

# **The Killing Game Study Guide**

## **The Killing Game by Iris Johansen**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">The Killing Game Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapter One.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Two.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Three.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Four.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Five.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Six.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Seven.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Eight.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Nine.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Ten.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Eleven.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Twelve.....</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Thirteen.....</a>	<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Fourteen.....</a>	<a href="#">40</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Fifteen.....</a>	<a href="#">43</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Sixteen.....</a>	<a href="#">46</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Seventeen.....</a>	<a href="#">49</a>
<a href="#">Chapter Eighteen.....</a>	<a href="#">52</a>
<a href="#">Epilogue.....</a>	<a href="#">55</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">56</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">59</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">61</a>



Style..... 62

Quotes..... 64

Topics for Discussion..... 66



# Plot Summary

The Killing Game by Iris Johansen is a suspense novel. While it stands alone as a complete book, it is part of the Eve Duncan Series. Eve Duncan and Joe Quinn are partners who solve cases involving missing children. This book begins with skeletons that are discovered in the vicinity around Talladega Falls, Georgia. Since one of the bodies is a child and the bodies have been buried at least ten years, the child might be Eve's daughter, Bonnie. Joe Quinn is in Georgia looking at a serial killer's graveyard as the story starts. He knows that Eve will want to sculpt the head of the child. It might be Bonnie. Eve has been looking for Bonnie for a long time. She has found many other children but not Bonnie.

Joe Quinn has just gotten divorced and at last he is free to pursue Eve as a lover and wife instead of just a friend and partner. Joe arranges for Eve to sculpt the head. The head disappears and Eve begins getting threatening phone calls from the killer of the bodies in Talladega Falls. The monster, Dom, wants to play a sadistic game with Eve. While he threatens her, he also tells her about a child in Atlanta who is like a reincarnation of Bonnie. He threatens the child, Jane, but gives Eve some clues so she can find Jane and bond with her.

Eve does find Jane. Dom starts killing people around Jane as well as people who are part of the search for him. The body count mounts as the book progresses. The FBI agent on the case talks about the monster being a super monster. This serial killer is worse than Ted Bundy. Johansen writes scenes that prove how diabolical and evil Dom is.

Eve has to kidnap Jane in order to keep her safe. Of course, Eve comes to care for Jane and bonds with her. Jane is very streetwise and never gives an inch. Jane doesn't want anyone to know she cares. Jane has had too many disappointments in life. Eve doesn't push Jane to like her, and they come to a friendship. Jane also falls in love with the dog, Monty, who is introduced in this book. Monty is a search and rescue dog. Sarah is his handler. Sarah, Eve, and Jane are three very strong personalities.

As the story progresses, the scene moves to Phoenix, Arizona, and Dillard, a little town not far away, where Dom grew up. The backstory is told about his evangelist father who was a hell-fire abuser. As the police get closer to Dom, the suspense builds. A FBI man is killed. Johansen has given enough information about those killed, that the reader feels bad about their end and Dom's escape from punishment.

The scene which Eve Duncan fans have been waiting for comes after the FBI man is killed. Joe tries to rescue two men from a car that is ready to blow up and Eve believes that Joe has been caught in the explosion. Eve finally admits to herself that she is in love with Joe. She reacts to her fear for Joe's life by yelling at Joe when she discovers that he escaped death. She might not admit her love out loud to Joe but it is no longer stifled and hidden from herself as well as the reader.



Eve finally comes to the climax. She plans to meet with Dom. She tries to have police protection. It turns out that the protection is the monster. As the last chapter comes barreling to the close, the novel's pacing is excellent and the ending is satisfying for the reader.



# Chapter One

## Chapter One Summary

Chapter One opens in Talladega Falls, Georgia where skeletons have been found near the Falls. Sheriff Bosworth and Joe Quinn are discussing how long they have been in the ground and the fact that they wouldn't have been found if the rains hadn't caused some floods and mudslides. Joe is disappointed that the skeletons are too large to be children. Joe has been looking for one particular child for a number of years. During a discussion about the recovering of the bodiless, the Sheriff realizes that Joe Quinn is the skeleton man. In a paragraph we learn that Joe has found several bodies in the past. As Joe is returning to his car, Bosworth watches him and thinks about what he knows about Joe. Joe is an ex-seal and former FBI agent. He is presently working for the Atlanta Police Department. Joe is a legend. Bosworth gets a call and learns there are eight more skeletons on the far ridge. One is a child. Bosworth calls Joe back.

Dom, the killer, hears about the find. It seems these were among his first victims. He wasn't as careful at the beginning as he had learned to be but he thinks he is safe. Evidence would have disappeared over time. He could hardly remember who was in that graveyard.

Joe and Neil Basil, the medical examiner in Atlanta's Police Department, argue about having the head of the young child reconstructed. Neil argued that Eve Duncan's name was too well known and would bring all the newspapers. He basically gave the reader the reason Joe pushes for Eve to do it and why Joe is so anxious to hunt for missing children. Bonnie, Eve's daughter, was taken and killed by a serial killer some years ago. Eve had gone to school to learn to reconstruct skeleton's faces and was one of the best in the nation. When Neil didn't agree to recommend Eve, Joe went so far as to threaten him with Joe's thorough investigation of Neil's entire life. Neil gave in and wrote the recommendation.

Joe flies to Tahiti to talk to Eve. Eve has been in Tahiti for a year with a billionaire friend, Logan. The last reconstruction had been a harrowing time. Eve had really needed to be away and to be taken care of after the things that had happened during that reconstruction. Joe and Eve did the usual chit-chat catching up talk as they left the airport to go on to Tahiti. Joe told Eve that her mother was doing well with Ron, a new love. He also told her that he and his wife, Diane, had divorced. Eve asked if it was because of her. Joe seems to love Eve. Joe sounds like a possessive man. As they arrive at Logan's palatial home, Joe pumps Eve about her feelings for Logan. He also asks her if she is sleeping with him. Eve doesn't answer Joe. Eve does tell him that she has been sculpting things other than heads. When Joe asks how it feels, she shrugs. He suggests that she feels no purpose. She nods. She can't stop trying to bring the lost children home. When she asks Joe why he is there, he tells her to bring her home.



She talks to Logan before dinner and he is as snarly as Joe about another man in Eve's atmosphere. Eve reminds him to behave just she had reminded Joe. Logan feels that the sculpting takes her into a dark place. He wants to pull her out and keep her out. He does it out of love for her. He thinks that Joe is a Pied Piper who lures Eve into the darkness. Eve cares about both men. Joe hadn't been free until now. She asks herself if she loves Logan. She admits to herself that she doesn't know what adult man and woman love is. She is afraid that she belongs in the darkness.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Dom is waiting in the dark. He wants to kill again. He wants the excitement it gave him. He feels a wholeness and peace in the dark. He watches as Debby Jordon comes out of her house. She has two children and was a PTA mom. She is more stimulating because she will be missed. She is on her way to choir practice but she will never make it.

## Chapter One Analysis

Johansen begins Chapter One with a skeleton. Since this is a standalone book which is part of a series about a woman hunting for a lost child, it is what her readers expect. Joe Quinn, a detective and a partner in the hunt, is on the scene. Disappointment hits immediately as Joe sees that skeleton is not a child. As he is leaving eight more skeletons are found and one is a child. So many bodies can only mean a serial killer and the reader is thrown fully into the action. We now have a serial murderer to find. We have a child's skeleton. We have a book.

As Joe Quinn interacts with first the sheriff at the graveyard site and then the medical examiner at the Atlanta Police Department, Johansen works in the information an informed reader needs to understand the history and have some expectations. Joe's character is apparent as the reader sees words like ex-seal and former FBI agent. The reader learns that he is truly a legend. He is the skeleton man. Quinn is known all over the country for the high scale cases he has solved with Eve Duncan, who sculpts the heads of dead children in order to recognize the dead. Johansen is skilled at giving the backstory in few but vivid words. The pacing isn't hurt by her drawing out lots of material. She slips the history in during some present action.

Johansen has Joe Quinn practically blackmail the medical examiner to introduce Eve Duncan into the case. During the conversation with the M.E., Johansen shows just how tough and determine Joe Quinn can be. While he bullies the M.E., the character desires to return a child home to grieving parents who have been searching and hoping for years. This presents Joe as a very good guy.

Eve Duncan, top forensic sculptor, is introduced into the book as Joe flies to Tahiti to pick her up. The reader learns more history of former books during the discussion of Joe and Eve. Johansen tells the reader about the horror of the last case which had been so bad and so dangerous to Eve that she had really needed to come to a Pacific Island to heal. The seriousness of tracking serial killers is emphasized and the promise of more to come is here for the hungry reader.



Johansen relates to those readers who are new that Joe and Eve have had a very deep relationship. Joe has gotten a divorce since the last case. Johansen puts words in Joe's mouth to let the reader know that Eve wasn't the other woman. They worked together as professionals. Obviously the feelings were there but so was the self-discipline. Eve has been staying with John Logan, a zillionaire, and Joe is jealous. Johansen has Eve hold her own with Joe when he asks about Logan. Eve is a strong independent woman who has bounced back from some horrible experiences. Since the reader knows that books in a series promise more excitement and maybe even a better story each time. Eve is fit and ready for the challenge. She can face down two strong men who are both vying for her so she should be able to face down the next serial killer. Maybe this one will be her daughter, Bonnie's, killer. Perhaps Bonnie will come home.

The killer is introduced. Johansen puts the reader inside his head to see him thinking about the graves which were found in Georgia. Obviously he has been killing a very long time. He knows there should be no evidence left even though he was sloppy when he started. He thinks how things have been too easy for some time and he hasn't been getting the thrill. He decides to up the bar on the challenge. He starts by taking a mother who will be missed quickly.





# Two

## Two Summary

Chapter Two opens in a cold war between Joe Quinn and John Logan. Dinner has been served and somehow the two men who are both alpha males have made it through with no blood shed. Eve has enough and stands up and tells Joe that they are taking a walk. There is a small war brewing in Logan because he won't be going with them. Once Joe and Eve are walking along the beach, Joe tells her about the bodies. He gives her the particulars about the child. She demands to reconstruct the face of the child. Joe tells her it is all set up. Joe offers to tell Logan she is leaving but Eve tells him that she has to do that herself. As she packs she thinks about telling Logan. She knows he will be upset about her leaving. She is driven to reconstruct the heads of the children but she is torn apart each time she does one. Both men know it. Logan wants to stop her. Joe understands that she has to do it.

As Eve is getting ready to leave Tahiti, Dom has killed Debby Jordan. He has hurt her. He buries her with a candle. He still does not have the thrill he wants as he makes his kill.

It is hard to tell Logan that she was going back to the states. Eve hates to hurt people. She has gone to the beach to sit and stare at the surf for hours. Finally Joe comes out to push her to go to bed. They discuss Bonnie. Joe has been around since Bonnie was taken. He had been a young FBI agent on the case. Eve finally gets up to go with him and they go to her studio instead of the house. She has busts of her mother and an unfinished one of Joe inside the studio. She sits down to do an age progression on her computer. She needs to finish it for a mother of one of the missing.

There is an interlude which Eve thinks is a dream. Bonnie comes to visit. They talk and Bonnie urges Eve to put the reconstruction work to find Bonnie aside and enjoy life. She wants her to remember the good times. Eve asks questions in the dream trying to learn if the next head will be Bonnie's. Bonnie can't remember the actual killing. Bonnie is a little red head wearing jeans and tee shirt, and it is obvious this isn't the first time she has appeared. She does insist however that she is a ghost. Bonnie urges Eve not to do this one. Bonnie sees darkness but is not sure if it concerns her mother or herself. When Eve wakes, she isn't as rested as she usually is when she visits with Bonnie.

Eve leaves Logan against his wishes, but he is wise enough to let her go. Logan and Joe have a small confrontation. Logan tells him that he is coming back to the states and will be watching Joe. Eve and Joe discuss the skeleton as they return to the states. Joe tells her it is a long shot that this is Bonnie. Eve has to reconstruct it anyway. The least chance is enough for her. Eve learns that Joe has everything set up so she can do the sculpture. When they arrive at the airport, Joe has arranged to get her out of the airport without facing all the reporters. Her mother is there to drive them to the lakeside cottage



Joe owns. Eve will work there. Her mother asks her to give up the sculpturing and move on. Sandra Duncan is trying to be happy in life.

Dom stares at Eve Duncan's picture in the paper and remembers her from a previous trial. He had considered killing her then but she hasn't been as important and well known then. He thinks that she has been put in his way presently. When he killed her the thrill would return. Eve might be his salvation.

## Two Analysis

Johansen begins chapter two with high sexual tension. Two men are in love with Eve and Eve cares about each of them. Logan cares for her and wants to take care of her. He wants to help her to go on living and see joy in life rather than the darkness. He would shut out anything that threatens her happiness if possible. He had her on his island for a year and has convinced her to sculpt more normal things than faces based on found skeletons.

Johansen tells Eve and her readers that Joe is no longer bound by a wife. Joe could finally be a partner for Eve in every way. Joe is the opposite opportunity for Eve. He will support her hunt for Bonnie. He understands her desire to bring Bonnie home as well as the need to help other parents in her situation. While Logan is trying to hold her, Joe is willing to go along with her to follow her where ever she leads him. With two good men, Eve has a very hard choice. She isn't sure that she knows what love for a man really is. The conflict is a strong one.

Johansen keeps the serial killer in sight with the burial of Debby Jordan. It only takes a very short scene to prepare the reader for the ride. This is going to be horrifying. This killer is right up there with the best. He will be getting his thrills throughout the book before he is stopped. Who will he go after as the book continues?

The interlude with Joe and Eve at the beach and in her study after she tells Logan she is leaving makes the reader certain the Joe is in love with her. Johansen tells the reader that Joe has been with Eve since the day Bonnie was taken. Joe was then part of the FBI. In the book Logan calls him the Pied Piper calling Eve back to the states and the darkness, but it looks like Eve has been leaning on Joe for years.

Johansen uses italics for the special scenes with Bonnie. Eve calls these scenes a dream and Bonnie calls herself a ghost. The reader sees a little girl in jeans and tee shirt with red hair. She talks more like an older child than the young child she was when she was taken. Bonnie tells Eve to go to a happier life and not reconstruct this one. Bonnie sees darkness around this case. She doesn't know if the dark is about the Eve or herself. Johansen knows how to raise the tension higher and higher. If Bonnie is uneasy about this killer, what is about to happen? Johansen adds even more tension as Eve awakens from the visit with Bonnie not feeling good as she usually does after a visit.



Johansen has Logan let Eve go without a fight. There is no rancor between them. He might talk to Joe a moment privately and have them growl at each other like the alphas they are but each makes sure not to misbehave in front of Eve. Logan warns Joe that he will be back in the states and watching out for Eve. Joe accepts the challenge.

On the trip back, the reader learns more about the way Joe and Eve work together. Johansen explains the things that the reader needs to know to continue on down the path Johansen is setting up for her plot. The reader sees that Joe tries to convince Eve not to reconstruct every child no matter how unlikely it is to be Bonnie but understands when she insists anyway. Johansen introduces Eve's mother into the book. Eve's mother has tried to go on living and wants her daughter to find a happier life as well. Every one of these people loves Eve and wants the best for her. Each has his own way of expressing that love and support.

Finally Johansen drops her bomb. Dom, the killer, looks at Eve Duncan's picture and his inner dialogue tells the reader that Eve is the prize. Eve is going to be the killer's most important target.



# Chapter Three

## Chapter Three Summary

In Chapter Three, Joe takes Eve to the cottage. No one knows he owns it and it a good place to work. It is the only cottage on a lake. Its windows take in a lot of light and a beautiful view. Joe has owned it for years through a family trust. Eve has always loved the place. When Eve enters she finds the things she will need to do the work on the skull. Sandra doesn't stay at the cottage but goes back to town to have dinner with her lover. Joe doesn't stay long either since he wants to send out some red herrings to the reporters.

After Joe leaves, Eve suddenly feels how alone she is. She used to be alone most of the time. However for the last year Logan has been close every day. She decides to get out of tropical clothes and walk around the lake. She thinks it will tire her and get her ready to sleep. She needs to be ready for the new skull. She admits to herself that she fears going into the darkness again but she will go there. She is afraid that she will not be professional enough to allow her imagination to sculpt Bonnie. She has to be true to the actual child.

Dom watches Eve as she walks around the lake. He has had no trouble following Joe from the airport. He has learned to be an excellent stalker. Eve is a strong woman and a worthy subject for him. He is pleased to know where she is so he can make his plans.

Joe runs into a journalist at the University of GA when he goes to pick up the head. The journalist has always seemed to be an honest guy so Joe listens to a proposition. Joe goes into Dr. Comden's office to pick up the skull. They share authorization papers and then go to the drawer. Joe is there for just the head. The skeleton was gone. Joe called Eve so she would hear about it first. They had checked all the places that it could be. Dr. Camden thought it was a prank.

Joe called Eve to tell her that the skull was gone. He assured her that he would find it. Eve got a call just after Joe's and she learned it wasn't a prank. The voice claimed to have the body. He claimed it was Bonnie and described her. He talked to Eve to try to convince her that Frazer had claimed kills that hadn't belonged to him. He taunted Eve by telling her he was looking at Bonnie. He then indicated that Eve was stronger than Bonnie and would fight him more before she died. She would be exhilarating. After he hung up, Eve refused to faint as she slid down the wall to the floor. She called Joe and only said, "Come back".

When Joe arrived back at the cottage, Eve was still sitting on the floor. After he checked to be sure she was okay, he agreed she was in shock and fixed hot sweet coffee. He wrapped her in a blanket and then they talked about the telephone call. Joe tried to play Devil's Advocate but Eve was almost convinced that this man was the killer. He had told



her about two more bodies at Talladega. Joe had called the Agent in Charge. Eve insisted on going to Talladega Falls.

At the Falls, Joe led Eve to the grave beside the Falls. It is difficult but Eve looks down into the small grave. As they are looking into it, someone comes up to them demanding identification. It is Spiro. The FBI has taken over the whole scene. The Sheriff had been glad to turn it over. They haven't found the two boys yet, and Spiro wants to talk to Joe. Spiro calls another agent to stay with Eve. They believe there is a possibility of the killer returning to the scene.

Charlie and Eve go to the car to drink coffee and talk about what is happening. Charlie also tells her that he is new to the FBI and basically Spiro's gofer. He is young and fighting for right in the country and to protect the good people. Joe comes and knocks on the window. They found the boys.

Eve went to the scene and studied the skulls. She could see that they were two young boys. After she confirmed that, Spiro wanted to question her. Joe forced the issue that Spiro would have to come to his cottage the next day for that.

Back in the car and on the way to the cottage, Eve demands one of the skulls to reconstruct. Frazer had confessed to killing two young boys. The bodies were never recovered. Eve wants to prove things one way or the other. After discussing it, Joe agrees to get one of the skulls for Eve. Eve is sure the caller will call back.

## Chapter Three Analysis

Johansen has Joe settle Eve in his cottage. She has visited the place many times and it is in a tranquil, scenic place. Eve should be safe from any reporters there since no one even knows Joe Quinn owns it. The phone is unlisted so she shouldn't be able to be found. She has all her equipment around her that Joe has brought up from her office. She has gone from the tropics and people around all the time to solitude. Johansen has Eve give the reader a foreshadowing of the dangers to come. For once, Eve has to shake off the feeling of being watched at the cottage. She decides it is only the contrast of everybody to nobody being around.

Johansen has Eve think about sculpting the skulls. The reader learns more about Bonnie and Eve's obsession with finding her. The reader learns more about how Eve thinks. While Eve wants to find Bonnie, she really cares about the other children she brings home for the parents. The reader can decide if this is an obsession or a calling.

Johansen's foreshadowing of not being alone is proven to be correct when Johansen introduces Dom again. Dom is an excellent stalker and has figured out Joe's ploy at the airport and followed Eve and Joe to the cottage. He knows she is alone. Eve Duncan is a fascination to him. She is supposed to work on one of his kills.

The plot twists as Joe goes to pick up the skull. It has been in the hands of officials since it was found. Joe arrives and opens the drawer to pick up the skull and the whole



skeleton is gone. Johansen has him call Eve. Eve reacts to the child being lost again. It is apparent that Eve really wanted to do the reconstruction.

Another hook to the story comes as Eve gets a call from the killer of the little girl. He claims she is Bonnie and that Frazer, who has been executed for killing Bonnie, had lied. Johansen draws out the conversation. Dom tells Eve things about Bonnie that were supposedly kept from the news. Yet it has been so long that details may have been shared. The case is closed. While Dom can only claim that it is Bonnie and he has the skeleton, he can't prove he tells the truth. However, he tells Eve something that can be proven. There are two other children in the gorge at the Falls. If that is true, perhaps all is true.

Eve doesn't faint but slides to the floor, obviously in shock. Johansen has been telling the reader that Eve needs to get out of the darkness. Logan has told the reader that he is afraid she will fall into the pit and never climb back out again. Each case draws her deeper into the blackness of evil. The reader sees strength in Eve but also how vulnerable she can be when involved with the evil.

Johansen has Eve insist on going to the Falls to see if the bodies will be found. Eve wants to be there. When Joe had gotten back to the cottage and found her in shock, he had tried to talk her out of believing Dom's claims. Eve may have succumbed to shock, but she recovers quickly and is ready to set out again. Johansen makes sure that the reader sees her strength and determination as well as her vulnerability. Once at the Falls, the reader learns that serial killers often return to the grave of their prey. They keep someone with Eve while she is at the Falls. Johansen has the FBI on the case officially. Local men who know the gorge find the two boys' skeletons. Eve may not be an expert about bones, but she has sculpted enough young men to know that the two skeletons are youths.

Johansen has Eve feel one of the heads call to her and ask her to bring him home. Johansen asks the reader to believe that Eve is very intuitive. Johansen gets the reader involved in a good threatening murder story and the reader is willing to suspend their usual disbelief at things like Bonnie appearing to Eve or the head asking her to reconstruct it. It flows seamlessly into the story. Lost souls talk to Eve. Eve demands to do the boy's head until they can get back the girl's head. Joe goes to bat for Eve.

Once again, Johansen shows Joe go toe to toe with a strong character. When the profiler wants to question Eve about the tip concerning the boys, Joe puts him off until the next day at the cottage. Joe wins the argument. Johansen ends the chapter with the question. Will her caller, call again? Eve is sure he will. The feeling is one of dread.



# Chapter Four

## Chapter Four Summary

Chapter Four opens with Eve and Joe back at the cottage. Joe tells Eve to sleep and Joe goes to make more arrangements. The next day, Eve hasn't slept well and probably wouldn't eat if Joe didn't insist. Eve demands the boy's head to sculpt. Joe tells Eve about his deal with the newsman, Mark Grunard. Eve agrees to interviews with him since he will keep the reporters away for the moment. Spiro shows up at the cottage to talk to Eve about the tip about the boys and everything the man said. While he is there, Dom calls. Spiro is able to listen in on the kitchen phone. The cottage phones are not bugged yet because Atlanta doesn't want the case. Dom knows that he is probably bugged and tells Eve that he will call her digital phone starting with the next call.

Eve insists on the head. After more discussion, Spiro admits that the head is in his car. He also tells Eve that he has assigned Charlie to the cottage and her for her protection. Spiro now believes that they have talked to the killer and that he is an organized serial killer. He does suggest that Eve may be in the killer's sights now that she is in the case and will be working on one of his victims. Since the killer is interested in Eve, Spiro decides he will send even more protection for her. Spiro and Joe have a discussion about Eve being bait. Spiro would like to have her in a less isolated spot. Spiro reminds Eve and Joe that they insisted on being a part of this case before he gets the head from his car. He leaves after he gives the head to Joe. Joe brings it in and Eve gets ready to start on it right away.

Spiro returns to the cottage the next morning with the pictures that had been faxed to him. Eve has him lay them aside so they can look at them after she finishes the sculpture. Spiro inquires about how long it will take. She believes she will finish the next day. Spiro warns Eve about this killer. He believes that he has been killing long enough to qualify as a super monster. Spiro just doesn't feel good about this one. He advises Eve not to let the monster feel her fear when he calls. He gains power by his victim's fear. Charlie has been delayed since Joe is with her but he will be there by evening. Spiro warns her again before he leaves the cottage.

Before he leaves the grounds, Joe has him look at a spot where someone has watched the cottage. The two men discuss this killer. Spiro feels as if this one is his and he is going to get him. He tells Joe that he has several men coming to act as sentries around Eve. Spiro also tells Joe that he doesn't like Eve's attitude. She isn't afraid of the killer. Spiro is afraid that will make him more determined to get to her by hurting someone Eve cares about. Joe threatens Spiro about using Eve for bait again. Nothing had better happen to Eve.

Charlie arrives four hours later. He comes in to tell them he has arrived and tells them that are searching for this killer through VICAP and have entered a time frame of 30 years back. Charlie then goes on to tell them he is expecting a phone call to get the



profile. He goes on talking about monsters and kids as he looks at the sculpture Eve is working on. Joe stops him before he talks too much about kids and monsters and inadvertently hurts Eve.

Logan called Eve and decided to come to the cottage himself. He could sense something wasn't going as she had planned and that she wasn't telling him everything. Joe, of course, isn't pleased with that news.

Eve received another call from the killer that night. This time as he taunted her about being with Bonnie, he told her his name was Dom. He also told her that he killed for pleasure and thought that all mankind would if they could allow themselves to admit they wanted to kill. He showed himself to be smart and analytical. Eve told him that she wasn't afraid of him and he told her that she would be. After the call and telling Joe what to tell Spiro, she went back to work. Only for a minute did she think of his saying that he was watching over her shoulder.

The chapter ends with a few short paragraphs of Dom's inner dialogue. He recognizes that Eve is stronger than he had thought. That pleases him. He has some tricks in mind to shake her up. He will be putting them into action.

## Chapter Four Analysis

Johansen changes the scene with the opening of a new chapter. Eve and Joe are back at the cottage and Eve wants to reconstruct the skull. Is the boy one of those Frazer claimed as his own kills? Was Frazer lying? Eve needs to prove it either way. When Spiro comes by the cottage, Johansen uses him with questions and answer type dialogue to fill the reader in about different types of serial killers. Johansen makes the heroine, Eve, the target of an organized serial killer. It is pointed out that since he hasn't been caught or even heard of in over ten years, he must be very good and very organized. Spiro and Eve talk about the possibility that he is a super monster. Johansen has Spiro point out that Bundy didn't kill long enough to earn that right. Since everyone has heard of Bundy and is probably thought of by the normal person as the worse of the worse, the tension is raised. This guy is worse than Bundy.

Johansen has given him the name Dom. It is an interesting choice. Many Godfather fans connect the word Dom with someone who is all powerful. An appropriate name for a super monster.

Spiro makes a second appearance to discuss serial killers. Spiro doesn't like Eve's location because of the isolation. He also doesn't like her attitude. Eve Duncan is not afraid of this monster. Spiro believes that instead of just being a bit interested in her because she is going to identify his kills, he might go after Eve. Eve is ready to take him on. Johansen is giving the suspense reader exactly what he wants. The reader is sure that Eve and our killer are going to have the ultimate battle. Will Eve win or will she die this time?





Charlie's arrival and his conversation with Eve and Joe makes the reader like this young man. He is an idealist and has joined the FBI so he can truly protect and serve. Eve will become friends with him and the chances are good that because of that, Charlie will not make it to the end of the book. The book needs characters who matter but can be thrown away in order to make it more suspenseful about Eve's outcome.

In a short paragraph Logan calls and decides to come. Johansen has now offered Logan, Eve's mother, Charlie, and Joe for possible candidates for death at Dom's hands. No one around Eve will be safe and Spiro points that out to Joe.

When Johansen has Dom call Eve in the evening, the suspense builds. Dom asks if Eve can feel him watching over her shoulder. This would put that feeling and picture in anyone's mind. With Eve's intuitiveness, she would be particularly open to it. She is strong enough to fight her way through it. She is the epitome of how to walk right into what hurts you or makes you fear and conquer it. Dom gives Eve the answer to Why kill? He does it for pleasure. His monster level goes up each time he appears.

Finally Johansen puts it into words. Dom is going after Eve.



# Chapter Five

## Chapter Five Summary

In Chapter Five, Eve finished the head and it was John Devon. Eve was so tired that she almost fell apart but Joe was there. He insisted she sleep and answered all her objections. He put her in the bed and brought a washcloth to clean the clay from her hands. As they talked about John Devon being the proof that Frazer hadn't done all the killing he had confessed to, Eve was agitated that Dom had the girl's body. Eve was sure that he had Bonnie. He had taken the skeleton to hurt Eve. As Joe and Eve talk about Dom's plans, Eve thinks of her mother. Joe assures her that they have Sandra under guard. Joe talks Eve into going to sleep.

Dom had picked up another child. Jane MacGuire was a foster child with red hair and an independent attitude at ten years old. Dom followed her and saw her duck into an alley. Once in the alley he saw Jane go to a box and get a little boy.

Jane MacGuire had seen Dom and knew he was following her. She thought she could run faster than he could if necessary. She thought him the kind of man who drove by the children when they were at the playground. Jane had brought a sandwich for the six year old boy who was sleeping in a box in the alley because his father was home. She talked the boy, Mike, into going to school because he would be warm there.

As Dom watched them walk away, he decided that Jane would be perfect.

The next morning, Spiro came around to see the head. When he knew it was Devon, he knew it was big trouble. How many kills did this one have? Why had they never heard of him? When Eve came out of her bedroom to find Joe and Spiro arguing about using Eve, Eve offers to be used to catch Dom. She wants him stopped. Charlie tries to come in and find out if he got his phone call from VICAP. Spiro isn't pleased that he had ordered that the information come to him and not Spiro, the lead. Actually, they did send it to Spiro and there were two bodies in Phoenix with the same M.O. After Spiro left, Eve stepped in the shower and turned on really hot water but even that didn't banish the chill.

At midnight, Joe is pacing the room and can't sleep and Eve tells him to take Charlie a cup of coffee. He does. Dom calls. He asks Eve if she believes in reincarnation. He tells her that if someone dies a violent death that they come back quicker. He tells her to look in the Bible about making Eve from a rib. Next he tells her that he has left a present on the front porch for her. He insists that she go get it. She says that it could be a trap so he could kill her but he tells her he isn't going to kill her yet. He also tells her that the reincarnated Bonnie is named Jane. Eve goes out on the porch and finds the box. There is a rib in it. He tells her that it is Bonnie's rib. Joe hears and sees her. He and Charlie come. Eve insists that the box be inside. She wants any part of Bonnie in out of the cold. Eve is crying so hard she can't talk to tell Joe what was said.



As Spiro and Joe ask Eve if she believes in reincarnation, she assures them she didn't. However, she does believe that Dom is going after a child so that he can connect with Eve so that she will feel responsible for the death. She does not have enough to find the child yet. When Joe wants to bring in tracing equipment, Eve says no. She does not want to stop Dom from calling until she can find the defenseless child and save her. Spiro tells her that her idea is all supposition. Eve is sure that it was Dom's plan. It is another way to hurt her to hurt a child who looks like Bonnie that Eve cannot save.

The poor, defenseless child is giving a taller child a bloody nose when the scene opens. Jane is fighting for an apple for Mike. One of the other foster kids in the home is a tattler and busy gossiping. Fay, the mother, reports Mike's parents to Family Services. Jane has already seen that make things worse. Jane almost trusts but Fay lets her down. Jane goes back to her belief that if she wants something done, she must do it herself.

## Chapter Five Analysis

The plot has more solid ground to stand on as Eve discovers that the skull is indeed John Devon. If Frazer had lied about killing the Devon boys, how many other kills had he lied about? There was every chance that the other child was Bonnie. Since Eve has been searching for a decade, this is too much of a possibility to not be eager to know.

Johansen gives the reader a surprise in a little girl with red hair who is independent and defiant. She could be Bonnie. She will make Eve think of Bonnie and Dom's knowledge of Eve tells him that it will give her the greatest pain imaginable when she cannot stop Dom from killing her. First Dom will make Eve care because of resemblance and because she is a child. Dom will have the means to split Eve in two with pain.

Johansen turns up the hot water more as a VICAP report comes in. There are two bodies with the same M.O. in Phoenix. They are adults. This monster has been active all over the states for at least ten years. Spiro could be compared to Tommy Lee Jones chasing Harrison Ford in a movie. Jones wasn't giving up, no matter what. Spiro does want more safety measures around Eve. He wants Dom. After Dom calls and leaves the present under Joe's and Charlie's noses, Spiro as well as the others are out for blood.

In order to be sure that the reader cares about the child, there are scenes with Jane protecting the younger Mike. She tries to help him keep away from his father who is an abuser that no one does one thing about. Johansen has Jane fighting for food for him. She does try to get adult help for Mike but unfortunately the woman in charge of the family won't listen to the whole story and believes in the foster care and family services. Jane knows differently and determines that she will have to do it herself.



# Chapter Six[

## Chapter Six[ Summary

After forty-eight hours, Eve received the next call from Dom at the beginning of Chapter Six. Dom tells Eve that he has the reincarnated Bonnie in his sites. He wants her to look for the girl. Maybe Eve can find her before he takes her to kill. He does not give her a last name. Eve only knows that she is ten with red hair. She has been in four foster homes. Eve and Joe head back to Atlanta. Joe arranges to meet Mark Grunard, the TV news man. Mark has all kinds of contacts that should be of some help.

Mark meets Joe and Eve at the apartment and tells them he has arranged dinner with the head of Child and Family Services. When he leaves, Joe and Eve begin to talk about growing up. It seems Eve knows almost nothing about Joe's early life. She knows he was a rich kid and that he went to Harvard. She learns that his parents died in a boating accident, and Joe does tell her that his parents didn't pay much attention to him once he was no longer a cute little tyke. Eve tries to remember the social service people she met as she grew up. She has blocked the horror of a filthy part of town and no adult care from her memory. She really wants records to help find Jane without having to get a court order or calling in the police. Dom wants a challenge between the two of them.

During the dinner, Barbara Eisley refused to let Eve and Joe see the files. Barbara did remember Eve from years before and they talked about it. When she refused another time to open the files, Joe asked her why she had come. She said she wanted to see how Eve turned out. She also talked about a little girl she had had to interview and decide to move her from a foster home. The child had reminded her a bit of Eve in her defiance and independence. Barbara refused again to open the files but she did mention taking work home with her and having old files in her briefcase by her chair. Barbara said she had to step in the rest room and she supposed Joe and Eve would be gone when she came out. Eve took the disk from her briefcase after she left the table, and they went to Mark's car when he had a laptop.

It didn't take long to find Jane MacGuire. The address was near Eve's old neighborhood. Eve insisted on going to the house right then even though it was very late. Joe had convinced her that she would need Fay's cooperation and it would be better to wait to knock on the door until the next day. Mark offered to stay the night and watch the house. Joe got another unmarked car to come too. Eve insisted that she and Joe walk out so the house wouldn't be left with no one watching for a minute. Joe, the ex-seal, was uncomfortable in the neighborhood. He discussed what Dom was doing to Eve. He pointed out that she was already falling back into old thinking patterns just from being in the neighborhood. Dom was determined to make her relive the entire painful episode of losing Bonnie. This time she would be unable to save Jane even though she knew it was going to happen. Joe thought she shouldn't meet Jane. However, Eve is determined to meet her. She will return at eight the next morning.



The men weren't guarding Jane. Jane had sneaked out to take food to Mike. She had stolen spaghetti from the local restaurant. Mike was back in the lonely alley because it was closer to home. Mike begged her to stay a little while. She did even though she wouldn't have much sleeping time after she sneaked in at her home.

## Chapter Six[ Analysis

Johansen begins Chapter Six by telling the reader that Eve has been waiting for a call from Dom for forty-eight hours. Eve is anxious. The reader knows that Dom is going to be doing "things" to Eve before he tries to grab her. Tension is kept tight. When the call does come, Eve is given one more piece. She knows the name is Jane. Now he tells her that he hasn't taken her yet. She has had four foster homes. Dom challenges her to hunt the girl. Johansen uses this fact to draw Eve into Dom's territory. Dom has scouted out the area to keep track of Jane. Perhaps Jane is a decoy. Eve and Joe don't say it but a good reader knows that it is happening.

Johansen takes the reader through the steps of talking to the reporter and getting more help. Eve meets a social worker that Eve knew as a child. The lady is in charge and can open the files. Johansen never lets her offer help outright but has the woman leave the files Eve needs so she can get them.

Johansen shows the contrast between Joe and Eve. Joe won't tell Eve much about his childhood but his degree from Harvard makes the differences clear. Eve learned to be tough because she had to in order to survive from birth. Joe has had to learn how to be tough. The Seals and the FBI taught him. Joe says "those" people and Eve is quick to tell him that she is one of "those" people. Johansen is showing the reader that Eve is sinking back into the thinking of the slum. It is almost as if Johansen is reminding us of the cliché, 'you can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl.' Joe warns her about associating too much with the girl. Joe is afraid that she will sink into depression and darkness as much as Logan fears it. Joe just keeps marching beside her and holding her hand. He is there to pull her out.

After Eve makes sure that the house is being watched to keep Jane safe, Johansen puts the character in more danger. Jane is off keeping a little boy from starving and trying to keep him safe. The reader knows she is in an alley that Dom has staked out. Danger is obvious. The chapter ends and thus keeps the pages turning.



# Chapter Seven

## Chapter Seven Summary

Chapter Eight begins with Joe, Eve, and Mark visiting Jane's home. Fay says she will talk to Spiro, but she isn't convinced that Jane is the one Dom has targeted. Fay does tell them where Jane goes to school and when she will be out of school. She knows that there will be guards standing by. She refuses to allow them to talk to Jane.

Joe and Eve contact Spiro only to learn that he can't get to Atlanta until nine that evening. They have found another body at the Falls. Spiro tries to send Charlie but Joe tells him that Charlie has about as much presence as one of Fay's foster kids. Joe continues to be angry that Spiro puts catching Dom above protecting Eve.

Eve and Joe are waiting at the school when Jane comes out. Eve hasn't looked at the picture until now. When she looks, Jane looks nothing like Bonnie. She isn't a very attractive child. She looks mad as if she didn't want her picture taken. Eve is relieved. She is sure she won't become sucked into thinking that Bonnie and Jane are the same.

Jane spotted Joe and Eve. She knew it was a different car but she always knew that there were lots of creeps out there. She climbed a fence and went through an alley. When she was close to the house, Eve and Joe appeared again. She ran into the house and decided to tell Fay this time. Fay would call the cops about this. Once in the house, she yelled for Fay, but Fay didn't answer. Jane went on the hunt for her.

Joe and Eve parked at the house because they wanted Jane to know that she didn't have to be afraid of them. Joe wondered if she had spotted someone else tailing her in the past. She had spotted them right away. They knocked and tried the door. Joe put his shoulder to it. He went in and was immediately struck in the kneecap with a baseball bat. Jane turned and struck Eve in the ribs with the bat. Joe was able to tackle Jane and subdue her. They told her Joe was a cop. Jane was covered with blood but it wasn't hers. She said to Joe, "Lousy cop, why weren't you here earlier?"

Eve raced to the kitchen to see Fay Sugarton on the floor in the midst of lots of blood. She was obviously dead. Joe got her out of the kitchen and Eve went back to take care of Jane. Jane withdrew and said very little. She told Eve she had tried to stop the blood. At first Jane said she didn't care about Fay that she just lived with her. Finally Jane said that she did like her and Eve said that she did too.

Barbara Easley showed up and collected Jane as the first police car arrived. Eve tried to get Barbara to let her protect Jane but Barbara was furious that the innocent woman was dead because Barbara had let them have that file. She took Jane with her to the facility where she believed Jane would be safe and with other children. Joe came out and told Eve he was sending her to the apartment before the media arrived. Charlie would be waiting for her. She needed to call Spiro and Mark and tell them. Joe would



question Jane and see how close she had come to meeting Dom in that kitchen. He told Eve to leave Barbara alone.

Eve gets back to Joe's apartment. Charlie is there waiting and orders take-out since there is nothing in the house. Eve goes to the bedroom and calls Easley and gets nowhere. Next she hears from Dom. Dom wants Jane with Eve. He tells her that Fay had been the target because she would have interfered with Eve and Jane bonding. Eve tells him that Jane is nothing like Bonnie and that she won't come to love Jane. He tells her that he knows she has bonded with children she had reconstructed and never knew so it will be easy to bond with Jane. However, if Jane isn't with Eve in twenty-four hours, Jane will die. If somehow he can't get to her the next day, he can wait. People get careless the longer he is patient.

Eve doesn't want to cost Joe his badge by breaking into the social service facility so she calls on Mark. Mark is a bit angry that he didn't get a call about Fay. However, Eve promises him that he can be with her for the rest of the case and he agrees to help her break Jane out of the facility. Eve knows a way to get out of the apartment without Charlie's knowing.

## Chapter Seven Analysis

Johansen introduces another player at the beginning of Chapter Seven. Fay Sugarton is a good woman who truly tries to help the children she fosters. She is as strong as Eve as she refuses to simply turn Jane over to Eve. Fay goes by the book. Fay believes she can protect Jane. She also believes she is making headway with Jane and doesn't want Jane to take a step backward. In a very short scene, Johansen paints a picture of a woman the reader likes. The reader knows the woman can't protect Jane but the reader appreciates the character for who she is.

In the passage of time before Jane is out of school, Eve has a chance for both dialogue with Joe and inner dialogue about Eve's connection with Jane. The reader knows as well as Joe that Eve is going to be caught in a painful rerun of Bonnie's death if they don't stop Dom.

Jane's ability to spot Joe and take off in order to lose him aids the reader in seeing just how feisty Jane MacGuire is. While Jane gets home safe, the reader isn't ready for the surprise that awaits until Jane calls out to Fay and gets no answer. Jane once again proves how strong she is when there is no hysteria and she has the presence of mind to attack Joe as he comes into the house. She knows no fear. She attacks two adults directly after walking in and finding a dead body. This child is no normal ten year old. She has grown used to taking care of herself no matter what and she does it.

Again well-meaning adults trying to go by the book interfere with what Eve needs to do. Mrs. Easley takes Jane. She really believes that she can keep her safe. It is hard to believe just how evil a person can be. These people have not seen monsters. Eve and Joe have. Spiro thinks this one is a super monster. Johansen is proving to the reader



that this is the worse monster Eve has ever had to deal with. If the reader is a fan of Johansen, the reader has already seen some incredible evil done to children. Johansen is really forcing the reader to dread and fear this one... the reader is fearing for Eve and Joe. By this point in the book, the reader is attached to Jane too.

Eve is kept in danger as Dom insists that she get Jane. Eve is about to break the law and she doesn't take Joe with her so she can protect his job. Mark goes along. Johansen keeps proving that Eve is one strong woman who simply won't quit no matter how much danger she faces. She walks right into the darkness and attempts to pull others out.





# Chapter Eight

## Chapter Eight Summary

Chapter Eight begins with one of the social workers trying to get Jane to open up and talk about Fay. Jane doesn't like the sound of her voice. She doesn't want to talk anyway. The lady needs to leave her alone. Jane wants some answers which the woman won't give. Jane is worried about Mike and his missing any food because she can't get to him. Jane finally threatens to kill the woman so she will leave her alone.

Eve and Mark go to the Delaney street house to try to find the way to break Jane out of the house. Mark knew that they had once held a boy who was testifying in a private room in the back. Eve went to the back but couldn't see a way to climb to the second floor window. Jane opened the window and looked down at Eve. She motioned for silence with her index finger. Jane proceeded to throw a rope sheet out of the window and started down it like a monkey. She was twelve feet above Eve when the rope ended and Jane commanded Eve to catch her. Jane landed on Eve. Jane got up and ran. Eve went after her and found that Mark had caught her. Eve tried to talk her into going with her. After some talk, Eve gave her a choice. Jane could run or go with Eve and let Eve find her a safe place. Jane chose to go with Eve.

Jane insists that they go back to Luther Street. Eve finally gets Jane to tell her about Mike in the alley. Eve had answered Jane truthfully about Dom and Jane thinks that Dom saw Jane with Mike. Once they reach the alley, Jane gets out and runs. Eve goes after her. Her cell phone rings but Eve refuses to answer. She doesn't want to talk to Joe or Dom until she takes care of Jane.

The phone call is from Joe. When Eve does not answer her digital phone, he calls Charlie. Charlie thinks that things were fine. He checks and discovers that Eve is gone. Joe is at the precinct doing paperwork and Spiro is at the scene. Joe is scared that Dom has called and Eve has gone to meet him. He wonders why Eve cannot trust him and come to him for help when something has going on. In his inner dialogue, he calls her a bitch and wishes that he had never met her. It seems that he either wants to strangle her or cuddle her. It takes him a while to convince Mrs. Easley to tell him where to look on Delaney Street for Eve.

Eve catches up with Jane. She has found Mike and he was unhurt. Jane convinced him to come with Eve and her. She made Eve promise not to turn him over to welfare. Eve touched the box that Mike had been hiding in and felt the sticky substance on it. She sends Jane and Mike with Mark towards his car and got her flashlight out. Written in blood is a note to her from Dom. Dom has been too close to the little boy. The message goes down the box. On the ground is a child's skeletal finger - a sign that Dom has attacked again.



## Chapter Eight Analysis

Johansen uses Chapter Eight to let the reader learn more about Jane. Jane is tough. She is also very sympathetic. While Jane is seated on a couch being interrogated by an adult who seems to have no idea how to deal with a kid like Jane, Jane is getting more and more impatient. Jane wants some facts about the murder. The woman wanting Jane to talk refuses to talk herself. Sometimes that doing this for your own good thing simply does not work. Jane is a child who needs information before she will cooperate. She has to make her own decisions. She has learned early that others' decisions for her often do not end well for Jane. In order to stop the woman from keeping her in the room forever, Jane threatens to kill her. The woman backs off in a hurry. Threats from children are taken seriously these days. Of course, the reader sees the humor in Jane's threat. She certainly shut the annoying woman up.

Jane continues to be the focus as Eve helps Jane escape from the facility. Jane gets up and runs without a thank you to Eve. Mark happens to catch her. Eve proceeds to give Jane facts about the murder and even names Dom. Jane won't be forced in Eve's car. Eve lets Jane go and allows Jane to make the decision to go with Eve or not.

Johansen keeps Jane's personality stable. She has been taking care of Mike. Jane is ready to walk into the dark alley and save Mike. She doesn't say to call the police and have them check up on him. Mark and Eve take her to the alley. Mark has informed Jane that they could go to jail for helping her. Jane seems to take that in. When they get to the alley, Jane takes off without back up from the grownups. When Eve gets to the box, she talks Eve into taking Mike with them and keeping him safe. Eve has now promised not to call welfare. Jane expects anyone who really wants to help to forget the book and go with what is right for the victim. Jane and Eve have much in common.

Johansen allows the reader to see Joe's vulnerability when it comes to Eve. It hurts him when she doesn't turn to him. He makes a better partner to her than she does to him. Sometimes he wishes he had never met her. However, he is unable to walk away from her. He tells her in his mind, not to go to Dom but to wait for him.



# Chapter Nine

## Chapter Nine Summary

Chapter Nine opens at the Welfare Facility. Joe is checking a dead guard. His throat had been cut. Barbara Easley shows up and together they see the sheet and know that Jane is gone. Easley doesn't believe that Joe doesn't know where Eve is. It rather bothers Joe when Easley calls Eve his friend. This is the first time they have been involved in a case together, and Joe has been free. He wants more than friend. Barbara threatens to charge Eve with kidnapping if she has Jane.

In the meantime, Eve and Mark had taken the kids to her mother's apartment. First Eve has to convince Jane that Sandra will take care of Mike and that there is already protection there for him. Next she has to convince her mother. She doesn't want to mess up her mother's relationship with her guy so she decides to talk to Ron first.

Ron is not receptive. He refuses to keep Mike because he wants to protect Sandra. In the midst of Ron's refusing, Sandra appears in the doorway and says that she will keep Mike. When Ron tries to influence her, Sandra tells him that she turned Eve away too many times when she was on crack, she will never turn Eve away again. This is important because Eve would never ask if it weren't. She makes it clear that if Ron wants no part in it, he can walk. Ron agrees. Jane comes from the kitchen where she has been eating and explaining things to Mike. She knows Ron doesn't want to take care of him. She takes Ron on. Ron assures her that he will take care of Mike. Jane tells him that Mike might be afraid of him at first because his dad is big like Ron. When Jane and Eve get back to the car, Mark is going to take them to a motel. Eve knows she has to call Joe and tell him about the alley and the writing on the box.

Once Mark, Eve, and Jane had settled into a couple of motel rooms, Eve gets Jane into bed. Jane soon falls asleep. Then Eve calls Joe. Joe is angrier than Eve has ever heard him. Her protecting him from breaking the law does not calm him one bit. Joe tells her that he is tired of standing on the sidelines. He wants more than to just be patted on the head. Joe demands to know where she is and she refuses to tell him. As they hang up, he says that he would find her in his most ex-seal, tough cop voice.

Eve gets another call from Dom. He tells her that he doesn't want her caught and held for kidnapping so he wants her away from Atlanta. He threatens Jane with a slit throat. If Eve wants to keep her alive, she better bond with Jane. He wants them bonded. He tells her that he wants her in Phoenix. Eve is to find a fresher kill there. The only clue is that it is a woman who is a soprano. Dom promises Eve more bones from Bonnie along the way.

Joe meets Spiro in the alley. They are collecting evidence and hoping that Dom left something that would be useful. Spiro asks Joe where Eve is and Joe tells him that he doesn't know. Spiro finally believes that Joe doesn't know. Spiro asks Joe to let him



know if he finds her. Joe asks the same of Spiro but doesn't believe that Spiro will be cooperative. Spiro wants Eve because she is bait for Dom. Joe knows he can't count on Spiro.

Eve explains the whole story as she knew it to Jane. Jane couldn't believe anyone would just kill Fay for no reason. No one should have reason to kill her either. Eve told her everything she knew and about staying together to keep Jane safe. Jane told Eve that she wouldn't go with her at first. Eve stepped back and let Jane think about it. Jane didn't see how Bonnie and she were alike. Jane asked things about Bonnie. Finally after getting everything from Eve and thinking about running away and maybe Dom getting her or the police picking her up, she decided to go to Phoenix with Eve. Eve hadn't thought Jane was like Bonnie, yet, when Jane looked at Mike, she was a little like Bonnie.

Eve gets another phone call but the reader is not told who the caller is.

The next morning, Eve tells Mark that they are going to Phoenix. Mark will not go. No one knows he was in on the kidnapping. Eve promises to give him the story when she gets close. Jane is inside eating breakfast as they talk. Mark loans Eve his car to drive to Birmingham airport. She has a plan from there. She doesn't confide that plan to Mark.

Eve and Jane met Logan in Birmingham. Logan had fake I.D. and other documents. Jane asks him if he is a crook. Logan insists on flying them in his private aircraft to Phoenix. He has already arranged housing and security guards in Phoenix for them. Eve wants to fly commercial and not let Logan get into trouble. Logan tells her to use him. Jane concurs. She says to use him. When Logan suggests she could be in executive training, Jane tells him not to try to get on her good side. She tells Eve again to use him.

Eve gives in and lets him fly them to Phoenix. She tells Logan he must leave them alone once they arrive.

## Chapter Nine Analysis

Johansen adds to the body count with the downed guard at the welfare facility. Dom has plenty of Eve's friends and acquaintances to choose from. Who will be next? Johansen lets the reader see Joe's desire to be more than a friend to Eve. He is truly hurt that Eve didn't call him. He wants to protect her. She won't let him. Eve is in more trouble. Dom is after her and the police are going to be a threat to her as a kidnapper.

Johansen has more to add about Eve's mother. Sandra was an addicted parent who didn't take care of Eve when she was younger but she has cleaned up her act. Eve doesn't want to interfere with her mother's new love life; however, she desperately needs help. Eve goes to Sandra to ask her to take Mike. Eve asks Ron first and he refuses. Sandra had overheard the discussion and she appears from the kitchen to tell Ron that she will help her daughter. She will never turn Eve away again. The reader



must wonder if Sandra or Ron will be the next on Dom's list. Sandra does have police protection. Now she has taken Mike.

Johansen finally has Eve call Joe. He is furious. His fury is directed at Eve for not trusting him and trying to protect him. He lets her know that he is tired of being on the outside. Johansen makes the reader of this series of Eve Duncan books wonder if Joe is going to disappear from this series. For ten years he has taken crumbs, how much longer will he continue accepting his non-place in Eve's world?

Dom's call telling Eve to go to Phoenix forces Eve away from her home turf. She will be away from the people who know her. Dom claims that he doesn't want her caught in Atlanta. However, no one believes that is his game. He is too much of a game player for that. Dom is insistent that Jane and Eve will bond. Jane will become Bonnie to Eve. Eve can say what she wants but protecting a youngster will bring them into some kind of bonding situation because to stay alive they will have to trust each other.

After Dom's call, Eve explains the whole thing to Jane. She does not try to protect the little girl from the truth. As smart as Jane is, she will know if she is being lied to. She will definitely not cooperate if she reads a lie in what Eve says. At first Jane wants to run away but Eve gives her a chance to think. Jane decides to go with Eve.

Johansen writes another scene between Spiro and Joe in the alley when Dom left the message. Spiro makes it clear that while he hopes Eve lives through this, catching Dom no matter what is his biggest goal. He has already killed so many, he needs to be stopped. Joe can't count on the FBI to protect Eve now. He can't find her. Joe is in a frenzy of fear because of what he knows about this serial killer. He keeps his professional face but his insides are frightened for Eve and her vulnerability

Johansen brings in Logan to help Eve get to Phoenix. Logan had all types of forged documentation for her and Jane to use. He offers his jet to fly them to Phoenix but Eve doesn't want to involve him more. He tells her to use him. Jane looks Logan over and tells Eve to use him. Logan flies them to Phoenix where he has found a place to live for them as well as some security.



# Chapter Ten

## Chapter Ten Summary

In Chapter Ten Eve and Jane arrive outside of Scottsdale. Logan has a home there that he uses when he has business in the area. There are two guards. The house is equipped with alarm buttons and other security measures. Jane asks Logan again if he is a crook. Logan tells her that there are other people who need security. Politicians are his example. Eve doesn't think much of politicians. After she throws Logan out, Jane offers to make sandwiches. Seems Jane can cook and since no one tried to make her, she will do it. When Eve tells her that there is a library, Jane tries to act cool as if she doesn't care. Eve saw the spark of interest. Eve asks her to get some books and move to another room so Eve can work on the computer.

Eve has been working for some time when Jane comes in with strong coffee. Jane offers to help and Eve tells her that the computer is a Logan. Logan makes hardware. Eve asks Jane what she had been reading. Jane had been reading about Troy and about forensic sculpting. Jane asked if Eve really did that icky stuff. Eve explained helping parents with lost children. Jane tells Eve that she just forgets the past. It is over. She hasn't thought about Fay since she found her dead. She does think about Dom. Eve sees the walls around Jane and reminds herself not to try to do anything about that.

After Jane goes to bed, Eve went on searching. She has searched back seven months and now she had decided to try something closer according to dates. She found Debby Jordan. The soprano. Eve tried to remember everything that Dom had said to her on the phone. It was about light. Eve looks for a Spanish-English dictionary and finds a location. She might have located Debby Jordan. She types cadaver in the search engine.

Jane and Eve drive out into the desert the next morning. Eve follows the almost impossible directions. They turn into Patrick land. Eve and Jane meet Sarah Patrick and Monty. Eve tries to hire Sarah to help find the body of Debby Jordan. Sarah and Monty go all over the world and have a reputation of being the best. Jane falls in love with Monty. Monty loves her right back. Eve asks Sarah to allow Eve to hire her. When Sarah hears it is a cadaver, she refuses and refuses to listen to the whole story. When Sarah calls Monty to her, Jane follows and Monty will have nothing to do with her. It hurts Jane's feelings. After Eve and Jane are in the car, Sarah hollers at them and lets Monty say goodbye. Monty turns into the loving dog and licks Jane goodbye. Jane is surprised to learn that Eve likes Sarah even though Sarah refused to listen to her about the job.

When they get back, Logan calls. He is surprised that Sarah is not available. He offers to help get her. Eve tells him to stay out of it. Jane tried to act as if she does not care if she sees Monty again or not.



## Chapter Ten Analysis

Johansen has Logan stash Eve and Jane in one of his estates in Arizona at the beginning of Chapter Ten. The alarms and security are pointed out so the reader knows that Dom will have a challenge to get to her in this place. Eve still is insistent on doing things herself and not letting anyone else get into trouble because of her. She sends Logan away.

In this chapter, Jane is getting a little friendlier with Eve. Jane offers to make something to eat and tells Eve that she probably can cook better than Eve can if Eve cooks anything like Sandra. The reader learns that Jane like books. She doesn't go for some paperback but a book on Troy and one about forensic sculpting. Jane is hungry for knowledge. Jane offers to use the computer to help Eve search for the murdered lady too. When Eve and Jane go to try to hire the cadaver dog, Jane shows her love of dogs. She wants Monty to be taken care of differently. She doesn't like him running in hot weather. She tries to cover up her caring when they can't hire Monty.

Johansen does have Logan call and offer to try his hand at getting Sarah to change her mind. Eve tells him to forget it. She will hire the next best dog.



# Chapter Eleven

## Chapter Eleven Summary

Sarah and Monty are off running when they see a car coming down their drive. Monty is excited and thinks the child is returning. They go down and find Logan. Logan talks to Sarah and she still refuses to take the job. He tells her that Madden will call and they should talk before he does. Madden does call and it seems he can force Sarah to work for Logan. Madden doesn't want to make Logan mad. It seems he is counting on Logan's helping in his political career. Sarah tells Monty that she is sorry. Logan leaves a file folder on Eve Duncan for Sarah to read.

Sarah called to tell Eve she could have two days. She told Eve to have an article of clothing the next morning and be ready to go. Eve called Logan and asked what he had done. He told her that he got her Sarah. It seems Logan was relentless when he wanted Eve to work for him some time in this series. Logan did tell Eve that he had liked Sarah. He would also get an article of clothing from Debby Jordan's home.

The search started at a subdivision near the church where Debby attended. Jane asked to go with Monty and Sarah as they searched. Sarah liked Jane and allowed her along. The first field held no body. Eve had eleven more to go. Sarah said that Eve didn't give up easily and Eve looked at her and asked if she did.

Once Sarah had called it a night and everyone headed home, Eve got the phone call from Dom. He told her that he wanted her to keep looking for the body for a week. He wanted her tired out and making mistakes. He suggested that to slow her down he would take Jane that very night. He liked the way kids acted as he killed them. He said that he was right behind Eve in a car. He would catch up to her before she got home and kill Jane. As Eve stepped on the gas, the car behind her did likewise. Eve zipped into the gated estate and the car followed her. She started blowing the horn. The man behind her got out of the car and it was her security detail. She picked up the open phone and said Bastard and he said Just Kidding.

Sarah met Eve and Jane in the morning and they worked until one thirty the next morning. When Eve tried to talk her into another day, Sarah absolutely refused. She was protecting her world. Eve headed home to look for another Sarah and Monty.

## Chapter Eleven Analysis

Sarah and Monty are new characters brought into the possible people for Dom to kill. Sarah is as strong and determined as Eve. They make a good pair of strong women. Because Jane likes the dog so much, Sarah allows Jane to search with Monty. Jane bonds to yet another adult at this point.





Dom finally makes an appearance. He calls Eve to let her know that he knows what she is doing. He knows that Logan has helped. He doesn't want the search to end too quickly. He wants the game to continue until Eve is very tired and less of a threat to him. He threatens to take Jane. Johansen takes the reader from feeling a little bit safe to right back in the middle of a mad man's schemes. He may be closer than anyone thinks. Dom threatens to grab Jane right on the road as Eve drives back to the house. He uses the security driver behind her to threaten her. When she speeds up, security speeds up. Dom has convinced Eve that he has taken the guard out and that he is the one in the car. Eve is really frightened for Jane.



# Chapter Twelve

## Chapter Twelve Summary

In Chapter Twelve Sarah and Monty are on their way home. Monty communicates Child with Sarah. Sarah says that they are finished. Monty says Sad. And alone. Sarah tells her that Eve will take care of Jane. Monty doesn't want to stop being with Jane.

Joe has tracked down Mark. Mark changed his digital phone number and took off for Florida. He does tell Joe that Eve is following Dom's lead. Joe threatens Mark. Joe is going to persist until he learns something from Mark.

Monty awakens Sarah in the night by howling. Monty never howls. Sarah goes through the door at a run. All is quiet. Monty doesn't answer. Sarah sees red meat in his dish with bites taken out of it. Sarah starts into the yard and runs into something furry.

Eve was awakened by a car horn. Someone was blowing it with no moments between the sounds. The guards and Eve got down to the gate and it was Sarah. Sarah drove up to the house and got out. She told Eve that Dom had tried to kill Monty. A coyote had eaten the red meat that was laced with poison instead of Monty. When Sarah opened the door for Monty to get out, the dog was on the floor of the back seat and had to be coaxed out. When Eve asked what was wrong, Sarah told her that Monty was sad. He had stayed with the coyote until it died. Sarah took Monty to Jane's room and Monty crawled into bed with her. Sarah and Eve talked. Sarah was now mad and was going to get Dom. Sarah wasn't having Monty in danger.

Eve realized that Dom was getting tired of being in the background. He was getting nearer. Eve was happy that Sarah would be working with them but she was happier to have her and Monty in the house with Jane.

Sarah and Eve are returning home after another day of finding nothing. They have four more possibilities. As they approach the house, there is a man in the middle of the road. Eve slows to a stop and opens her door. Her security guard is out of his car and running toward the man. The man stops the security guard cold. Eve yells not to shoot that she knows him. She says, "Joe." Eve goes on to tell the other guard who had come running from the house that Joe is a detective and the guard asks why Joe uses Rambo tactics. They go on up to the house and Sarah says very little before she takes Monty to the bedroom. Jane remembers Joe from Fay's house. She says he jumped on her and Joe reminds her that she jumped on him first. Jane goes on to bed. Eve and Joe are left standing together. Eve says that she didn't want him to lose his job. Joe brushes that aside and asks about Logan. He tells Eve that from now on she will have to see him as the man he is. He has tried to keep his brutal side away for years but it was time that they changed the way things were between them. He was going to act differently from this point on.



Eve didn't want to face the sexual tension between them but at last she would have to. Joe tells her that they will take it as it comes. There would be no scene with Dom in the picture. Joe was bunking down stairs on the couch and would go with them the next day.

Eve went up to bed and for the first time, she faced the sexual tension. Joe could no longer be put in a compartment of her mind. He no longer fit in one compartment. Things really had changed. As she got into bed, she admitted that her body wanted Joe.

The next morning, Joe met her before she joined the others in the kitchen. He told her that he was going along. She warned him about his job again and he informed her that he was a representative of the interstate task force trying to catch Dom. If someone saw her with him, he would simply arrest her. She still protested. Joe mentioned Logan's help. Joe was glad that Eve wanted to protect him more than Logan. Eve felt the tightness in her chest again. Why couldn't Joe go on being like a brother?

At the rear of Dawn's Light Elementary School, Monty started to move faster. Sarah sent Jane back to the car as she knew that Monty was about to find something. Jane's feelings were hurt but Sarah had to protect her. Monty found the grave and began to dig. Sarah ordered him to stop. Monty curled up beside the grave and whimpered. Sarah wished they hadn't had to do this to Monty. Eve showed up and then Joe. Monty refused to leave. Joe picked Monty up and took him to the car. Sarah and Jane talked about what was happening to Monty. Jane got down beside the dog and loved on Monty. Monty kept whimpering.

Joe and Eve discuss how to retrieve the body without harming any possible evidence. Eve had to be sure that Jane didn't get taken from her. They decided to work a deal with Spiro. Joe wanted to make sure that the deal included not using Eve as bait.

## Chapter Twelve Analysis

Johansen in Chapter Twelve has Monty, the Lab, communicate with Sarah. Since Eve has communicated with Bonnie, this is a natural thing to the reader. Sarah and Monty have a difference about helping the child. Monty seems to be ready to help all the time. Now the reader has another possible target for Dom. Johansen has already proven that she has no trouble piling up the bodies. Dom kills children so what will keep him from killing the loving dog?

Johansen reminds the reader that Joe is still looking for Eve. Will he find her in time to help her? He is determined.

Monty is threatened. The reader's fears are heightened with Monty's howling. Sarah sees the partially eaten meat. When Sarah trips over a furry body, the reader is hoping against hope. A sharp reader figures that Monty knows better than to eat anything that Sarah doesn't hand him. How else could Monty live through some of the crisis points that he has been in? However, the furry body gives the reader pause.



Dom made a mistake when he threatened Monty. He didn't know that Sarah had quit. She had put in two days and was done. Making Sarah mad by threatening Monty was not a smart move. Sarah and Monty are now in for the long haul. Sarah wants Dom found and put away forever. She won't have someone out there ready to kill her dog.

Johansen doesn't take the reader on every search. They are down to the last four places to search. As they return home for the night, a man is waiting for them. Johansen has Joe act in his most primitive manner as he puts down a guard before Eve can tell them that the man is Joe. Two of the characters call him Rambo. Joe usually doesn't show his ex-seal side to Eve but his anger for the last days as he hunted her down has made him come to a decision. Eve is going to see the complete man. Just as he is, violent as well as a best friend to lean on.

After everyone has gone to their rooms, leaving Joe and Eve together, Joe tells her that he can't stand by and be the best friend any more. He wants more. He wants her to know all of him. She will have to come to some conclusions about their relationship. Joe demands more. Eve doesn't want to think about it. She wants him around but she doesn't want to truly be with him. Or does she? Johansen has her body suggest that she does want Joe, the man. Joe has told her that he will be with her while they catch Dom but then something has to happen.

Joe went along with Sarah and Eve the next day. Joe is now the liaison for the task force who are after Dom. Joe can simply arrest Eve if anyone gets too close. During this search near the Elementary School, Monty indicates that he has a scent for something. When Sarah insists that Jane return to the car, Jane is mad but she goes back. Monty starts to dig and Sarah knows that someone is there. Monty wants to know if it is a child. Sarah says no but Monty wants to stay with the body. He looks sad and whimpers. When Joe and Eve get to the spot, Joe lifts Monty and takes him back to the car. Big, gruff, ex-seal is capable of caring for the mourning dog. Jane takes over once Monty is in the car. Monty really becomes depressed. Jane and Sarah have a conversation that tells the reader how much doing this work affects the dog.

Joe and Eve both think the body that is buried is Debby Jordan's and they decide to call in Spiro to take care of it. They talk about the deal they have to make to keep Eve out of jail for kidnapping and keep Jane with her for safety.



# Chapter Thirteen

## Chapter Thirteen Summary

In Chapter Thirteen everyone is back at the house. Jane is with Monty and Sarah is worried about him. He is very depressed. Joe tells Eve that Spiro is on his way. It seems he was coming anyway because of something that Charlie found. Spiro didn't share the information. Mark called and said he was coming. He wanted to be where the action might happen. He didn't quite trust Joe to keep the deal he had made in order to find Eve. Joe gets ready to leave. When Eve asks where he is going, Joe tells her back to the grave until Spiro gets there the next morning. Eve says that Dom won't dig her up. Joe wants to make sure. Eve wants to go with him. He refuses to allow her to do that.

Joe hadn't been sitting near the grave long before he looked up and saw Eve crossing the field to him. Joe talked to her about moving their relationship into more than just a friendship. Joe said the word sex. Eve didn't want him to say it. Joe went on to say that he had stood back and curbed his jealousy and his desperation. It was time for that to stop. Joe assures Eve that sex would be great with him. He knew he could help her in the healing process from the loss of Bonnie. Joe could even give her child. Eve got a bit panicky at that thought. She said a very forceful no. Joe told her that it wasn't the right time or place to prove it right then. It seemed they were always leaning over a grave together. Eve leaned against him as he backed off with the relationship talk for the moment. She couldn't imagine being without Joe.

Spiro showed up the next morning and met Eve and Joe at the grave. Spiro wanted to send Jane back to child welfare. Eve refused. She offered to do anything Spiro wanted to help catch Dom if he wouldn't give her trouble about Jane. Joe wished for a better deal. Spiro did tell Eve he would send his team around where she was staying to help put a bug on Eve's phone. He told both Joe and Eve to get out of the field. He would say that one of his informants had given him this clue. He just hoped Debby was there. Spiro promised to call that evening and tell them if it was Debby. Eve headed for home and Joe headed for the precinct to talk to Charlie.

Jane came into the study where Eve had been working. Eve could see that something was wrong. She asked about Monty and was told that Monty didn't need Jane. Jane offered to fix a sandwich for Eve. While Eve wasn't hungry, she accepted the sandwich to try to find out what was going on in Jane's head. When Jane came back with food, Jane told her that she had wanted Monty to be her dog and love her more than Sarah but he didn't. Jane also said that she knew that Eve was only taking care of her because of Bonnie. Eve was so broken hearted for the little girl that she opened her heart to her. Jane accepted that they were good friends before she straightened up and decided to take food to Monty.

Eve knew she had to act indifferent to Jane out where Dom might see her. They had bonded as Dom had wanted. Jane was in more danger than ever.



Joe and Eve talked the next morning. Debby Jordan had been found. There had been candle wax on her hands but candles were hard to trace with so many people making them these days. Spiro had the Phoenix police unhappy with him because he wouldn't name the informant. Joe hadn't been able to get anything from the police. Joe had taken Charlie to Charlie's place for a few drinks. Charlie had told him about the bodies that were 30 years old. He had a name for the bodies and possibly a name and photo of Dom. Since Eve couldn't go visit the parents of the two bodies, Joe told her he would take her to lunch. Once Joe had gone to clean up, Sarah came into the kitchen with Monty. Sarah wanted to go back to the cabin but Eve convinced her to wait a few days. Eve didn't want her isolated out at the cabin with Dom free. Dom hadn't wanted the body found so quickly. Who knew what he would do.

## Chapter Thirteen Analysis

Johansen seems to finally be pushing the point of Eve and Joe having a romance. In previous books of the series of Eve Duncan, Joe has not been free. It has been obvious to the reader that the two should be a couple but usually it was Joe's wife that stood in the way. Joe is an honorable man and has never crossed the line to become Eve's lover no matter how much he might want that.

The atmosphere is one of anger. Eve is trying to protect Joe and that makes him very angry. He doesn't want to be left out or unable to reach Eve so he can protect her from Dom. Spiro is angry at Eve and Joe because they are working the case without him. Spiro wants to believe that he is in charge. Sarah is made because Monty has been threatened. The Phoenix police are no longer cooperating with Spiro or Joe because they have been left out of the loop and can't discover the informant who found Debby Jordan's body for them. Yet, while everyone has a problem with everyone else, they are all working toward catching and incarcerating Dom.

Joe has the chance to talk to Eve in private as they sit at the grave of Debby Jordan and wait for morning. They don't want Dom to come back and dig her up. Joe lays his cards on the table. Joe wants the situation between Eve and himself to change. He is tired of standing on the sidelines and watching her move through her life alone. Joe admits how hard it has been to see her go through some of things she has gone through. He realizes that she has to go through a healing process. Joe has been with her from the beginning. He was on the case when Bonnie disappeared. He understands Eve perhaps better than anyone else. When Joe asks why she allowed Logan to help and not him, Joe is pleased that she seems to want to protect more than she does Logan. Joe will wait while the Dom case is going on but he and Eve are going to make some new decisions about the relationship when Dom is finished.

Spiro comes to town and Johansen has already placed Charlie in Phoenix. Spiro makes it clear that he is obsessed with finding Dom. Nothing will get in his way. He will use whoever or whatever he can to catch Dom.



Johansen's scene with Jane and Eve show them bonding. Jane admits to wanting someone to love her. She had hoped she could make Monty love her more than Monty loved Sarah. Eve sees enough of herself in Jane to be smart in her handling of the child. Eve allows Jane to come to her on Jane's own terms. Jane says that Eve really is concerned about Bonnie. Eve tells her that Bonnie is dead. Eve and Jane make a pact to be friends. Eve does realize that she is taken second place to a dog as far as Jane is concerned. This scene with the little broken-hearted child who tries not to show she has a heart brings about the bonding. Eve is aware that she can't let Dom see that the bonding is complete. Once he knows the bond is there, it will be open season on Jane.

Joe has finally drunk enough with Charlie to learn that the bodies found in Phoenix are thirty years old. Dom has been killing for that long and no one has been the wiser. They have possibly found out his name. Perhaps they have a picture. Johansen makes Dom win another round by killing someone and calling Eve. Then Eve and Joe and Spiro win a round and get closer to who Dom is. Johansen plays the game well in order to keep tension high but yet allow some hope for our hero and heroine.



# Chapter Fourteen

## Chapter Fourteen Summary

As Chapter Fourteen opens Logan has called Eve. He is upset that she hasn't kept him informed and he had to read of Debby Jordan's body being found in the newspaper. He asks to come to the house and be in on the case and Eve refuses. He knows Joe is there and he is angry that Eve is leaving him out. After he hangs up, Joe tells her that Logan won't win her because he doesn't want her enough to do anything to get her. Eve is Joe's center and he is determined that she will be his. They go to a Mexican food stand near a school for lunch.

As Eve and Joe sat on the bench eating the Mexican food, Dom was watching. He thought Eve had some hope. She probably thought things were going to be better since she had found Debby Jordan. Dom would allow her a little hope because when the fall came it would be farther. It would hurt worse. He thought he was responsible for Eve evolving just as he had. He was going to speed things up. He liked the tension he had created.

Joe and Eve got back to the house to be met by Sarah, Monty, and Jane. Monty looked better. Sarah told Eve they had had a picnic on the grounds. Jane hadn't been on a picnic for a long time but she told Eve that picnics were a lot of ants and dirt. As Sarah, Monty, and Jane went to the kitchen to get more food for Monty since he hadn't been eating, Joe went to library to make some calls before he went to the precinct. Mark showed up at the front gates. He came up and Eve met him at the door. It was very apparent that he was there to get his story and would stay close until it was over. When he mentioned Logan, Eve told him to leave Logan out of it. Jane came in with some milk for Eve and Mark patronized her. Mark also mentioned to Eve that the bonding between Eve and Jane was now apparent. She had better never allow Dom to see them together.

A red-headed doll was found in the driveway of the gated estate. Its throat was cut. The camera had been shot out by a long range weapon. The security man Herb was in the drive and assured her that it hadn't been there when Joe and Mark had gone through the gates. Eve demanded that Herb not tell anyone at least until the next day. She went in and set the doll on the coffee table and waited. Dom called. He said he was afraid that Eve didn't have her thoughts centered on him. Eve hung up. He called back four times but Eve never answered.

Joe got home after midnight and found Eve still sitting on the couch, holding the doll. He asked what had been said. Eve told him that she wanted to live and wanted to go to bed with him. Joe was practically in shock that she would suggest it. She realized that she might be simply using Joe and she apologized. She went to her bedroom and took the shower. She didn't turn off the phone but let Dom try to reach her over and over again. When she came out of the shower and got ready for bed, she left the phone on and





ringing in her purse. She turned out the light. A voice told her that he wished she had left it on. It was Joe. He had decided to take up the invitation. He didn't think it was all Dom. After he was in bed with Eve, the phone rang again. Joe told her to leave it on. Soon she wouldn't hear it. He was right.

When they came up for air, Joe and Eve had the discussion about how good Joe was. After the proper compliments from Eve, she asked him why he had married Dianne. Joe told her that he married Dianne for Eve. He had given up that Eve would ever see him as a lover at the time. He saw Eve withdrawing from life and he thought she needed a woman friend. He thought Dianne would be that friend. The marriage didn't work although Joe did try. He didn't have enough left for Dianne. Eve thought she could never love Joe the way he should be loved. Joe thought she loved him and just didn't recognize it.

Eve woke by herself. She felt loneliness. Joe opened the door and told her that Charlie was on his way with the photo and Spiro was coming for the doll. When Eve was still naked from the shower, Joe embraced her and teased her a little. He told her that he wanted to be sure she understood that their loving had not been a one night stand. He told her he wanted her to think of him all the time from now for the rest of their lives. He even said he would like to take her back to bed but Spiro and Charlie would arrive soon and she better get dressed.

Joe and Eve went down to meet Spiro and show him the doll. Spiro told them that Jane had let him in after a thorough questioning session on how he got in and what was happening. Spiro told them he was on his way to the town of Dillard where Dom may have grown up. They wanted to check neighbors and schools. Eve insists that she go with him. Joe, of course, is going too. Spiro doesn't like having Mark in on the case. When Jane appears at the door to tell Eve she has cooked her some food, Eve asks how long they will be gone. Since it might be over night, Eve insists that Jane go with them. Again Spiro doesn't like it but he agrees. The chapter ends with Jane asking where she is going.

## Chapter Fourteen Analysis

Johansen reminds the reader of Logan at the beginning of Chapter Fourteen. He has a short call with Eve. She doesn't allow him to be part of the case again. He accepts her decision. Joe has the opportunity to say that he will win Eve because he won't be a gentleman as Logan is and bow out.

Dom's thinking is brought to the front again. He watches Joe and Eve eat. He thinks he is changing Eve and he is happy about that. He tries to read her body language and tries to discover what has changed. There is something different.

Johansen has another man turn up. Mark comes to Phoenix. He is determined to be in on the total story and Dom's capture. Mark is also the first one to point out that Eve



shouldn't allow anyone to see her and Jane together. Dom will see the bonding. Here is a deadly foreshadowing. Jane can be killed at any time now. Dom has what he wants.

To give Eve more pause, the doll shows up in the driveway. The red-headed doll with its throat cut. The camera has been smashed by a long distance weapon. Joe and Mark had left only moments before the doll appeared. How could Dom have been so close? How did he shoot the camera and get to the gate? As soon as Eve is inside, the phone rings. It is Dom. Eve doesn't react as Dom expects. Eve is angry. When Eve hangs up on Dom and doesn't answer the phone, Dom doesn't keep his control he believed he had of the situation.

Johansen finally allows Joe and Eve to come together. The reader has always known that this was a love match. Joe has always known. Eve has always run away from the truth and is still running. However after this episode with Dom, she is ready to reach for Joe and she does. She might not be willing to admit her love with words, her body has told Joe the truth. Johansen has Joe and Eve talk about the sex rather than take us through the act, step-by-step.

Eve doesn't give into her real love for Joe easily. As usual she analyzes everything. Since she is so afraid to let anyone into her heart, she tries to protect others from being hurt. She doesn't see that she is protecting herself more than she is protecting them. Joe tells her to stop her analyzing and just to come on down and meet Spiro.

Johansen keeps the tension between all the characters. No one can decide who is really in charge of the case. Eve feels that she is. Spiro and Joe have a pull tug going on with the way Eve will be used. There are a group of independent people who are making up this case. Each has his own way to achieve the common objective of catching Dom.



# Chapter Fifteen

## Chapter Fifteen Summary

Chapter Fifteen has Eve, Joe, Jane, and Spiro flying into Dillard. Dillard has snow and is a much colder climate. The taxi driver tells them about a bed and breakfast and the bar where regulars congregate. Eve and Jane are lead to their bedroom and Eve gets a chance to ask Mrs. Tolvey about Dom's family. Mrs. Tolvey has been in Dillard for twenty years. Mrs. Tolvey doesn't remember the name.

Joe saw the look on Mrs. Tolvey's face as she came downstairs. When he asked she said that nothing was wrong. After he signed in, she told him about the tent with red/pink and white candles. The tent was on a plateau on the mountain side and her father had drug her up there for this old evangelist, Baldrige, to call her up front and try to make her repent of her sins. Mrs. Tolvey had run out and never gone back. She didn't know what happened to him or anything about his family. However it could be the Bloom Sweet Baptist Church might have someone who remembered or knew him. They had sponsored the revival.

Joe told Eve about the evangelist. He isn't sure if it is a father or a grandfather of Dom's. The next day, he promised they would visit the church and see what they could find. Once Eve was in bed, Joe would wait up for Spiro and fill him in. Joe warned her about being too hopeful.

When Eve and Jane come downstairs the next morning, Joe had a cab waiting. He had talked to Spiro and Spiro was on the trail. He had learned about the evangelist and had awakened Reverend Piper at three in the morning to learn more about the evangelist. He had a location and was waiting for the group there.

The hillside where Spiro awaited Eve and the others was spooky. A fire had taken the tent twenty-nine years before. Nothing had grown back in all that time. Spiro, Joe, and Eve talked about the family and no one remembered Kevin. They remembered the two brothers and the mother but no one else. As they walked away from the area, Joe reached down and scooped up some of the soft soil. It had been salted.

Eve gets back to Phoenix to find Logan playing cards with Sarah. They obviously are not getting along like best buddies. Sarah, Jane, and Monty went off to bed. Logan immediately saw that Joe and Eve were finally a couple. He talked about it. He asked to be Eve's friend forever and she agreed. She did send Joe out so she could talk to Logan. She hated to hurt Logan but she couldn't help it. Logan left. Eve talked to Joe again before she headed for bed. She still tried to tell herself that she couldn't be a part of a couple with Joe. She was still analyzing.

Bonnie comes for a visit. Bonnie is all for Eve being with Joe. She tells Eve that she will still have Logan for a friend. She also tells Eve that it was harder to get through the



darkness this time. Dom is terribly dark. He is so twisted and such an evil being. She warns Eve to be frightened of him. They talk about reincarnation and Bonnie assures her that everyone has his own soul. Jane is nothing like Bonnie. Bonnie finally asks about Monty and tells Eve that she love dogs.

Joe ran into Mark when he showed up at Charlie's hotel. Mark claimed that something was bothering Charlie and he hoped he would slip and tell them what it was.

When Charlie appears, he tells them both that he isn't telling them anything. Spiro is still too mad at him. However, Joe thinkst Mark was right. Something was bothering Charlie.

Eve gets another call from Dom. He asks how she liked his hometown. He tells her about his insane father who battered him from the time he was hardly toddling. He made him hold black candles out as he beat him and then poured salt in his wounds. He ran away with his brothers and a couple of other teens but the brothers got scared and ran home. Dom started killing. He killed his companions first and then went back and killed his family. No one will ever find those bodies because he cut them up and spread them over a couple of states. As Dom begins to tell Eve what candles he had chosen for Jane and her, Eve hangs up. Eve could feel his darkness dragging her down. She remembered Bonnie telling her to live every day.

Joe comes home and Eve met him and leads him into her bedroom. When Joe asks if he is forgiven for taking her away from Logan, she tells him that it isn't about forgiveness. It has nothing to do with Logan. She wants Joe with her. She is being selfish. She simply wants him and is not going to put it off any longer.

## Chapter Fifteen Analysis

Johansen places the main characters in Dillard, Arizona to look for any information about Dom. The town isn't too large so the group has to stay in a bed and breakfast. At first it seems the town is a dead end. However, after Eve and Jane are in their rooms and Eve has asked the landlady about Dom and received a negative answer from her, the lady goes downstairs. Joe sees her coming and can see that something is bothering her. He finally gets the story of the evangelist who had a big tent up on the hill twenty-nine years before. She didn't know much about him except her father had taken her to the revival to be sure she was on the straight and narrow. The old evangelist had turned all his hateful hell fire on her and she had run away.

Spiro had gone to the town bar and heard stories which led him to the Bloom Street Baptist Church. The original preacher's son was preaching. Spiro had awakened him at 3 a.m. and learned more. Spiro took Eve, Joe, and Jane up the hillside to the old revival spot. Jane calls it spooky. The reader is sure that Dom must be somewhere watching. If Dom shot the camera at the house with a sniper's gun, Dom could pick all or some of them off as they stood on the ridge. If they are closer to Dom, and there is a question about whether Dom or Kevin was really a part of the evangelist's family, will this be the showdown?



Nothing has grown up for the twenty plus years that the revival spot has been there on the hill. Why haven't the grass or wild plants returned to the area? It is a spooky spot that has too many unanswered questions. Johansen has Joe scoop up some soil and taste the salt in it. Nothing will ever grow in salted ground. Why had someone made it a shrine? Was it Dom?

When Eve, Joe, and Jane get back to Logan's, they find Logan there playing poker with Sarah. Logan's not Sarah's favorite person since he had forced her to bring Monty into the case. Johansen has Logan see the difference in Joe and Eve. He knows he has lost. While he wants to help in the case, Eve has him leave. Joe has been the chosen one for Eve. She hated to hurt Logan but he should be out of the man-man-woman triangle that has been running through the series for some books.

Bonnie makes another visit to Eve. Bonnie knows that Eve has hurt Logan and while she is sorry, she is glad that Eve finally chose Joe. She thinks that Joe is best for Eve. They are good together. Eve asks about the reincarnation idea. Bonnie assures her that each person on the earth has his own soul. She says she is nothing like Jane. Bonnie is glad that Eve is beginning to live again. With Joe and with Jane. Bonnie warns her that Dom is very dark. Eve should be afraid of him. Bonnie does warn Eve to live for the day and not to put anything off.

Johansen gives the reader the backstory on Dom and his evangelist father. The man was an abuser of the worse kind. Dom's mother stood back and watched the father beat him. Dom told Eve about the black candles that Dom held as he was beaten. Dom told Eve about his first killings and the whole family killing. He assured Eve they would not find the bodies because he had scattered his family all over a couple of states. He tells Eve about salting the ground. He started as a monster and he has had nearly thirty years to get worse and worse. Eve hung up on him because she couldn't take any more of his threats and bragging about death.

When Joe got back to the estate, Jane took him to bed. Johansen is making a new bond between Joe and Eve. Eve may analyze but she has chosen Joe. She won't be able to back away from him now that he knows she does love him. She still might not be able to admit it all the time and she might kick against it but she really has lost her battle against loving Joe.



# Chapter Sixteen

## Chapter Sixteen Summary

In Chapter Sixteen, Eve tells Spiro what Dom has told her about his childhood on the phone. Spiro says it adds up to what he has been finding. He looked in Jamison for school records. He traced down an agency that went out to the Baldrige hilltop and discovered that the two brothers were being home-schooled. There was no mention of Dom/Kevin. Kevin didn't attend the meetings either. If the killing was because he was ignored, why hadn't he looked for attention when he killed? He had kept the kills hidden for so many years.

Eve asks for the photo. Spiro gives her a run around about it. Spiro claims that it wouldn't be much help. Eve kept asking to see it and Spiro told her that perhaps the next day. When Eve sees the photo, two days later, the two older boys are clear but Kevin is in the background and moving so the picture is too fuzzy. Spiro is sending it to Quantico for assistance. Since Eve does age progressions, he asks if she can do anything. She checks the phone book for a developer and finds Pixmore. They arrange to meet Charlie there and see if they can help. They arrive at Pixmore along with Charlie and Mark shows up behind them. Charlie has permission to let Mark know a little but not tell all. Mark looks like he is going to stay for dessert.

They find Billy Sung at Pixmore. He was a student in computer imaging and knew a professor who was working on a research grant who might have the equipment to help bring Dom's face forward in the picture. There was discussion of government interference in personal life before Sung took the photo and Charlie to use the Professor's equipment. Joe and Eve discussed the probability of Sung getting the picture plain enough to use. They had to go back to the estate and wait.

Dom is sitting outside the lab at 3 a.m. waiting and wishing he knew what the technology was doing to that picture. He should have gotten rid of it but it seemed like just a bad picture back when he had the chance to destroy it. He felt like Eve was raising the stakes. It was exciting him.

Billy Sung is working diligently and sees the picture becoming clearer. He was congratulating himself as he worked. Charlie was hovering. Billy got a clear picture and couldn't believe who he was looking at. Charlie called Eve and told her that they were coming. Sung wouldn't let him see the photo. He wants to give it to Eve himself. Charlie drops the phone as Sung heads out the front door. Eve gets up and dresses to be ready for them when they arrive.

Forty minutes later Sung and Charlie had not arrived. Joe decides to go after them. Eve has to stay in case they show up. Forty-five minutes later, Eve got a phone call from Joe. There had been a crash. A car was at the bottom of a ravine. It had gone down a 100 foot drop. Joe is going down with the rescue squad. The car hasn't exploded yet.



Eve went to the crash site and ran into Spiro. He told her that the car had gas fumes all around it and they were trying to get to the battery to end any danger of sparks. They got one man out but there was another down there. The rescue team started away from the car when they couldn't get the hood up and the battery disconnected. A light remained when the other left. Eve was sure it was Joe. The car blew. Eve tried to hurl herself down into the ravine to find Joe. Spiro couldn't hold her but two state highway patrol men grabbed her.

Joe was yelling at Spiro about hitting Eve as she became conscious. Joe was alive. He had gotten out just before the car exploded. He had dropped his flashlight as he got out. Charlie was dead in the car. Billy Sung had died during the rescue attempt. Eve was so mad at Joe that she wasn't going to let him touch her. As they tried to get her out of there before one of the cops noticed her, Joe let Spiro know that he had gotten part of the picture. He would have made Spiro wait to open the part of the envelope he saved but Eve wasn't about to wait. She grabbed it and discovered that Joe had saved the end with the two brothers and didn't have Dom. Spiro said to meet him at the lab and see if there was anything on the computer in two hours.

As soon as Joe and Eve entered the living room of the estate, Joe turned to Eve and demanded that she look at him and tell him what was wrong. Eve refused to look at him. She kept seeing him coming so close to being blown up. He kept pushing her to talk to him and she just became madder and madder. Finally she blew her temper because she had been so frightened. They had the big scene when Eve had admitted to herself how important Joe was to her. She told him that he had promised her the next fifty years. Joe finally got it. He asked if she was finally saying she loved him. She still wouldn't say it aloud and wanted him to keep his promise to be with her for the next fifty. After Joe had gathered her on his lap and they had settled a little bit, Joe asked her if she would ever tell him that she loved him. She said that she doubted it. The time had passed and they realized that they needed to clean up and go to the lab and meet Spiro.

Eve admits to herself that she had thought of no one but Joe when he was in that ravine and didn't care about Dom or the photograph then but now that Joe was safe, she would find a way to see Dom's face. She was going to end his reign of killing.

## Chapter Sixteen Analysis

Johansen, in Chapter Sixteen, lets Spiro and Eve talk about what each has learned about Dom's background. There are some backstories in novels that make the villain more sympathetic. As Dom crows about killing the family and choosing white candles for the children he kills, Dom's monster characteristics are kept before the reader. Dom has no redeeming features. His evil has become him.

When the photo finally falls into Eve's hands, there is disappointment. The two brothers can be seen and could be recognized. Dom is a blur in the background. One step back. However, Spiro is sending a copy to Quantico for help but he asks Eve about her help.



She leads the group to a photo developer who has a student who is working on computer imaging. They are moving forward again. Billy Sung takes Charlie with him to a lab that one of his professor's has for research purposes. Billy Sung recognizes the image and decides he has to take it to Eve. The newbie reader may think it is finally over. The sophisticated reader knows that Sung and Charlie will never make it to Eve alive. Johansen has let the reader know that Dom has been watching the lab. Dom won't allow this to be easy. It is exciting him to pit himself against Eve.

As the reader expects, the men do not arrive with the picture. The men have gone over the side of a cliff into a ravine. Joe has started a hunt and found the accident. Joe goes down with the rescue team to help with anyone alive in the car. Johansen adds more tension as the characters describe why the car is ready to blow up. Joe being near the car heightens the fear. Eve's appearance at the scene heightens it even more. Not only is the car going to explode but Eve is going to explode. Eve has always been able to be calm but finally she isn't. She wants Joe alive and well and she is willing to forget her safety and the whole Dom case to make sure he lives.

Eve is knocked out when she tries to go into the ravine. When she awakens to have Joe there, she can't stand to know that she can be hurt. She didn't want to feel. She has had her feelings turned off for years. In this book, Johansen has at last cracked that hard shell that Eve uses as a shield. Before they leave the scene of the wreck, Joe tells Spiro he has half of the picture. Joe and Spiro have their push-pull disagreement about who is in charge and Joe wants to make Spiro wait to look at the photo. Eve pulls it out of Joe's hand and learns that when it was pulled into two pieces in the car, only the useless part was saved by Joe.

Johansen has quite a scene between Joe and Eve back at the house. Eve is trying to put her shell back on. She doesn't want to admit how scared she was for Joe. She also isn't ready to give up the anger that she felt because he had endangered his life. His life as a police officer always put him in harm's way. She tells Joe that he had promised her fifty years and she was holding him to that. Joe realizes that Eve really has come to the truth. She does love him and now she knows it. She still won't admit it aloud but she does love him and knows she does.

As the two of them go to separate bathrooms to clean up and go meet Spiro, Eve realizes that she had forgotten Dom and everything but Joe for some time that night. However, she is ready to get Dom now. She is going to win and end Dom's killing spree.





# Chapter Seventeen

## Chapter Seventeen Summary

Eve and Joe are waiting for Spiro at the lab on Blue Mountain Drive as Chapter Seventeen opens. Spiro has told Charlie's wife about his death. For Spiro the hunt for Dom has become even more personal.

Once the professor admits the three of them into the lab, they check the computer and cannot believe that face that looked back at them. It is Mark. He has been part of the investigation all the time. Spiro puts in a call to have him picked up. Eve remember Mark's telling her not to let Dom see her with Jane. Anyone would know they had bonded. Eve and Joe took off for home immediately. Jane was guarded but they weren't there and probably Mark knew it. They flew into the house and up to Jane's room. She wasn't in the ruffled bed. They knocked on Sarah's door and found Sarah sitting up and waking up and then they saw Jane lying next to Monty. Jane had had a bad dream and asked to stay with Monty. Sarah had allowed her to lie down beside him.

Sarah comes down to the kitchen to find out what was going on. After they tell her, the phone rings. It os Spiro. He tells Joe to get Jane and Eve as far from the house as possible. Someone has given Phoenix PD a tip about Eve and Jane. Jane will go back to Atlanta Welfare with no protection if they caught them. Eve go to get Jane and grab some clothes. She tells Sarah to call Logan.

They get to the front gates where they were met by the police. Eve told Joe to get out. He has to be free to take care of Jane.

Logan comes to see Jane in jail. She has been locked up for twenty-four hours. She has worried herself about crazy about Jane and Joe. The police were unhappy that they couldn't find Joe. Logan promised to look up some judges and see how fast he could get her out of jail. Eve was scared that she had made Joe a target too since he would stop Dom from getting Jane if he had to kill or be killed to do it. After Logan leaves, Eve tried to think what Dom wanted her to do. Not be logical at this point. She put her hysteria on hold and sat down to think about everything Mark had ever said to her.

Logan picked up Eve at the jailhouse the next afternoon. She couldn't get near Jane or she would be thrown back in jail. She called Joe. She didn't ask where he was. She simply told him that she was out. She asked Logan to take her back to his house and let her use the computer. She was going to work.

When they reached the house, Sarah and Monty were there. Sarah had tried to see Jane but they had refused to let Monty in. Logan had a few words to say to Sarah and then he said goodbye after assuring Eve that he would get some information for her. After he left, Sarah mentioned Eve's excitement. Logan hadn't seen under the façade of



calmness. Eve wouldn't tell Sarah what she was doing other than say she a plan to catch Dom.

The case worker, Parkinson, from Atlanta shows up to pick up Jane and had her out of there and heading for the airport within fifteen minutes. They didn't wait until morning. Eve was suspicious but he did have proper I.D. Officer Rivera tried to talk to Jane about his own daughter but Jane wasn't talking. Jane looked at Parkinson and then slumped in her seat. Officer Rivera turned and told the driver to pull over. Parkinson countermanded the order and shot Rivera. Joe was following and saw that there was trouble. The squad car was trying to lose him. The squad car went over railroad tracks just as the train got to the crossing. Joe was stuck on the other side. Joe called the precinct but couldn't get any response. Finally he identified himself and told them to come after him. He gunned the engine as soon as the train passed. He saw the squad car a couple of times but by the time he caught up with it, it was deserted.

Dom calls Eve. Eve does not want to believe that he has Jane. Dom tells her that Jane was drugged at the moment to keep her quiet. Dom demands that Eve meet him at the salted ground at the site of the revival place. She is to come alone, of course. He is going to kill her but he does not plan to chop her up out of respect for her. Joe calls Eve to tell her that the officers are dead who had been protecting Jane and Jane was gone. Eve didn't tell Joe the plan. Once again she was going to protect him. She wants to make a plan with Spiro so she would be the bait.

## Chapter Seventeen Analysis

Johansen puts Eve, Joe, and Spiro together at the Blue Mountain Drive lab. They open up the computer and discover the face of the murderer. It is Mark. It does make sense. Mark fits the profile. He had worked his way into the case and he was aware of police procedure. It was startling to them but there he was.

Eve remembers that Jane isn't protected the way they want her to be. She trusts Mark because Eve has trusted him. When Eve and Joe get back to the house, they have a moment of fear as Jane's bed is rumpled but empty. They find her with Monty. Eve, Joe, and Sarah are talking in the kitchen when the phone rings and they are warned that the police are on their way to arrest Eve. Johansen has them packed and on their way out of the estate only to be stopped at the gates. Another case of a step forward and one back. Eve goes to jail and Jane is taken back to Atlanta. A caseworker comes from Atlanta. Johansen gives just the suggestion of a clue that the caseworker is trouble. The caseworker does hustle Jane out of the holding home. Jane recognizes the caseworker before they go very far. The caseworker kills the two policemen with them and takes Jane. Joe has been following them but he loses the car at a railroad crossing. Johansen plays the story like a game. One for Dom, one for Eve, one for Dom.

Dom calls Eve to tell her that he has Jane. Dom wants to be chatty with Eve. Eve insists that she talk to Jane. Jane is drugged. The only way he can keep Jane under control is

to drug her or kill her. Dom makes arrangements to meet Eve at the salted spot of the revival tent. Eve calls Spiro and tells him to use her.



# Chapter Eighteen

## Chapter Eighteen Summary

Chapter Eighteen begins with Eve looking at the candles around the salted revival ground. She talks to Spiro and he and his men are as close as they can get and not be seen. Dom calls and tells Eve to meet him in ten minutes at the candles. He allows Jane to speak to Eve. Eve calls Sarah and tells her that Dom is ten minutes away from the candles.

Sarah puts on her belt that told Monty that they were working. Sarah gave Monty a whiff of Jane's tee-shirt and ordered Monty to find. Monty was moving fast from the word go. Monty was thinking Child.

Eve got out of her car and headed up the hill to the circle of light. She got there and Dom was not there in sight. She turned and saw shadows. She spoke but there was no answer. No sound.

Sarah had a ravine or a wooded area to search for Jane. Monty made the decision for her. He took off for the woods.

When Eve reached the shadow on the ground, she could see it was a body. Was it Jane? She screamed.

It is Mark tied in a spread-eagled position. It was evident that he has been tortured before he died. Spiro speaks up and tells Eve that he had considered doing that to Jane but Mark has to die as Dom, Spiro, and Eve talked and Spiro told her he would reinvent himself after he killed her and Jane. He would start over again. When asked just how many he had killed, he said thousands. He kept threatening Eve and made her pick up black candles which he had placed near Mark's head. For Eve to have the black candles was an honor since he had had to hold black candles when his father punished him. When he tried to talk to Eve about a color of Jane's candles, she turned on him. She threw the candles in his face and ran back into the light of the candles. Dom was after her and gaining on her when suddenly he was shot. The shot stopped him and it was serious enough that he would bleed out. Joe had been a sniper and he had been ready for Spiro to come into the light. Eve and Spiro had a chance to talk as Spiro was dying. Eve told him how she had figured it out while she was in jail. Spiro kept saying that he hadn't made a mistake. Spiro did promise Eve that she wouldn't find Jane in time. The mountains got cold at night and Jane was tied tightly and hidden. When Eve mentioned Sarah and Monty, Spiro said he had laid another trail. Finally Eve had enough and she walked away from the dying man. He was screaming at her as she left him.

Sarah and Monty are searching but seemed to be going in circles. The temperature had dropped to zero in the mountains. Monty followed too many false leads; he was running



confused. Then he stopped. He sniffed and stood still. Then he was off and running. He was saying Other child.

Monty found Jane in a hollow near a boulder in the ravine. Jane was okay and Monty was lying beside her when Sarah called Eve. Sarah told Eve she would catch her breath and they would walk back. Jane needed to walk and get her circulation going. Sarah had given Jane her jacket and they would be there soon. Joe had gone back up the hill and found that Dom was dead. Eve and Joe talked about how Dom had forced Eve to reach for life instead of sinking into aloneness and death. The police sirens were screaming in the night as they came toward the scene. Eve felt as if they would all get through it together.

## Chapter Eighteen Analysis

The candles are the focal point of the opening of Chapter Eighteen. Eve is there to meet Dom. The candles strike terror in the heart of the reader. The spooky place with all the candles that Dom uses in his killing. He is coming out into the light to kill Eve. He wants her surrounded by his symbols.

Johansen has Eve talk to Spiro and find out that his men can't get as close as they would like without being seen. Eve talks to Sarah and the reader knows that there is a chance for Jane being found. Since the reader knows Monty's history, it is a double threat. If Monty finds Jane dead, what will it do to the dog? Eve will be devastated too. If they don't find Jane, the mountain is a cold place at night. Will Jane live if Dom doesn't physically kill her?

Johansen builds a strong suspenseful scene as Eve walks up the hillside to the circle of lighted candles. She is looking for shadows. Listening for sounds. She keeps walking into the trap that Dom has set for her. She is waiting for the monster to jump out at her. Will he have Jane with him? She sees shadows out of the circle of light. She thinks it might be a body. She keeps walking. The writing is step by step and feels like someone is taking baby steps as the reader is forced to pick up their reading pace. The scene is moving faster and faster as the reader makes himself read the words faster.

Eve sees the body. A spread-eagled body. It is Mark. The reader may be surprised. If Mark is Dom, who killed him? If Mark isn't Dom, where and who is Dom? Spiro spoke up. The reader may be shocked. However Johansen has planted the information that makes the reader realize that they have had the facts fed to them all along. Spiro states some of those facts again to Eve. The killer has to be free to travel. He has to have pushed his way into the investigation. No one would suspect him. He understands police procedure.

The reader has already been told what a super monster Dom is. Dom/Spiro believes that he has won the game that he has been playing with Eve. Dom admits to thousands of murders. He brags about his abilities to reinvent himself and never be caught. He knows he will have to reinvent himself this time. First he will kill Eve. He tells Eve that



Jane is tied and hidden and will die from the temperature in the mountains before she is found. He has planted false leads for Monty. He believes he has thought of everything.

When Johansen has Eve pick up the black candles and move toward Dom, it is bone chilling. There is more horror in that Eve is to use the color candles that Dom's father made him hold for beatings. Dom wants there to be a connection between himself and Eve. Dom is surprised when Eve gets close and throws the candles in his face.

As Eve runs and knows he is closing in on her as she moves into the light, Dom is shot. That was a surprise for the reader. Johansen let the reader see Eve trying to work things out but when she called Spiro and Sarah, the reader assumes that she is protecting Joe again and leaving him out.

However, it appears that Eve is smarter than Dom. She has Joe, the sniper, as a back-up to take Dom out. Dom doesn't die immediately and he tries to convince himself that even though he is dying he forced Eve to do things his way. Since he had so much control, he won. He wasn't a very successful winner when Eve walked away with Joe and they let him bleed out.

It is a search for Jane that looks hopeless for a little while. Monty keeps following false scents. Finally, Monty thinks Other Child and takes off. He finds Jane and she is not hurt.

The last scene is between Bonnie and Eve. While Bonnie still can't remember when she is buried, Bonnie does tell Eve that Monty is a very smart dog and she likes him. Eve has never told Joe about the conversations with Bonnie. Once again, Eve wants to believe that she is having a dream.



# Epilogue

## Epilogue Summary and Analysis

Bonnie is back when the Epilogue begins. Bonnie and Eve look at Joe and Jane out on the lake at his cabin. Bonnie asks why Eve didn't go with them. She answers her own question as she says that Eve wants them to bond. Bonnie also asks when Eve is going to tell Joe about Bonnie's visits. Eve says she wants to keep her to herself a little longer. Eve tells her that Sarah and Monty are coming back later to search Chattahoochee National Park. Bonnie tells Eve that she doesn't need to be found. She also tells Eve that Monty is a smart dog. Eve suddenly looks at Bonnie and asks if Bonnie had told Monty where to look. There is no answer from Bonnie about that. Bonnie tells her not to be silly because Eve knows she is only a dream.



# Characters

## Joe Quinn

Joe Quinn is the hero of *The Killing Game*. Joe is an ex-seal and an ex-FBI man. He is now with the police department of Atlanta, Georgia. He and Eve Duncan work together when she reconstructs faces from skeletons of lost children. Joe is in love with Eve and in this book, the two of them finally admit their love. Joe has worked with Eve so many times that he has become a legend. They call him "the skeleton man."

## Eve Duncan

Eve is the heroine of the book. She is a forensic sculpturer who is looking for Bonnie, her daughter. Bonnie disappeared and is believed to have been killed by a serial killer. Bonnie has never been found. Eve became a forensic sculpturer so she could search for Bonnie and bring her home to be buried. Eve has cut herself off emotionally for years. She has loved Joe but hasn't admitted it. In this book, Eve will be jolted back to emotional well being. She will connect with Jane MacQuire and admit her love for Joe.

## Jane MacGuire

Jane is a street smart ten year old girl who Dom targets to murder. Jane will be used to cause Eve pain. Dom wants them to be connected. He wants Eve to feel as if she is losing Bonnie again when he kills Jane. Jane is independent and determined to help in the catching of Dom. Jane doesn't obey adults just because they tell her to. Jane has to have the facts and then make up her own mind about her decisions. Jane is looking for someone to love her. She tries to attach herself to Monty, the search and rescue dog. She and Eve will connect as they are together through out the book.

## Spiro

Spiro is the FBI agent in charge of the Talladega Falls case. He wants to use Eve as bait in order to catch Dom. Spiro and Joe Quinn are at odds about Spiro's plans for Eve. While Spiro gathers information through the FBI about Dom, he also seems to keep things from Joe. It appears to be a push-pull between the two men. Spiro has a blurred picture of Dom from years previously and keeps the FBI's help from them for several days. Spiro has more conversations with Eve than he does with Joe.

## Sheriff Bosworth

Sheriff Bosworth is the Sheriff of the Talladega Falls bodies. The book opens with Bosworth talking to Joe Quinn. Bosworth doesn't want the responsibility of the case with





so many bodies. Bosworth is the character who tells the reader who Joe Quinn is. Bosworth does have his men looking for more bodies. His men are more familiar with the terrain.

## **John Logan**

John Logan is a very rich business man who Eve had been staying with when the story opens. John is in love with Eve. John helps her all he can. When Eve is hiding from the law because she took Jane from the family services facility, John furnishes all types of fake I.D. as well as a ride in his jet to get her to Phoenix. He also is able to put the pressure on to get Sarah Patrick and her search and rescue dog to work for Eve. John will lose Eve to Joe.

## **Debby Jordan**

Debby Jordan is the woman Dom kills in Phoenix. Dom wants Eve to find the body but he wants to make it hard. He wants the game to go on for some time. Debby had gone to choir practice and never come home. With Mony's help, Debby's body is found.

## **Sandra Duncan**

Sandra is Eve's mother. Sandra had been an alcoholic and a bad mother. She has straightened herself out. When Eve comes to her for help to keep Mike, Sandra takes him in. Sandra will not ever refuse to help Eve again. She is guilty about their life when Eve was a kid.

## **Charlie Cather**

Charlie is the young FBI man who is assigned to guard Eve. He is a throw away character. He will be killed before the end of the book. He is described as a very nice young fellow who is an idealist. He wants to protect and serve. He has a wife that he loves and he is the kind of character the reader likes.

## **John Devon**

John Devon is the little boy killed by Dom. Frazer had claimed him as one of his kills. Finding John Devon's head proves that Frazer wasn't the killer of many of the kills he had claimed.



## **Barbara Easley**

Barbara is the head of child welfare. She gives Eve the files to help her find Jane to protect her from Dom. When Fay is killed, Barbara thinks she shouldn't have turned over the files. Barbara takes Jane into custody. When Eve breaks Jane out of the facility, Barbara has Eve up for kidnapping charges.

## **Fay Sugarton**

Fay is Jane's foster mother. She is a very caring woman and does things by the book. Fay will not allow Eve to see Jane or to take her. When Jane comes from school, Jane finds Fay murdered in her kitchen.

## **Sarah Patrick**

Sarah is a part of a search and rescue team who travels all over the world to disasters to search for survivors. She has her own ranch when she and Monty, her dog, go between searches. Sarah doesn't want to help in this search. She wants Monty to have more rest before he searches again.

## **Monty**

Monty is a beautiful Lab. He loves children and he is an excellent search and rescue dog. Throughout the story, Monty communicates with Sarah. He ends up searching for Debby's body. He finds it. Finding a dead body always depresses him. He has to have some time to recover. Jane tries to help him.

## **Bonnie Duncan**

Bonnie appears to Eve throughout the book. Bonnie warns Eve that Dom is a very dark character. He is in too much darkness. Eve thinks she is dreaming but their conversations are very interesting.



## Objects/Places

### Talladega Falls, Georgia

A grave yard for a serial killer is found at the Falls. The Indians called it the place of tumbling moonlight. Dom likes to bury his dead near something with light or the word light connected with it.

### Phoenix, Arizona

Dom, the serial killer, is introduced in the book at Phoenix. He has chosen another woman to kill.

### Tahiti

Joe goes to Tahiti to tell Eve about the child's skeleton found in Georgia. He knows she will travel back to Georgia with him.

### Logan's home

Logan's home is nearly a palace on Tahiti. Logan has set up a studio there for Eve. He hopes she will stay with him.

### Cottage at the Lake, near Atlanta

The cottage belongs to Joe and has been in the family for years. It is quiet and a good place to work. Joe has the things Eve needs brought to the cottage.

### CASKU

Children's Abduction Serial Killer Unit The group gives Eve the okay to work on the John Devon head

### Tissue depth markers

Eve uses certain points to mark the depth of skin tissues in certain places on the body. This helps make the face take on a more correct look.



## **VICAP**

Violent Criminal Apprehension Program - A nationwide database that gives facts and searches for similar modi operandi

## **Piedmont Park**

The Park is across from Joe's apartment in Atlanta.

## **1248 Luther Street**

Jane's address where she lived with Fay Sugarton.

## **Crawford Middle School on 13th**

Jane goes to school at Crawford.

## **Debby Jordan's Baseball jersey**

Arizona Diamondback logo is on the jersey used for object belonging to Debby for search.

## **Dillard, AZ**

Hometown of Dom. Court House had burned down and records destroyed.

## **Mrs. Nancy Tolvery's Bed and Breakfast**

Eve and Jane and Joe stay here. Mrs. Nancy Tolvery's remembers the evangelist and his tent. The Baldrige family lived on the hill side.

## **Pixmore**

The film developing company that works of the blurred picture of Dom.



# Themes

## Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

A common commercial on television reminds parents that it is late and asks them if they know where their children are. However, it takes on a new meaning when this becomes the theme of *The Killing Game*. These children may have been kidnapped and killed. They may have run away and gotten caught in a sex-slave ring. These missing children of the Duncan series of books are not just out cruising the mall and getting into mischief around the neighborhood. These children don't come home. They may be missing for years. Some are never found. Eve hunts them and brings them back to parents for burial. These children and MIA military have much in common. Their parents don't know what happened to them. Eve tries to get closure for such parents, one family at a time.

## Obsession or Calling

Eve Duncan always is working on a skull. She can't stop. It started when she wanted to find her own daughter but it has grown over the years. She has developed a reputation for finding lost children and bringing them home. The people around Eve believe that she is obsessed and is not getting on with her own life. Eve has come to believe that it is a calling. She can't stop because it is a calling. Is the woman obsessed or called? Can anyone answer this question? Can Eve answer it herself?

## Can a Person Be in Love with Two Different Men at Once?

Eve Duncan cares for Joe Quinn and John Logan. Until *The Killing Game*, Joe has been married and not free to have a sexual relationship with Eve. Joe and Eve are honorable people who won't become involved while Joe is married. Eve has been with John for a year but isn't ready to marry him. When Joe comes into her life with a new skull to identify, Eve is ready to go with Joe. After she finds out that he is no longer married, Eve turns John away. She won't allow him to be with her any longer. It hurts her to hurt him. Can she be in love with both men? Is it possible to truly love two men at the same time? Is it just the American culture that claims that we should be in love with one partner at a time?



# Style

## Point of View

Johansen allows most of her characters to speak for themselves. She gives each character his or her own scene. The story opens with Joe doing the talking and the thinking. The scene changes and the sheriff has his own scene and his own point of view. The whole book breaks into different scenes for the different characters. Eve and Joe have the most scenes and perspectives. However, Sarah, Jane, and Dom share their perspectives as well.

## Setting

The story begins at Talladega Falls, Georgia where there are bodies buried. They are old skeletons and at least one is a child. The story jumps to Tahiti where Eve is staying with a friend to help heal herself after the last missing child case. Joe brings Eve back to Atlanta and takes her to a cabin that has been in his family for years.

The monster, Dom, starts calling and at first they stay in Atlanta but then move the action to Phoenix, Arizona and finally to Dillard, Arizona where Dom grew up with his crazy tent revival evangelist father.

## Language and Meaning

The Killing Game is a contemporary story. It uses the language of today. The reader sees patterns that are familiar to him. The clichés are ones that we recognize. The comparisons are not unusual but of the common language of our day. It is easy to understand. The vocabulary isn't of an elite variety. The meanings are clear.

The story is similar to stories from modern television dramas. Since the language and meaning is so easy to understand, the story is more enjoyable.

## Structure

The Killing Game begins in the middle of a crime scene and the reader knows immediately that the story will take him on a suspenseful chase. While the book is one of a series starring Eve Duncan, the book stands alone. Since Johansen is talented she slips previous facts that the reader needs into the story, the pace isn't slowed. Johansen doesn't stop the scene and have each character halt the progress of the scene to fill in the back story. The facts that are important for the reader are seamlessly inserted into the dialogue or the inner dialogue. Many writers seem to have to stop and tell the back story that slows the pace and lowers the tension of the suspense. Johansen keeps the tension high from the first word to the last.



The reader knows that the series will continue but Johansen doesn't end with a cliff hanger. She gives the reader a character that the reader wants to see again. The overall frame of the story, in this case, finding Bonnie is still there but the reader is lead to the next book. The reader feels that they have received a whole story. This particular book has a beginning, middle, and end. Johansen has kept her promise to the reader. A complete, suspenseful, romance. No one feels tricked into reading the next installment. Johansen's series is not a soap opera. These are the best types of series. The reader wants to have a good time as the tension builds and then finally reaches the climax. Everyone is happy.



## Quotes

"But I didn't make the connection. I've been hearing about you for years. The skeleton man" (Chapter 1).

"She had a chance to bring Bonnie home" (Chapter 1).

"Now she could be his salvation" (Chapter 2).

"He'll call me." Eve smiled bitterly. "As he said, we have a bond" (Chapter 3).

"She was stronger than Dom had thought. A surge of excitement tingled through him. She was going to stretch him, make him work for every ounce of emotion he drew from her" (Chapter 4).

"For a moment she had thought Fay would understand and help her, but she should have known better. You couldn't count on anyone to help you. You had to do it yourself" (Chapter 5).

"She loved kids, but she was no bleeding heart. She could save Jane MacGuire's life and beat that monster. All she had to do was keep at a distance a little girl she didn't even know" (Chapter 6, p. 32).

"All it would take is one careless moment, one bored or disgruntled employee" (Chapter 7, p. 38).

"She thought she was strong enough to take on anything, but she was no match for Dom" (Chapter 8).

"But I believe you'll be safe as long as you stay with me. He wants us together. Will you come with me, Jane" (Chapter 9).

"Jane opened the door and Monty was on her, practically in her lap, whimpering and nuzzling her. She buried her face in his neck, her arms hugging him tightly" (Chapter 10).

"Did I ever tell you how I kill children? I do it slowly, since every emotion they emit is pure and singing. They're the only ones who deserve white. Fear and pain aren't clouded as they are in adults. Do you think Jane will be as brave as Bonnie" (Chapter 11).

"Golden retrievers are wonderful family and handicap dogs because of their gentleness. They're full of love, and Monty seems to have gotten a double dose" (Chapter 12).

"I learned a lot about monsters when I was at Oklahoma City" (Chapter 13).





"If Eve wants me, I'm going with her," Jane took a step closer. "And I wasn't kidnapped. How stupid can you get" (Chapter 14).

She shook her head. "The puppy's not for you, Joe. It's for me. I'm being entirely selfish. I want to be near you. I want you to talk to me. I want you to make love to me." She smiled shakily. "And I won't put it off. I won't wait until it's too late. Will you come to bed and be with me, Joe Quinn" (Chapter 15).

"Every one of her protective barriers had been stripped away and she'd been forced to face her true feelings for Joe. But they were too intense, almost unbearable. She pushed him away and slowly stood up" (Chapter 16).

"From the beginning she'd known that she'd have to face Dom alone. He was planning on having her walk right into his trap and killing her and Jane. He would butcher Joe if he was anywhere around" (Chapter 17).

"It's too late. You're going to die without finding her. That hurts terribly, doesn't it? Your Bonnie is buried all alone in Chattahoochee National Park, and you're going to be buried here, hundreds of miles away from her. It cuts to the quick, doesn't it" (Chapter 18).

"Don't be silly, Mama. How could I?" The teasing smile Bonnie turned on her was brimming with love and mischief. "When you know I'm only a dream" (Epilogue).



## Topics for Discussion

Give three examples of the way Johansen tells the backstory of one of the characters. Discuss her pacing. Does she keep up the pace of the book? Does it slow down?

Can a woman be in love with two different men? How are Joe Quinn and John Logan alike? How are they different?

Why would Eve Duncan insist on reconstructing a head of a child that she is almost sure will not be Bonnie?

Is doing this work keeping her stuck in the past or is this a way to go with life? Is she living or surviving?

What will happen to Eve if she never finds Bonnie? Should she accept that Bonnie is simply gone forever?

How is Dom introduced to the reader? Why does he react as he does to the skeletons being found at Talladega Falls? How does Johansen work the plot to make it necessary for Dom to do something about Eve?

In *The Killing Game*, the intelligence of the serial killer is discussed? What intelligent method has he used to make law enforcement miss his killings? Do you believe he has plotted for such a long time to keep his kills out of the light?

Discuss the fight between law enforcement for jurisdiction of the find of the skeletons. Is one department or bureau better than the other? Do you believe a federal department will be a better choice than a department that knows the area? What makes one better than the other?

Describe your reaction to Spiro. Are you surprised at the outcome?

Who do you suspect as the killer? Are you able to guess who will be a throw away character who can be killed?

Discuss Fay and her death. Did Dom's reasoning for her death logical?

How does Johansen have to raise the tension of the book? Are they well done in your opinion?

Why or why not do you believe that Jane would live or die?

Many novel writing books tell the writer to keep the heroine or hero in trouble, do you agree with this direction? Were you aware of each character's motivation? Did the characters all have their own each individual goal? Were they valuable goals? Were they worth fighting for?



Joe says that Logan didn't want Eve badly enough to win her love. Discuss this.

Have you noticed how often religious zeal is part of the source of the problem? Do you think that all serial killers have violent childhoods that include horrible abuse? Are all religious zealots abusers?

Does one always need to beat the devil out of a child? Would this make a good study for good vs. evil? Does the fanatic evangelist who beats children turn into the evil one as he beats the evil from the innocent child?

If you saw the movie, *The Killing Game*, produced by Lifetime, did you think that the screen writer left some important things out of the movie? Discuss those. Did you think that the characters were cast well? Compare the book to the movie. Was one better than the other?