

# **Legacies Study Guide**

**Legacies by F. Paul Wilson**

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# Plot Summary

*Legacies* by F. Paul Wilson is the second novel that centers around Wilson's highly-acclaimed character, Repairman Jack. In this installment, Jack helps Dr. Alicia Clayton discover the secret hidden in her childhood home. Alicia, an infectious disease specialist, who works with children infected with AIDS, is in the middle of a legal battle over the contents of her father's will and her right to maintain ownership of her father's home. The more Jack learns about this legal battle and the unusual actions of Alicia's father and half-brother, the more determined he becomes to help her. *Legacies* is a novel that attacks some very dark subjects and manages to come out of the darkness with humor and a deep sense of humanity.

Alicia is set to meet with her lawyer to discuss the latest in her legal battle over her father's will when she witnesses her lawyer's car explode. Alicia runs away, afraid to speak to the police, convinced that her lawyer's death is somehow her fault. When Alicia arrives at her office, she quickly learns that this day is going to get worse. Someone has stolen all the toys collected for the children at the clinic where she works, the Center for Children with AIDS. Alicia calls the police but knows that her case will not be a high priority for the overworked detectives. It is then that Gia DiLauro, a volunteer at the Center, comes into her office and suggests that she use the services of a man named Jack.

Alicia is doubtful that one man can do something the New York City Police Department cannot. However, Alicia agrees to allow Jack to search for the toys. A day later, Alicia arrives at work to find that all the toys have been returned, and the man who stole them is behind bars. Alicia is impressed. Alicia decides to ask Jack to help her with her personal legal problems. Alicia arranges to meet with Jack where she tells him how her father died and left his entire estate to her. Alicia, who has been estranged from her father for many years, at first, did not want the estate. However, Alicia decided that perhaps she could sell her father's house and use the money to help the Center. It was then that her brother contacted her and offered to buy the house for millions more than it was worth.

Alicia tells Jack that she does not want to sell the house to her brother, now or ever. When her half-brother, Thomas, realized this, he started legal proceedings to contest the will. Alicia knows that her half-brother cannot afford to do this on his own and must have some backers. This fact causes Alicia to wonder what Thomas is hoping to gain by owning the house. Alicia's curiosity, however, is lessened by her desire to simply get rid of the house. Alicia asks Jack if he will burn the house down. Jack tells her he will think about it.

In the meantime, Jack takes on the case of Jorge, an immigrant who owns a janitorial business. Jorge has a customer, a business man from the same country as Jorge, who refuses to pay his bill. Jorge attempted to get his money through legal channels, but the customer learned that Jorge employs illegals and has threatened to go to immigration if Jorge does not drop his request for payment. Jack tells Jorge he will get the money for



him. Jack runs a scam on this customer that results in more than four times the money Jorge needed. Jack gives Jorge his money and then donates the rest, minus his fees, to the Center for Children with AIDS.

Jack checks out Alicia's childhood home and decides he cannot burn it because of its proximity to surrounding homes and businesses. When he tells Alicia this, Alicia hires another man to burn it. However, this second man is caught by the security patrol, who Thomas' backers have hired to watch the house and is killed. When Jack hears about this, he agrees to help Alicia without pay. Jack wants to know what is so important about that house. Jack and Alicia sneak into the house and find that Thomas and his friends have already carefully searched it. However, Jack manages to find a key they missed, and Alicia finds a remote control car that appears to be programmed to go to a specific location.

Jack takes both the key and the car. Jack finds the bank where the key opens a safe deposit box and finds pictures that explain Alicia's hatred of her father, but have little bearing on the case. Jack then takes the remote control car to a friend. This friend takes the car apart and realizes that it is powered by broadcast power. Jack puts that together with what he knows about Thomas and his backers and realizes that the car is the key everyone has been looking for. The car will lead them to the transmitter that powers the car and holds the secret to a power that has the ability to change the world.

Jack and Alicia follow the car into the mountains and find a cabin where the transmitter and its plans have been hidden. Jack and Alicia are looking at the transmitter when they discover they have been followed by their enemies. A shootout ensues, killing everyone but Jack and Alicia. Jack then leaves Alicia with the transmitter while he disposes of the bodies. Alicia makes the decision to destroy the transmitter rather than allow her father to become a hero on a global scale.



# Friday

## Friday Summary

Legacies by F. Paul Wilson is the second novel that centers around Wilson's highly-acclaimed character, Repairman Jack. In this installment, Jack helps Dr. Alicia Clayton discover the secret hidden in her childhood home. Alicia, an infectious disease specialist, who works with children infected with AIDS, is in the middle of a legal battle over the contents of her father's will and her right to maintain ownership of her father's home. The more Jack learns about this legal battle and the unusual actions of Alicia's father and half-brother, the more determined he becomes to help her. Legacies is a novel that attacks some very dark subjects and manages to come out of the darkness with humor and a deep sense of humanity.

Dr. Alicia Clayton arrives at her lawyer's office, looking forward to hearing good news. Alicia's lawyer pulls up in his car and tells her he is running late, but he will be with her in a minute. Alicia turns to go inside, but is thrown onto the sidewalk by an explosion. Alicia turns and sees that her lawyer's car has exploded. Alicia begins to cry as she quickly leaves the area. Alicia does not want to speak to the police.

Alicia goes straight to her office at the Center for Children with AIDS. Alicia is the acting director while the current director is out on maternity leave. Alicia is barely there a minute when she is informed that the Center has had a break in. Someone has stolen all the toys collected to be Christmas presents for the Center's children. Everyone is outraged and heartbroken. Alicia contacts the police, but believes this case will be a low priority for them. One of the volunteers, Gia DiLauro, comes into Alicia's office and suggests that Alicia contact a man named Jack, who might be able to help.

Gia goes to Jack's apartment and tells him what has happened. Jack is unhappy that Gia has spoken to someone about him. Jack is a mercenary of sorts, a man who devotes his life to getting justice for those who cannot get justice through normal channels. Jack has made many enemies over the years and fears for the safety of Gia and her daughter Vicky should anyone connect them to him. Jack is also unhappy to hear that Gia devotes her free time to the Center. Jack worries about her contracting the AIDS virus. Gia puts his fears to rest and uses her feminine influence to get him to agree to meet Alicia.

Jack makes his way over to the Center, first stopping in a small sporting goods store where his friend, Abe, supplies him with all the weaponry he might ever need. Jack asks for a pair of white gloves with metal embedded in the fingers and palms. Jack then goes to the Center. Alicia meets him at the front, where she looks out the windows and is frightened to see a gray sedan parked out front that she is sure she has seen before. Alicia then takes Jack on a tour of the building. Jack meets a cute little boy, Hector. Hector is four and very proud of his new haircut. Jack finds himself amused by the child despite his fear of Hector's medical condition.



In the gray sedan out front, Sam Baker is checking out his hair in the mirror. Age is beginning to show on Baker, and it reminds him how desperately he needs this job to work out. Baker is working for an Arab named Kemel. Kemel is currently angry with Baker for blowing up Alicia Clayton's lawyer. However, Baker believes he did exactly what Kemel wanted, to get the lawyer out of the way. Now Baker is concerned that his future with Kemel and his company may be in jeopardy, so he is intent on making sure he does not fail him again.

Jack and Alicia go into her office and discuss the toys. Jack tells Alicia he will find the toys and return them to the Center if possible. Alicia suspects Jack is doing this in order to make money off the Center, but is reassured when Jack assures her that his fee has already been paid. When the meeting is over, Jack makes his way out of the building, pausing to look into the nursery where he can see Gia feeding a baby. Jack encounters Hector again in the hallway. This time Hector is a different child, quiet. As Jack walks past, Hector throws up and is quickly taken to the infirmary.

## Friday Analysis

Dr. Alicia Clayton watches as her lawyer is blown up in his car and she walks away. Right away the reader sees fear in Alicia and wonders what she might be hiding that would cause her to walk away from such a scene. Alicia then arrives at work and learns that toys meant for children with the AIDS virus have been stolen. Everyone is outraged, as they ought to be, but again Alicia shows reluctance to speak to the police. The reader is even more curious now. Whatever it is that keeps Alicia from speaking to the police must be very important to her.

Jack is introduced when his girlfriend suggests to Alicia that she use his services to find the toys. Gia is a kind, compassionate woman who just happens to be in love with a mercenary of sorts. Jack is a man who devotes his time to getting justice for people who cannot get it any other way. Jack lives in a dangerous world, and as a result, Gia is in danger just by knowing him. Jack is concerned that Gia spoke to Alicia about him, afraid the simple connection could cause Gia trouble at some later date. This shows the reader how dangerous Jack's job can be and how seriously he takes it.

Jack stops by his weapons supplier and asks for special white gloves before going to see Alicia. The reader wonders about this, but is not overly curious at this point. When Jack arrives at the Center, the reader sees his phobia in regards to the disease these children have. It is understandable, some might believe, but some might see it as a little over the top. Jack seems to conquer this fear to a certain degree when he meets Hector Lopez, a four year old who is very excited about his new haircut. Later, when Hector becomes sick, Jack is able to overcome his fear long enough to get help for the child.

Alicia agrees to hire Jack, despite fear that he might be attempting to take advantage of the Center. Jack assures her he will get the toys back and he will get them back within a few days. Alicia is reassured by Jack's promises. At the same time, someone appears to be following Alicia. A gray sedan sits outside the Center, one she has seen before.



Inside it is a man, Sam Baker, who is following her for a man named Kemel. Baker is also the man who blew up Alicia's lawyer that morning because he was getting in Kemel's way. The reader is curious who this Kemel is and why he wants Alicia out of his way.



# Saturday and Sunday

## Saturday and Sunday Summary

The Nail, a drug addict, sat behind the wheel of his truck and waited for the fence to show up. The Nail has a child who lives at the Center for Children with AIDS. When the Nail visited his kid a few weeks ago, he saw all the toys they had. The Nail thought all those toys would pay for a lot of drugs. The Nail broke into the Center and stole the toys. Now the Nail was waiting for his buyer. Suddenly the Nail hears a noise at the back of the truck. When the Nail gets out to investigate, he is attacked by someone dressed as Santa. The Nail takes out a gun and shoots the guy, but the guy jumps right back up and comes after the Nail. The Santa beats the Nail until he wishes he would stop. Then the Santa ties the Nail to the front of the truck and drives through town. Before the Nail knows it, he is sitting in front of the Center for Children with AIDS.

Alicia stops by the hospital to check on Hector and finds him recovering from his bout of nausea and vomiting. Hector still has a fever, but all tests have come back negative. Alicia is still concerned. Alicia leaves the hospital and heads for her office, hoping to catch up on paperwork. Alicia arrives to find the police outside the Center. Alicia is told all the toys have been returned. Gia is very excited about this turn of events when she goes to visit Jack later that afternoon. However, when she sees the bruise on his chest made when the Nail shot Jack in his bulletproof vest, she is frightened. This is the reason Gia has refused to marry Jack. Gia pressures Jack once more to quit his work and get into something more legal, but Jack does not want to hear it. Jack gets enough of that from his dad and does not want to discuss it with Gia. However, Jack finds himself thinking about the prospect of going legit, if only to spend the rest of his life with Gia and Vicky.

## Saturday and Sunday Analysis

Jack promised Alicia he would get the toys back. Jack does just that. Jack dresses up like Santa Claus and attacks the thief before tying him to the front of the truck and returning the toys to the Center. Not only do the police get the toys, but they are able to arrest the thief as well. Alicia is thrilled with this turn of events, making her think she might be able to enlist Jack's help in her own personal problems.

Jack spends Sunday afternoon with Gia. During this afternoon the reader gets to see the complicated relationship that exists between these two characters. Gia is unhappy with Jack's choice of profession. Gia wants Jack to stop his mercenary work and do something legal. Gia wants to be married to Jack, but is unwilling to consider the possibility as long as he works at such a dangerous job. Jack tells her if he goes legit, he will have to become a part of the establishment. This is something Jack really does not want to do; however, Gia continues to pressure him. Jack's dad, who is not aware of what Jack does for a living, is also pressuring him to get a job that will set him up



financially. Jack is tired of all this pressure. The idea of spending his life with Gia and Vicky is tempting, however.

# Monday

## Monday Summary

Alicia arrives at the dark bar where Jack has agreed to meet her and hesitates, afraid to go inside, but she overcomes her fear and finds Jack at the back of the room. Over drinks, Alicia tells her story to Jack. Alicia's father, Ronald Clayton, died in a plane crash some months ago. Alicia learns soon after that she was named his sole heir. Alicia, at first, wanted nothing to do with her father's estate because she and her father were estranged, and she wants nothing to do with him. However, Alicia changed her mind soon after and decided that she would sell the house and use the proceeds to help the Center. At that point, Alicia was contacted by her half-brother, Thomas, who offered to buy the house from her for three million dollars. Alicia turned him down.

Jack listens and does not understand why Alicia needs his help. It seems that Alicia has several legal avenues to end this situation. Even as she continues her story and tells Jack that now her brother is contesting the will in the courts, he cannot see what her problem is. Then Alicia tells Jack that two people she has hired to help her have been killed. The first was a private detective she hired to find out where Thomas was getting the money to fight her, since Alicia knows that Thomas cannot fund the expensive lawyers or come up with the money he offered for the house on his own. That private eye was run over by a car while working on her case. The second was her lawyer who was blown up by a car bomb. This gets Jack's attention. Alicia tells him she simply wants this whole mess over. Alicia suggests that he burn down the house. Jack is surprised by this, but promises to look into it.

When Alicia leaves the bar, she is lost in thought about what Jack has said. Alicia decides that she will try to find another arsonist in case Jack refuses to do the job. Before Alicia can get a cab, she spots three young men attempting to steal a car. Alicia does not have a chance to do anything because Jack comes out of the bar and approaches the boys. Jack starts talking to them and then suddenly begins talking about how good eyes taste. Jack reaches up to one boy and grabs at his eye. A minute later, Jack opens his mouth and shows the boy's friends the boy's eye in his mouth. The other two boys run away. Jack then sees Alicia and starts to laugh. Alicia is disgusted and outraged until Jack shows her that the eye is fake and all he did was spray pepper spray in the boy's eye.

Sam Baker is once again following Alicia. Baker gets a phone call from Kemel checking to be sure he is on the job. Kemel wants to be informed the moment Alicia appears to be hiring a new lawyer. Following Sam Baker is Yoshio Takita. Yoshio is from Japan; he is following Baker because he knows that Baker is working for the men who are backing Thomas Clayton. Yoshio is not sure what he is trying to find out about Thomas, but is confident he will figure it all out if he follows Thomas and his friends long enough.



Later that afternoon, Jack meets with a new client. Jorge is an immigrant from Ecuador who runs a janitorial service. Jorge has a customer who is also an immigrant from Ecuador, who has refused to pay for his service. This customer has discovered that Jorge has employed illegals and uses this against him to keep him from suing for payment. Jack agrees to take on the case. Jack and Jorge agree on a fee and Jack leaves. Jack wants to look at the Clayton house.

Alicia is in her office, working on paperwork while the Center's children are occupied with lunch. Alicia hears voices in the hallway where there should not be any. Alicia finds the source of the voices, a hall closet, and discovers a male volunteer molesting one of the children. Alicia grabs a fire extinguisher and attacks the man until other employees are forced to pull her away. During the aftermath, Jack calls Alicia to tell her he does not think a fire is a good idea for her house. The house stands too close to neighboring homes and businesses. Jack does not get a chance to speak to Alicia, however.

Kemel has just finished his prayers and turns his attention to a Victoria's Secret catalog. Kemel feels guilty for looking at the catalog and wishes he could return home. However, it does not seem that will happen until Alicia Clayton allows them to take her father's house. Khalid Nazer, Kemel's immediate superior in America, arrives. Nazer wants to see a lamp that Kemel has in the apartment. Yoshio is listening from his apartment across the way and is curious as to what they are looking at. Yoshio has already broken into the apartment once to look at the lamp, but saw nothing special about it. Perhaps he will break in again.

## Monday Analysis

Alicia tells Jack and the reader about her personal problems. Alicia is in the middle of a legal battle over her father's will. Alicia was made the sole heir, but her half-brother is contesting the will for reasons that are not clear to Alicia. Thomas also seems to have come into some money or has some support from someone with a great deal of money, based on the lawyers he has hired and the money he has offered for the house. Alicia has had a falling out with her father and half-brother. As a result, Alicia wants nothing to do with Thomas and wants this situation ended now. Alicia suggests perhaps Jack could burn down the house. Jack agrees to think about it, but when he sees the house, he decides it would not be possible to burn it down without taking out the whole block.

When Alicia leaves, she is already thinking how to find another arsonist. While thinking about this, Alicia sees Jack pull a trick on a group of young men attempting to steal a car. Alicia is outraged at first when she thinks that Jack has wounded one of the boys, but when she learns it is only a trick, she finds herself conflicted over whether or not Jack is someone with whom she wants to be involved. Back at her office, Alicia walks in on a man molesting one of the children. Alicia goes ballistic and nearly kills the man with a fire extinguisher. Alicia's reaction, based on the fact that she no longer speaks to her father or half-brother, should give the reader a clue as to the secret Alicia is hiding.



Sam Baker, the man who is following Alicia, is being followed himself. Yoshio is a Japanese man who clearly has no clue what is going on with the Clayton house; however, he is determined to figure it out. Yoshio not only has Baker under surveillance, but also Kemel. Yoshio watches as Kemel shows his boss, Nazer, a lamp that he keeps burning twenty four hours a day in his apartment. Yoshio has checked out this lamp, but has no idea what is so special about it. Yoshio is determined to find out, however.



# Tuesday and Wednesday

## Tuesday and Wednesday Summary

Alicia has taken the day off and is working with her plants when her bell rings. Alicia is not accustomed to having visitors to her apartment and is frightened at first. When Alicia learns her visitor is the detective who dealt with the child molester the day before, she lets him in. The detective is a young man who is clearly attracted to Alicia. Alicia is uncomfortable with male attention but is interested in what the detective has to say. It seems the man Alicia caught molesting the little girl is claiming that Alicia attacked him unprovoked. The man plans on suing Alicia for assault and making a complaint against her with the medical board unless she drops her charges against him. The detective, Will Matthews, tells her he will investigate and see if he can learn anything that will help her. Jack arrives a few minutes after Matthews leaves. Jack tells Alicia he cannot burn down her father's house because of the danger to other properties. Jack then makes Alicia promise that she will not do it herself or find anyone else to do it; however, Alicia has already found someone.

The next day, Alicia visits Hector and discovers that he appears to be doing better but has spiked a fever. Alicia suspects Hector might have an infection that they have yet to find. Alicia orders more tests before returning to her office. Once Alicia arrives at her office, she receives a call from Detective Matthews. Matthews says he has learned something about the molester but wants to tell her over lunch. Alicia agrees reluctantly. Alicia spends the walk to the restaurant trying to come up with a fake boyfriend to discourage Matthews' attentions. However, once she arrives, she finds Matthews so friendly and open that she never has a chance to use the fake boyfriend ploy. During lunch Matthews tells Alicia that the molester has been arrested several times before on the same charges, but each time had the charges dropped. Matthews thinks that this is good news and promises to follow up on it.

Back at the office, Alicia gets a call from the arsonist she has hired. The fire is planned for that night. Alicia waits anxiously in her apartment, hoping to hear word of the fire over the police radio she bought. Unknown to her, however, the arsonist has been caught in the house by the security patrol Thomas hired. Baker and his men kill the arsonist. At the same time, Yoshio has broken into Kemel's apartment again to look at the lamp but sees nothing unusual about it. Yoshio believes that whatever fascinates Kemel and Nazer so much must be something they take out of the apartment with them when they leave.

## Tuesday and Wednesday Analysis

Detective Matthews, the detective who is investigating Alicia's allegations against the child molester, comes to her house to warn her that the accused is planning on turning the tables on her. It is quickly clear to both Alicia and the reader that Matthews is



interested in Alicia. When Matthews suggest that he will investigate further in order to help Alicia, it is even clearer that he has romantic ideas about her. Alicia does not feel comfortable with these feelings, however, and quickly tries to find a way to discourage Matthews when he calls and insists on meeting for lunch. Alicia is so enamored of Matthews over lunch, however, that she does not use the perfect fake boyfriend that she came up with on the way to lunch.

Jack finds Alicia at home and tells her that he cannot burn down her house. Jack makes Alicia promise she will not look for another arsonist, but Alicia already has someone in mind. Alicia arranges for this man to burn down her house the following night. Unknown to her, Alicia's arsonist is caught in the house by Baker and his man. The arsonist is killed. At the same time, Yoshio continues his surveillance of Kemel. Yoshio breaks into Kemel's apartment and looks at the lamp that Kemel and Nazer are so fascinated by, but can see nothing unusual. Yoshio comes to the conclusion that whatever they are looking at when they look at the lamp, they must take with them when they leave the apartment.



# Thursday

## Thursday Summary

Jack learns about a local arsonist's death and knows immediately that Alicia hired him. Jack marches into Alicia's office and yells at her for going against her word. Alicia is devastated to learn she is responsible for a man's death. Jack, when he is done being angry, finds himself more curious about the situation surrounding the Clayton house. Jack wants to know what is in the will. Alicia has never seen it but has a copy. Jack and Alicia look at the will together and find it strange—filled with poetry quotes. They also discover that if anything happens to Alicia, the house goes to Greenpeace. The will also implies that the house holds a key to something that would change the world. Jack agrees to help Alicia as long as she promises no more attempted fires.

Later that afternoon, Jack spends time with a real estate agent looking for a house. Jack finds a Victorian house that fits his needs perfectly. Jack rents the house under a false name and with a fake check. Jack then walks back toward the Center thinking he might talk to Alicia about a lawyer friend of his who will keep Thomas and his backers busy while they try to figure out what key is hidden in the house. When Jack approaches the Center he sees Alicia leaving. Jack chases her, but before he can catch up to her, he sees her pushed into a van. Jack commandeers a taxi and chases after the van. Jack causes an accident. When the driver gets out of the van, Jack beats him up. Baker gets out of the van next, and Jack beats him as well. Inside, Jack finds Alicia alone with Thomas. Jack pulls Alicia out of the van and they escape. Yoshio witnesses the whole ordeal and finds himself fascinated with Jack.

Afterward, Jack is sorry that he got Alicia out of the van. Jack thinks it might have been better to leave her there so that someone could call the police and make a report against Thomas. They cannot do that now because Jack cannot be a witness. However, Jack agrees to continue to help Alicia, and they agree that he will get a third of anything they find in the house. Later that night, Jack drives past the house trying to form a plan to help Alicia. After seeing the security, Jack turns his thoughts to Thomas' lawyers. Jack wants to find out who is backing Thomas and believes a visit to the lawyers will help. Jack asks Alicia about the lawyer and forms a plan. At the same time, Kemel gets word that his eldest son has been arrested for theft. Kemel knows this will mean the loss of his right hand. Kemel wants to go home but cannot leave until his organization has gained control of the Clayton house.

## Thursday Analysis

Jack is angry with Alicia for causing the death of the arsonist but is softened when he sees her guilt. Jack and Alicia take a look at Clayton's will and discover some oddities about it. There seem to be messages in the will in the form of poetry quotes. One of these mentions a key that is hidden in the Clayton house. The will also states that if



Alicia dies, the house will go to Greenpeace. This seems to be the reason why Thomas has done nothing to harm Alicia, even though three people around her have died. Jack is becoming curious about this situation and decides to see if he can help Alicia. Jack thinks of a lawyer who will help and goes to tell Alicia only to witness her being kidnapped off the street. Jack chases down the kidnappers and saves Alicia. Later Jack agrees to help for a third of whatever is hidden in the house.

Yoshio watches Jack save Alicia and is fascinated by him. Yoshio wants to follow him but is unsuccessful because of heavy traffic. Kemel is also beginning to have trouble. Kemel, who has never been happy in America, learns that his son has been accused of theft. Kemel knows that unless he can stop the prosecution, his son will lose his right hand. Kemel is more determined than ever to end this situation and get home. However, Kemel is stuck waiting for Alicia to make a move.





# Friday

## Friday Summary

Jack contacts a friend of his, Milkdud, who breaks into buildings as a hobby. Jack noticed that Milkdud left his signature at the building where Thomas' lawyers have their offices. Jack asks him if he can help him break into the building. Jack wants to gain access to the lawyer's office in order to find out who Thomas' backers are. Milkdud agrees to help Jack gain access to the air conditioning vents above the lawyer's office. Later that day, Jack meets with Jorge in order to identify his customer's voice on a tape recorder. The customer, Ramirez, has called in response to a flyer Jack had Jorge leave in his office about a house for sale.

That night, Alicia gets a call from Matthews. Matthews has more information and wants to meet Alicia for dinner. Again Alicia is reluctant, but she agrees. Alicia finds Matthews as enjoyable as before. During dinner, Matthews tells Alicia that he arranged to have the molester caught by a police officer with an under-age child. Now the molester has a second charge against him, freeing Alicia from the charges the molester threatened to bring against her. Alicia is so happy, she drinks more than she intended. Matthews drives Alicia home. Before she can decide if she should invite him up for a drink, Alicia's beeper goes off. Alicia knows it has to be about Hector and asks Matthews to drive her quickly to the hospital.

## Friday Analysis

Jack has decided that he needs to know who is backing Thomas. Jack thinks he might be able to find out by putting a listening device in the lawyer's office. Instead, Jack's friend, who has hacked the building before, insists on making Jack break into the office himself. Jack is hesitant, but he wants to know the truth, so he agrees to his friend's demands. At the same time, Jack is still helping Jorge. Jack has Jorge identify the voice of his customer on a tape that the customer called in response to flyers about a house for sale. Now the reader knows why Jack rented the Victorian house.

Alicia is growing closer to Matthews despite her reluctance. Alicia really likes Matthews, and he seems to be going out of his way to help her. Matthews has arranged for the molester to be caught with another child, thus making it impossible for the molester to bring charges against Alicia. Alicia is off the hook. Matthews then drives Alicia home, and Alicia wants to invite him up but is afraid. Before she can decide, Alicia gets a call from the hospital. It seems Hector has taken a turn for the worse, just as Alicia suspected he might.



# Saturday and Sunday

## Saturday and Sunday Summary

Alicia spends the morning at the hospital. Hector has contracted a yeast infection throughout his body. At the same time, Jack is running a scam on Ramirez. Jack is pretending to be a real estate agent selling the Victorian house he rented. Jack implies that the owner is in the hospital dying of AIDS and needs cash right away. Jack asks for a deposit of twelve thousand dollars in cash. Just as he is about to make the deal, another man rings the bell. This other man appears to be a rival of Ramirez. Ramirez tells the man to leave, that they have a deal. Ramirez leaves to get the cash. When he is gone, the second man gives Jack fifteen thousand dollars in order to buy the house behind Ramirez's back. Jack takes that money and Ramirez's money.

Kemel's son's situation is getting worse, and Kemel can do nothing in America. Kemel is desperate to return home. Alicia stays at the hospital with Hector who is declining. Jack talks with his father on the phone, ignoring Jorge's calls of thanks. Baker visits his mother in the nursing home, where she is receiving care for Alzheimer's. Baker's sister arrives and makes threats against him should he allow her son, Kenny, to come to any harm. Kenny is part of Baker's men. Jack spends the afternoon with Gia, and they make plans to visit Florida that summer. Yoshio spends the day watching Thomas, finding Thomas' life lonely and pathetic.

## Saturday and Sunday Analysis

Alicia spends Saturday and Sunday at the hospital with Hector. Hector has taken a turn for the worse as a yeast infection spreads throughout his body. Jack runs a scam on Ramirez and ends up walking away with more than twice the money he had hoped to get. This episode shows the reader that Jack is not only muscle, but an intelligent man who knows how to scam people as well. On Sunday, everyone goes about their personal business. The reader gets to see Baker's more gentle side when he visits his mother in the hospital. This visit also shows the reader Baker's motivations in trying to procure a longterm job with Kemel's organization. Baker needs the money to take care of his mother and to keep his sister off his back.

Yoshio follows Thomas all day. All Thomas does is go to a strip joint, which Yoshio finds depressing. Kemel talks to his friend back home and discovers that his son's situation is growing more desperate, despite Kemel's attempts to exert his influence on government officials. Kemel needs to go home and deal with the situation in person but still must wait to get possession of the Clayton house. Jack is with Gia, making plans for a trip to Florida. It seems Jack is the only one having a bright day and looking forward to a nice future.



# Monday

## Monday Summary

Milkdud takes Jack to the building and helps him gain access to the elevator shaft. From there, Jack enters a small room where he can gain access to the air conditioning ducts. Jack crawls carefully through the shafts to the vent above the lawyer's office. Jack watches as Thomas and Kemel speak to the lawyer. Jack listens, but does not learn anything but Kemel's name. When Alicia arrives with Jack's lawyer friend, she is not led to the office where Jack had hoped she would be. Alicia yells at the lawyer, alerting Jack to where she is so that he can find the appropriate vent. Jack listens as Alicia asks for ten million dollars to sell the Clayton house to Thomas, as they had planned the night before.

After Alicia and her lawyer leave, Kemel and Thomas come into the room. Jack listens as they discuss the sale of the house, to which Kemel immediately agrees. Then Kemel and Thomas discuss the house and something very valuable that they think is inside. While they are leaving, Jack accidentally makes a noise, tipping Kemel off to his presence. Kemel orders the vents searched. Jack escapes by riding the top of an elevator while security explores the ducts. Later that afternoon, Jack goes to the Clayton house and watches the security detail. Jack has decided that he must search the house and that he has to take Alicia with him, although Alicia does not like this idea. That night, Alicia has dinner with Matthews. Alicia likes Matthews and decides to invite him up to her apartment. However, when Matthews kisses her, Alicia panics and makes him leave.

## Monday Analysis

Jack breaks into the building where Thomas' lawyer has his office. Jack listens as Thomas talks with Kemel, learning that they believe there is something very valuable in the Clayton house. Jack is surprised by this, but determined to find it before they do. Jack makes a plan to break into the Clayton house and search for this hidden key. In the meantime, Kemel is convinced that someone overheard his conversation with Thomas in the lawyer's office and is glad that Alicia has agreed to sell. Despite the high price, Kemel feels that it is well worth it to get rid of Alicia and to get himself out of America.

Alicia has another date with Matthews. Since her trouble with the molester is over, it is clearly a date. Alicia really likes Matthews; however, when she invites him into her apartment and Matthews kisses her, Alicia panics and sends him away. Once again the reader is aware that Alicia has a secret and that it has to do with her father and her half-brother. Alicia's secret clearly has to do with sexual abuse, touching on the theme of child abuse, leaving the reader questioning only the details of this abuse.



# Tuesday

## Tuesday Summary

Jack and Alicia make their way to the Clayton house in a rented car. Jack tries to reassure Alicia, not quite sure why she is so upset about having to enter her childhood home. When they arrive, Jack tells Alicia to wait in the car for five minutes and then meet him in front of the house. Jack then dons an outfit that looks like a window washer's getup and walks to the front of the house where the security car is sitting. Jack pretends to wash their windows while at the same time pouring a gas in their air vent that is meant to put them to sleep. Within a few minutes the men are out cold. Jack and Alicia go into the house where they discover it has been carefully searched already. Jack explores the basement and the ground floor and then he and Alicia go upstairs. Alicia stays in her childhood bedroom while Jack goes into the master bedroom. Jack immediately finds a key hidden among the copper pipes feeding the bathroom. When Jack returns to Alicia's childhood room, he finds her playing with a remote control car. Alicia tells him that the car insists on going in one direction no matter what she does. Jack finds this interesting and decides to take it as well.

Jack and Alicia have been in the house too long. The security men have woken and are waiting for them. However, before the men can stop them, someone shoots them. It turns out Yoshio has been watching Jack and Alicia all night and has decided it is in his best interest to help them get away. Jack and Alicia escape, barely getting away from the house before Baker and Kemel show up. Alicia is rattled by the deaths of the security guards and wants to go home. However, Jack drives her out into the country where he has a small house. The house looks as though no one has lived in it for a long time. Jack assures Alicia that the house's appearance is deceptive. Alicia does not understand what they are doing in this house and wants to go home. Before she can make her argument, though, Baker and his men show up. Jack punches in a code on some sort of security pad and then drags Alicia into the basement.

The house is quickly filled with Baker and his men, including Kemel. The men search the house. When they do not find Jack and Alicia right away, the men turn to the attic. In the attic they find a bunch of toy cannons. The men laugh, believing them to be toys. However, they are not and one of the men is killed when a canon goes off. Another man finds a wall safe and gets his hand impaled when he reaches inside. Then a timer for a bomb begins to count down. Baker and Kenny manage to get the man's hand out of the safe and out of the house before the bomb goes off. The bomb appears to have been a dud, though, as it only makes a small explosion. Seconds later, however, another bomb goes off, killing several more of Baker's men. Using the explosion as a cover, Jack and Alicia run from the field across the street where they were hiding after using a tunnel and escape in their car. Jack takes Alicia to a motel where they spend the night.



## Tuesday Analysis

Jack needs to get into Ronald Clayton's house in order to find the key that is mentioned in the will and something that Kemel and Thomas clearly want. Jack knows that Kemel and his men do not have the key yet or else they would not be willing to pay ten million to buy the house from Alicia. Alicia is unwilling to go into the house for reasons Jack does not understand. The reader suspects that the house is the site of whatever abuse Alicia suffered, which is why she does not want to go inside. This suspicion is confirmed when Alicia reacts almost violently to the idea of entering the house's basement.

Jack finds a key that appears to open a safety deposit box. Alicia finds a remote control car that is a model of a Land Rover. Alicia believes it is significant because it seems to only want to travel in one direction and because the will mentions a rover. Jack takes both objects and leads Alicia outside only to discover the security guards are awake and waiting for them. Before Jack can react, someone shoots the two men. Jack does not know it, but Yoshio has followed them to the house and felt it was in his best interest to help them get away. Yoshio does not want Kemel to get a hold of whatever Jack might have found.

Jack and Alicia escape seconds before Baker and Kemel show up. Jack takes Alicia to a house he owns in the country, despite her desire to go home. Jack knows that Baker and Kemel will follow them, though he does not know how. Once in the house, Jack makes sure Baker sees him and then leads Alicia to a tunnel that runs from the house to the field across the street. Then Jack watches as Baker and his men run into several booby traps Jack has prepared in the house. Jack and Alicia escape. Jack refuses to allow Alicia to return home that night and instead insists that they stay in a motel just in case Baker is still on their tail. Things have gotten more dangerous over the past few hours and Jack is going to make sure Alicia makes it through it.



# Wednesday

## Wednesday Summary

Jack wants to keep Alicia away from her normal routine, but Alicia insists on going to the hospital to check on Hector. Reluctantly Jack agrees, but makes her promise she will not leave the hospital or the Center without an escort. After work, Jack says he will pick her up and take her to a safe house for the night. After Jack drops Alicia off at the hospital, he goes to an ID shop and then the bank listed on the key. When Jack returns to his car after removing the contents of Ronald Clayton's safe deposit box, he finds Yoshio waiting for him. Yoshio puts a gun on Jack and insists on taking the envelopes Jack took from the safe deposit box. However, the envelopes do not contain what either man suspected. Inside the envelopes are pictures of Alicia and Thomas as small children engaged in sexual acts. Now Jack knows why Alicia is angry at her father and was reluctant to go into that house the night before.

Jack and Yoshio talk. Yoshio puts the gun down and tells Jack about Kemel and his organization, Iswid Nahr. Yoshio tells Jack how Thomas went to Iswid Nahr and told them about an invention Ronald Clayton had created. At the same time, Clayton went to the organization Yoshio works for, Kaze Group, and offered to sell his invention to them. However, Clayton never made it to Tokyo, so no one in the Kaze Group knows what Clayton's invention was or why Iswid Nahr wants it. Yoshio tells Jack that he has been following Thomas and his cohorts, hoping to learn what the invention is, but so far has not had the luck Jack has. Jack asks Yoshio if they can work together, but Yoshio says this might not be a good idea, so both men go their own way.

Later, Jack turns his attention to the remote control car he and Alicia found in her father's house. Jack tries to figure out what is controlling the car and why it wants to go in one direction. Jack finds that instead of batteries, the car has a silver object in its battery compartment. Jack takes the car to Abe, who takes the car apart and realizes that it is powered by broadcast power. Abe explains to Jack how this power could revolutionize the world, making the need for oil obsolete. Now Jack knows why Iswid Nahr is so interested in the power. Jack also realizes that the car travels in one direction because it is attempting to lead whoever finds the car to the transmitter that provides its power. Jack goes to Alicia and tells her about what he has learned. Alicia is not as excited as Jack, however, because Hector died that morning. Alicia is feeling powerless and is not thrilled to learn her father has created something that will make him a hero on a worldwide scale.

That night, Jack takes Alicia to the Victorian house he rented for the Ramirez scam. Jack gives Alicia the pictures that he found in the safe deposit box and a shredder. Alicia breaks down while destroying the pictures and tells Jack about the abuse she suffered at the hands of her father and her half-brother. Then Jack suggests they go see Thomas. Thomas has other photos that he found in their father's house. While Jack and Alicia burn the photos, Thomas tells them how he found a lamp in his father's house that



was powered by broadcast power and how his father refused to go public with the invention because of patent problems. Thomas stole the lamp and took it to Nazer, a representative of Iswid Nahr. Thomas expects to get millions of dollars when Iswid Nahr takes possession of the power and its secrets. Alicia laughs and tells him that all he will get is dead because Iswid Nahr only wants to destroy the power to keep the world dependent on Saudi Arabian oil. Afterward, Jack leaves Alicia at the Victorian house while he goes to spend the evening with Gia and Vicky. At the same time, Kemel has become frustrated with Baker and insists that he find Alicia in order to end this once and for all.

## Wednesday Analysis

Jack finds pornographic pictures of Alicia with her half-brother, Thomas. Later Jack learns that Alicia's father would take the pictures in order to trade with other collectors. Jack helps Alicia get rid of the pictures, hoping it will provide a sort of closure to the abuse she suffered as a child. Jack also helps Alicia destroy pictures that Thomas has. Now the reader knows the details of Alicia's abuse and understands fully why she has reacted to Thomas and his claims on their father's house the way she has.

Jack meets up with Yoshio and learns the background of the situation surrounding the house. Yoshio tells Jack how Ronald Clayton tried to sell his invention to the Japanese organization, Kaze Group. Yoshio also tells Jack how Iswid Nahr blew up the airliner Ronald Clayton was flying in on the way to Tokyo in order to stop him. However, Yoshio cannot tell Jack what the invention is that everyone is so excited about. Jack finds this out later when he takes the remote control car to Abe. Abe discovers that the car is powered by broadcast power, a theoretical power that would mean the world would no longer be dependent on wires or oil. Jack is excited by this idea and rushes to tell Alicia about it. However, Alicia is not impressed partly because Hector has died and partly because as the inventor of this power, her father would be famous. This is the last thing Alicia wants.

Kemel is anxious to be done with this business. Kemel feels a great deal of pressure to return home and save his son from punishment for theft. Despite the fact that the paperwork has begun on the sale of the house, Kemel feels that Alicia is up to something and orders Baker to use the transmitter he placed in her bag to find her and end the situation. However, Kemel warns Baker not to harm Alicia as he has done to others in the past.



# Thursday and Christmas Eve

## Thursday and Christmas Eve Summary

Yoshio watches as Jack and Alicia prepare to leave town. Yoshio finds a way to go with them without their knowledge. Jack and Alicia drive toward the mountains, following the direction in which the remote control car wants to travel. Jack suspects the transmitter is in Ulster County. Jack and Alicia drive all day, finally arriving at a dirt road that leads to a small cabin. In the cabin, Jack and Alicia find what has to be the transmitter and file cabinets filled with blueprints and other notes and instructions. Moments after arriving, Yoshio arrives, telling Jack he had hidden in the trunk of their rental car.

Before Yoshio can make any demands or even understand what is happening, Kemel and Baker arrive. Baker takes control of the situation while Thomas searches through the file cabinets, assuring Kemel that they have finally found what they want. Thomas is excited because he believes he is now a millionaire. Alicia mocks him, saying Kemel can now kill him. Thomas pulls a gun. Before Thomas can fire, Baker shoots him. Thomas' gun goes off and Kemel is shot. While everyone is distracted by this gun play, Jack and Yoshio run out of the cabin. Jack is intent on getting to his car for the gun he left there, but is blocked by Baker's men. Yoshio, at the same time, is overrun by Baker's men and killed.

Jack runs out into the woods and manages to stay one step ahead of Baker's men. Jack overpowers one of these men, killing him as the other approaches. Jack and Kenny fight, and Kenny is killed. Baker hears this and drags Alicia out onto the porch, using her to bring Jack out of hiding. Jack rushes to reach Alicia, but cannot get to her before Baker reloads his gun. Thomas, who everyone thought was dead, shoots Baker in order to save Alicia. When all finished, Jack loads all the dead bodies into Baker's van and leaves it in a parking lot a few towns away. Alicia stays at the cabin, left to make a decision on what to do with her father's broadcast power.

Alicia calls Matthews as she makes her way home, asking if he has time to have a long talk with her. Alicia has been alone in the cabin for several days and has made many decisions about her future and hopes her future will include Matthews. Jack is spending the evening with Gia and Vicky in the nursery at the Center for Children with AIDS. Jack is listening to a radio station that broadcasts from Ulster County. When Jack hears about a large fire in the area, he asks Vicky to turn on the remote control car. Nothing happens. Jack knows now that Alicia has made her decision.

## Thursday and Christmas Eve Analysis

Jack and Alicia go looking for the transmitter, which is the key to the puzzle for which everyone has been searching. Using the remote control car, Jack is able to find the cabin where Ronald Clayton hid his invention. Unknown to Jack, Yoshio is riding in his





trunk, and Baker has traced them using a transmitter he put in Alicia's handbag. Everyone arrives at the cabin within minutes of each other, each person thinking about the millions of dollars they stand to make when they go public with this invention, except Kemel, who knows he must kill everyone to keep the invention secret.

A shootout begins between Thomas and Baker. Baker shoots Thomas, who then shoots Kemel. Baker then takes control, sending his men after Jack and Yoshio, who have escaped during the chaos. Jack manages to get the upper hand on Baker's men and rush Baker. Jack's life looks to be in danger, however, because Baker has reloaded his gun sooner than expected. Thomas kills Baker in order to save Alicia's life when he sees what is happening. When it is all over, Alicia is the sole heir again. Alicia must now decide what to do with her father's invention. The reader can see the quandary Alicia is in. Alicia stands to make millions on the invention and to help many impoverished countries that are dependent on oil; however, going public with broadcast power also means making Ronald Clayton a hero on an international level.

Alicia has made her choice and begins the drive home. Alicia calls Matthews, hoping he will want to be part of her future. When Jack hears a radio report of a fire in Ulster County, he knows that Alicia has made her decision. Jack appears to accept what Alicia has done, understanding she had to do it for her own well being. Jack is content in his life and hopes the same for Alicia.



# Characters

## Dr. Alicia Clayton

Alicia is a doctor with specialties in both pediatrics and infectious diseases. Alicia has returned to New York City where she was raised in order to work in the Center for Children with AIDS. Alicia is not happy being back in this city because she has bad memories of her childhood; however, the chance to work with children with AIDS is an opportunity she feels she cannot pass up. Shortly after returning to the city, however, Alicia's father, Ronald Clayton, dies. Alicia learns that she is her father's sole heir despite the fact that she has not spoken to her father in many years, and she has a half brother. At first, Alicia tells the lawyer she has no interest in her father's estate. However, Alicia changes her mind, deciding she would like to have her father's house in order to sell it and perhaps donate the money to the Center.

Thomas, Alicia's half brother, calls in order to make an offer on the house. Thomas knows his sister does not want the house and thinks he can buy it from her. Alicia refuses. Thomas begins legal proceedings to protest the will. Alicia is upset by this action on her brother's part because she simply wants to get rid of the house but does not want to sell it to her brother or have anything to do with him. Thomas apparently has a backer with a great deal of money and promises to make this situation unpleasant as possible. When Alicia's lawyer dies when his car is blown up, she becomes scared, but more determined than ever to see this to the end. Alicia hires Repairman Jack to help her end the situation one way or another.

Alicia wants to burn down the house, but Jack refuses due to its closeness to other homes. Jack instead suggests that they do everything they can to find out why Thomas is so interested in the house. Alicia reluctantly agrees to break into the house with Jack and search it for whatever Thomas and his backers are so desperate to have. Jack finds a key that reveals to him Alicia's secret past. Alicia was sexually abused by her father and half brother as a small child. This is why Alicia wants to get rid of the house and why she refuses to sell to Thomas. Jack also finds a peculiar remote control car that appears to be the answer to the secret of Ronald Clayton's house. Jack uses the car to find a transmitter that provides broadcast power. This transmitter is highly valuable to many people; however, Alicia chooses to burn the tower rather than allow her father to become famous.

## Repairman Jack

Repairman Jack lives anonymously in New York City and runs a service to help people who need justice but cannot get it through normal channels. For this reason, Jack lives outside the grid, without a social security number or any other identification that someone might use to track him. In this novel, Jack helps several people, including a



man who runs a janitorial service. Jack runs a scam on an unscrupulous business man in order to get back the money owed to his client for services performed.

Jack is in love with Gia. Gia works as a volunteer at the Center for Children with AIDS. When Gia hears that the toys for the children have been stolen, she suggests to Dr. Clayton that she contact Jack. Jack is unhappy that Gia gave Alicia his name because he is afraid if anyone ever connects Gia to him, she might be in danger. However, when Jack hears the story about the stolen toys and meets one of the children who benefits from the services of the Center, he is convinced to help. Jack tracks down the thief and returns the toys. After this success, Alicia decides to hire him to help her with her problems about her father's house.

At first, Jack is not interested in helping Alicia because he feels she has other avenues she could pursue that would not require his kind of help. However, the more Jack gets to know Alicia and the more he sees the lengths to which her brother will go to to get the house, Jack becomes interested. Jack decides to help Alicia. Jack and Alicia break into her father's house where they find both a safety deposit box key and a remote control car. The key reveals only the truth behind Alicia's childhood abuse. The car, on the other hand, appears to be the key to the entire mystery surrounding the house. The car is powered by broadcast power and appears to be programmed to lead its owner to the transmitter that provides this power. Jack follows the car and the bad guys follow Jack. A shootout ensues at the cabin where the transmitter is hidden. Jack and Alicia win out and Alicia is left with a decision to make. Alicia ends up destroying the cabin rather than allow her father to become a hero.

## Thomas Clayton

Thomas Clayton is a middle-aged man, who has spent his entire life only doing what he must do to get by. Thomas is Alicia's half brother. Thomas is intelligent, but has held only mid-level jobs all his life. When Thomas goes to visit his father one afternoon shortly before his death, he discovers that his father has created broadcast power, a source of power that does not require wires or fuel. Thomas wants his father to go public with this news, but Ronald Clayton refuses and refuses to allow Thomas to do so as well. Thomas is not satisfied with this answer and decides to go out on his own and sell the information. Thomas decides the highest bidder would most likely be Saudi Arabia, since they provide most of the world's oil.

Thomas tells a representative of a Saudi Arabian business group about his father's discovery. This group investigates and learns not only that the power is true, but that Ronald Clayton has agreed to sell the secret to Japan. The Saudi Arabians do not want this to happen, so they blow up Clayton's plane before learning the secret behind the power. When it turns out that Alicia is Clayton's sole heir, Thomas is instructed to get her to sell him their father's house. When Alicia refuses, Thomas' backers begin legal proceedings to protest the will.



Thomas goes along with his Saudi Arabian friends in everything they decide to do, believing he will one day be a rich man. However, Thomas is naive and does not realize that once the Saudi Arabians have what they want, they will kill everyone who has any knowledge of the power, so that they can destroy it and make sure no one knows it ever existed. When Thomas learns this, he pulls a gun on the bad guys; however, Thomas is inexperienced with guns and ends up being shot himself. Thomas is not dead, however, and manages to save his sister and Jack when Sam Baker threatens their lives. Shortly after this, Thomas dies as well.

## Ronald Clayton

Ronald Clayton is a highly-intelligent scientist, who has gathered enough information in his years of research to create broadcast power. However, much of the science Clayton has based his invention on is patented by the many companies for which Clayton worked over the years. Clayton knows that if he goes public with his invention, there will be patent fights for many years, diluting his credit and the money he would make. Clayton wants to hold off revealing the existence of broadcast power until he can take full credit for it. However, when his son, Thomas, learns about his invention, Thomas only sees dollar signs. Thomas decides to sell the secret to Saudi Arabia, despite knowing they would never allow the power to become a reality.

Clayton decides to counter his son by selling his invention to Japan. Clayton is on a plane to visit with Japanese leaders when the plane is blown up over the ocean. After his death, Thomas finds out that Clayton has left everything to Alicia, including the house where Thomas believes Clayton has hidden the secret to broadcast power. Thomas fights his sister over ownership of the house while secretly searching the house to find the secret. Alicia and Jack beat him to the key to the secret, leading to a shootout in the mountains of upstate New York.

## Gia DiLauro and Vicky Westphalen

Gia DiLauro is a volunteer at the Center for Children with AIDS. Gia, a freelance artist, likes to hold the babies in the nursery. When Gia learns that the toys collected for the children's Christmas have been stolen, she takes a chance and tells the director about Jack. Gia is careful not to imply that she knows Jack personally, but simply tells Alicia that she knows someone who might help. In truth, however, Jack is someone who helped Gia in the past and is now her lover. Gia adores Jack, but is afraid of his profession and fearful that he may one day be killed. Gia insists on keeping their relationship casual until Jack agrees to quit his work and marry her.

Vicky Westphalen is Gia's daughter. Vicky was once in danger from people who wanted her father and his entire line gone. Jack saved Vicky's life. Now Vicky is like a daughter to Jack. It is because of Vicky that Jack agrees to recover the toys for the Center, and it is Vicky Jack thinks of when he learns of the abuse Alicia suffered as a child. Vicky is



the only reason that might one day make Jack give up his line of work and join the real world, getting a real job and living a normal life.

## Hector Lopez

Hector Lopez is a four-year-old boy Jack meets at the Center. Jack knows that Hector has HIV and is afraid to touch him when the enthusiastic boy greets him at the Center's day care. However, Jack is won over by the boy's outgoing personality and endearing passion for his new haircut. When Jack is leaving the center, he witnesses Hector becoming ill in the hallway. Jack gets help for Hector and finds himself concerned about the young boy's welfare. Alicia comes into the picture at this time, placing Hector in the hospital and devoting a great deal of her time to his care.

Hector is in foster care and Alicia believes that he has not been receiving his preventative medications. This fact becomes clear when Alicia discovers that Hector has pneumonia. The pneumonia becomes complicated by a massive yeast infection that is common in AIDS patients. Alicia watches as Hector fails to respond to the antibiotics she administers. Hector is clearly losing his battle with his illness. When the end comes, Alicia allows Hector to slip away instead of attempting to revive him. Hector has no future, only a future filled with pain and illness. Alicia sees no reason to prolong his suffering.

## Kemel Muhallal

Kemel is a member of the Iswid Nahr, a Saudi Arabian group that works to promote the use of oil around the world, forcing many countries to be reliant on Saudi Arabian oil. It is to this group that Thomas Clayton attempts to sell his father's invention in order to allow them to destroy it. Kemel is Clayton's contact in America and the man who provides financial backing for Thomas' fight for his father's estate.

Kemel is a religious man, who is uncomfortable being in America so far from his family. Kemel finds himself tempted by the evils of America and stranded from his son during a time of crisis. Kemel wants desperately to return to his home country in order to care for his family and his own religious needs. However, Alicia insists on dragging out the process of the home sale and forcing them to fight her in court. Kemel is further frustrated when the man his partner hired starts blowing up people. Kemel does not want death and destruction; he simply wants Clayton's secrets so he can destroy them and return home. This is not to be for Kemel, however, as he is killed when he and his team arrive at the cabin where Clayton hid his transmitter.

## Yoshio Takita

Yoshio works for a Japanese company called Kaze Group. Kaze Group is much like Iswid Nahr in that it works behind the scenes to promote the economy of its country. Kaze Group was contacted by Ronald Clayton about broadcast power and was set to



buy the technology when Clayton's plane crashed over the ocean. Unsure who was behind the bombing of the airliner, Kaze Groups sends Yoshio to America to investigate. Yoshio begins watching Thomas Clayton and quickly learns about Kemel and his team. However, Yoshio is unclear what the technology was that Clayton wanted to sell Kaze Group and is unsure why Kemel is helping Thomas fight Alicia's right to Clayton's house. Yoshio simply follows Thomas and Kemel around, hoping to stumble on some information that will help him figure things out.

When Jack becomes involved in the situation, Yoshio is fascinated by him. Yoshio follows Jack one afternoon when Jack goes to the bank to see what is in Clayton's safety deposit box. Yoshio sneaks into the back of Jack's car and forces him to show what he has found. Yoshio is just as disgusted as Jack when he finds that Clayton's hidden treasures are pornographic pictures of his children when they were young. Yoshio and Jack talk, and soon Yoshio discovers they are on the same side. Yoshio tells Jack all he knows. Yoshio then continues to follow Jack, suspecting that Jack is more likely to find the secret than Kemel and Thomas. Yoshio hides in the trunk of Jack's car when he drives with Alicia into the mountains and finds the transmitter. Unfortunately, Yoshio is killed by Baker and his men during the shootout that follows.

## **Sam Baker**

Sam Baker is a mercenary that Iswid Nahr hires to aid Kemel in stopping Alicia from taking the house. Sam Baker is hired to keep Alicia out of her father's house and to follow her in hopes of keeping one step ahead of her in the courts. Sam Baker is a bomb expert and takes it upon himself to blow up Alicia's lawyer. Kemel is very upset by this and demands that Sam Baker no longer go out on his own to do anything. Baker is annoyed by this order, but he wants to get a permanent job with Iswid Nahr, so he agrees to follow orders. Baker quietly follows Alicia and provides security on the house as ordered. However, when several of Baker's men are killed on the night that Jack and Alicia break into the house, Baker is determined to kill Jack.

Baker holds back until the transmitter is discovered. When this happens, Baker realizes that the transmitter could provide him with the income he needs to live comfortably for the rest of his life. Baker shoots both Thomas and Kemel. Jack and Yoshio escape in the ensuing chaos. Baker chases down Yoshio and kills him. Jack gets the better of Baker's men and kills them. Baker then turns his gun on Alicia. Thomas helps Jack and Alicia escape by shooting Baker from behind. Baker is dead, along with all his men, Kemel, and Thomas.

## **Khalid Nazer**

Khalid Nazer is a member of Iswid Nahr who lives in America. Khalid is Kemel's contact and partner in America. Khalid is not as religious as Kemel, which makes Kemel dislike him. However, Khalid is in charge of the mission in America, and Kemel is forced to take his orders. Kemel is unhappy with this situation, so when Jack wants to know who

ordered the bombing of the airplane that ended Ronald Clayton's life, Kemel does not hesitate to implicate Khalid. When all is said and done, Jack exerts justice on Khalid. Jack shoots Khalid on the street, killing him for what he did to all the people on JAL 27.



# Objects/Places

## Toys

A large number of toys that were collected for the children at the Center for Children with AIDS are stolen a few weeks before Christmas. It is this situation that brings Alicia and Jack together for the first time.

## Clayton House

The Clayton House is the home owned by Ronald Clayton that is left to Alicia in Ronald's will. Alicia becomes embroiled in a fight over the house with her half brother, Thomas.

## Lamp

Kemel has a lamp in his apartment that he and Nazer seem fascinated by. When Takita goes to look at the lamp, he cannot figure out what is important about it. It is later revealed that this lamp has been taken from the Clayton House and is powered by broadcast power.

## Key

Jack finds a key in the Clayton House that he believes is the object Thomas and his backers want. However, it turns out this key is only a key to a safety deposit box that contains pornographic photos.

## Remote Control Car

Jack and Alicia also find a remote control car that seems to be acting under its own power. Jack discovers the car is constantly driving in the same direction, leading him to believe that it is leading them to the transmitter that provides the broadcast power.

## Clayton's Will

Ronald Clayton's will leaves his entire estate to Alicia despite the fact they were estranged at the end of his life. The will also includes several poetic passages that leave Alicia confused until she begins to decipher their clues.





## Transmitter

Alicia and Jack find the transmitter that provides the broadcast power in a remote cabin. Alicia and Jack are followed there, leading to a climatic shoot out. Alicia will later decide to burn down the cabin rather than give her father credit for his work.

## Pictures

Jack finds pictures of Alicia and Thomas as children in Clayton's safe deposit box that proves the abuse in which Clayton forced both his children to participate. Later, Alicia and Jack force Thomas to burn similar photos he found in his father's house.

## Plants

Alicia likes to save ailing plants in her free time by using cuttings to transplant ailing plants onto healthier varieties. These plants are Alicia's symbolic way of healing herself.

## JAL 27

JAL 27 is the Japanese airliner that went down over the ocean. Ronald Clayton died on this plane and is suspected to be the intended target by the Kaze Group.

## Broadcast Power

Broadcast power is electricity that requires no wires and no fuel, such as oil.

## Center for Children with AIDS

Alicia, who is a doctor with a specialty in pediatrics and infectious diseases, works at the Center for Children with AIDS, working with children born infected with the HIV virus that leads to AIDS.

## Iswid Nahr

Iswid Nahr is an OPEC-type organization that helps to promote the exportation of oil from Arab companies. It is this organization that is funding Thomas' attempts to gain ownership of his father's house.

## **Kaze Group**

Kaze Group is an organization in Japan that works behind the scenes to help their economy through business interests. It is this organization that is funding Yoshio's investigation into Clayton's invention.



# Themes

## Justice

Repairman Jack is a mercenary type, who goes out of his way to obtain justice for people while making a living for himself. Repairman Jack runs a website that makes him available to people who feel that they have suffered at the hands of another person and want help making the situation right. One of Jack's clients in this novel is Jorge, an immigrant who runs a janitorial service. Jorge's business took on a contract for a business man who is also an immigrant from Jorge's Ecuador. However, this business man takes advantage of the knowledge that Jorge employs illegals to avoid paying him. Jorge simply wants his money. Jack sets up a scheme in which this business man pays him, with the businessman thinking he is buying a house in a high-class neighborhood at a low-class price. In reality, the house is owned by someone else. Not only does Jack get Jorge his money, but he also takes in his own fee and a large amount of money that he donates to the Center for Children with AIDS.

Jack believes there are some people who do not get justice they deserve by going through legal channels, and this is where Jack feels that he comes in. One of those situations is when the toys are stolen from the Center for Children with AIDS. Jack finds the man who stole the toys, attaches him to the front of the truck and returns the toy-filled truck to the Center. Jack does this without asking a fee, as he would normally do because he is so outraged by the idea of someone stealing from a group of children who already have so much going against them in their short lives.

Jack also finds himself embroiled in Alicia's troubles, helping her find out what is so important about her father's house and stopping the fight over the house. Jack is curious about the motivations of Alicia's half brother and finds himself willing to help her once again without asking for a fee. Alicia insists on offering him something, and Jack accepts, but would have done it just to satisfy his curiosity and to help a woman he has come to admire. Jack feels that Alicia, like her patients, has already suffered greatly at the hands of her father and brother and wants to end this torture for her. It is justice for Alicia that Jack wants, and that is what makes justice a theme of this novel.

## Child Abuse

Child abuse is a theme of this novel for two reasons. The first involves the children Alicia works with at the Center for Children with AIDS. These children are often the offspring of drug addicts who live on the streets and degrade themselves in order to pay for their drugs. Most of these parents care very little for their children and do not receive medical care to ensure their children are born healthy. When these children are born, most have the virus that causes AIDS and many of them suffer withdrawal from the drugs to which their mothers are addicted. These children are then abandoned at the Center for Children with AIDS or are abandoned on the streets and left to fate. It is for



this reason that Jack is so outraged when the toys meant for these children are stolen from the center.

The second reason child abuse is a theme of the novel is because of the sexual abuse Alicia suffered as a child. Alicia's mother died when she was a small child, and she was left in the care of her father, Ronald Clayton. Clayton had a fascination with child pornography. Clayton would often force Alicia and her half brother, Thomas, to perform sexual acts while Clayton photographed them. At first Alicia was not aware that this was abuse; she simply thought she was doing something to please her father. However, as Alicia got older, she learned the truth and came to be ashamed of her participation in these actions. Alicia also grew to hate both her father and her half brother for forcing her to participate.

Neglect and sexual abuse are both forms of child abuse touched on in this novel. The abuse of the children at the Center for Children with AIDS is from neglect and simple disregard for human life, making it outrageous to the reader. This abuse parallels the abuse Alicia suffered as a child, underscoring the outrageousness of it while at the same time showing the reader how common these acts of disregard for human life can be. The two forms of abuse support each other, reinforcing the theme of child abuse, making it an important theme in the novel.

## **Greed**

Greed is another theme of this novel. Greed is what motivates many of the characters in this novel. Thomas Clayton is trying to keep his sister from taking over ownership of the home her father left her in his will. Alicia eventually comes to learn that Thomas is trying to take the house from her because he has learned that his father has invented a source of power that could make the need for oil obsolete. Thomas has taken this knowledge to Saudi Arabia, hoping to sell the secrets for a large amount of money. Thomas' actions bring into the story a group of Saudi Arabian business men, who are willing to go as far as buying the house for ten million dollars in order to find the secret to this new power. At the same time, a Japanese man has also come to America to learn this secret after Ronald Clayton dies trying to sell the secret to his company.

The people from Saudi Arabia want the secret so they can destroy it and force the world to remain dependent on oil. The man from Japan wants to take the secret back to his country and mass produce it, alleviating his country's dependence on oil. Thomas wants to sell the secret to the highest bidder in order to become rich in his personal life. All of these motivations come down to money, making greed an important motivator and thus a theme of the novel.

Greed also motivates another character in the novel. When Jack is approached by Jorge, an immigrant who runs a janitorial service, he learns that a business man has taken advantage of Jorge and is refusing to pay for services rendered. Jack learns that this man is refusing to pay simply because he can. Jack also learns that this man likes to take advantage of people, so Jack sets up a scam, pretending to sell a home for a



price greatly below its market value. The business man jumps at the chance to buy this home, giving Jack a large deposit that more than repays what the man owes Jorge. Jack takes the money and uses the excess to make a large donation to the Center for Children with AIDS, turning this man's greed into something positive.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. The third person point of view tells the story from the point of view of the characters while referring to them in a third person pronoun rather than the first person. The omniscient view allows the reader not only to see what the character does, but to hear his thoughts and share his feelings as well. This point of view provides an intimacy with the characters that allows the reader to see them as three dimensional rather than flat, two-dimensional characters. In this novel, the third person point of view is not restricted to one character, but moves among the various characters, including major characters as well as a few minor characters.

This point of view works in this novel not only because it allows an intimacy between the reader and the characters, but also because it allows the reader to see the actions of the plot through many eyes, allowing the reader to learn information important to the plot that might not be available through only one narrator. The reader not only sees the story through the main characters, Jack and Alicia, but also through the eyes of their enemies, as well as a few minor characters, including the man who stole the toys from the Center. If the author had chosen not to show part of the narration through this man's eyes, for example, the reader would never have learned why this man chose to steal the toys. It is for this reason and many like it that the point of view of this novel works.

## Setting

The novel is set in New York City. The setting of the novel is important for several reasons. First, the setting is important because New York City is a large city full of people and traffic, making it possible for Alicia's enemies to follow her without her knowledge. Had the novel been set in a small town, this surveillance might not have been possible. Second, the setting is important because New York is a place where a person can be invisible. It is important to Jack's chosen career that he be allowed to move around the city undetected. If people were able to track him down, he would constantly be in danger from his enemies. Again, if this novel were set in a small town, this might not be possible.

Finally, this setting is important because of the emotional impact it has on Alicia. Alicia grew up in New York City in her father's home. While living in this home, Alicia suffered terrible abuse. Alicia ran away as soon as she could, moving to California to go to school. Alicia has only returned to the city in order to work at the Center for Children with AIDS. This work is very important to Alicia, helping her to fix some of the emotional scars she has lived with since her own childhood. The work, however, does not repair all of the hurt and Alicia finds herself being dragged back into the pain of her childhood when her father dies and leaves her his entire estate. Alicia cannot even enter his home



without feeling the panic of emotional scars. However, Alicia eventually finds a way to help her through her pain and to symbolically burn the past.

## Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. The overall language of the novel is simple, but proper English, punctuated from time to time with common slang words. The dialogue includes the greatest amount of slang, especially when Jack is speaking. Other dialogue includes oddities that are particular to specific characters. When Hector speaks, his dialogue is filled with mispronunciations that clearly come from some sort of lisp common to a child of his young age. When Muhallel speaks, his English is crisp as though he were educated in England. This change in the dialogue is used by the writer to differentiate between the different characters.

The language of this novel works because it resembles the language the intended reader hears in their everyday life. The language is common enough that even the youngest reader will understand it, but is not vulgar or so full of slang that an older reader would be put off. The dialogue is stilted at times because of the writer's use of techniques to distinguish between speakers, but this difficult dialogue helps illuminate the characters and therefore is overlooked in the overall value of the speech. For these reasons, the language in this novel works well with its plot and for its intended reader.

## Structure

The novel is divided into fifteen chapters, each chapter named for a day of the week in which the action within the chapter takes place. The novel takes place over the two weeks before Christmas. On each day, Jack deals with either the case involving Alicia and her house or the case involving Jorge and his non-paying customer. The pace of the novel is somewhat slow despite the carefully-designed suspense orchestrated by the writer.

The novel follows two plot lines. The first follows Dr. Alicia Clayton, who is the temporary head of the Center for Children with AIDS in New York City. When some toys are stolen from the center, Alicia is introduced to Repairman Jack, the boyfriend of one of her volunteers. When Jack manages to return all the toys, Alicia decides to hire him to help her in a dispute over her deceased father's house. Alicia wants to take custody of the house, which was left to her in her father's will, in order to burn it down, hoping to burn down the bad memories she associates with the house. However, with Jack's help, Alicia learns that there is more to the story than she can see. The second plot follows Jack as he helps another client recover money owed to him by an unscrupulous customer. These two plots unfold separately, only crossing each other when Jack uses the money he received in the smaller plot to make a large donation to Alicia's Center for Children with AIDS.

## Quotes

"Already the vultures were gathering, streaming toward the flames, wondering what happened. And not too far away, sirens." Friday, pg. 16

"The Center's toys were gone. She'd have to depend on the police to get them back. But they had their own agenda, their own higher priorities, and so she'd have to wait until they got around to hers, if they ever did. She could call the commissioner until she wore out the buttons on her phone, but he'd probably never take the call." Friday, pg. 21

"Maybe it was the smile that did it. It dropped his shields. Alicia saw into this Jack for an instant—a nanosecond, really—and suddenly she had hope. If it was at all possible to find and return those gifts, this man believed he could pull it off." Friday, pg. 43

"Jack didn't like to think of himself as hooked on adrenaline, but maybe it was true. He had to admit he'd had a bodacious buzz after leaving the creep and the stolen toys in front of the Center last night. He'd been completely unaware of how much he was hurting until he got home." Sunday, pg. 67

"Sometimes it's good to deviate from routine, Jack thought, trying to look interested. And sometimes it isn't." Monday, pg. 81

"Yoshio Takita finished off the second burrito as he followed Sam Baker's car. He'd picked them up earlier from someplace called Burritoville. He'd never heard of the chain, but was glad he'd tried it. He smacked his lips. These had been called 'Phoenix Rising' burritos. He loved them. In fact, he'd yet to meet an American fast food he didn't like. And it was all so cheap over here. Back home in Tokyo it cost a small fortune to eat at one of the American chains that dotted the city." Monday, pg. 93

"And fire...the cleansing flame...was the only cure." Tuesday, pg. 122

"She turned and looked back at Hector. She was losing him. Damn it, this was her home field, this was the only place in her life these days where she called the shots. But she seemed to be losing here as well." Saturday, pg. 194

"She was becoming more and more comfortable with him. She didn't know if that was a good thing." Sunday, pg. 207

"But the charge would be irrelevant. The arrest itself would do all the damage. Arrest meant photos and fingerprints and giving an address. Suddenly he'd be Citizen Jack. Officialdom would have a record of his existence. They'd want to fill in all the blanks on their forms, and so they'd start prying at his doors and chipping away at his walls, bringing down the barriers he'd spent his whole adult life erecting between his world and theirs." Monday, pg. 231





"She looked at Jack. She'd grown to like him during the short time she had known him—unusual for her, because her list of trusted people was a short one—but there was so much she didn't know about him. And here was something she hadn't realized—maybe she'd guessed it, but hadn't wanted to confront it: beneath that unprepossessing, low-key, regular-guy surface was someone willing and able to kill when necessary."  
Tuesday, pg. 279

"...Thomas, why?"

'Don't you know?' he said in a voice bubbling wet with blood. 'You're supposed to be so smart. Don't you know?'

'Know what?' She was almost afraid that she did.

'Those were the worst years of your life. But they were the best of mine.'"

Thursday, pps. 366-367

## Topics for Discussion

Who is Repairman Jack? Why is it so important for Jack to remain anonymous? What is Jack hiding from? Is this fear all about his work, or is there something more to it? Is it this need to remain anonymous that keeps Jack from quitting his work? Is it this need that keeps Jack from marrying Gia?

Why does Alicia run from the scene of her lawyer's death? What does she have to hide? Why does Alicia dress in baggy clothes and refuse to wear makeup? Why is Alicia afraid to become intimate with Detective Matthew? What does all this have to do with Alicia's childhood?

Who is Hector? What causes Hector to get sick? Why is Alicia so concerned about this child? Why does Jack take an interest in this child? Why does the author include this child in the novel? What are the comparisons between Hector and Alicia? How does Hector's death affect Alicia and the decision she finally makes at the end of the novel?

Discuss Thomas Clayton. Who is Thomas? Why is he trying to take the house Alicia was given in her father's will? What is Thomas' main motivation? Why do Jack and Alicia have no sympathy for Thomas even though he was also abused as a child? What is the difference between the abuse Thomas suffered and the abuse Alicia suffered? Do you believe Thomas was a willing participant in Alicia's abuse? What did Thomas mean in the end when he said they were the best years of his life?

Discuss Ronald Clayton. Why does Alicia hate him so much? Was what he did to Alicia and Thomas abuse? Why did Ronald Clayton take pictures of his children? What did he intend to do with them? Why did Ronald Clayton leave his home to Alicia? Did Clayton intend for Alicia to figure out his secret? What do you think Ronald Clayton intended for Alicia to do with the house? Did Alicia do what Clayton expected her to do?

Discuss broadcast power. Is this power possible? What would it do to the world economy if it were possible? Would it make the world a better place? What about oil dependent countries? What about countries that export oil? In light of the current turmoil in the Middle East, what do you think the development of broadcast power now would do in regards to wars and poverty?

Discuss AIDS. Why did the author chose to include the deadly disease in his plot? How does AIDS parallel the abuse Alicia suffered as a child? How does it differ? Do all children born to drug addicted parents have AIDS? Can a child born to a loving parent contract AIDS? Is AIDS a disease of the poor? How could broadcast power change the future of these children? Does Alicia's choice at the end of the novel take away the benefits of this technology from the very children she is attempting to help?