

The Man in the High Castle Study Guide

The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick

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Plot Summary

The Man in the High Castle is an award-winning novel by the science fiction writer, Philip K. Dick. The Allies lost World War II, leaving the Germans and Japanese to rule the world. The United States has been divided between these two powers, bringing slavery back to the South and imprisonment and death to the Jews. In San Francisco, a Jewish man lives in fear of discovery as he struggles to make a simple living in a city ruled by the very enemy he fought in the war. In Colorado, this man's wife hides from the disappointments of life, only to find herself forced to fight for what she believes is right. It is a world turned on its ear, where people as diverse as the country itself find themselves working together for the greater good.

Robert Childan owns the American Artisan Handicrafts, Inc, a shop designed to sell American history objects to Japanese collectors. Childan is forced to disappoint a Trade Mission official when he cannot find a poster the official has requested. Childan arranges to bring other objects, intent on pleasing his customers. Childan is very uncomfortable around the Japanese people, often afraid of making some sort of mistake that will ruin his reputation and his business. However, as Childan befriends a Japanese couple, he finds himself placed in a position where he must defend his culture or forever find himself bending under these people. Childan defends some handmade jewelry created by a couple Americans and not only finds a new confidence in himself, but gains the respect of this Japanese couple.

Frank Frink is a veteran of the war, who once hated the Japanese so much that he intended to kill as many as he could. However, Frank has softened over the years and is learning to get along with these people. Frank is simply trying to get by. Frank has lost his job because he spoke his mind to his boss. Frank goes to try to get his job back, but learns he has already been replaced. Frank speaks with his foreman, who suggests the two of them go into business together. Frank was making replica Colt .44's for sale in antique stores, but his foreman suggests that they make original jewelry. Frank consults the oracle and decides that this will be a good business.

Frank and his partner trick their ex-boss into giving them the money they need to start their business by informing Robert Childan that the Colt .44's their boss has been selling him are replicas. Frank and his partner take this money and make several pieces of jewelry. They try to sell the jewelry to Childan, but Childan is only interested in taking the jewelry on consignment. Frank becomes concerned, knowing that it is possible they will lose their investment. Frank thinks about leaving the business, but before he can decide, he is arrested. Frank is charged with being a Jew and is jailed to await transport back to Germany. However, the Trade Mission official decides not to give permission for this and orders Frank's immediate release.

Trade Mission official, Tacomi, is expecting a businessman from Sweden to come and speak to him about injection molds. Tacomi quickly discovers, however, that this man, Mr. Baynes, is not a Swede, but most likely a German. Not only this, but Mr. Baynes refuses to meet with Tacomi until an old man from Japan arrives. When this old man



arrives, Tacomi recognizes him as a Japanese general and understands the nature of the meeting. Baynes is a German general, who informs both the Japanese general and Tacomi of an operation to bomb Japan. To stop Baynes, the German secret police send two men to arrest Baynes. Tacomi stops them by killing them with his Colt .44, an object he bought from Childan. Tacomi is depressed by his own actions, since they go against his spirituality, but overcomes this depression.

Juliana Frink is Frank's ex-wife. Juliana has met a man she believes to be Italian. This man introduces Juliana to a controversial book, *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* and suggests they go to visit the writer. Juliana is excited because she finds the book, a fictional account of what the world would be like if the Allies had won the war, fascinating. However, when Juliana learns this man is really a German assassin sent to kill the writer, she kills him and then goes to warn the writer. Upon finishing the book, Juliana realizes the writer used the oracle to write the book and she wants to know why. Juliana learns that the book is the truth and that it is supposed to teach its readers about the reality of the world.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

The Man in the High Castle is an award-winning novel by the science fiction writer, Philip K. Dick. The Allies lost World War II, leaving the Germans and Japanese to rule the world. The United States has been divided between these two powers, bringing slavery back to the South and imprisonment and death to the Jews. In San Francisco, a Jewish man lives in fear of discovery as he struggles to make a simple living in a city ruled by the very enemy he fought in the war. In Colorado, this man's wife hides from the disappointments of life, only to find herself forced to fight for what she believes is right. It is a world turned on its ear, where people as diverse as the country itself find themselves working together for the greater good.

The owner of the American Artisan Handcrafts, Inc. opens his shop hoping to find a package in the mail that he has been expecting. However, the package has not arrived, and when his customer, a high official for the Trade Mission, calls, he is forced to disappoint him. Childan does not like to disappoint his Japanese customers because they are his biggest customers, since the Japanese are fascinated by American history artifacts. When Childan hangs up, a couple comes into the store. They are a young Japanese couple looking for items to decorate their new apartment. Childan is helpful in assisting them, hoping they will be returning customers.

Frank Frink gets out of bed trying to decide what to do about his job. Frank had an argument with his boss the day before and quit. This is one time too many that Frank has done this, and he is afraid the Japanese government will throw him out of the Pacific States of America due to his employment problems. Frank consults the oracle and decides he should go ask for his job back. Frank is amused by his actions. During the war, Frank fought the Japanese and vowed when the Allies lost the war that he would one day kill all Japanese. However, now he finds himself living among them without thinking twice about the anger that once obsessed him. It is better living here, among the Japanese, than back East where the Germans govern, especially since Frank is a Jew. The Germans imprison and kill Jews.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Robert Childan is introduced as a shop owner, who goes above and beyond to make his customers happy. Childan lives in San Francisco where the Japanese govern. The Japanese are collectors of American history artifacts, and Childan specializes in selling these artifacts. To keep his customers happy, Childan must not only have the products they desire, but his behavior must be respectful of both his customer's desires and their customs. This is a difficult thing for Childan to do, but he does it because he wants to be successful in his business.



Frank Frink is a Jewish man who is living as a Caucasian. Frank does not want anyone to know he is Jewish because the Germans won the war and have spent a great deal of time hunting down Jews and killing them. Frank has reason to dislike both the Germans and the Japanese, who won the Second World War and now govern parts of the United States. Frank fought in the war against the Japanese and at one time was obsessed with killing all Japanese. Now Frank is simply a working man trying to get by. Frank lost his job the day before because of an argument with his boss. Frank decides to try to get his job back, based on advice given to him through the I Ching, or the oracle. Frank is motivated because the Japanese government will throw him out of the PSA if they decide he is unemployable. Frank does not want to leave the PSA because the chances of him being discovered as a Jew are higher in other parts of the United States.



Chapters 2-3

Chapters 2-3 Summary

Mr. Tagomi, a high official with the Trade Mission of the Pacific, consults the oracle over his upcoming meeting with Mr. Baynes, a Swedish business man, who Tagomi is planning to meet to discuss injection molds. It is for this client that Tagomi wanted the poster from Childan. Tagomi wants to make a good impression on this client, even as he has concerns. Tagomi suspects Mr. Baynes is not Swedish, but German, and that his business has little to do with injection molds. At the same time, Childan is preparing to visit Mr. Tagomi with a selection of gifts that might be appropriate for Mr. Baynes. Childan is annoyed at having to close his shop to do this, but more nervous about his own behavior during the meeting, afraid of offending Tagomi's sensibilities. Childan's reputation is everything to him, and he cannot imagine offending someone such as Tagomi, who could possibly spread gossip that would ruin Childan.

Juliana Frink, Frank's ex-wife, lives in Colorado. Juliana teaches judo at a local gym. After work, Juliana goes to a diner to have dinner. At the diner are two truck drivers, one older and one younger. Juliana is drawn into a conversation with these men, discussing the merits of living back east under German control as opposed to living in the more neutral Rocky Mountain States. The young man is dark skinned, an Italian, and clearly full of anger toward the Germans; however, he will not consider living anywhere else. Juliana finds herself drawn to this man because he reminds her of Frank. Juliana agrees to take this man home with her.

Mr. Baynes has arrived in San Francisco via a German rocket ship. On board the ship with Baynes is a young German artist, who has strong opinions about Jews and the perpetuation of Aryan people. Baynes becomes offended and tells the artist that he is a Jew living in Sweden, protected by high connections within the German government. Baynes warns the young artist to keep his mouth shut about Baynes' religion or he will call in favors and have the artist arrested. Then Baynes meets Tacomi. Tacomi presents Baynes with a Mickey Mouse watch, which Baynes finds ridiculous, before escorting him from the air terminal.

Chapters 2-3 Analysis

Tacomi is introduced in the second chapter. Tacomi is the high official with the Trade Mission of the Pacific that Childan spoke to in the previous chapter. Tacomi is expecting an important client to arrive and wants to present him a gift, as is Japanese custom. Tacomi is intent on pleasing this man, even as he finds himself wondering if the client is not who he says he is. Tacomi consults the oracle and believes through the results of the oracle that the client is coming on business other than to speak about injection molds. At the same time, Childan agrees to bring some object to Tacomi's office as a gift for the client to replace the original poster Tacomi had requested. Touching on the



theme of conflict, Childan finds himself annoyed by having to close his shop to cater to this one client and also full of fear that he will do something wrong and somehow offend Tacomi's sensitive cultural side and cause Childan to lose the respect of his largest client base.

Juliana is introduced as Frank's ex-wife. Juliana is teaching judo in Colorado, using what she has gained from the Japanese to her benefit. One night, Juliana meets a two truck drivers with whom she has a heated discussion about German rule back east. Juliana suggests to the Italian driver that he move to the Rocky Mountain States if he is unhappy back east, but he appears offended by this. Juliana is attracted to this angry young man, however, and is reminded of Frank, her ex. Juliana tells this man she has a car and agrees to give him a ride, suggesting a relationship could develop.

Baynes arrives in San Francisco via a German rocket ship. On board is a young German artist, who has decidedly intense opinions about Jews. Baynes tells this young man that he is a Jew and if the artist tells anyone, he will have him disappear. Baynes claims to have high connections in the German government. This claim is important for the reader because the reader already knows that Tacomi suspects Baynes is not Swedish as he claims. Now Baynes claims he only lives in Sweden to hide his Jewish ancestry. Baynes' true identity is in question, but the reader should expect it to be revealed as the plot continues to develop.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Frank arrives at his workplace to beg for his job back only to learn that his boss has already replaced him. Frank lies and says he is there to get his tools. While he is collecting them, Frank talks to his former foreman. The man, Ed McCarthy, tells Frank that he is talented and should consider going into business for himself. Frank has been replicating old American guns, such as the Colt .44 in the position he just lost. McCarthy suggests that perhaps Frank might have more success on his own, making jewelry. In fact, McCarthy shows Frank some designs he has created and suggests they go into business together. Frank goes into the reception area to consult the oracle. When the oracle tells him that he will have success with such a business, Frank returns to the shop to tell McCarthy he will go into business with him. However, Frank does not know where they will get the money they need. McCarthy invites Frank to his house that night in order to discuss the money and other particulars.

Childan has just reopened his shop after lunch when a man comes in. The man is white but claims to be representing a Japanese Navy Admiral. The Admiral is docked in San Francisco and is interested in buying twelve authentic American revolvers to give to his officers as a gift. Childan is excited by this idea because the purchase would be large and worth a big profit. Childan retrieves a Colt .44 out of his back room to show the man. The man is filling out a check when Childan returns. However, one look at the weapon and the man changes his mind. The man claims the weapon is a fake. Childan is outraged. The moment the man leaves the store, he sends the gun to a local university to have it examined. The results prove the gun is a fake. Childan then calls his supplier and demands a meeting. At the same time, Childan checks out the Admiral's gentleman and learns that he cannot be who he says he is because the ship he mentioned was sunk during the war.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Frank goes to get his job back as the oracle advised him to do that morning, but before he can get the words out of his mouth, he learns he has already been replaced. Frank makes replica guns for shops such as Childan's. This revelation has a huge impact on the reader, not because of Frank, but because it reveals that while Childan is worried about upsetting the culture of his customers, he must not be afraid of upsetting their sense of integrity, since the guns he sells are fake. However, the reader soon learns that Childan does not know this fact. Childan is approached by a mystery man, who tells him the guns are fake. Childan clearly did not know this and is outraged. Childan learns that the man who told him about the guns is not who he said he is and that the gun is indeed a fake. Childan calls his supplier and sets up a meeting to demand restitution.



When Frank learns his job is gone, he is immediately given another idea on how to make a living. Frank is approached by his former foreman and asked to partner with him on a jewelry business. Frank consults the oracle, as it seems Frank has become very dependent on this Chinese tradition, and learns that he will be successful at the jewelry business. Frank goes back and agrees to the foreman's terms. However, they need money. The reader sees this and then reads about Childan's upset, wondering if the two situations might not be connected. The reader suspects the mystery man might be Frank because who else would be able to recognize one of these fakes so easily but the man who built it.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Childan's supplier calls his own supplier, Wyndam-Matson, Frank's old boss. Wyndam-Matson knows right away who told Childan about the fakes and finds himself wondering what he should do. Wyndam-Matson could go to the police, but he decides it would cause him less trouble if he just pays off Frank and McCarthy. Wyndam-Matson hangs up and turns to his girlfriend, who overheard the whole thing. The girl wants to leave because she finds the whole situation unpleasant. On the way home, the girl tells Wyndam-Matson about a book called *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. The book is a fictionalized account of what the world would be like if the Allies had won the war. The book suggests what it might have been like if FDR had not been assassinated and if the Japanese had only gotten a few small boats at Pearl Harbor instead of the entire Pacific fleet.

Mr. Tagomi has invited Mr. Baynes to his home for dinner. Mr. Tagomi and Mr. Baynes discuss the meeting they are to have. Mr. Baynes says an elderly gentleman from Japan is coming by ship to San Francisco and must be present for their meeting. Tagomi agrees. Tagomi and Baynes then discuss American history and Tagomi's collection of artifacts, as well as some political views. Baynes then excuses himself, exhausted from his trip and ready to retire to his hotel. Tagomi escorts him to a car, whose chauffeur is a student who has learned Swedish. Baynes is unhappy with this because he speaks little of the language.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Frank's boss confirms what the reader already suspects, that Frank is the mystery man who told Childan his guns are fakes. Only the man who makes these guns would recognize them if they are produced so well that an antiques dealer could not tell. Wyndam-Matson decides to give Frank and his partner the money they need to start their jewelry business, though he does not know this is for what they will be using it. Wyndam-Matson only believes he is paying off these two men. Wyndam-Matson's girlfriend then introduces to both Wyndam-Matson and the reader a book called *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. This book is a fictional account of what the world would be like if the Allies had won the war. By introducing this book, the girlfriend the reader learns how the Allies lost. FDR was assassinated, making it impossible for him to bring the United States out of the depression. Then the Japanese destroyed the entire Pacific fleet when they attacked Pearl Harbor.

Tagomi and Baynes have dinner together, over which Tagomi talks about his American history collection, proving to the reader how deeply is Tagomi's interest in American memorabilia; assumedly his fellow countrymen share that interest, too. Also at this meeting Baynes talks about an old man who is to join their meeting about the injection

molds, a man who must be present or Baynes will not proceed with the meeting. This is important because it gives weight to Tagomi's idea that Baynes is not who he says he is. Also, Baynes is driven home by a young man who speaks Swedish, a language Baynes does not know. The question for the reader is, why does Baynes not know Swedish if he is from Sweden.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Juliana Frink goes shopping, allowing her mind to wander. When she returns home, Juliana discovers that Joe Cinnadella, the young truck driver from the night before, is still asleep in her bed. Juliana wakes him up and begins his breakfast while he bathes. Juliana is curious about him, so she goes through his things. Juliana finds an Iron Cross, proving that Joe did fight in the war and was heroic in doing so. Juliana asks Joe about it and learns that he lost two brothers to the war, that he fought in Cairo, and that he feels a deep-seated anger toward the British as a result of some of the things the British army did after the fall of London. Joe changes the subject by showing Juliana a book he has. The book is *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. Joe dislikes the book, believing it to be prejudicial, and is especially unhappy with the way the author portrays Italy as a traitorous country. The author claims the Allies won the war because Italy turned on her allies.

Juliana turns on the radio. It is announced that the Chancellor of Germany, Bormann, has died. This news is of great concern because it will mean a great deal of uncertainty in Germany and German-held territories until a new chancellor can be named.

Takomi is in his office, looking over the chauffeur's report on Baynes, when he learns of Bormann's death. The fact that Baynes is not who he says he is does not matter as much as the death of the chancellor. Takomi cancels his entire day in case some action on his part is required, just before he is called to a meeting at the embassy. At this meeting, Takomi sits with many other high-ranking officials to receive a rundown on the possible candidates for the chancellor's position. Takomi listens and becomes ill. Takomi rushes out of the meeting and returns to his office, calling another official later to get the information on the rest of the meeting. Then Takomi takes a call from Baynes, in which he is reminded to tell his people to keep an outlook for the old gentleman, who is to arrive shortly by ship.

Frank and his partner receive the money they have been hoping for from Wyndam-Matson. Frank has already arranged to use the basement of his building for the workshop. When the check is cashed, Frank and Ed go to the lumber store in order to get the supplies needed to start building their workbench.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Juliana has brought the young truck driver to her home and finds he is still there when she returns from grocery shopping. Juliana learns his name is Joe and that he fought in the war. Juliana finds this man dangerous and exciting, and it seems she does not mind sharing her home with him for a few days. The reader sees this man as dark and angry, as well as bitter. The man, Joe, is a war vet and a decorated hero. Joe tells Juliana a



little about himself but seems more interested in talking about *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. Joe is very angry about this book, finding it to be prejudicial against his country, Italy. Joe does not like the very idea of his country losing the war, let alone turning on her allies to do it.

The chancellor of Germany has died. This news affects everyone in the novel because Germany holds such a large amount of territories around the world. The Japanese are particularly affected and the reader sees this through the point of view of Takomi. Takomi is called to a special meeting where the possible replacements for the chancellor are discussed. Takomi is so emotionally impacted by this discussion that he has an anxiety attack and must leave. Later, Takomi is better, but he must discuss with Baynes the meeting they cannot have until the old gentleman shows up. Takomi is suspicious of Baynes, especially now that his driver informs him that Baynes knows no Swedish. However, this takes a back burner to the unrest in Germany. At the same time, Frank Frink and his partner get the money they need to start their jewelry business, foreshadowing a moment when this jewelry will prove to be a pivotal moment for one of the main characters.



Chapters 7-8

Chapters 7-8 Summary

Childan is invited to the home of a young couple who visited his store, Betty and Paul Kasouras. Childan is nervous and feels as if he is offending the couple with every word out of his mouth. They discuss politics, and Childan finds himself announcing he is glad the Japanese won. Childan also finds himself defending one of the candidates for German Chancellor. The whole time Childan keeps thinking to himself that he does not agree with the very words coming out of his mouth, but he cannot help saying and doing whatever it takes to keep these people happy. At the same time, Kasouras seem to be trying to embrace Childan's customs by serving him an all-American meal and discussing New Orleans Jazz. The entire evening is very stressful for Childan, and he is relieved when it is over. However, when Childan returns home, he finds a policeman waiting for him. The man wants Childan to identify the mystery man who came to his shop and pointed out the fake guns. Childan identifies Frank Frink.

Hugo Reiss, the Reich Consul, arrives at his office only to learn the chief of the German police has been calling. Reiss dislikes the police chief, Kreuz vom Meere, so he postpones returning the call. Reiss sits down to breakfast and is interrupted when Kreuz vom Meere calls again. Reiss speaks to him only to learn that Kreuz vom Meere has been informed that a member of the Abwehr is in San Francisco but cannot be located. Kreuz vom Meere wants Reiss to help locate the man. Reiss pledges as little help as possible. Reiss then returns to his breakfast. A secret radiogram comes in informing Reiss of a high-ranking Japanese man on his way to San Francisco. Reiss is to keep an eye on this man and watch for any illegal activities. Reiss then sends his secretary away and begins reading *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. Reiss dislikes the book and the way it portrays Germans, especially the part where it puts Adolf Hitler on trial for war crimes. Reiss thinks perhaps someone should assassinate the writer but feels it is a plot in which he does not want to become involved.

Chapters 7-8 Analysis

Childan has dinner with a young couple who are customers at his store. The entire time, Childan is nervous he will do something or say something that will cause him embarrassment and his hosts shame. Childan even finds himself saying things he does not truly believe because he hopes it will make his clients happy. The clients, at the same time, are falling all over themselves trying to show their enjoyment of American artifacts, music and books. They even discuss *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. It seems to the reader that if Childan acted as himself instead of trying to imitate the Japanese, he might make friends with these people much more easily. Later, Childan goes home, glad to be away from that stressful situation. When he arrives home, Childan finds a police officer waiting for him. Somehow the police have learned of the mystery man who came to Childan's shop and pointed out the fake gun. Childan does not know who sent



the police, but the reader suspects it might have been Wyndam-Matson. In any case, Childan identifies Frank Frink as the man who came to his shop, just as the reader suspected.

Hugo Reiss is a local bureaucrat who dislikes the local chief of the German police. Reiss gets a call to look out for an Abwehr man, a man who represents a group of Japanese and German citizens who do not agree with German's darker exploits. The reader sees this information and wonders if perhaps this man does not have something to do with Mr. Baynes. When Reiss then gets a secret radiogram about an elderly Japanese man making his way to San Francisco, the reader is pretty sure this is the older gentleman for whom Mr. Baynes is waiting, suggesting the two warnings are related. Whether or not Reiss will be a problem for Baynes and the Japanese man remains to be seen, but it is implied at this point. Later, Reiss is reading *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* and thinks someone should kill the author. He opens up the idea of a possible assassination attempt on the writer's life, but it will not be Reiss, who has already decided it is too complicated a situation for him to become involved.



Chapter 9-10

Chapter 9-10 Summary

After two weeks, Frank and Ed have several pieces of jewelry ready to show to shops. It is decided that Ed will take a batch to American Artifacts Handcrafts first. Ed is nervous, but Frank cannot go because Childan is sure to recognize him. Frank rides to the shop with Ed, going over everything Ed should say. Ed walks into the shop and begins to lay out the jewelry. At first Childan is not interested, but then thinks he might take a few things on consignment. Ed and Frank did not want to do consignment, but Ed feels put on the spot and agrees to it. Childan takes one of the pieces over to Paul, hoping it will impress his young wife, Betty, for whom Childan has intimate desires.

Juliana is still living with Joe, who shows no interest in moving on. Joe suggests that he and Juliana drive to Denver, buy some nice clothes and see a show. Juliana readily agrees but wants to know where Joe has the money to do this. Joe shows her an envelope filled with money, telling her he was not a truck driver, but hired to protect the trucks from hijackers. This has earned him a great deal of money. On the way to Denver, Juliana reads *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. Juliana is enjoying the book and very much likes the description of television and how it would be made available for everyone, even the poor. Joe finds Juliana's excitement naive and tries to tell her all the reasons why the story in the book would not translate into real life. Juliana ignores his negativity, thinking that he will eventually destroy himself with all that anger.

Mr. Baynes is concerned that much time has passed, and the old man still has not arrived. Although warned not to contact the Abwehr, he decides he no longer has a choice. The only other option would be to tell Takomi his story, but Baynes does not believe Takomi could do anything about it. Baynes goes to a local department store where he meets a contact through a series of codes. The contact tells him he will learn all he can and get back to him the next day. The next morning, Takomi gets a phone call from Mr. Yatabe, the old gentleman for whom Mr. Baynes has been waiting. An appointment is set up for that morning. Takomi calls Baynes, who is very relieved to learn the old man has finally arrived in San Francisco safe and sound.

Chapter 9-10 Analysis

Frank and Ed are ready to sell their jewelry. The first shop they go to is Mr. Childan's, since it is the most successful of its kind. Ed is nervous because he is not the salesman of the pair; Frank is; however, Frank is afraid Childan will recognize him. Ed walks into the shop and is clearly nervous from the moment he pulls the jewelry out of its basket. Childan sees this and at first is not interested in buying any jewelry. However, Childan changes his mind and decides to take some on consignment, although this is not the arrangement Frank and Ed really wanted. Frank and Ed need the profits of a sale, not to give the jewelry on a loan and hope for the best. At the same time, Childan sees himself



selling the jewelry and claiming it was lost in order to keep the entire profit for himself. Childan decides to give a piece to Betty for whom he has developed a crush.

Juliana and Joe decide to go to Denver to see a show. Juliana is excited to do something different. It does not bother Juliana to learn Joe is a hired killer, instead of a truck driver as she originally thought. It bothers the reader, however, in light of his unstable personality. Juliana might be in danger. When Juliana begins reading *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* and discussing it with Joe, his growing anger injects tension into the plot and again makes the reader question Juliana's safety.

Baynes has grown impatient for the elderly Japanese man to appear and decides to make contact with his organization to learn if he should continue to wait. This contact is dangerous and was outright forbidden before he left Germany, but Baynes feels the death of the chancellor is enough to make it necessary. The reader wonders, however, if Baynes might be jumping the gun and putting himself in danger, in light of the fact that the reader knows the chief of police knows he is in town and is looking for him. It turns out the next morning that Baynes should have been patient one more day, however. The old man has arrived and the meeting is scheduled. Now the reader will find out who Baynes really is and what he is up to.



Chapter 11-12

Chapter 11-12 Summary

Reiss is visited first thing by Kreuz vom Meere, who has finally discovered the identity of Abwehr man and wants help in apprehending him. Kreuz vom Meere plans to send secret police into a Japanese government building and wants Reiss to keep the Japanese happy regarding the situation. Reiss is reluctant, but a call from the newly-appointed Chancellor of Germany forces him to agree. Across town, Childan goes to visit Paul at his office regarding the piece of jewelry he gave him the day before. Paul tells Childan that at first he found the jewelry amusing in its simplicity; however, the more Paul stared at the piece, the more he saw in it. Paul was so impressed that he called down several of his business associates and encouraged them to see the same thing. After a time, they began to see things Paul's way. One of these men knows an importer, who has suggested that Childan agree to have the pieces mass marketed as charms. Childan recognizes Paul's disgust at this idea, but finds himself pushed into agreeing. However, even as Childan agrees to meet with the importer, he realizes that Paul has just forced him to admit that the jewelry is boring and unattractive. Childan is offended by this because it is the first American-made product in the PSA since the war. Childan stands up to Paul and informs him that he will not be meeting with the importer after all.

When Tagomi arrives at his office and meets Mr. Yatabe, he begins to understand Baynes' insistence on waiting for the old man. Mr. Yatabe is actually General Tedekia, a high official in the Japanese government. Tedeki and Tagomi wait for Baynes to arrive. When he does, Baynes announces that he is really General Rudolf Wegener. Wegener is aware of a plot against the Japanese government in which the Germans plan to encourage a military action in the Rocky Mountains by American forces that will culminate in the bombing of Japan. Wegener says that the new Chancellor is for this operation, while the new head of the secret police is against it. Wegener encourages Tedeki to go back to Japan as soon as possible to warn his people. As proof, Wegener gives Tedeki a cigarette case that contains microfilm evidence. While they are discussing this secret plan, a group of secret police enter the building and storm the elevators. Tagomi retrieves his gun, a Colt .44, and loads it.

Frank is unhappy as he continues making jewelry, but so far they have not been able to sell any. Frank is ready to quit and look for another job. Ed makes him promise to wait a few days longer. Frank goes outside to smoke a cigarette and is arrested. Frank tries to get away but is dragged into the jail and told he is to be sent back to Germany and exterminated for being a Jew. At the same time, a two Germans burst into Tagomi's office. Tagomi is forced to fire his weapon, killing both men. Tagomi is upset by his own actions because it goes against his core beliefs to hurt another human being. Tagomi consults the oracle as Tedeki and Wegener escape the building.



Chapter 11-12 Analysis

The secret police now know where and who Baynes is. Reiss is ordered to assist in capturing Baynes by the Chancellor himself. The reader realizes Baynes must be someone extremely important for the Chancellor himself to be concerned with his capture. The reader quickly learns that Baynes is really a German who knows about a plot to attack Japan. This plot seems to be Germany's way of taking control of the rest of the world, the small part over which Japan has control. This attack could mean the destruction of the world, since Germany has already proved itself eager to rid the world of everyone who is not of Aryan stock by killing all the Jews and eradicating Africa. As though to show proof of this cruelty, Frank Frink is arrested with the intention of sending him to Germany to be killed, simply because he is a Jew. As far as Baynes goes, however, Tagomi saves his life by killing the two secret police come to arrest him. However, this act takes a great toll on Tagomi, who does not believe in harming other human beings. The reader sees his deep despair and wonders how he will recover from this blow.

At the same time, touching on the theme of conflict once again, Childan learns that a friend of Paul's, possibly his boss, has a friend who wants to mass produce Ed and Frank's jewelry as charms. Childan at first feels pressured to agree, as he has felt pressured to do just about anything to please his Japanese clients. However, Childan realizes that Paul has forced Childan to announce that the first American-made product in the PSA since the war is boring and ugly. Childan finally decides he has had enough of running down his own country and decides to stand up for himself. Childan decides not to see the importer, running the risk of offending Paul but also finding a confidence he has not known since before the war.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Juliana is spending a great deal of money, buying herself skirts, blouses, shoes and a very expensive dress. To go with the dress, Juliana buys special bras and stockings. Joe goes to the barber and has his hair cut, coming back with it much shorter and blond. Juliana then buys him some clothes before they decide to find a hotel for the night. At the hotel, Joe sends his shirts off to be pressed before suggesting to Juliana that she have her hair done. Juliana asks how long they will be staying in Denver. When Joe tells her he intends to move on that night, Juliana finally begins to put together Joe's plan. Juliana realizes that Joe is not Italian, but German, and he intends to kill Abendsen, the writer of *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*.

Juliana goes into shock, jumping into the shower fully clothed and then wandering the hallway naked. Juliana decides she must stop Joe and without realizing what she has done, cuts his throat. Juliana then quickly grabs her things and drives away. Juliana consults the oracle and learns that she must tell Abendsen about the danger to his life. Juliana contacts Abendsen's wife, telling her what the oracle has said, before explaining that she will be dropping in to see the writer the next day, despite the fact that the book jacket says the writer lives in a high castle for his personal security.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Juliana has a great deal of fun spending Joe's money, never thinking twice about the impact this will have on him. Juliana never wonders why Joe would be willing to spend this money on her, either. The reader wonders, however, what Joe will get out of Juliana spending so much money. When Joe tells Juliana that he is planning on going to the writer's house that night and Juliana figures out he is an German assassin, the reader understands why Joe has spent all his money on Juliana. Joe wants to use Juliana to get close to the writer. Juliana figures this out as well and decides she must stop Joe. Juliana cuts Joe's neck and runs away.

Juliana then turns to the oracle, something she has learned from Frank. Juliana asks the oracle what she should do next and is told to warn the writer. Juliana then calls the writer and speaks to his wife. The wife clearly understands the impact of the oracle's message and welcomes Juliana to come to her home. The reader finds this invitation curious, since the writer has written in his biography on the book cover that he lives in a high castle and does not welcome visitors. This leaves the reader anxious to see what happens when Juliana arrives on the writer's doorstep.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Tagomi is depressed the next day when he wakes. Tagomi cannot get up the enthusiasm to go to work; instead, he goes for a ride in a pedecab. Tagomi thinks the cable car might cheer him up so he rides that for a time. When that does not work, Tagomi decides he must get rid of the gun. Tagomi thinks if he gets rid of the gun, then his depression over killing the two Germans will go away. However, when Tagomi offers to sell the gun back to Childan, he learns that Childan no longer deals in guns. Childan shows Tagomi an array of jewelry that he promises will lift the spirit. At first Tagomi refuses but then decides to buy a piece of the jewelry, hoping it will help him feel better. Unfortunately, after sitting in the park staring at the piece of jewelry for a long time, Tagomi still feels low. Tagomi decides that if he can get a pedecab, he will return to work and try to see the bright side of things. If not, Tagomi will kill himself. Tagomi gets a cab.

Tagomi arrives at his office and asks if Tedeki and Baynes have gotten away safely. Tagomi is assured that Tedeki is on his way back to Japan, but no one knows where Baynes is. Tagomi then goes up to his office, where he finds Reiss waiting. Reiss tells Tagomi he is there to be sure Tagomi is all right after having his office broken into by unknown men not affiliated with the secret police. Tagomi knows that Reiss is only trying to cover up the truth and tells him so. When Tagomi is then handed papers for the transportation of Frank Frink to Germany to be exterminated, out of spite, Tagomi uses his power to order Frank's immediate release. Then Tagomi sends Reiss away, telling him to never return. When Reiss is gone, Tagomi goes into his office where he promptly suffers a heart attack. At the same time, Frank is released from jail, from which he goes directly to the workshop of his jewelry business and gets back to work.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Tagomi is depressed because in his culture one is taught to hold life sacred above all else and to not harm another human being. Tagomi has been forced to kill two Germans. Tagomi is struggling with this and is looking for any way he can to raise his spirits. Tagomi tries to get rid of his gun, but Childan will not buy it back. Instead Childan sells Tagomi a piece of Frank's jewelry. Tagomi tries to get peace from this piece but does not find the same wu Paul found. Tagomi considers killing himself, but instead he decides to return to work and hope he will find solace in the mundane.

Tagomi returns to work and finds Reiss there. Reiss is doing as he was instructed by the Chancellor, trying to keep the Japanese from complaining about the actions of the secret police. However, Tagomi sees right through Reiss's words and knows why he is there. Reiss is motivated by his superiors, but Tagomi's motivation comes from his own outrage at having to take human life in order to protect someone in his own office. To prove his outrage, Tagomi sets Frank free without even realizing who it is he is setting



free or why. All Tagomi knows is that by setting a Jew free, he is giving back the same aggravation Reiss has heaped on him with his lies about the men who broke into his office the day before. Tagomi stands up to Reiss and sends him on his way, but then has a heart attack, showing the reader just what a terrible strain the entire episode has been on him. At the same time, Frank returns to the jewelry business that several days before he had been ready to leave, showing his own character growth and realization that he needs to stick with what he believes in.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Rudolf Wegener is flying on a German rocket back to Germany under the name of Conrad Goltz, a medical equipment salesman. When the rocket lands, Wegener knows he will most likely be arrested. Sure enough, there are a group of secret policemen waiting when Wegener disembarks. These men surround Wegener and escort him to a car, telling him they will be taking him to SS General Heydrich, which Wegener sees as good news. SS General Heydrich is against the bombing of Japan, so he might not shoot Wegener for warning the Japanese. Wegener hopes not, but knows that he will most likely be put to death at some point anyway. Wegener believes it was worth it.

Juliana gets a paper the next morning and discovers that Joe is dead. The police are looking for a Mrs. Cinnadella, so her identity is protected. Juliana spends the day in her motel room, reading the rest of *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*. When she is finished, Juliana believes that she has gotten something out of the book that no one else has. Now Juliana is more anxious than ever to meet the writer, Hawthorne Abendsen. Juliana dresses in her expensive dress and goes to the Abendsen home after dinner. Juliana finds a normal home on a quiet residential street rather than the high castle claimed on the book's cover. Juliana speaks with Abendsen and asks him if he wrote the book with the oracle's help. Abendsen denies it at first, but then admits he did. Juliana asks why the oracle would allow this. When Abendsen admits he never asked, Juliana insists on asking the oracle. The oracle responds by saying the book is true; Japan and Germany lost the war. Juliana finds peace in this answer even as the Abendsens become agitated and ask Juliana to leave.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Wegener goes back to Germany, even though he knows he will be arrested and executed. Wegener is indeed arrested and told he will be taken to SS General Heydrich. Wegener is comforted by this because he believes Heydrich will show him mercy. Wegener does not regret his actions, however. Wegener believes that citizens must stand up for what they believe. Wegener shows his true character when he is arrested, being quiet and allowing the police to take him without making a scene. Wegener is a brave man, who did what he believed was right.

Juliana finishes reading *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* and believes she understands it in a way no one else does. Juliana believes the book is meant to show its readers the world as it truly is and to inspire change. Juliana believes the book was written with the help of the oracle. Juliana goes to the home of the writer, Abendsen, who is said to live in a high castle. Instead Abendsen lives on a normal residential street in a simple home. The high castle turns out to be a story used to discourage maniacs. The high castle also appears to be a metaphor for the oracle, an untouchable intelligence. Juliana meets



Abendsen and learns the oracle did help write the novel and she asks the oracle why. The oracle answers that the book is full of truth. The Abendsens, the writer and his wife, are upset by this. Juliana finds it comforting because it is what she expected. The Grasshopper Lies Heavy is a direction, a way of life that is to be fought for and achieved. The Grasshopper Lies Heavy is symbolic of the depth of the human spirit.



Characters

Frank Frink

Frank Frink is a Jewish man from New York, who came to the PSA in order to hide from the Germans. The Germans have eradicated the world of Jews, and Frank is afraid if he is caught, he will be sent to Germany and put to death. Frank has changed his name and is working as a craftsman in San Francisco; however, Frank has a conflict with his boss and quits after telling his boss what he thinks of him. When Frank goes to try to get his job back, his foreman suggests that he go into business for himself. Frank consults the oracle before agreeing.

Frank and his partner come up with a scheme to force their boss to finance their new venture. Frank goes to the American Artistic Handcrafts pretending to be a Japanese Admiral's gentleman and claims that one of the shop's "authentic" guns is a fake. Robert Childan contacts his supplier, who finds out they are fake, so he then contacts Frank's boss. The boss buys Frank's silence with a check for two thousand dollars. Frank and his partner use the money to start up their new business. Then Frank and his partner go to Robert Childan to sell their jewelry. Childan takes a few pieces on consignment and gives one to a local Japanese man with whom he is acquainted. Childan learns that a friend of the Japanese man wants to mass market the jewelry, but Childan finds himself defending the jewelry, since it is the first American-made product to appear in the PSA since the war.

While trying to start up his business, Frank is arrested for being a Jew. Frank is put in jail to await transfer to Germany. However, Tacomi refuses to send him to Germany, instead using his power to force Frank's release. Frank is let go without explanation and returns to his new business.

Juliana Frink

Juliana Frink is Frank's ex-wife. Juliana lives in Colorado where she works as a Judo instructor. One day after work, Juliana meets two truck drivers from the German-held East coast. Juliana strikes up a friendship with one of these men, who she takes home with her. Juliana and the man become lovers and spend a great deal of time together, discussing the political atmosphere and a book that he has among his possession, "The Grasshopper Lies Heavy." Juliana finds the book fascinating, even though it clearly upsets Joe. Joe is Italian and the book makes it appear that the Allies won the war because Italy betrayed her Axis partners.

Joe suggests that he and Juliana go to Denver to see a show. On the way, Juliana reads the book and Joe argues its points with her. Joe then suggests that perhaps they should go see the writer and discuss the book with him. Juliana agrees; however, when they arrive in Denver, Juliana realizes Joe is not who he says he is. Juliana kills Joe and



continues on to Cheyenne to see the author. When Juliana finishes the book, she realizes that the writer used the oracle to write it. Juliana confronts the writer and learns that the oracle helped him write the book because the oracle believes the book to be the truth.

Joe Cinnadella

Joe Cinnadella is an Italian man, who is a hired gun for the German government. Joe rides along in trucks to protect them from hijackers. On one trip, Joe meets Juliana and decides to remain in Colorado to spend time with her. Joe is a man full of anger; Juliana believes the anger comes from his experiences in the war. Joe introduces Juliana to the book, "The Grasshopper Lies Heavy," sharing with her his opinions on this controversial book. Joe does not like the book because it suggests that the Allies really won the war based on Italy betraying her own allies. When Juliana begins to read the book, Joe suggests they go to Cheyenne to meet the author. Juliana quickly agrees.

When Joe tells Juliana that he is anxious to get to Cheyenne and will not be stopping in Denver to see a show as he originally promised, Juliana figures out that Joe is not who he says he is. Juliana realizes that Joe is a German, who has been sent to kill the author of the controversial book. Juliana cuts Joe's throat with a razor blade and leaves him to bleed while she goes on to Cheyenne to warn the writer of this controversial book.

Robert Childan

Robert Childan is the owner of the American Artistic Handcrafts shop. Childan specializes in authentic American artifacts for the Japanese. Childan is deeply concerned with pleasing the Japanese, often going out of his way to find objects for his clients. When Childan befriends a young Japanese couple, he goes out of his way to do and say things he believes they will like. In fact, Childan perhaps offends this couple by trying to be so pleasing. Childan loses his own opinions and feelings in his quest please the Japanese.

When Ed brings Frank's jewelry into Childan's store, he decides to take it on consignment, hoping to make a few dollars off it without having to repay the original prices. Childan, who is fascinated by the wife of his Japanese acquaintance, decides to give one of these pieces to her husband for her. The man finds the jewelry amusing until he begins to realize that it has wisdom in it. The man showed it to his friends and one has decided it could be mass produced. Childan at first agrees with this idea until he realizes the impact this would have on the artists who created the jewelry. This is the first American-produced product in the PSA since the war. Childan realizes he cannot allow it to be mass produced and for the first time stands up to a Japanese. This gives Childan new confidence when dealing with the Japanese.



Nobusuke Tagomi

Tagomi is a high official with the Trade Mission of the Pacific. Tagomi does a great deal of business with Childan in order to add products to his own collection and to buy gifts for business associates. Tagomi buys a Colt .44 from Childan that he likes to use as a gunslinger might have in the old days of America. When Mr. Baynes comes to town, Childan provides a Mickey Mouse watch for Tagomi to give to him as a gift. Mr. Baynes is supposed to be a Swedish man who has come to discuss injection molds with Tagomi. However, Baynes is really a German military man, who has come to warn the Japanese government of a German plan to bomb Japan. Tagomi finds himself caught in the middle of this intrigue and is forced to use his Colt to kill two men, who break into the office to take Baynes into custody.

Tagomi is deeply depressed at taking another man's life due to Tagomi's spiritual beliefs. Tagomi thinks of killing himself but decides instead to return to his life and try to make a difference. Tagomi stands up to the German official who has come to smooth things over and to assure Tagomi that the men who broke into his office were not members of the German police. Tagomi makes it known that he does not believe this lie. Tagomi stands up to the official. However, once the German leaves, Tagomi has a heart attack from the stress he has been under.

Mr. Baynes, a.k.a. Rudolf Wegener

Mr. Baynes comes to the PSA pretending to be a Swede looking to sell injection molds to the Japanese government. However, Baynes is a member of a group of Germans and Japanese who do not believe in the direction of the current government and want to stop the Germans from practicing inhumane activities. Baynes has come to the PSA to meet with a Japanese official and warn them of an attack being planned against Japan. It seems that this meeting will not take place, however, because the General who Baynes is supposed to meet is late in arriving. Baynes contacts his organization only to have the General show up the next day. Baynes goes to the meeting, unaware that the Germans know about his mission and have sent secret police to stop him. During the meeting, several Germans show up to arrest Baynes, but Tagomi stops them. Baynes manages to get away only to return to Germany and be arrested as soon as he lands.

Mr. Yatabe, a.k.a. General Tedeki

Mr. Yatabe is an elderly Japanese man who is coming to the PSA in order to attend a meeting with Mr. Baynes and Tagomi. Mr. Yatabe is actually a general and a high official in Japan. Yatabe is the true reason for Baynes' visit to the PSA. Baynes wants to tell Yatabe about the planned bombing of Japan because he knows that Yatabe can do something to stop this operation. However, Yatabe takes too long to come to the PSA, and Baynes almost loses hope before Yatabe finally appears. Yatabe does arrive, however, and quickly returns back to Japan in order to stop the German operation against Japan.



Hugo Reiss

Hugo Reiss is the Reich's Consul in San Francisco, whose job consists of keeping track of German citizens in the PSA and keeping the Japanese officials happy. Reiss is contacted by the head of the SD police when it is learned that a German is in the PSA to warn the Japanese about an operation being planned to bomb Japan. Reiss is not interested in helping out the SD because he does not like their commander. However, Reiss finds himself pulled into the situation beyond his control. When the SD decides to send secret police into a Japanese building to apprehend this German, it is Reiss's job to keep the Japanese from complaining. Reiss goes to Tagomi and tells him lies about the two men who broke into his office. Tagomi does not believe him and sends him away, warning him not to ever come to his offices again.

Bruno Kreuz vom Meere

Bruno Kreuz vom Meere is the head of the German police in the PSA. Kreuz vom Meere is an unpleasant man who likes to think he has more power than he really does. No one seems to like Kreuz vom Meere. When Kreuz vom Meere finds out that Baynes is meeting a Japanese general in the Nippon Times Building, he sends several of his secret police into the building to apprehend Baynes. This is highly unusual and makes the Japanese government uneasy. Kreuz vom Meere knows this, so he arranges for Reiss to take the brunt of the Japanese government's anger.

Hawthorne Abendsen

Hawthorne Abendsen is the writer of "The Grasshopper Lies Heavy," a controversial book about a world where the Allies won World War II. This book is so controversial that it is banned in the German-held territories. When Juliana reads the book, she believes that Abendsen used the oracle to help him write it. Juliana meets with Abendsen and asks if this is true. Abendsen admits it. Juliana then asks the oracle why it helped Abendsen write the book and is told that it helped because it believes the book to be true. Juliana is put at peace by this information and decides that the book is really meant to show everyone what the world really is and what their place in it is.



Objects/Places

I Ching, the oracle

It is traditional for Japanese to refer to the oracle when they question the direction of their lives. This tradition was taken from the Chinese and has spread among the people living in the PSA, including Frank and Juliana Frink. Juliana also learns that Abendsen consulted the oracle while writing his controversial book.

The Grasshopper Lies Heavy

"The Grasshopper Lies Heavy" is a book written by Hawthorne Abendsen that speaks of a fictional world in which the Allies won the war. This book is banned in the German-held territories and is the reason why a German assassin is sent to kill Abendsen.

Radio

There is no television, so citizens of the former United States get all their news and entertainment from the radio.

Judo

Juliana makes her living teaching Judo at a gym in Colorado.

Razor Blades

Juliana uses a razor blade to stop Joe from killing the writer, Abendsen.

Studebaker

Juliana drives an old Studebaker.

Pedecab

Citizens of the PSA use pedecabs to travel throughout the city.

Historic Artifacts

The Japanese are big collectors of historic items, especially American history, such as guns, posters and furniture.



Edfrank Custom Jewelry

Edfrank Custom Jewelry is the jewelry company where Frink and his partner begin crafting handmade jewelry.

American Artistic Handcrafts Inc

American Artistic Handcrafts, Inc. is Robert Childan's store. Childan specializes in American historic objects, such as guns, until he learns that some of his items are not authentic. Childan then takes some American-made jewelry on consignment and begins selling it in his store.

Nippon Times Building

The Nippon Times Building is where Mr. Tagomi has his offices.

Trade Mission on the Pacific

The Trade Mission on the Pacific Coast is a governing body run by the Japanese government in San Francisco. Mr. Tagomi is a high official with the Trade Mission.

Pacific States of America

The Pacific States of America includes California, Oregon, Washington and parts of Nevada and is governed by the Japanese government.

Rocky Mountain States

The United States has been divided into pieces and each piece is governed either by the Japanese, the Germans, or the remaining American government. The Rocky Mountain States are a neutral area where Juliana is living.



Social Sensitivity

Most popular novels mirror society and social issues, but in the case of science fiction the mirroring is often indirect, or even distorting. *The Man in the High Castle* is a good example to study this mirroring because it is, in effect, a double mirror. Technically, it is an alternate-history novel in which the Axis powers won World War II.

Franklin Roosevelt is assassinated in 1932, so that America never recovers from the Depression, and an isolationist administration gives the Axis time to invent the atomic bomb and win the war. In addition to this violent shift in political leadership, Hermann Goerring convinces Hitler that the Luftwaffe should bomb British radar stations instead of cities so that Germany wins the Battle of Britain. Actually, this was in fact what Goerring wanted to do, and in Dick's novel it happens, a reminder that history is mutable, that things could have turned out otherwise but for certain strategically placed decisions. On one level, then, the novel says directly that the Nazis did win World War II. Some critics have taken this to mean literally that the spirit of fascism is still strong in the world and in America. Another harsh criticism, although indirect, stems from the fact that the Axis victory appears to have resulted in a more humane San Francisco in 1962 than the one known historically.

However, this is only one level on which the novel may be read. It turns out that in the fictional world of Dick's novel most of the characters are reading a popular novel called *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* which is an alternate history telling how the Allies did in fact win the war. But this alternate history is not the direct mirror image of the historical reality. There are some crucial differences. For instance, there is no racial problem in the United States after 1950; Russia, divided between the United States and Britain, ceases to exist as an independent state; there is no revolution in China, which instead remains loyal to the United States under the leadership of Chiang Kai-Shek; the United States and Britain begin an intense economic competition from which Britain emerges the victor to become the single most powerful nation in the world. This other alternate history would not be of great significance except for the fact that Dick gives the novel a final twist at the end by having one of the characters find out that *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* is actually true, that the Axis did in fact lose the war. Some critics have interpreted this twist ending as an unnecessary artistic failure (earlier in the novel a character already breaks through to what seems to be the "real" San Francisco in a moment of intense aesthetic contemplation), and some as an attempt at metafiction. Although Dick was struggling with how to end the book, the latter possibility seems at least plausible given the metaphysical themes of the book. When readers realize that the world of *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy* is not theirs either, they are at least invited to consider the possibility that they, too, may be fictions. Dick uses his fiction-within-fiction-become-real-world to set up a mirroring equation: as the reader thinks the characters of *The Man in the High Castle* are to him, so is he to reality.

Techniques

In narrating the consciousness of his characters, Dick in this novel uses the stylistic techniques of realism: indirect free style mixed with interior monologue. Some of this monologue is as dense with personal associations and private linguistic habits (a kind of Japanese-English seems to dominate) as a page of Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922) and has much the same effect. It tends to establish the reality of the characters and their world beyond a doubt. Dick is very interesting on the sentence level in this book. In terms of larger structures, Dick eschews an omniscient point of view in favor of a tenuously connected system of narrative foci. He narrates from within whatever consciousness happens to be before the reader at the moment. It is left up to the reader to build a larger pattern of significance from this narrative polyphony.



Themes

Conflict

War is the ultimate conflict and this is where this novel begins. The novel suggests that before World War II, FDR was assassinated, causing the United States to remain stuck in a depression. This depression caused a domino effect that led to the United States losing the war. As a result, Japan and Germany split up the world between them, ruling countries that were once independent. Japan has ruled somewhat peacefully, learning from the cultures of the countries they have taken over and sharing with them their own culture. Germany, however, has ruled with an iron fist, killing all Jews, exterminating whole portions of Africa, and draining the Mediterranean Sea to create fertile farm lands. Germany has also expanded into space, sending many spaceships to the moon. Germany is now turning its attention to Japan, with a desire to rid the world of all people who are not of the Aryan race. Germany decides to bomb Japan, a plot that is revealed to the Japanese government by a German general who does not agree with his country's ideals.

On a smaller scale, conflict is a theme of Robert Childan's life. Childan is an American who can remember his country before the war when he was free to have his own thoughts and beliefs. Now Childan finds himself forced to learn the culture of the Japanese people who govern the PSA, so that he will not offend them when providing them a service. Childan is paranoid about offending these people, afraid that the slightest slip will cause the Japanese people to stop frequenting his store, which depends on his Japanese customers. Childan secretly dislikes these people and does not like having to cater to their needs, but he is afraid to allow this to show. Instead, Childan speaks and acts as he believes they expect, going so far as to praise them for winning the war. Eventually, however, Childan comes to a place where he feels the need to defend his own culture. When Childan does this, he finds it much easier to share his own opinions rather than forcing himself to agree with someone else.

Opposing Realities

Juliana Frink lives in a world where nothing is really what it seems. Juliana has a habit of being with men who use and abuse her. These men are rarely what they appear on the surface. Juliana was married to Frank Frink, who it turns out is hiding the fact that he is Jewish. Juliana runs away from Frank and begins teaching Judo, an art taught to her by a culture she does not respect. Then Juliana meets a man she believes to be Italian, only to learn he is German. Not only this, but this German has befriended her only because he believes she can help him assassinate a controversial writer. Every time Juliana believes she knows who and what is going on around her, things change.

Juliana stops her German boyfriend from killing the writer and then consults the oracle to find out what to do next. The oracle tells her to warn the writer. Juliana goes to the



writer's home after she has finished reading his book. Juliana believes the writer used the oracle to write his book. This book suggests a world opposite to the world where Juliana lives. The book suggests that rather than Germany and Japan winning the war, the Allies won. This world in the book is a Utopian world of peace, where the governments of the Allied countries, such as the United States, spread humanitarian efforts the world over and end poverty and starvation. When Juliana asks the oracle why it would write a book like this, it tells her that it is the truth. Juliana realizes then that the oracle is trying to show the readers of this book the truth about the world in which they live.

Spirituality

Spirituality is a theme of this book because many of the characters of the book use ancient Chinese methods to help guide them in their decisions. The characters use a book called I Ching in order to ask for help. Tacomi uses the I Ching in the traditional way in order to guide him with questions that he asks, such as how to deal with business associates. Tacomi takes the I Ching to heart, using it to guide his every action, even when it goes against his own decisions. However, when Tacomi kills two men to save Mr. Baynes, he finds the I Ching no longer has answers for him. Tacomi is depressed by this until he realizes he can stand up for himself and go on his own decisions.

Frank also uses the I Ching to help him make decisions. Frank consults the I Ching before asking for his job back and again before agreeing to go into business selling jewelry. Frank also consults the I Ching when he thinks about Juliana, desiring to have her back in his life. Frank, too, takes the oracle on its word, never questioning anything it tells him. Frank relies on the oracle so much that he has influenced Juliana into using it. Due to this, Juliana recognizes the use of the oracle in the controversial book, "The Grasshopper Lies Heavy." It is because of the use of the oracle that spirituality is a theme of the book.

Significant Topics

One of Dick's major themes, the web of illusions masking reality (Martian Time-Slip, 1964, explores this theme in depth), is prominent here. Throughout the novel, persons and events give a first impression which later turns out to be an illusion masking another reality. Closely related to this theme is one exploring the relationship of the artificial or fictional to the authentic, and how, if possible, to tell the difference between them. In addition to these metaphysical themes is an ethical one.

While man may be uncertain about the nature of reality, he is nonetheless compelled to make moral decisions in a world he may not understand. Actually, Dick is much clearer on the ethical side of things than on the metaphysical, for *The Man in the High Castle* is a work condemning every totalitarian drive. But it is not merely negative. At the same

time as it condemns fascism it proposes another way in which one may conduct oneself
— Taoism.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third person omniscient. This point of view allows the reader to see the thoughts and feelings of the narrating characters while seeing the plot develop through their eyes. In this novel, the point of view character shifts multiple times, sometimes more than once in a single chapter. The point of view remains consistent despite these multiple shifts, always showing the reader the narrator's thoughts and feelings and always showing the developing plot through that character's eyes.

The use of this point of view is a good choice in this situation because it is an intimate point of view that allows the reader to develop a sense of connection with each of the narrating characters. If the point of view were not omniscient, the reader would not be able to connect with the characters because they shift so quickly within the chapters. In any novel, it is important for the reader to care what happens to the characters, but when the narrator shifts frequently, it is often difficult for this to occur. With the use of the third person omniscient point of view, it is easier for the reader to connect to the narrator because the reader can see the narrator's thoughts and feelings in a shorter amount of space than would be possible with another point of view.

Setting

The setting of this novel consists of two locations. First is San Francisco, California in the Pacific States of America. This San Francisco is unlike the one most readers might know because it is a San Francisco that exists after the United States has lost the Second World War. San Francisco has been bombed and burned to the ground and now is rebuilt. The population of San Francisco is a high concentration of Japanese, as the Japanese government now governs the Pacific coast. With this new government come many aspects of the Japanese culture, including the use of the oracle among Caucasian Americans. The second setting of this novel is Colorado, where Juliana Frink lives. This area of the United States has not changed as much as San Francisco and the Pacific States. However, there are differences here, including the appearance of autobahns and a shift in the types of goods for sale in local stores.

The setting of this novel is important because it helps to underscore the changes that have taken place in the United States since the end of the war. This novel seeks to present what might have happened in the United States if Germany and Japan had won the war. The author predicts that the two countries would have split the United States in half, with one government taking control over one part and the other the other part. As a result, the cities and states that the reader knows are no longer the same, instead taking on new cultures and appearances in response to the government running them.



Language and Meaning

The language of this book is English. However, due to the fact that the novel is about foreign governments in America, there are many foreign words used throughout the novel. Within the dialogue, there are many German and Japanese words used by those whose first language is not English. Some of these words are used by citizens in these foreign-held areas as well. The foreign words and phrases are presented in the text in such a way that the reader can normally decipher the meaning within the context of the dialogue or exposition in which the word(s) appear.

The language of this novel can be a little confusing for the reader, who does not readily understand many of the foreign phrases. Many of these phrases are explained in the text, but there are times this is not the case and the reader may become confused. However, the foreign phrases are spread out in such a way that they do not overwhelm the reader. This makes it easier for the reader to understand the context of the novel without having to completely understand all the foreign phrases. Due to this, the novel is moderately easy to read for most readers.

Structure

The novel is divided into fifteen chapters. These chapters are usually more than twenty pages each and include many shifts in narration and plot focus. The novel is written using an equal amount of dialogue and exposition, causing it to flow smoothly from scene to scene. The overall structure of the novel is linear and tells the story in a straightforward way that allows the reader to follow the story from beginning to end with little confusion over the time line of the plot development.

The novel contains two main story lines. The first story line takes place in the PSA and features a Japanese official and several American citizens. This first story line follows these characters as they adjust to the changes in San Francisco brought on by the change in governments and deal with plots by the Germans to push the Japanese out of America. The second main story line follows Juliana Frink as she discovers the controversial book "The Grasshopper Lies Heavily" and finds herself involved in a plot to kill the book's author. These two story lines play out side by side with only minor connections between the two, never really overlapping or having an impact on each other.



Quotes

"Their eyes, warm not only with human bond but with the shared enjoyment of the art objects he sold, their mutual tastes and satisfactions, remained fixed on him; they were thanking him for having things like these for them to see, pick up and examine, handle perhaps without even buying." Chapter 1, pg. 5

"And then he thought about Africa, and the Nazi experiment there. And his blood stopped in his veins, hesitated, at last went on. That huge empty ruin."
Chapter 1, pg. 11

"Still, it had taken two hundred years to dispose of the American aborigines, and Germany had almost done it in Africa in fifteen years. So no criticism was legitimately in order."
Chapter 2, pg. 25

"Learned that, she thought, from Japanese. Imbided placid attitude toward mortality, along with money-making judo. How to kill, how to die. Yang and yin. But that's behind, now; this is Protestant land."
Chapter 3, pg. 31

"Closer to him, now, she saw that he was not as young as she had thought. Hard to tell; the intensity all around him disturbed her judgment." Chapter 3, pg. 37

"He'll never get through to me, Mr. Baynes thought. And he'll keep trying, because this is his chance; probably he will never see a Swede again. Mr. Baynes groaned inwardly. What an ordeal it was going to be, for both of them." Chapter 5, pg. 75

"I have to get out of here; I am having an attack. My body is throwing up things or spurting them out—I am dying. He scrambled to his feet, pushed down the aisle past other chairs and people. He could hardly see. Get to lavatory. He ran up the aisle."
Chapter 6, pg. 95

"Robert Childan felt his face flush, and he bent over his new drink to conceal himself from the eyes of his host. What a dreadful beginning he had made. In a foolish and loud manner he had argued politics; he had been rude in his disagreeing, and only the adroit tact of his host had sufficed to save the evening. How much I have to learn, Childan thought. They're so graceful and polite. And I—white barbarian. It is true."
Chapter 7, pg. 107

"We're barbarians compared to them, Childan realized. We're no more than boobs against such pitiless reasoning. Paul did not say—did not tell me—that our art was worthless; he got me to say it for him. And, as a final irony, he regretted my utterance. Faint, civilized gesture of sorrow as he hear the truth out of me." Chapter 11, pg. 182



"Life is short, he thought. Art, or something not life, is long, stretching out endless, like concrete worm. Flat, white, unsmoothed by any passage over or across it. Here I stand. But no longer." Chapter 11, pg. 184

"And we are not really different from him, Mr. Baynes thought. We are faced with the same confusions. Therefore unfortunately we can give Mr. Tagomi no help. We can only wait, hoping that finally he will recover and not succumb." Chapter 12, pg. 201

"Death at each moment, one avenue which is open to us at any point. And eventually we choose it, in spite of ourselves. Or we give up and take it deliberately." Chapter 15, pg. 246



Topics for Discussion

What impact has the war had on San Francisco? How is San Francisco changed? How is it the same? How has the rest of the United States changed? Compare San Francisco to Colorado. How are they different? How are they the same? If you lived in this new United States, where would you chose to live?

Discuss Robert Childan. What is his role in this novel? Why is he so eager to please Japanese nationalists? Is Childan afraid for his life? Why is Childan upset to learn the Colt .44 is a fake? What impact does this have on his business? Why does Childan original agree to mass produce the Edfrank jewelry and then change his mind? How does this small defiance change Childan's overall attitude? Why?

Discuss Frank Frink. Why does Frink hide the fact that he is Jewish? What will happen if Frink's religion is discovered? Why does Frink lose his job in the beginning? What was Frink's job? Why is there such a market for Frink's work? Why does Frink decide to go into jewelry? How does this change Frink's overall outlook on life? Why is Frink arrested? Why does he go free?

Discuss Tagomi. What is his job? What is his connection to Childan? Why does Baynes chose to go to Tagomi? How does he hope Tagomi can help him? Why does Tagomi kill the German's attempting to break into his office? Why does Tagomi become depressed after this episode? Why does Tagomi elect to let Frink go free? Does any of this contribute to Tagomi's heart attack?

Discuss Juliana. Why does Juliana become involved with Joe? How could she not know that Joe is German? Why does Juliana agree to go to Denver with Joe? Why does Juliana kill Joe? Does Joe deserve to die like he does? What is Juliana trying to protect?

Discuss the oracle. Why do the character refer to the oracle? What do they hope to learn? Does the oracle give these characters what they want? Why or why not? Why does Abendsen use the oracle when he writes his book? How does the oracle help him write the book?

What does the oracle mean when it says that Japan and Germany lost the war? How is this a truth for Juliana? How does this impact the reader? What does it mean for the future of this alternative reality? Is this an optimistic outlook or a pessimistic one? What does this say about the overall theme of the novel?

Literary Precedents

The alternate history device is not used by Dick as often as the other elements in the science fiction repertoire. Time travel is much more popular, and in a sense alternative history is time travel. Most science fiction readers would be familiar with Murray Leinster's influential story "Sidewise in Time" (1932), but not with the book which seems to have influenced *The Man in the High Castle* the most: the *I Ching*, or *Book of Changes* (12th century B.C.) Dick actually used this book of divination or Taoist oracle to compose his novel. He consulted it on every major decision he made in writing the novel. Also, it figures prominently in *The Man in the High Castle* itself. All of the major characters read and try to conduct their lives by it. And, as a final twist, the *I Ching* is the book which the man in the high castle used to write *The Grasshopper Lies Heavy*.



Related Titles

"Faith of Our Fathers" (1967) was nominated for a Hugo award for Best Novelette in 1967. The story is frequently anthologized and is often the first story encountered by Dick readers who are not normally readers of science fiction. As such, it is a good introduction to his concerns, being a distillation of everything he has written. It challenges both the concept of the charismatic leader and that of the spiritual fountainhead through a devastating series of reality breakdowns that are at first hilarious and then terrifying. The hero, Chien, lives in a victorious Hanoi, part of a huge Red Empire that has, however, like the Japanese-German alliance in *The Man in the High Castle*, not yet subdued every American resistance group. The future is totalitarian, dominated utterly by the Chairman. The citizens are maintained in a state of hallucinogenic delusion. But there are fears that the Chairman is really non-Terran, and Chien, having taken an antihallucinogen, discovers it may be another order of creature entirely, a nightmare against whom there is no defense.

Dick's fascination with the Nazi mentality is apparent in other novels — *The Unteleported Man* (1966), in which the government is using a mysterious one-way teleportation system to populate a second Earth, but messages from this colony have proven to be fakes, and *The World Jones Made* (1956), in which the protagonist forms a fanatical organization to deal with alien drifters from space and a relativist government, are examples — but none explores the theme as fully as *The Man in the High Castle*, which describes the German mind as having unbalanced, psychotic qualities.



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