has been in it. Alex looks around the rooms, but when he finds nothing disturbed, decides it is his imagination. Alex prepares to take a bath. When Alex approaches the closet to pick a suit for dinner that night, an intruder jumps out and attacks him. Alex and the intruder fight, but when it seems Alex is going to get the better of the intruder, the man pulls out a knife and cuts Alex's arm. The man then instructs Alex to allow him to leave, which Alex does. Alex believes this attack is connected to Joanna and begins to wonder if she has suffered some sort of brainwashing and if perhaps the men who orchestrated her kidnapping and subsequent memory loss are still watching her. This makes Alex more intrigued with the case and more determined than ever to learn the truth.

Alex walks to the Moonglow Lounge only to discover that Joanna is ill and not performing that night. Alex goes to the bar and insists to the bartender that he be allowed to see Joanna. Mariko comes out and tells Alex that Joanna is emotionally unstable and that she does not wish to see Alex. Mariko implies that Joanna often acts this way when she feels a man is getting too close, turning into a person that even Mariko does not know. Mariko then tells Alex about the recurrent nightmare Joanna has and how Mariko has tried to get her to go see her uncle, but Joanna refuses. Then Mariko encourages Alex to continue pursuing Joanna because she believes Alex may be the one man who can break through Joanna's defenses.

Alex leaves the Moonglow feeling rejected. However, Alex senses he is being followed, so he decides to cheer himself up by playing with his observer. Alex walks aimlessly through the Gion, Kyoto's entertainment district. He makes several stops, keeping an eye on his shadow, while seemingly unaware of the observer. Alex buys a drink here, a bottle of liquor there. Then Alex moves into a quieter section of the Gion, making a sudden turn into an alley. Alex then hides and waits for his shadow to follow him into the alley. When the stranger enters the alley, Alex hits him over the head and knocks him out. Alex then relieves the man of his gun and asks him why he is following him. The man refuses to answer. The man does assure Alex, however, if he continues his involvement with Joanna, he will be killed.

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 12-17 Analysis

Joanna has another panic attack due to Alex's story about Lisa Chelgrin. It gets better when Joanna decides not to see Alex again, suggesting Joanna's panic attack is an emotional barrier against emotional connections, a suggestion that is further confirmed



when Mariko tells Alex that Joanna almost always has panic attacks when she feels a man is getting too close. Mariko also tells Alex that Joanna freezes men out of her life and acts in a way that is contrary to her normal personality. This description of Joanna's behavior suggests that perhaps there is something deeper than simply emotional distrust that causes Joanna to behave in this way. Despite this behavior, Mariko encourages Alex to continue pursuing Joanna, suggesting that Alex is the first man Joanna has truly seemed excited about and that he might have the ability of breaking through Joanna's defenses. Mariko's assessment of the situation implies a deeper relationship between Joanna and Alex than their short relationship seems to support and touches on the theme of romance, promising the reader that a romance is surely on the horizon.

Alex leaves the club, convinced he is being followed. After the attack in his hotel room, Alex knows not only that Joanna is in fact Lisa Chelgrin, but that someone does not want Alex to make the connection that will prove this fact. As a deterrent, whoever is behind the attacks has put a man on Alex to see what he is up to. Alex plays with the man, eventually trapping him in an alley. The man is a professional and will not tell Alex who his bosses are despite the gun Alex holds on him. However, the man does warn Alex that he will die. This promise injects danger into the plot, increasing the tension within the novel's tone and promising more intrigue as the story continues to unfold.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 18-24

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 18-24 Summary

Joanna lies in bed, overwhelmed with depression over her decision to freeze Alex out of her life. Joanna cannot sleep, so she decides to take some sleeping pills. While pouring out the appropriate dosage, Joanna begins to think how easy it would be to take the whole bottle and simply end her pain. Alex also cannot sleep. Alex has never fallen in love before and honestly does not believe love exists; however, he cannot stop thinking about Joanna and wonders if maybe this is what love feels like. While thinking of these things, Alex gets a call from Mariko informing him that Joanna has attempted to kill herself. Alex rushes to the Moonglow and finds the doctor there with Joanna. Mariko tells Alex that the paramedics have already pumped Joanna's stomach, and her private physician has decided she is safe remaining at her apartment. Alex speaks to the doctor as well and learns that Joanna has already confessed the stupidity of her decision and assured everyone she will not attempt to hurt herself again.

Alex goes to speak to Joanna. Joanna tells him that she is going crazy with her recurrent dream and realizes now that she must learn the name of the man she sees in the dream. Alex agrees to help her. Downstairs, Alex tells Mariko to watch over Joanna and take precautions with their safety. When Alex leaves to return to his hotel, he becomes aware of a red car following him. The next morning, Alex receives a phone call telling him he is about to receive a warning to stay away from Joanna. A few minutes later a bellhop comes to his door and tells him there has been an accident downstairs. A man has been hit by a car and is refusing medical assistance until he talks to Alex. Alex rushes downstairs and finds Wayne Kennedy, an agent with his security firm, fighting off paramedics attempting to treat an injured leg. Wayne tells Alex how he was hit by a car and how one of the men in the car attempted to steal the suitcase that contains the Chelgrin file. Wayne insists Alex take the suitcase before he is taken to the hospital. Alex goes to the hospital with Wayne and calls Joanna while waiting for Wayne to come out of surgery. Alex tells Mariko what has happened and suggests that he move into a spare room at the club in order to protect Joanna.

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 18-24 Analysis

Joanna tries to commit suicide, underscoring for the reader how difficult the nightmares and panic attacks have been for her. Afterward, Joanna expresses to Alex that she is ready to explore her nightmare and learn the name of the man she sees in it, hoping this will end the dreams. Alex agrees to help, which is no surprise because the reader can see how deeply Alex's feelings run when it comes to Joanna. Alex is clearly falling in love despite his protests that love does not exist and that he would never fall in love, especially after such a short time.



Alex returns to his hotel only to learn that one of his agents, Wayne Kennedy, has been hit by a car outside the hotel. Alex arrives and finds Wayne fighting off the ambulance attendants to ensure that no one touches the Chelgrin file but Alex. Alex is impressed by Wayne's integrity and gives him a promotion on the way to the hospital. Alex waits at the hospital until Wayne is out of surgery and then calls Mariko, promising her that he intends to see this thing through and to make the bad guys pay for what they have done to him, to Joanna, and to Wayne. The episode in which Wayne is injured increases the reader's understanding of how far Joanna's enemies will go to protect their secret and keep Alex from proving Joanna is really Lisa Chelgrin. The behavior of these men suggests to the reader that what happened to Lisa has far-reaching consequences and involves men who are willing to kill in order to protect their secrets. This implication further adds tension to the plot and increases the suspense as the reader finds more questions in the plot than answers.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 25-31

Part One, Joanna: Chapters 25-31 Summary

Wayne's doctor comes and tells Alex they were able to save his leg. Mariko joins Alex a few minutes later, having come to sit with Wayne while Alex goes to see Joanna. Alex instructs Mariko to tell Wayne not to tell the police about the man attempting to steal the Chelgrin file. Alex then goes to Joanna's where they begin going through the Chelgrin file after dinner. Joanna is fascinated with the uncanny resemblance between herself and Lisa Chelgrin, especially when she compares the photos in the file with photos of herself from twelve years ago. As they look at the photos, Joanna begins to have a panic attack. The room appears to be growing smaller. Alex talks Joanna through the attack despite Joanna's conviction that Alex is the cause of the attack. Eventually the attack lets up and Joanna feels free for the first time in years.

Alex asks Joanna detailed questions about her parents and when she fails to come up with details, Alex suggests they never really existed. Joanna retrieves letters from her bedroom that seem to offer proof of Robert and Elizabeth Rand's existence. The letters are from a lawyer and address the inheritance Joanna received after her parents died in a car accident. There is also a letter from an insurance company that paid a life insurance settlement to Joanna. Alex questions the existence of the lawyer because Joanna cannot offer a clear memory of a man who was supposedly a good family friend. Joanna becomes frustrated because she believes she remembers the man despite her lack of concrete memories. Alex then suggests that Joanna call the insurance company that issued the life insurance check. When Joanna does, she is told the records were destroyed because the company is not required to save files older than seven years. It seems like a dead end. Joanna also calls the phone number on the lawyer's stationary and discovers it is the number to an antique store.

Alex then discovers a copy of Lisa Chelgrin's fingerprints in the file and suggests that they compare those to Joanna's. Alex and Joanna go into the office of the Moonglow to make the comparison and Alex is convinced that it is a clear match. When Mariko returns to the Moonglow, Alex and Joanna tell her about Chelgrin and Alex's conviction that Joanna is Lisa Chelgrin. Mariko suggests that Alex contact Senator Chelgrin and tell him that his daughter has been found, hoping seeing him might trigger Joanna's memory. However, Alex tells the ladies how he never trusted Chelgrin and that he suspects that Chelgrin might be behind Lisa's kidnapping. How else, he asks, can they explain the large amount of money Joanna supposedly inherited from Robert and Elizabeth Rand? Joanna expresses frustration at the situation and a desire to know why someone would do this to her. Mariko again suggests hypnotherapy with her uncle and this time Joanna agrees.



Part One, Joanna: Chapters 25-31 Analysis

Mariko comes to the hospital to sit with Wayne, a selfless gesture that speaks to Mariko's kind nature. At the same time, Alex goes to Joanna's and shows her the Lisa Chelgrin file. Joanna is overwhelmed by the resemblance between herself and Lisa, beginning to think there might be something to Alex's theories. Joanna begins to have a panic attack. The timing of the attack is interesting to the reader. Joanna has had attacks before whenever Alex suggested she might be Lisa Chelgrin. The fact that Joanna has one now suggests a connection between Alex's relentless theorizing and the attacks. It is possible that there is a connection that goes beyond simple emotional disturbance, an idea the reader anxiously waits to see explored.

Joanna presents Alex with evidence that her parents, Robert and Elizabeth Rand existed despite Alex's theory that they are made up. However, Alex is able to blow a hole in this evidence, first by pushing Joanna to admit she has no real memories of her parents or the lawyer who was supposedly a close family friend. Then Alex has Joanna call the insurance company that paid her the life insurance and learns there is no record of the transaction. Joanna also calls the lawyer only to discover his phone number belongs to an antique store. Finally, Alex compares Joanna's fingerprints to Lisa's and finds they are identical. All this evidence seems to point to the conclusion that Joanna is Lisa. However, the reader continues to wonder why Joanna has no memory of her life as Lisa.

Mariko, Alex, and Joanna discuss the situation and consider their options. Mariko wonders why Alex does not contact the Senator. Alex admits that he always suspected the senator had something to do with Lisa's disappearance, and now that he knows Joanna came into a large amount of money twelve years ago, he believes this proves the senator's involvement. Mariko then suggests again that Joanna visit her uncle and undergo hypnosis. This is the third time Mariko has mentioned this option, foreshadowing that it would become an avenue Joanna would travel. Now the reader discovers this is true as Joanna finally agrees to the idea of hypnosis.



Part Two, Clues: Chapters 32-35

Part Two, Clues: Chapters 32-35 Summary

Ignacio Carrera is working out in his home gym, pushing himself to the point of inflicting pain. Carrera is a hired killer who takes a great deal of pleasure in killing. While working out, Carrera gets a phone call from a man in London named Marlowe. Marlowe tells Carrera that he has gotten a phone call at the British-Continental Insurance front from the woman known as Joanna Rand. Marlowe is concerned Joanna Rand will go to England and discover things that could cause trouble for a number of people. Carrera tells Marlowe that Joanna will not leave Kyoto, and even if she does, Carrera will know it and take care of it. Carrera then threatens Marlowe, telling him if he does not stop asking questions about Joanna Rand, he will be terminated.

Joanna has a nightmare. Alex rushes to her room and comforts her, an action that quickly turns into a kiss. Alex breaks off the kiss, telling Joanna he wants any intimacy between them to be right. Alex confesses that he never believed in love until he met her and does not want to rush their relationship. Alex and Joanna spend the rest of the night in each other's arms. In the morning, Joanna, Alex, and Mariko go visit Wayne before Joanna's appointment with Omi Inamura, Mariko's uncle. Inamura warns Joanna that he does not normally jump into hypnotherapy this quickly, but Joanna assures him she is prepared for any consequences. Inamura puts Joanna into a hypnotic state and begins asking her if she knows the name Lisa Chelgrin. Joanna denies having heard this name, even when Inamura asks if Alex Hunter ever spoke the name to her. Inamura then asks Joanna to regress twelve years to before Robert and Elizabeth Rand died. Inamura asks Joanna to tell him about her mother, about her likes and dislikes. Joanna is unable to comply.

Inamura then takes Joanna to the room where her nightmares take place. Inamura has Joanna look around the room and tell him what she sees. When Joanna begins to describe the room, she begins to have a panic attack, causing her to have difficulty breathing. Inamura talks Joanna through the panic attack, telling Alex he believes it is the result of a posthypnotic suggestion. After Inamura tells Joanna she is safe and will not be harmed if she tells what she sees, Joanna is able to continue. Joanna tells Inamura she is strapped to a bed, naked. Joanna then mentions seeing a window. Inamura asks her to tell him what is outside the window. Joanna suddenly begins reciting an odd sentence. Alex recognizes the line from a science fiction novel called *The Demolished Man*. Inamura tells Alex that he believes this is another posthypnotic suggestion and that Joanna requires an answering sentence before she will allow Inamura to continue. Inamura brings Joanna out from her trance and agrees to see Joanna the following day to try again.



Part Two, Clues: Chapters 32-35 Analysis

Ignacio Carrera is introduced in these chapters. The reader has a sense almost immediately that Carrera is not a nice person from his obsession with inflicting pain on himself and his thoughts in regards to killing people for pleasure. The reader feels the malice that Carrera exudes and feels fear for Alex and Joanna, who are surely going to be targets of Carrera's maliciousness. This seems confirmed when Carrera receives a phone call regarding Joanna. Carrera learns that Joanna is investigating her Rand roots. Carrera does not seem concerned about this situation, assuring the caller that Joanna will not leave Kyoto without his knowledge. This tells the reader that Carrera is most likely behind the men who have been watching Alex.

Alex tells Joanna that he does not believe in love, but she makes him want to believe. Joanna is touched by this declaration and confesses to having similar feelings for Alex. These confessions establish the nature of Joanna and Alex's relationship as well as expanding on the theme of romance. Later, Joanna and Alex attend Joanna's first appointment with Omi Inamura, Mariko's uncle. Under hypnosis, it becomes clear that Robert and Elizabeth Rand are a figment of Joanna's imagination despite her insistence that they are real. This offers further evidence that Alex's theories that Lisa and Joanna are the same person are true. Inamura then regresses Joanna to the room in which her nightmares take place. Almost immediately Joanna has a panic attack. Inamura talks Joanna through this attack, only to run into a posthypnotic suggestion that makes it impossible to continue. This seems to prove that Joanna has undergone some sort of hypnosis before, which is the reason she cannot remember Lisa Chelgrin.



Part Two, Clues: Chapter 36-41

Part Two, Clues: Chapter 36-41 Summary

Inamura has gotten a copy of *The Demolished Man* and uses it to give Joanna an answering sentence to overcome the posthypnotic suggestion that has blocked her answers to Inamura's questions. Joanna tells Inamura what she sees outside the window and continues describing the room. Joanna tells Inamura that a woman has come into the room and given her a drug. Joanna describes the effects of the drugs and the fear that fills her when a man comes into the room. The man is called Herr Doktor by the woman, and he is the man from Joanna's dreams with the mechanical hand. Joanna describes how Herr Doktor gives her another injection and speaks to her, but she cannot tell Inamura what the man says. Joanna then tells Inamura how Herr Doktor molests her while she is still under the influence of the drugs. Alex is outraged by this and wants Inamura to stop encouraging Joanna to remember the abuse, but Inamura believes it is important for Joanna to recall all the details, so she can deal with it emotionally.

The next morning Joanna wakes up because of thirst. Joanna realizes this is the first time in years she woke for any reason other than the terror of her nightmare. Joanna feels free. The same morning, Alex gets a call from his contact at his security firm and learns that the lawyer who supposedly handled Robert Rand's estate does not exist. This man also tells Alex that British-Continental Insurance does not exist, but the address on its letter is real and is home to several businesses, including an import-export business that has a questionable number of employees. Alex's contact offers to send Alex backup, but Alex refuses, determined to help Joanna on his own. Later in the day, Joanna and Alex return to Inamura's office. During this regression, Inamura discovers another posthypnotic suggestion. Inamura finds that Joanna was told if she tried to leave Japan she would suffer a debilitating illness that would force her to flee a plane or other transportation. Inamura gives Joanna instructions that override this suggestion.

Inamura then takes Joanna back in time, attempting to move her beyond the time in which she spent in Herr Doktor's care. Joanna has trouble regressing to this time. Inamura tries several techniques to help Joanna rediscover her life as Lisa Chelgrin, but has no luck. Lisa Chelgrin is gone. That night Joanna asks Alex what they should do next. Alex suggests they go in search of Herr Doktor, starting in London.

Part Two, Clues: Chapter 36-41 Analysis

Inamura uses a line from *The Demolished Man* to free Joanna of her posthypnotic suggestion and continue her therapy. Under hypnosis, Joanna reveals the horrible abuse to which Herr Doktor subjected her. Alex becomes very agitated as he listens to Joanna's recitation of this abuse, proving his deep love for her and his sense of



empathy toward her. Under further regression, Joanna also reveals that all her memories of Lisa Chelgrin are gone and that she will most likely never recover them. The completeness of this brainwashing should be frightening to the reader, showing how vulnerable Lisa Chelgrin was and how violating Herr Doktor was toward her, both physically and mentally. This experience also increases the suspense of the novel, making the reader somewhat anxious to find out who Herr Doktor is and for whom he works.

The hypnotherapy appears to be working, however. Joanna wakes for the first time due to a reason other than the terror of her nightmares. Joanna is beginning to feel free and hope for her future. At the same time, Alex learns more about the elaborate lengths Joanna's captors went to to create the Joanna Rand persona. Both the lawyer and the insurance agency are fakes, further proving that Joanna is Lisa and that she has been brainwashed into believing in a life that did not begin until twelve years ago. The more Alex gets answers, the more questions he has. The reader feels as frustrated as Alex and anxious to learn more, which is exactly what is foreshadowed when Alex suggests he and Joanna go to London.



Part Two, Clues: Chapters 42-44

Part Two, Clues: Chapters 42-44 Summary

Chelgrin gets a phone call telling him where and when to meet a secret contact. Chelgrin takes a great deal of caution, aware that if he is recognized by someone he will have to reschedule this meeting. As a possible candidate for the Presidency, Chelgrin has a highly-recognizable face; however, no one notices him this night. Chelgrin is picked up by a driver whose name he does not know and is taken to another parking lot where he gets into a car with his contact. Chelgrin's contact, Anson Peterson, is a large, unpleasant man who is Chelgrin's only contact with his only child, Lisa. Peterson has been bringing Chelgrin written reports on Lisa every month for twelve years. However, this month the report is verbal due to the urgency of recent events. Peterson tells Chelgrin how Lisa has undergone hypnotherapy and has begun to recall the treatments that took her memories and turned her into Joanna Rand. Peterson tells Chelgrin that Lisa will have to either undergo the brainwashing technique again or sent to live in Russia. Chelgrin insists Lisa undergo the brainwashing technique despite the possibility that she could die.

Joanna is struck with homesickness when it is time for her and Alex to leave Kyoto. Joanna will especially miss Mariko. As they say goodbye, Joanna tells Mariko that she recognizes Mariko's affection for Wayne and encourages her to pursue those emotions. Mariko hesitates because despite her affections for Wayne, it is not usually acceptable for a Japanese woman to marry a Western man. However, Mariko promises to keep Joanna's advice in mind. Joanna and Alex then take a train to Tokyo, where Joanna takes Alex to dinner and a show at places she is known from her days as a singer in Tokyo. That night, Joanna and Alex become lovers for the first time.

Ignacio Carrera is once again working out in his home gym despite the fact that a woman has come to visit him and is impatiently waiting. While Carrera is cleaning up after his workout, he receives a phone call from Peterson. Carrera is informed that Joanna Rand is on her way to London and is expected to find information that will lead her to St. Moritz. Peterson tells Carrera to fly to St. Moritz so that he is present when Joanna arrives. Carrera hangs up and invites the woman into his room where he abuses her mercilessly, all the while fantasizing about Joanna Rand. Carrera hopes that the brainwashing technique will leave Joanna mentally impaired, so he can turn her into a sexual plaything.

Part Two, Clues: Chapters 42-44 Analysis

Thomas Chelgrin is introduced for the first time despite having been discussed several times between Alex and Joanna. The reader believes Chelgrin to be an evil man who orchestrated his own daughter's kidnapping. However, when the reader meets Chelgrin, he is almost sympathetic, as though he is as much a victim as his daughter. The reader



does learn that Chelgrin knows where his daughter is and that he has known from the beginning. The impression, though, is that Chelgrin knows where his daughter is, but her kidnapping and continued captivity is not of his choosing. Chelgrin clearly loves his daughter, but made a choice years ago that caused her to be taken away. This choice, which is part of the theme of choices, is not fully explained at this point but implies that there is more to Chelgrin than meets the eye.

Joanna is homesick before she even leaves Kyoto, but it seems to have nothing to do with posthypnotic suggestions, because she is able to leave Kyoto without the overwhelming panic attacks she suffered before. The theme of romance is touched on here as well when Joanna encourages Mariko to explore a relationship with Wayne despite the Japanese mindset that is against these types of relationships. The theme of romance is further explored as Joanna and Alex spend a relaxed evening together that ends with them becoming lovers for the first time. This is a satisfying event for the reader, who has been rooting for these two from the first chapters and is excited to see them united.

Carrera makes his way back into the story, injecting his malicious thoughts into the progressing story. Carrera learns that Joanna is on her way to London and expected to continue on to St. Moritz within a few days. Carrera is ordered to St. Moritz to be on hand in case the new brainwashing sessions do not work. Carrera is excited by the idea of Joanna being left a vegetable by the technique so that he can use her as a sex toy. These thoughts and intentions inject terror into the plot, leaving the reader concerned that Joanna might suffer more in her effort to find out why her life was erased.



Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 45-52

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 45-52 Summary

Joanna and Alex fly to London and collapse into bed immediately upon their arrival at the hotel. Early the next morning, they are awakened by a furious pounding on the door. Joanna finds a letter has been pushed under the door. The letter is from Senator Chelgrin. Joanna and Alex take a taxi to a local museum, where Chelgrin has requested they come, paying the driver extra to lose their tail before arriving at their destination. Alex is a little uneasy when they are able to shake the tail easier than they should have. At the museum, a local man tells Alex and Joanna that they are to meet Chelgrin at his hotel room. Instead, Alex calls the hotel and speaks to Chelgrin. Chelgrin tells Alex how he had to sneak into the country in order to keep the people behind Lisa's kidnapping in the dark regarding his visit. Chelgrin tells Alex that there is a great deal he has to tell him and that it has something to do with Russians. Alex does not trust Chelgrin, but he agrees to meet at his hotel.

Alex and Joanna stop at a department store on their way to Chelgrin's hotel so they can buy umbrellas, and Joanna can arm herself with a knife. At the hotel, Alex and Joanna take precautions to keep from being videotaped by the security cameras. In the hallway outside Chelgrin's room, Alex has a premonition that Chelgrin is dead. Inside the room, Alex and Joanna discover that Chelgrin is, indeed, dead. Alex keeps Joanna away from Chelgrin's body while he searches the room, looking for anything that might give them a clue to the identity of Herr Doktor. Alex finds an envelope that contains newspaper clippings about a man named Rotenhausen and a half-finished letter of apology to Lisa from Chelgrin.

Over lunch, Alex and Joanna read the newspaper clippings about Rotenhausen. They learn that Rotenhausen is a brilliant scientist who developed a brainwashing technique that was considered revolutionary. However, Rotenhausen lost popularity and government support when he suggested the techniques should be used to control entire populations. Rotenhausen was eventually run out of Germany and settled in St. Moritz, Switzerland. Joanna sees a picture of Rotenhausen and confirms that this is the same Herr Doktor from her dreams. Alex decides they will go to St. Moritz, break into Rotenhausen's laboratory, and find any files on Joanna they can to prove what he did to her.



Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 45-52 Analysis

Joanna and Alex arrive in London and are immediately approached by Chelgrin. At first the reader is uncertain what Chelgrin's intentions are, but comes to believe he is there to help. This is confirmed by Chelgrin's claims that he had to sneak into the country to outsmart the men who are behind Lisa's kidnapping. When Alex and Joanna find Chelgrin dead, this seems to further confirm that Chelgrin finally made the right choice, choosing his daughter. Chelgrin's death also seems to be fortunate for Alex and Joanna as they find in his possession the information they need to find Herr Doktor.

Alex is beginning to experience strange phenomenon. Alex has a premonition that Chelgrin is going to be dead and seconds later discovers it is true. Alex also has a nightmare that is eerily similar to Joanna's nightmares. The reader begins to wonder if Alex has suffered something similar to what Joanna underwent. If this is true, the reader begins to mistrust Alex, wondering if perhaps he is not leading Joanna into danger rather than saving her from it. Also in question is the fact that a tail is lost much too easily given the weakness of the driver's skills. All these things make the reader uneasy, curious if Alex and Joanna are not being manipulated by some unseen person or persons.



Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 53-59

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 53-59 Summary

Joanna and Alex rent a car and quickly shake their tail. Once again Alex feels that it was too easy to get rid of their shadow but puts his concerns aside to concentrate on their next move. Alex drives to a shopping center where he steals the license plates off another car. Alex then goes into a residential area where he steals a car and changes the plates on the stolen car with the tags he took from the shopping center, hoping this will cover their movement long enough for he and Joanna to get out of England. Outside of Brighton, Alex and Joanna stop at an inn called The Bell and The Dragon. Alex talks about the inn as though he has been there often, but in reality he has never been there before. The fact that Alex knew so much about it concerns him, making him feel uneasy. During the night, Alex has a nightmare about doctors and Rio. The dream so disturbs Alex that he spends the rest of the night sitting up with the gun in his lap.

The same night in London, Marlowe is driving home from work in an ice storm, taking all the precaution he can to keep himself safe. On the way, Marlowe thinks about Joanna Rand and Carrera's threats that have left Marlowe questioning his position in their mutual employment. Marlowe does not intend to sit back and allow Carrera to undermine his authority and plans to do something about it in the morning. However, when Marlowe arrives home, a gas leak causes his apartment to explode around him when he flips on the light. Peterson is watching from the street, pleased his plan is going well.

Joanna and Alex fly into France the next day and take a train to Paris. Paris is Alex's town, so they spend the evening happily relaxed as Alex shares stories of his past exploits in Paris. At the same time in St. Moritz, Peterson is at a local hotel where he has just learned from a paid informant that Alex has reserved a room using an alias. On Saturday, Alex and Joanna fly to Zurich from Paris and take a train to St. Moritz. Immediately upon arriving in St. Moritz, Joanna and Alex are tranquilized and kidnapped from their room by Carrera.

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 53-59 Analysis

Alex and Joanna leave London by car, taking precautions to keep from being followed. Alex drives in such a way that shakes a tail, but again is surprised at how easy it is to lose their shadow. Alex suspects that whoever is following them has some idea where they are going. Despite this, Alex and Joanna continue on their way, stopping at a



quaint inn on the way that Alex seems to know well. However, Alex has never been to the inn and cannot remember where he has heard about it. This combined with a dream Alex has later that night leaves him uneasy and again makes the reader wonder if Alex is not being manipulated somehow, touching on a theme of the novel.

Peterson is in London where he witnesses the death of Marlowe. Marlowe works in the import business where British-Continental Insurance has its phones and knows about Joanna. Marlowe's death puts Peterson's loyalties into question, causing the reader to fear Peterson might be a danger to Joanna. This fear is underscored when Peterson shows up in St. Moritz and learns Alex and Joanna on their way. Later, when Joanna and Alex arrive in St. Moritz and are immediately kidnapped, the reader knows it cannot be a coincidence that Peterson is there, knows where they are staying, and is the one who ordered Carrera to be present. It seems Alex and Joanna have walked into a trap, and the reader is anxious to see how they manage to get out, if they do.



Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 60-70

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 60-70 Summary

Carrera exchanges Alex and Joanna's luggage for Peterson's and then rolls Alex and Joanna out of the hotel in a laundry cart. All evidence that Alex and Joanna were at the hotel will be eradicated. Some time later, Alex wakes, bound on the floor of a kitchen. Alex manages to break his bindings only to discover that someone has already cut through the rope. Joanna wakes at the same time, strapped to a hospital bed in the same room as in her dreams. A woman is there and Joanna is given an injection. The woman tells Joanna her name is Ursula Zaitsev, laughing that Joanna will not remember the name very soon.

Alex begins to search the house figuring out it belongs to Rotenhausen by some of the belongings he finds in the bedroom. When Alex enters the library, he is struck with a sense of familiarity. Alex searches the desk and finds his gun, realizing he had known it would be there. Alex takes the gun and fires off a shot to make sure it contains real bullets. Alex then proceeds to the lower floor of the house where there appears to be a laboratory. Joanna watches Ursula leave and waits for the drug to take affect. However, when Rotenhausen enters the room a few minutes later, Joanna is still clear headed. Joanna realizes that Rotenhausen expects her to be drugged, so she pretends. At the same time, Alex moves down the stairs and hears voices coming from a nearby room. Alex stands outside the door and listens as four men discuss his murder. Alex is shocked when he realizes he knows each of these men's names even though he has never met three of them before. The fourth, however, Alex knows. It is Thomas Chelgrin.

As Joanna is enduring Rotenhausen's molestations, Alex is caught eavesdropping. Alex enters the room and demands to know how Chelgrin can still be alive. As Chelgrin explains how his death was faked, one of the strange men makes a move toward Alex. Alex fires his weapon, killing Carrera's partner, Paz, and then shooting Carrera. Alex then turns the gun on Chelgrin even though he has no reason to believe Chelgrin means him harm. Alex wants to put the gun down, but he cannot do it. Alex fires the weapon, hitting Chelgrin in the chest. At the same time, Carrera jumps up and attacks Alex.

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 60-70 Analysis

All evidence that Alex and Joanna were at their hotel is erased and replaced with Peterson's belongings, telling the reader that Peterson is the mastermind behind this



kidnapping. Alex then wakes in a strange house and quickly learns it belongs to Rotenhausen. Alex searches the residential section of the house and finds his gun in an eerie flash of premonition or prior knowledge of which he has no memory. Alex has begun to wonder if he, too, was brainwashed; however, he does not have time to ponder this question now. Alex takes the gun and goes downstairs into the laboratory area where he hopes to find Joanna. Instead Alex finds four men discussing his murder in graphic detail. One of these men is Chelgrin. Alex bursts into the room and demands to know how Chelgrin can be alive. When Alex asks, Carrera and his partner make hostile moves toward Alex causing him to kill them. Chelgrin does not make a move toward Alex, but Alex shoots him, too, unable to stop himself. This again suggests to Alex that he has been programmed to kill, taking away his free will.

Joanna wakes in the same room where she was brainwashed twelve years before. Joanna is drugged, but for some reason the drug does not work. Joanna finds herself forced to pretend the influence of the drug while Rotenhausen molests her, leaving the reader hoping she will find a way to get free and stop Rotenhausen's abuse. This entire set of chapters increase the tension within the plot, bringing the story to a fevered pitch. The reader is glued to the page, waiting to see what will happen next. Alex appears to be in trouble when Carrera rises up and attacks him, foreshadowing a chase in the next few chapters that the reader worries Alex might not survive.



Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 71-84

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 71-84 Summary

Rotenhausen unstraps Joanna from the bed, convinced she is too drugged to get away. Joanna surprises him by unplugging his mechanical hand and jumping off the bed. Rotenhausen manages to catch Joanna before she can reach the door. Joanna and Rotenhausen struggle, and she is able to get free. Joanna grabs an IV bottle from a tray, but it breaks when Rotenhausen grabs her again. Joanna still has the end of the bottle in her hand. Joanna sinks the broken end of the bottle into Rotenhausen's neck, killing him. At the same time, Alex escapes Carrera's grip and runs into a storm room. While Carrera is breaking down the door, Alex climbs out the window, runs into the woods, and finds a place to hide in the dark. When Carrera catches up to Alex, he throws a rock at Carrera. Carrera is injured, but not dead. Alex and Carrera fight, and finally Alex is able to break Carrera's neck with a kick to his head. When Alex goes back toward the house, he finds Peterson waiting for him, fresh from killing Ursula.

Joanna escapes the treatment room and goes to look for Alex. Instead, Joanna finds Thomas Chelgrin. Joanna asks Chelgrin why he allowed these people to take Lisa. Chelgrin explains to Joanna that he was born Russian and as a youth, became a part of a program known as Mirror. This program matched young Russians with American prisoners of war in Vietnam. Chelgrin, then known as Ilya Lyshenko, was given a number of plastic surgeries to change his appearance and coached on the details of Chelgrin's life. Then the real Thomas Chelgrin was killed, and Lyshenko took his place. Lyshenko moved to Chicago, built a car dealership, and began his political career, placing him in a position to leak secrets to Russia. It is because of this that Lisa Chelgrin had to become Joanna Rand. Lisa arrived in Jamaica sooner than Chelgrin expected and overheard Chelgrin discussing his traitorous ways with several of his Russian comrades. Chelgrin allowed Lisa to be brainwashed in order to save her life and his career.

Chelgrin then dies of his wounds, leaving Joanna with the answers she wanted. Alex and Peterson return to the house. Peterson tells Joanna and Alex that he, too, was part of the Mirror project, but he turned on the Russians to team up with the CIA. Peterson then admits that he and the CIA brainwashed Alex into going to Kyoto to find Joanna so they could follow well-placed clues to bring them to St. Moritz. Peterson says the CIA needed Chelgrin to die before he could be elected President, but could not do it themselves for fear it would tip off the Russians that Chelgrin has been compromised for many years. Peterson tells Joanna and Alex they will be safe if they call the police and stick to a story of self defense he lays out for them. However, after Peterson leaves, Alex and Joanna decide instead of calling the police, they will simply leave and write



down everything they know, sending copies to a dozen lawyers throughout the world to protect them from a change of heart on the part of the CIA. Then they plan to return to Kyoto and make a life together.

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle: Chapters 71-84 Analysis

Rotenhausen makes a fatal decision to release Joanna, leaving her free to run. Joanna is not strong enough to fight off the doctor, however, and is nearly caught again. Joanna manages to arm herself and kills Rotenhausen, bringing to an end the tensions and nightmares that began for Joanna on the very first page of the novel. From there, Joanna goes to look for Alex and runs into Thomas Chelgrin, Lisa's father. Chelgrin is full of remorse and gives Joanna what she has searching for the entire novel, answers. Chelgrin explains how he is Russian born and took over the life of a Vietnam War prisoner. Joanna is saddened by Chelgrin's explanation and full of grief for the girl she once was. However, Joanna feels little emotion for Chelgrin, except pity. Chelgrin made his choices, a theme of the novel, and now must die for them.

Alex fights with Carrera and eventually gets the better of the madman despite his greater size and amazing capacity for pain. Alex then returns to the house with Peterson, where he learns both what Joanna learned from Chelgrin and Peterson's side of the story. It turns out Peterson is a good guy, sort of. Peterson is also a Russian agent, part of the Mirror project, but Peterson has turned on his country and teamed up with the CIA. With the CIA, Peterson had Alex kidnapped and programmed to find Joanna and follow the clues that would lead him to kill Thomas Chelgrin. The CIA could not allow Chelgrin to become President of the United States, but could not kill him themselves because it might make the Russians question the information Chelgrin has given them over the years. That is where Alex comes in, touching on the theme of manipulation. Alex turns the tables, however, deciding not to follow Peterson's orders and instead blackmails the CIA into allowing he and Joanna to live out their lives in peace. Joanna and Alex decide to go back to Kyoto, once more illustrating the theme of romance as they go off into the sunset together.



Characters

Joanna Rand/Lisa Chelgrin

Joanna Rand is a lounge singer, who owns a nightclub in Kyoto Japan called Moonglow lounge. Joanna is young, single, and attractive, drawing the attention of the many customers of her club. One customer in particular, Alex Hunter, is fascinated by Joanna, drawn to her voice as much as her subtle beauty. When Alex asks Joanna to lunch, she surprises even herself when she accepts. Joanna and Alex hit it off from the first moments, so well in fact, Joanna agrees to take Alex on a guided tour of the city. However, while touring an old castle, Joanna has a panic attack that is eerily like a recurring nightmare she has suffered for years. By this time, Alex has realized why Joanna looks so familiar to him, coming to the conclusion that she is a missing woman from the United States he spent nearly a year looking for over a decade ago.

When Alex tells Joanna that he believes her to be someone else, Joanna thinks he is insane. Joanna ends the date and resolves to never see Alex again; however, Alex is persistent and Joanna finds herself letting him try to convince her of what he believes to be true. Joanna looks through the file Alex has had delivered to him, finding an eerie similarity between pictures of herself from twelve years ago and the pictures of the woman Alex believes her to be, Lisa Chelgrin. Joanna is further swayed by the matching fingerprints Alex has shown her. Alex and a friend of Joanna's convince her to see a psychiatrist and undergo hypnosis. Joanna does and discovers the root of her panic attacks and the nightmare that has plagued her for so long.

With the clues the hypnosis revealed, Joanna and Alex travel to London in hopes of finding the doctor who stole Lisa's identity. In London, Alex and Joanna discover the name of the doctor and his current home. From there, they go to St. Moritz to confront the doctor. When they arrive, Joanna and Alex are kidnapped and taken to the home of this doctor. There, Alex gets free and hunts down Joanna's kidnappers. Joanna is faced with the doctor who filled her nightmares. Joanna fights him off and kills him herself, freeing herself from the horrors of his reality. Joanna then confronts her father and learns the truth of her past. Joanna then joins Alex and they decide to go to Kyoto and live out the rest of their lives in romantic bliss.

Alex Hunter

Alex Hunter is a private detective who built a multi-million dollar security firm from the ground up. Alex has grown bored with his life and is on a month-long vacation in Japan when he happens on the Moonglow Lounge in Kyoto. At the Moonglow, Alex becomes fascinated with the headliner and owner, Joanna Rand. As Alex watches Joanna perform each night, he feels as though he knows her from somewhere. Finally Alex realizes that Joanna is a dead ringer for the missing daughter of an American senator, a case he worked himself over a decade before. Alex takes Joanna to lunch and asks



leading questions, trying to figure out how she came to be in Japan if she really is this missing girl. Finally Alex calls her by the name of the missing girl, Lisa Chelgrin. Joanna has no idea what Alex is talking about.

Alex has the file on the Chelgrin case brought to him and confronts Joanna with the evidence. Joanna is shocked, having no memory of the life Alex contends she once lived. However, Joanna cannot deny the fingerprint evidence or the uncanny resemblance she has to Lisa Chelgrin. Joanna agrees to undergo hypnotherapy and under the directions of the psychiatrist learns the root of her nightmares and the depth someone went to to make her forget Lisa Chelgrin. Joanna and Alex then go on an adventure to find out who took away Joanna's past.

As Alex and Joanna follow the carefully-constructed trail that will eventually lead them to the man who wiped Joanna's memory, Alex begins to have nightmares. Alex dreams of doctors standing over him in Rio. Alex also discovers in his waking moments that he knows things he should not know. Later, when Alex and Joanna are kidnapped and Alex wakes in a strange house, he cannot stop himself from killing Lisa Chelgrin's father, Thomas. Alex soon learns that he, too, was brainwashed and programmed to find Joanna, to follow the leads to St. Moritz, and to kill Thomas Chelgrin. This is as far as the programming goes, however, and Alex is determined to take control back and live a happy life in Kyoto with Joanna.

Thomas Chelgrin/Ilya Lyshenko

Ilya Lyshenko is a Russian who has joined a project code-named Mirror. As part of this project, Lyshenko will take over the life of an American, become rich, and get involved in politics in order to leak secrets to his homeland. When Thomas Chelgrin becomes a prisoner of war in Vietnam, his uncanny likeness to Lyshenko proves to be deadly. Lyshenko is given extensive plastic surgery to make him look even more like Chelgrin and then taught everything there is to know about Chelgrin. Finally Chelgrin is killed and Lyshenko assumes his identity.

Back in America, Lyshenko, now known as Chelgrin, buys a car dealership with life insurance from his mother's untimely death. Chelgrin becomes successful in business. Chelgrin marries, has a child, and is widowed. Shortly after, Chelgrin runs for Congress. Chelgrin loses his first campaign, but wins his second. Chelgrin remains in Congress for several terms before moving to the senate. Chelgrin has such a successful run in the senate that he is considered a good candidate for the Presidency.

Twelve years ago, Chelgrin's daughter disappeared from his vacation home in Jamaica. Chelgrin does all he can to find her, even hiring a private detective, but to no avail. To the world, it seems a tragedy that Chelgrin bravely handles alone. Privately, however, Chelgrin not only knows where his daughter is, he reads monthly reports about her. It turns out Chelgrin's daughter was not kidnapped, but taken away with his knowledge because she stumbled on some information about her father that could have ruined his political career. Chelgrin's daughter learned her father is Russian and that he has been



smuggling information to the Russians his entire political career. Lisa threatened to go to the FBI, so Chelgrin agreed to have her brainwashed and set up in Japan.

Herr Doktor/Rotenhausen

Dr. Rotenhausen is a German doctor who invented a method by which he could brainwash people. Rotenhausen's project is revolutionary, but his opinions are widely criticized. Rotenhausen believes that all citizens who object to their government should be brainwashed and forced to assimilate. This opinion causes a great deal of grief for Rotenhausen, and he is eventually run out of his country. Rotenhausen sets up a laboratory in St. Moritz, Switzerland, where he is backed by the Russians in exchange for his services whenever required. It is in his home in St. Moritz that Lisa Chelgrin is taken. Rotenhausen wipes Lisa's memory and creates the Joanna Rand persona to put in its place. During this process, Rotenhausen sexually abused Joanna Rand, using his mechanical hand to torment her. Later, Joanna has a recurring dream of being touched by that mechanical hand.

Anson Peterson/Anton Brokov

Anson Peterson is another Mirror project participant. Peterson is also Thomas Chelgrin's contact regarding Lisa. Peterson contacts Chelgrin once a month and arranges a clandestine meeting, where he gives Chelgrin a written report on Lisa's life. For twelve years, this report has been Chelgrin's only contact with his only child. However, after Alex makes contact with Joanna Rand, Peterson informs Chelgrin that Lisa is beginning to realize that she has been brainwashed and that it is necessary to repeat the process. Chelgrin is warned that Lisa might die in the process, but Chelgrin would rather see her die than the alternative, which is to send Lisa to Russia.

Chelgrin is not aware of it, but Peterson is a double agent. Peterson not only represents the Russian government but has also begun to work with the CIA. The CIA has been switching the information Chelgrin sends the Russians for years, aware of his loyalties to his former home country. However, the CIA is concerned that if Chelgrin should become President, the Russians will figure out that Chelgrin has been compromised. Rather than allow this to happen, the CIA decides to brainwash Alex Hunter into killing Chelgrin. After the deed is done, Peterson tells Alex and Joanna the story and advises them that nothing will happen to them if they simply follow his instructions, including calling the police and giving them a story of self defense. Instead, Alex decides to write the whole story down and use it as blackmail in order to protect himself and Joanna from meeting an untimely death.

Ignacio Carrera

Ignacio Carrera is a crazy body builder, who is also a hired killer for the Russians. Carrera likes pain, inflicting it as well as feeling it. Carrera has fantasy about killing people and hopes that if Joanna undergoes the brainwashing techniques a second time



and is left brain damaged, he will be allowed to keep her as a plaything. However, before Joanna can begin the treatment again, Alex gets free of his bonds and shoots Carrera. Carrera has conditioned himself to withstand great amounts of pain, so the bullet does nothing to stop him. Carrera goes after Alex. Alex manages to get outside the house and Carrera follows. Alex and Carrera fight in the woods and Alex manages to wound Carrera fatally, but still he will not go down. Finally, Alex breaks Carrera's neck.

Mariko Inamura

Mariko Inamura is Joanna's manager at the Moonglow Lounge. Mariko is a traditional Japanese woman, demure and patient. Mariko is a good friend to Joanna and only wants what is best for her. When Alex comes along, Mariko believes that finally Joanna may have found a man who will not let her push him away. Mariko encourages Alex to fight for Joanna even when Joanna begins having panic attacks and attempts to make Alex leave her alone. Later, when Alex's employee is injured, Mariko spends time with him at the hospital, so he does not have to be alone. Mariko finds this man delightful and begins to fall in love. However, Mariko cannot take her own advice and allow herself to indulge this feeling because it is not acceptable for a Japanese woman to marry a Western man. However, Joanna returns the gift of advice Mariko has always given her and encourages Mariko to follow her heart rather than tradition.

Omi Inamura

Omi Inamura is Mariko's uncle and a psychiatrist. Mariko tries for years to get Joanna to see her uncle, but when Alex comes along and tells both Mariko and Joanna who Alex believes Joanna to be, Joanna finally agrees to the psychiatrist. Inamura agrees to put Joanna under hypnosis in order to find out what happened to Lisa Chelgrin. Inamura manages to regress Joanna to the time when she was brainwashed and is even able to dismantle some of the posthypnotic suggestions she was given. However, Inamura is unable to return to Joanna her memories of Lisa Chelgrin. It seems that those memories have been thoroughly destroyed.

Wayne Kennedy

Wayne Kennedy is an employee of Alex's security firm. When Alex calls his office and asks for the files on Lisa Chelgrin to be sent to him, he requests that a field agent bring the files himself. When Wayne Kennedy arrives outside Alex's motel in Kyoto, he is run down by a car. A man jumps out of the car and attempts to take the suitcase that has the files inside. Wayne manages to fight off the man. When the ambulance comes, Wayne will not allow anyone to touch him or the suitcases until Alex arrives to take custody of the files. Finally Wayne allows the ambulance attendants to take him to the hospital. On the way to the hospital, Wayne asks Alex for a promotion.



Robert and Elizabeth Rand

Robert and Elizabeth Rand are supposedly Joanna Rand's parents. The Rands died in a car accident twelve years ago, and Joanna inherited a large sum of money from their life insurance. Joanna used that money to buy the Moonglow Lounge and to live until the club began to make a profit. Joanna remembers her parents fondly. However, when Alex or Inamura asks her specific questions about her parents, she cannot answer them. It turns out that Robert and Elizabeth Rand are fictional characters that are part of the persona of Joanna Rand. In reality, the money Joanna used to start her club came from Thomas Chelgrin.



Objects/Places

Moonglow Lounge

The Moonglow Lounge is a dinner club in Kyoto, Japan, owned by Joanna Rand. Joanna is also the main performer at the club, singing jazz every night.

Mechanical Hand

The doctor who wiped Lisa Chelgrin's memory has a mechanical hand that he designed himself. Joanna has recurrent nightmares about this hand.

Pills

Joanna attempts to kill herself with an overdose of sleeping pills when Alex tells her who she really is.

Fingerprints

Alex is able to prove Joanna is Lisa Chelgrin when he compares their fingerprints.

Photographs

Joanna sees pictures of Lisa Chelgrin and believes the resemblance is uncanny.

British-Continental Insurance

British-Continental Insurance is the insurance company that paid out Robert and Elizabeth Rand's life insurance policy. Alex and Joanna later find out this company is a cover for the people who wiped Lisa's memory.

The Bell and The Dragon

The Bell and The Dragon is a bed and breakfast in the English countryside where Alex and Joanna spend the night. Alex realizes he knew about this place even though he had never been there before and could not remember having read or talked about it before.



Rotenhausen's House

Alex and Joanna are kidnapped in St. Moritz and taken to Rotenhausen's house. In this house is the clinic where Rotenhausen practices his brainwashing techniques.

Kyoto, Japan

Kyoto is a beautiful town in Japan where Joanna Rand has lived for many years. It is in Kyoto where Alex Hunter finds Joanna and realizes she is really Lisa Chelgrin, the daughter of a senator and who has been missing for twelve years.

London

Joanna Rand believes she lived a large portion of her childhood in London, and that this is where her parents, Robert and Elizabeth Rand, died.

St. Moritz, Switzerland

Rotenhausen fled to Switzerland after being run out of Germany for his immoral ideas regarding brainwashing. It is in St. Moritz that Rotenhausen brainwashed Lisa Chelgrin and turned her into Joanna Rand.

Chicago, Illinois

Chicago is Thomas Chelgrin's hometown and also where Lisa Chelgrin was born and raised. Chicago is also where Alex Hunter's private detective agency is located.

Jamaica

Lisa Chelgrin disappeared from her father's vacation home in Jamaica twelve years before the beginning of the novel.



Themes

Manipulation

Joanna Rand believes she is the daughter of kind, considerate parents, who raised her to have a sense of individuality. In reality, Joanna Rand is not even Joanna Rand. Robert and Elizabeth Rand are a figment of someone's imagination. Joanna's mind has been tampered with, her memories erased, and new ones implanted. Joanna is really Lisa Chelgrin, the daughter of an American senator. She was kidnapped and given a new life in order to make her forget something dangerous to her, to her father, and to the people who control her father. However, Joanna is beginning to remember the past through nightmares and panic attacks that have begun to affect the way she functions in everyday life.

Joanna needs to remember the past to help her shake the nightmares and panic attacks. Joanna goes to a psychiatrist and undergoes hypnotherapy to help her remember the things that are coming to the surface in her dreams. Joanna remembers a doctor; she remembers the drug therapies he used to wash away her identity, and she remembers the abuse he perpetrated against her. However, Joanna never remembers Lisa Chelgrin or the reason why she is being manipulated in this manner. It is not until she meets Lisa's father, Thomas Chelgrin, that Joanna learns the truth.

Alex Hunter is also manipulated. Alex is on vacation when the CIA takes him captive and uses the same techniques that stole Lisa's identity to manipulate him into helping Joanna. Alex is programmed to go to Kyoto and stumble upon Joanna. Alex is then told to help Joanna learn the truth, to investigate her past, and go to St. Moritz, where he is to kill the man who created Joanna. Alex does all this, vaguely aware of the manipulation, but powerless to do anything about it. In time, Alex learns the truth, and in doing so, regains his individuality and is able to make his own decisions about the future. Alex will not allow them to use him any more. Alex is strong, independent, and fiercely in love. No one will ever be allowed to hurt him or Joanna again.

Romance

Joanna Rand does not like to let men get close to her. Whenever Joanna feels something stronger than lust for a man, she has panic attacks. Joanna freezes these men out, sending them away without explanation, afraid, for reasons she does not understand, to allow these men to get close to her. When Alex Hunter comes into her life, Joanna panics sooner than ever before, unable to be near him just hours into their relationship. Joanna tries to freeze Alex out, but he will not let her. Alex knows things about Joanna, and he cannot let her push him away.

Alex sees in Joanna a familiar face. Alex once worked a case of a missing girl, kidnapped from her father's house in Jamaica. Alex sees that missing girl in Joanna



Rand. When Alex confronts Joanna with the name of this girl, Lisa Chelgrin, Joanna has no clue of what Alex is talking. However, the name causes Joanna to have one of the worst panic attacks she has ever had. When Alex pushes the issue further by showing Joanna pictures of Lisa that look amazingly like her, Joanna again rebels against Alex. However, there is something about Alex that Joanna cannot resist.

Alex had a tough childhood, parents who were cruel and abusive all in the name of love. Alex has never fallen in love and never told a woman he loved her. However, Alex cannot leave Joanna. When Alex is near her, he wants to protect her, to make everything okay. The harder Joanna tries to push Alex away, the more he wants to be with her. Finally, Alex realizes what it is he feels for Joanna. Alex confesses his feelings and Joanna confesses her own. Alex and Joanna have found love despite the odds against them.

Choices

Joanna believes she has all the same choices other people have. Joanna can choose to get up in the morning, to go to work, and she can choose whom to have in her life. Joanna believes these things, but she is wrong. Joanna cannot choose the men in her life. Whenever Joanna becomes too close to a man, she has unexplainable panic attacks. If Joanna were to attempt to leave Japan, she would become violently ill. Joanna has lost the ability to make simple choices because of choices someone else made for her.

Thomas Chelgrin is believed to have been born and raised in Chicago. Chelgrin is believed to be a Vietnam War hero as well. However, Chelgrin is not. Chelgrin is really Ilya Lyshanko, a Russian who volunteered for a program called Mirror. Lyshanko was given surgery to make him look like an American named Thomas Chelgrin, so he could take his place and make a life for himself in America. Lyshanko does, quite successfully. Eventually Lyshanko becomes a congressman and then a senator, with aspirations for the White House. Lyshanko has come to love his new country, his money, and his life. However, when his only child stumbles on his secret, Lyshanko must make a choice that will change both their lives forever.

Lisa Chelgrin, Lyshanko's daughter, is taken away and given a new identity. Lyshanko is given monthly reports on the girl that give him hope that one day they will be together again. However, when Joanna Rand begins remembering the treatments that took her identity, Lyshanko is forced to make another choice. Lyshanko must decide if Joanna should be given the brainwashing treatment again and face possible death, or taken to Russia where she can remain Joanna Rand but be forced to live without the freedoms to which she has become accustomed. Lyshanko chooses possible death for his daughter rather than allow her to live in a country he no longer respects. It is a choice that will lead Lyshanko to his own death and finally give Joanna back a little of what she has lost.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is third person omniscient. The narration moves between multiple characters, with Joanna Rand and Alex Hunter as the most frequent narrators. The omniscient character of the point of view allows the reader access to both the narrator's thoughts and emotions, giving the narration a fully-rounded aspect that helps develop the plot, while at the same time, exploring the characters. The third person point of view allows movement between characters without a change in rhythm or pace.

The point of view of this novel works because it allows the reader to see and enjoy multiple characters, while the viewpoint also develops the main characters in a way that sets them apart from the more minor characters. This point of view also allows an intimacy between reader and character that would not be possible with certain other points of view. This intimacy is important because it is vital to any plot that the reader cares about what happens to the characters, lest the reader loses interest in the developing plot. This point of view allows the reader to not only develop a sense of intimacy between the main characters, but it also allows the reader insight into various other characters who are important to the plot, but not necessarily characters the reader cares about or even likes.

Setting

The novel begins in the picturesque town of Kyoto, Japan. Kyoto is a quaint town that has a great many attractions that visitors might enjoy. In Kyoto is a nightclub called the Moonglow Lounge. This club is owned by Joanna Rand, a singer who is the headliner, often performing two sets a night of jazz music. It is here that the novel begins and here that the two main characters, Joanna Rand and Alex Hunter first meet. Later, the novel moves from Japan to London, where Joanna and Alex find themselves on the trail of a mysterious doctor they suspect wiped Joanna of her real memories and replaced them with fakes. Finally, the novel ends in St. Moritz, Switzerland. St. Moritz is a tourist town that boasts luxurious spas and fantastic skiing. It is also here where Joanna suffered the rape of her mind and body at the hands of a German madman.

The setting of this novel is at first calm and gentle, a world where the reader cannot imagine anything bad could happen. However, it is clear from the first chapter that something bad has indeed happened and is continuing to happen to the heroine, Joanna Rand. As the novel moves along, Kyoto remains a place of patience and calm, but it begins to lose its sense of security as Joanna becomes more and more aware of the manipulations that have been used against her. The novel then moves to London and St. Moritz, adding to the international sense of the novel. The locations add intrigue to the story, while also showing the reader how such enjoyable locales can become sinister if given the right elements.



Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple, precise English. The writer tends to use a scattering of intellectual language, words that might not be readily recognized by some readers, but whose definitions are easily understood when encountered within the text. The writer also uses many foreign words, mostly Japanese, because the bulk of the novel takes place in Japan. Among these foreign words are everyday words used in Japan to describe the meals the characters are eating, the objects they use on a daily basis, and the proper ways in which they address one another.

The language of this novel is slightly more complex than the average best seller, but continues to be simple enough for even the youngest or least educated of its readers. The foreign words are fitting to the setting of the novel and easily deciphered through context. The strange words do not slow down the flow of the novel; therefore, the language in this novel works well with the plot.

Structure

The novel is divided into three parts and eighty-four chapters. Each part is named as a descriptor of the action within the plot, such as Joanna for the main character and her self discovery throughout the first part of the novel. Each chapter is fairly short, most no longer than three or four pages. The short chapters allow the pace of the plot to be quick and encourage the reader to keep reading, rather than laying the novel down between chapters.

The novel contains one main plot with few subplots. The main plot follows the story of Lisa Chelgrin, a young woman who was brainwashed and made to forget her entire identity and resume a fictitious one. Lisa has become Joanna Rand, a nightclub singer who often has panic attacks when she allows anyone to become too close to her. Joanna meets Alex Hunter, a private detective who once worked the Chelgrin kidnapping case and who is able to tell Joanna her real name. The plot then follows Alex and Joanna as they try to learn why Lisa's identity was stolen and find a way to move forward with their lives. The subplots follow the motivations of the men who brainwashed Joanna, taking up little time within the main plot and coming to a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"Kyoto, the spiritual heart of Japan, was a thousand years old yet as new as a fresh idea: a fascinating hodgepodge of neon signs and ancient temples, plastic gimcrackery and beautifully hand-carved stone, the worst of modern architecture thrusting up next to palaces and ornate shrines that were weathered by centuries of hot, damp summers and cold, damp winters." Part One, Joanna, Chapter 1, pg. 3

"A shiver passed through Joanna, and it felt like an echo of chills that she endured every night, when waking from the nightmare." Part One, Joanna, Chapter 8, pg. 39

"Regardless of the risk, he was determined to have the answers that he wanted. His rooms had been searched, and he had been cut. He owed these people a measure of humiliation and pain."

Part One, Joanna, Chapter 13, pg. 80

"It was not a night for sleeping alone, but the bed that awaited him would be empty, the sheets as crisp and cool as morgue shrouds." Part One, Joanna, Chapter 17, pg. 101

"The courier slumped against the wall as if someone had cut a set of supporting wires. He seemed to grow smaller, and the maniacal energy that had sustained him suddenly vanished."

Part One, Joanna, Chapter 23, pg. 121

"Alex was far more energized than he'd been in years. Until this moment, he hadn't fully realized that all his financial success had to some degree dampened the fire in him. His fortune, his twenty-two-room estate, and his pair of Rolls-Royces had mellowed him. But now, once again, he was a driven man." Part One, Joanna, Chapter 24, pg. 126

"He was so plausible, so earnest—but he was not a friend. He was one of Them."

Part Two, Clues, Chapter 26, pg. 139

"A strong gust of wind pressed suddenly and insistently against the window. A few specks of powdery snow spun through the ash-gray afternoon light. A storm was coming." Part Two, Clues, Chapter 32, pg. 179

"Alex closed his eyes and cast his mind back into his childhood, when the covers of books had been doors through which he escaped to far places where there had been no monsters as terrible as drunken and abusive parents."

Part Two, Clues, Chapter 35, pg. 211



"'You've only given me the key to midnight,' Joanna said. A new despair echoed in her voice.

'The key to the past,' Inamura insisted.

'To midnight,' she said miserably. 'A key to darkness and hopelessness. I am nobody. I am nowhere. I'm alone. All alone. I don't like it here.'"

Part Two, Clues, Chapter 39, pg. 245

"The power to inflict pain was the ultimate power."

Part Two, Clues, Chapter 44, pg. 290

"The steel fingers clicked as he reached for her."

Part Three, A Puzzle in a Puzzle, Chapter 66, pg. 366

Topics for Discussion

Discuss Joanna Rand. Who is Joanna Rand? Why does she live in Kyoto? Why did Joanna come to Japan in the first place? Where did she get the money for the club? Why does Joanna have bad dreams? What do these dreams mean?

Discuss Lisa Chelgrin. Who is Lisa Chelgrin? Why was she kidnapped? Who kidnapped her? Why? Why was Lisa brainwashed? Why was Lisa allowed to live? What motivations did her captors have to let her live? Are Lisa and Joanna alike? In what ways? Will Joanna ever remember Lisa?

Discuss Alex Hunter. Who is Alex Hunter? Why is he in Kyoto? Why is Alex fascinated with Joanna? Is Alex in love with Joanna or Lisa? Why does Alex insist on helping Joanna even when she does not want his help? Why does Alex begin having nightmares? What does the nightmare mean? Why can't Alex fight the urge to kill Chelgrin?

Discuss Peterson. Who is Peterson? What is his role in Lisa's kidnapping? Why does Peterson have a role in the kidnapping? What is Peterson's role in Alex's brainwashing? Why did Peterson choose Alex? Did Peterson get the result he wanted? Why or why not? Will Peterson ever pay for what he did to Lisa?

Discuss Thomas Chelgrin. Why does Chelgrin allow his daughter to be kidnapped? Does Chelgrin want to help the Russians? Why or why not? Why does Chelgrin continue to spy for the Russians? Why does Chelgrin not know his information is being compromised? How does Chelgrin choose himself over his daughter? Does that choice eventually change?

Discuss Japanese culture. How is Japanese culture important to this novel? How does Japanese culture affect Joanna and Alex's relationship? How does Japanese culture affect Mariko's desire to be with Wayne Kennedy? Will Mariko be able to overcome these doubts associated with her culture?

Discuss brainwashing. Is brainwashing possible? Could what happened to Lisa really happen? What effect would this have on the American public? How do you feel about brainwashing? Do you think governments should be allowed to brainwash criminals or political protesters? Why or why not?