

New York Dead Study Guide

New York Dead by Stuart Woods

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



Contents

New York Dead Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1-5.....	5
Chapters 6-10.....	8
Chapters 11-15.....	10
Chapters 16-20.....	12
Chapters 21-25.....	15
Chapters 26-30.....	17
Chapter 31-35.....	19
Chapters 36-40.....	21
Chapters 41-45.....	24
Chapters 46-48.....	27
Chapter 49-52.....	29
Characters.....	32
Objects/Places.....	38
Themes.....	40
Style.....	42
Quotes.....	44
Topics for Discussion.....	46



Plot Summary

New York Dead follows the life of J. Stone Barrington, a detective in the New York Police Department, as he investigates the mysterious case of Sasha Nijinsky, a well known broadcaster with the Continental Network. Stone becomes involved by accident, but the case quickly takes over every aspect of Stone's life.

Stone Barrington walks home from a night at Elaine's, the restaurant he frequents. Exercising his knee, which was injured in the line of duty, Stone happens to glance up as the body of Sasha Nijinsky plummets to the ground in front of him. Stone snaps into detective mode, racing to the apartment the woman has fallen from. Stone gives chase to someone fleeing down the stairs, but re-injures his knee and loses the perpetrator.

Stone calls in his partner, Dino Bacchetti and the two check the apartment, finding a diary that might point toward suicide and little else. Scoop Berman, a freelance television reporter arrives and shows the detectives a video. Sasha had survived her fall. The detectives race to the hospital, encountering a horrific accident scene along the way. The scene is chaos, with Sasha's ambulance and a fire truck. Stone and Dino check the hospitals and the morgue with no luck. Sasha is missing.

Stone and Dino investigate Sasha's life, meeting several key characters along the way. Barron Harkness, Sasha's co-anchor, is a pompous man, one who would have suffered in his career if Sasha had worked by his side. Stone also meets Barron's assistant, Cary Hilliard, a beautiful woman who shares an instant attraction with Stone.

While Stone continues to try and piece together what happened to Sasha, he becomes romantically involved with Cary. The two spend as much time together as possible, and Stone speaks to her about the case, relieved to have someone to share things with as he becomes increasingly shunned in the police department. Stone does not agree with the direction the case is taking and tells his partner and superiors so. The department is desperate to solve the case, or at least get it out of the headlines, and to do so they focus their attention on an innocent woman. Hank Morgan, Sasha's lover, is unable to take the pressure she is under, and kills herself. Though tragic, Morgan's death effectively closes the case for the NYPD.

Stone, forced to retire, supposedly because of his injury, but in reality because he did not agree with his superiors, begins a new life working with the law firm of Woodman and Weld, freelancing for them and establishing his own firm. Stone's relationship with Cary cools off and the two seem to have reached an plateau. Stone works for Woodman and Weld, with his friend Bill Eggers acting as his liaison for the firm. Bill requests Stone gather evidence for a client that wants a divorce and Stone does, but the evidence he gets stuns him, as it shows Cary and Barron Harkness engaging in a sexual affair.

Devastated, Stone tries to move on, and the months pass. Despite Stone's best efforts, Cary and the Nijinsky case are never far from his thoughts. Stone is shocked when he receives a note which might be from Sasha. Fingerprints on the note prove to be those



of the missing woman. Cary reappears in Stone's life, and despite his wishes to stay away from her, he is unable to do so. When Stone reveals the note to Cary, she informs him that Barron might have something to hide.

Stone focuses his efforts on proving Barron guilty and winning Cary for himself. Stone also receives an invitation from Sasha for a dinner party. Stone calls Dino for help but is rebuffed, so he takes the limo provided to the location of the party alone. Arriving, Stone is hit with a stun gun, but not before he sees Sasha and several others arranged around a table, seemingly enjoying each others company. The only problem with this is that those gathered are all dead, and expertly embalmed.

Stone awakens to find himself naked and being prepared for embalming by Herb Van Fleet. Herb explains that he witnessed Sasha's fall and took her from the scene after the accident involving her ambulance and the fire truck. Herb refuses to tell Stone who he saw on the balcony with Sasha, and Stone is close to being killed when he reveals to Herb that Sasha is actually a man. Stone had learned from Hi Barker, a writer, that Sasha had been born male, but had a sex change at some point in her youth.

Van Fleet reacts strongly and lunges at Stone, but Dino arrives and kills him. Stone and Dino make arrangements to meet the following night on the set of The Hi Barker Show and catch Barron Harkness in his web of lies. Barker presents Harkness with the evidence that Cary has given to Stone, but Barron is able to explain each situation. In desperation, Stone tells Barker to reveal that Sasha is alive and well. Barron seems pleased, but Cary, now his wife, flees. Stone follows Cary to the roof where she confesses that she killed Sasha so that Barron would be free. Stone finally realizes that Cary has been using him all along, first to gather information about what the police knew, then to mislead him with misinformation about Barron. Cary wanted Barron for herself and the only way that could happen is if she got rid of Sasha.

Stone tries to stop Cary from jumping, but the wind is strong and causes him to lose his footing. Cary plummets to her death, a death that she had forced on Sasha at the beginning of the novel. Stone is saved from falling by his partner, Hi Barker and Barron Harkness, the only person present who seems at all concerned that Cary is gone.

Stone moves on, continuing to practice law and rebuild his life. Stone moves on in love as well, accepting a dinner invitation from an attractive judge, effectively ending the chapter of his life that involved Cary and Sasha Nijinsky.



Chapters 1-5

Chapters 1-5 Summary

Stone Barrington is at Elaine's in New York. Stone and Elaine chat, discussing Stone's upcoming physical for the police department. Stone had been shot in the knee and is hoping to be back on full duty after therapy. Stone notices a man at the bar dressed as a doctor. Elaine tells him that is Doc, who tries to diagnose women to pick them up. The technique rarely works.

Stone leaves and walks home to exercise his knee. Glancing up, Stone sees a woman fall to the ground, landing in a pile of dirt at a work site. Stone rushes over and realizes he knows the woman, as would most of New York. Stone rushes to the building and rouses a sleeping doorman, then rushes upstairs to the penthouse of Sasha Nijinsky. Stone hears someone running down the stairs and gives chase, but his knee gives out and he falls, allowing the person to escape.

In chapter two, Stone enters the apartment of Sasha, a news anchor on the rise. Stone calls his partner, Dino Bacchetti, and tells him the address and to hurry over. Looking around, Stone steps onto the balcony and looks down. An ambulance has arrived, as well as a van with Scoop Video written on the side. Back inside the apartment Stone finds change of address cards, as well as Sasha Najinsky's diary. The last entry in the diary seems angry. The last words entered reflect skydiving without a parachute.

Dino arrives, and Stone gives him the details of the evening so far. More police arrive as well as Scoop Berman, from Scoop Video. Stone tells Scoop to leave, pointing out that Scoop is in a crime scene. Scoop says there isn't a crime because the victim isn't dead, and shows Stone and Dino a video of Sasha being loaded into the ambulance, apparently alive.

In chapter three, Stone and Dino head to Lenox Hill Hospital to meet the ambulance, but find it hasn't arrived. Stone and Dino leave and run into a horrific accident scene: Sasha's ambulance has been hit by a fire truck. The two detectives head to Bellevue Hospital, but they are unable to find Sasha anywhere. They are equally unlucky at the city morgue.

In chapter four, Stone and Dino meet with Lieutenant Leary and give him the details of the evening. Leary comments on the diary, stating that Sasha most likely jumped. Stone doesn't think so, because of the person he chased down the stairs. Leary sends officers out to check every doctor's office and clinic in the area and sends Stone and Dino away to get some sleep.

At home in Turtle Bay, Stone enters his barren house and heads to his room. Stone watches the news and the recaps of Sasha's life. Sasha had immigrated with her parents at the age of six and excelled her entire life. Sasha would have been taking her



position as co-anchor on the evening news the next night. Sasha would have worked with Barron Harkness, someone she had worked with before.

In chapter five, Stone heads to the precinct to go over information. Stone is informed of a possible suspect, Marvin Herbert Van Fleet, who has written Sasha one thousand letters. Van Fleet had attended medical school, but never completed his internship at Physicians and Surgeons Hospital. Stone is shocked when he sees a picture of the suspect and realizes it is the man known as Doc that he saw at Elaine's.

Dino arrives with a copy of Vanity Fair magazine, with a picture of Sasha on the cover. An article written by Hi Barker details Sasha's life. The detectives argue over whether Sasha is alive or dead, and Stone explains his theory of terminal velocity to Dino and the others. Comparing Sasha and her position when she fell to that of a cat that rights itself when it falls, Stone explains that the resistance of Sasha's body, coupled with the billowing of her nightgown and robe, might have slowed her descent. Having fallen into freshly dug soil would have helped in her survival.

Stone calls Continental Network to arrange a meeting with Barron Harkness and is told by a woman to meet her at the station that evening and he will be able to see Barron after the broadcast, as he is not due to arrive from the Middle East until right before airtime.

Chapters 1-5 Analysis

In the first five chapters of the novel, the reader is introduced to many of the main characters, as well as the perplexing mystery that makes up the main plot of the novel.

Stone Barrington, the main character, is a New York City police detective, on restricted duty due to an injury sustained in the line of duty. Stone had been shot in the knee responding to a call from another officer in need of assistance. Time has passed, and Stone has been working his knee in therapy and hopes that the department doctor will release him to full duty when his physical takes place in a few days. Discussing this with Elaine, the owner of Elaine's, a restaurant that Stone frequents, the reader learns that Stone had attended law school, but never taken the bar exam. This fact will be revisited several times in the novel and play an important part in Stone's life as the novel progresses.

While at Elaine's Stone sees an odd looking man in a doctor's lab coat who Elaine informs him is "Doc." The man has been at Elaine's frequently and seems harmless, though his technique for picking up women seems to turn most of them off. Doc will become an important character, though at the time Stone sees no reason to ever remember him.

Stone walks home, hoping to strengthen his knee and witness the fall of Sasha Nijinsky from her twelfth floor balcony. Rushing to the scene, Stone's police instincts take over when he hears someone fleeing down the stairs. Giving chase, Stone re-injures his



knee. Though the injury does not seem horrible and in fact improves after care from a doctor, it will also factor into Stone's future.

The reader meets Dino Bacchetti, Stone's partner of four years, an Italian who seems to relish living the stereotype that being an Italian in New York presents. A man who loves women and the playboy role, Dino is down to earth and flamboyant at the same time. As the novel progresses, the reader learns that Dino fits into the police department like a glove, whereas Stone is a bit of an outsider because of his WASP upbringing. Despite this, the two work well together.

Stone learns in the early moments of the investigation that Sasha Nijinsky, while a very powerful woman in broadcasting, appears unhappy with her life. Her journal refers to "what's his name", and how she is tired of having to deal with people. Despite what seems to be suicidal thoughts in Nijinsky's handwriting, Stone has a feeling that Sasha was pushed from the balcony.

Dino and Stone are floored when Scoop Berman arrives with video showing that Sasha may have survived her fall. Stone had seen Scoop arrive on scene, rushing to the area to film the news after hearing it on the police radio. Stone had also seen a man in a white coat arrive on scene. Both of these seemingly innocent facts will become very important later in the story.

The disappearance of Sasha's body after a freak accident when she was being transported to the hospital turns an already difficult case into one that will quickly spin out of control, taking many of the characters with it. Stone and Dino search all the hospitals in the area to no avail. Stone's boss, Lieutenant Leary, knows that the case will be a focus of the national media and will do what he can to keep things quiet for now. Sasha's fame and the attention the case brings to the department will tear apart the lives of Stone and many others involved.

The reader learns of a suspect, Marvin Herbert Van Fleet, who Stone realizes is the man he had seen at Elaine's. Van Fleet seems to be a big fan of Sasha's, writing her enough letters so that she had gotten a restraining order against him. Though the letters were never threatening, it is a lead that has to be followed up. Barron Harkness is also discussed, the man that Sasha would be working with in her now position of co-anchor on Continental Network. Stone plans on checking both leads. Both men will bring Stone trouble in different ways.



Chapters 6-10

Chapters 6-10 Summary

In chapter six, Stone and Dino head to the Van Fleet Funeral Parlor to meet with Marvin Herbert Van Fleet. The detectives meet Mrs. Van Fleet, Marvin's mother, who takes them to her son. Marvin is working on a body, preparing it for viewing. Doc tells Stone that he has been expecting a visit, given the nature of his relationship with Sasha Nijinsky, taking the detectives by surprise. Doc tells them that after seeing Stone at Elaine's he drove home, stopping briefly at the scene of Sasha's fall, but denying he knew who was the victim. Afterwards, Doc headed home to his apartment over an old glove factory, alone. Stone asks if they can see Doc's apartment, and though Doc states that he will do whatever he can to help Sasha, he feels that the detectives should get a search warrant. Stone and Dino leave, with Dino commenting on Doc being "dirty".

In chapter seven, Stone meets with Hi Barker, the author of the article in Vanity Fair. Barker is a pleasant man and the two discuss what he knows of Sasha. Hi had researched Sasha for six months and interviewed her three times for the article, explaining the extreme detail of the article. Hi does not believe that Sasha was suicidal, and after more discussion he offers to send Stone a list of possible suspects, including Barron Harkness, in exchange for a phone call if the case is solved. Stone agrees, declines a dinner invitation and heads to the television studio.

In chapter eight, Stone kills time in a bar before heading to the television studio. Stone reads an article in the newspaper, one that contains his photo. A girl in the bar recognizes him and Stone almost heads over but stops when another man joins the woman. Stone fantasizes about the woman, realizing that his sex life has suffered with his professional life.

In chapter nine, Stone meets Cary Hilliard, Barron's assistant, who takes him to the control room in the studio. Stone is strongly attracted to Cary. After the broadcast Stone speaks with Barron, who tells him that Sasha was sometimes moody and he would not be surprised if she had jumped to her death. Barron also admits that there are many people that did not like Sasha, though he can't imagine any of them killing her. Stone leaves with Cary, who offers him a ride. Stone offers Cary dinner and the two head to Elaine's.

In chapter ten, Stone and Cary eat at Elaine's, where he gives Cary a brief biography, including the details of being raised by his father, a carpenter, and his mother, an artist. Cary recognizes Stone's mother's name and states that she likes her paintings. Cary comments that Stone does not seem like a cop, and Stone agrees, stating that he is different from most because of his background, having come from wealth, even though his parents had made it on their own without the family money. The two head back to Stone's house, which was left to him by his aunt. The house is being remodeled, with most of the work being done by Stone. Cary comments that he needs to find a way to



keep the house, saying that it is beautiful. Cary suggests Stone go into the law, echoing the comments that Elaine has made. The two head to Stone's room to see his mother's paintings and Cary makes a sexual advance toward Stone that he readily accepts. The two make love all night and Stone wakes in the morning to find Cary gone, but her card with her work and home numbers.

Chapters 6-10 Analysis

Stone and Dino continue to investigate and more characters are introduced. At the Van Fleet Funeral Home, Stone and Dino meet Marvin Herbert Van Fleet, the man that Stone had seen in the bar at Elaine's. Doc tells Stone that he had come across the site of Sasha's fall, but had not known who the victim was, and asks about Sasha's condition. Stone skirts around the edges of the truth, avoiding giving any information to the man. Though Doc is happy enough to speak to the detectives, he is not willing to let them into his residence without a search warrant, though he tells them if a judge thinks it necessary he will gladly cooperate.

Stone then interviews Hi Barker, the writer of the piece in Vanity Fair. Barker tells Stone that Sasha was a secretive person by nature, with few if any close friends. This fact will be important later in the novel, though it seems innocent enough at this point. Barker points Stone toward Barron Harkness as a suspect, stating that Barron would have a lot to lose when Sasha took her place as co-anchor of the evening news.

Stone meets with Cary Hilliard, Barron's assistant. Stone finds Cary very attractive and the two flirt mildly while Stone watches Barron's broadcast. After the news, Stone meets with Barron, whose views of Sasha differ from Hi's. Barron tells Stone that Sasha was quite depressed very often and suicide would not surprise him. He also confirms that Sasha has made enemies over the years but that no one he knew would have killed her.

Stone leaves with Cary, who offers him a ride. Stone accepts and invites Cary to dinner, which she accepts. The two seem drawn to each other.

Stone's interest in Cary is reciprocated when, over dinner, she asks about his life. Cary comments on Stone not seeming like all other policemen, and he agrees, something that will come up again later in the novel. Stone's background in law is mentioned again, as Cary thinks that he would be better off making more money in order to keep the house his aunt left him in Turtle Bay. Stone admits that he dreams of keeping the house, but cannot afford it on a detective's salary. This will come up again later in the novel, as well. The two have sex, something that Stone had reflected earlier had been missing from his life. Cary is very forward, stating that sex is her favorite thing. Though this seems an innocent enough statement, it will be revisited later.



Chapters 11-15

Chapters 11-15 Summary

In chapter eleven, Stone and Dino meet with Lieutenant Leary, who tells them that most of the detectives are now working on the multiple murders of cabdrivers in the city. The lieutenant sends them to see Judge O'Neil to get a search warrant to Van Fleet's apartment and business. Stone calls Cary and the two make arrangements to have dinner at the Tribeca Grill that evening.

Stone and Dino meet with Judge O'Neil, an attractive woman who gives them the search warrant. The three discuss the case, and Judge O'Neil and Stone make a bet about Sasha's being alive or dead, with the loser buying the other dinner.

In chapter twelve, Stone and Dino search the funeral home, finding nothing, then head to Doc's apartment to go over things there. Doc is once again very cooperative, leading them to his apartment in the empty building he owns with his mother. Stone and Dino's search turns up nothing and the rest of the building appears entirely empty.

Stone and Dino head to Sasha's apartment to go through the boxes but discover it empty. The movers had never been cancelled, and had moved Sasha's belongings to her new address. Stone and Dino are told that they cannot see the apartment without permission of one of the board members, and discover that the head of the board is Barron Harkness.

In chapter thirteen, Stone calls Barron at the studio and he agrees to come over to the apartment. Barron lets Stone and Dino into Sasha's unit, where it appears that someone has gone through all of her things. Stone asks who lives in the other apartment on the floor and is told that Cary Hilliard owns it. Stone asks Barron if he has had a sexual relationship with Sasha and Barron tells Stone he will not answer such a question. Stone wants to look through the boxes and Barron agrees, as he has just received notice that he is the executor of Sasha's estate. Stone and Dino take a few boxes of financial records and leave.

In chapter fourteen, Stone tells Cary that Sasha was going to be her neighbor, and Cary seems shocked and a bit upset that Barron did not tell her. Stone asks if Barron had been sleeping with Sasha and Cary gets defensive and asks Stone if he is working or out for the evening. The evening grows uncomfortable and Cary has the driver bring Stone back to his house. Stone apologizes and leaves the car. Before the car pulls away, Cary rolls down the window and tells Stone that Sasha and Barron have been having an affair for years, and that she thinks she is falling in love with him.

In chapter fifteen, Stone arrives at the precinct to find Dino speaking with a man. Dino introduces Stone to Evan Duncan. Mr. Duncan informs Stone that when leaving his club the night before, he had opened the door of what he believed to be his car and saw



Sasha Nijinsky. Stone is dumbstruck and calls the car service that Duncan uses to find out where the car had gone after the club.

Stone and Dino arrive at the address of a Ms. Balfour and ring the bell. A maid answers and then gets her boss. Stone is shocked when Sasha Nijinsky walks in the room but is disappointed almost at once when the woman informs him that she is mistaken for Sasha all the time. Stone and Dino head back to the precinct, knowing that their time is running out on the case.

Chapters 11-15 Analysis

The murders of several cab drivers in the city has pulled most of the detectives in another direction, leaving Stone and Dino to work on the case of Nijinsky. The lieutenant is trying to keep things quiet, but states that the mayor is getting anxious.

Stone and Dino search the premises of Doc's funeral parlor and home, with Van Fleet cooperating, as usual. Though the man seems strange, there is nothing to tie him to Sasha except for the letters the man had written. With nothing else to go on, Stone and Dino decided to go through Sasha's financial records and try and get a lead from them.

Discovering Sasha's boxes have been moved to her new address is a bit upsetting but leads to some important information for the detectives. Sasha had been planning to move to a much more exclusive address, and the president of the cooperative board at her new building is Barron Harkness. Dino comments on the coincidence of the facts and Stone has to agree.

Barron arrives with more information; he has received a letter informing him that he is the executor of Sasha's estate. Barron claims that is the first time he's heard the news. Stone also learns while gathering the items he needs from Sasha's belongings that Cary owns the apartment across from Sasha.

Meeting Cary for dinner, Stone informs Cary about her neighbor and Cary seems surprised, almost hurt, that Barron had not shared this news with her, claiming that her boss told her everything else. Cary seems bothered by the fact that Barron had not trusted her and returns to this thought several times throughout the evening. Cary also gets angry at Stone when he questions her about whether Sasha and Barron had been having an affair, seemingly upset that Stone might be using her. Stone realizes his error and apologizes, but the evening fun seems to end. At home, Stone is resigned that he might have ruined his chances with Cary, but is stunned when she admits that Barron and Sasha have been having an affair for years, and that she thinks she is falling in love with him. The relationship between Cary and Stone seems to be moving quickly.

A lead from a citizen regarding Sasha leads nowhere, as Stone and Dino discover that the woman Eric Duncan had seen outside his club is simply a look-alike to Nijinsky. Now that the multiple murders of the cab drivers have taken manpower from the case, Stone and Dino know that they are working on borrowed time and need to make a break in the case before they run into more trouble.



Chapters 16-20

Chapters 16-20 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Stone goes over Sasha's financial records. Noticing a discrepancy, Stone heads to her lawyer's office and meets with Frank Woodman. Stone asks Woodman about a two million dollar difference in the accounting, and the lawyer tells Stone that he is only aware of it because Sasha had shown him a check that she was going to send to the Cayman Islands to invest with a friend.

Stone heads out and is surprised by a friend, Bill Eggers, who he went to law school with. Bill invites Stone for a drink when they are less busy to chew things over. Stone agrees, once things quiet down.

In chapter seventeen, Stone is happy to get an invitation to breakfast from Cary. The two talk, with Cary asking about Stone and his job. Stone explains again that he is a bit of an outsider, helped by a "rabbi", or senior officer who looked after him, and now Dino. Cary asks about the Sasha situation. Stone hints that eventually someone will come forward with information, hoping Cary will, but she changes the subject.

Cary takes Stone shopping, then the two wind up in Cary's apartment and make love through the night until Stone sleeps with his penis in Cary's hand. Arriving home the following night, Stone finds a letter from the bank stating that his interest payment is due. Stone is physically sick when he realizes that the interest payment is what he spent on clothes with Cary.

In chapter eighteen, Stone arrives for work and discovers a meeting with the Chief of Detectives, Vincent Delgado, Police Commissioner Waldron and John Everett, an FBI agent. The men ask about the investigation surrounding Sasha Nijinsky, and Stone and Dino state the issue plainly. The crux of the matter comes down to whether Sasha was alive or dead after she hit the ground, and Stone's theory of "terminal velocity" is brought up. Stone is embarrassed but states the theory. After the meeting, Stone seems pleased, but Dino tells him things are bad and those higher in the department will be looking for a scapegoat.

In chapter nineteen, Stone and Dino head to the studio to interview Hank Morgan, a lesbian make-up artist who was resistant in her first interview. Hank confesses to Stone that she and Sasha were in love, stating that they often met at Hank's apartment, as Sasha being seen with a woman would have been bad for her career. Hank tells Stone that she was with another woman the night of Sasha's fall from the balcony and gives a name reluctantly. Hank also tells Stone that she is aware that Sasha had been having an affair with a man, but accepted it.

On the way out, Stone stops to talk with Chelsea Barton, a set designer at Continental Network, who confirmed that she had been with Hank Morgan the night Stone saw



Sasha fall. Leaving, Stone and Dino discuss what they have discovered about Sasha's sexual orientation.

In chapter twenty, Stone gets a call from Morgan, telling him that Chelsea had lied for her, and that she had been home alone the night of the Sasha incident. Stone remembers something and checks Sasha's records, finding several checks made out to Henrietta Morgan. Stone and Dino think that Hank might have been blackmailing Sasha.

The detectives pick Hank up at the station for questioning and take her to the station where the press waits. Dino arrives with the news that Hank's fingerprints have been matched to some found on the window outside Sasha's apartment on the terrace. Dino begins to question Hank. She seems ready to crack when her lawyer arrives and stops the interview.

The detectives are surprised when Hank's lawyer returns and states that she will answer their questions.

Chapters 16-20 Analysis

Sasha's financial records point Stone in a new direction, as there are two million dollars unaccounted for. What seems to be an innocent meeting with Frank Woodman will eventually lead Stone in a new direction in life, though he does not know it at the time. Meeting with Woodman, Stone learns that even Sasha's lawyer never really knew her, emphasizing Sasha's secretive nature in life. Woodman informs Stone that the money was missing because Sasha planned on making an investment with a friend, but that she must have trusted this person completely, or she would not have made the move. This fact is important, and one that Stone might have paid attention to rather than follow the path he does in the novel.

A chance meeting with Bill Eggers, a former law school classmate seems innocuous, but will lead Stone on a new path before he knows it.

Stone again connects with Cary, relieved that she had contacted him after their last meeting. The two share a nice meal, and afterward Cary takes Stone shopping for clothes, seemingly outfitting him so he fits into her lifestyle. While eating, Cary questions Stone about his job, and he once again tells her of how he does not really fit into the department, but that he loves the work. Cary also questions Stone about the Nijinsky case, and though she seems concerned about his well-being, the reader will learn that this is not the case.

Stone's financial situation will be emphasized when he reads the letter from the bank stating that he has an interest payment due, close to the same amount he and Cary had spent on clothes. This emphasizes the differences between the two.

The meeting with Stone's superiors seems to go well to him, though Dino thinks differently. Stone is happy to have others on board who might have other opinions, but Dino explains that he and Stone will be the scapegoats if anything goes wrong. This



fact, pointed out by Dino, shows the reader that Stone is still on the outside, despite many years in the department. Dino still has a better feel for the truth of what is going on.

The meeting with Hank Morgan takes Stone and Dino in yet another direction, one which will cause more grief for Stone than he can imagine. This section of the novel gives the reader insight into the differences between Stone and his fellow officers, something that Stone has been trying to fight for so long. When Stone and Dino discover that Hank and Sasha have been lovers, there is another angle to follow. Hank's reluctance to talk to the police makes her seem a bit guilty. When Stone recalls checks written to Hank by Sasha, it seems that a clear suspect might be present. The fact that Hank's fingerprints are present at the scene seem to cement this thought. Despite this, Stone has misgivings about what they have learned. Dino has no such thing, happy to have someone to point the finger at. The partners disagree for the first time. Dino is happy to have a suspect, while Stone simply wants the truth.



Chapters 21-25

Chapters 21-25 Summary

Stone questions Hank Morgan, who has logical answers to every question. Stone questions the money that Hank took from Sasha and Hank states that Sasha loaned her the money for renovations to her home. Stone questions Hank's reaction to Sasha sleeping with a man and even her answer to that seems logical. Hank's lawyer calls an end to the interview. Stone and Dino speak to Lieutenant Leary, who agrees that Hank seems dirty and says they have to fit things to her. Stone balks and Leary rephrases things, stating that evidence needs to be found.

In chapter twenty-two, Lieutenant Leary gives Stone and Dino twenty-four hours to find something on Hank. Stone is uncomfortable with the focus on the woman. Dino checks Sasha's records for proof about a loan made to Hank and Stone heads to her apartment to interview her neighbor.

Ms. Vincent tells Stone that she was away when Sasha disappeared, but that she had seen her and Hank Morgan holding hands. Vincent also tells Stone that she had seen Morgan carrying a gun into her apartment when she moved in. Vincent is obviously uncomfortable with Morgan being gay. Stone returns to the precinct, where Dino tells him that there is no paperwork regarding a loan to Morgan by Sasha and once again tells Stone that Hank Morgan is dirty.

In chapter twenty-three, Stone buys a paper on the way home and reads about Hank Morgan's arrest. There is obviously a leak in the department. Arriving home, Stone gets a call from Dino, telling him that Leary wants a meeting the following morning. Stone reminds him that he is scheduled for his physical, but says he will put it off.

Stone takes Cary to Elaine's and invites her to dinner at Hi Barker's on Saturday. Cary once again suggests that Stone consider leaving the department and practicing law, pushing him to be more successful. Afterward the two make love again.

In chapter twenty-four, Stone heads to the meeting and the gun that Hank Morgan owns is mentioned. Leary tells Stone and Dino to execute a search of Morgan's apartment but Dino mentions Stone's physical. Stone is surprised when Lieutenant Leary tells him to go for the exam. Stone has the exam and the doctor seems pleased, telling him the report should be filed in a week. Stone heads to Hank's apartment and finds it a mess, with Dino in the kitchen with Morgan's gun. Hank Morgan arrives, stunned at the mess. Dino produces an arrest warrant and places her under arrest. Stone is angry at the way things are heading. After the police leaves, he calls Morgan's lawyer to warn him of what is going on.

In chapter twenty-five, Stone watches as Dino interrogates Hank. As Dino is convincing her to confess, her attorney arrives and ends the interview. Stone confronts Dino,



reminding him that there is no way to prove Morgan had anything to do with Sasha's fall and disappearance. Lieutenant Leary angrily tells Stone to get with the program. Stone angrily threatens to testify on behalf of Hank Morgan and Leary and Dino both respond with disgust.

Chapters 21-25 Analysis

The case against Hank Morgan seems to be disappearing when Morgan gives a statement about her relationship with Sasha. Morgan does give the reader a bit more insight into the person that Sasha was, explaining that Sasha was bi-sexual. Though Dino tries to incite Morgan to anger by suggesting that her jealousy over Sasha's relationship with a man made her kill Sasha, nothing further comes from the interview.

Stone becomes a bit alarmed when Dino seems totally focused on Morgan as a suspect, and even more so when it seems that Lieutenant Leary wants the evidence to fit Morgan. When Stone suggests angrily that he would testify for Morgan if it came to it, the reaction of his partner and his boss is cold. At a meeting regarding a search warrant for Morgan's apartment, Stone is uneasy, feeling as if he is being shunned by his boss and partner. Rather than execute the search warrant with Dino, Stone is sent to his department physical, hoping to get clearance for active duty. Afterward, Stone finds Dino at Morgan's apartment with Hank's gun in his possession. Stone is not happy about the way things are playing out, sensing that the department is looking for an easy fix to take the heat off of them. When Dino leaves with Morgan, Stone takes a step outside the department and calls Morgan's lawyer himself.

It is clear that Stone has several problems with the way the investigation is being handled and that he feels like he is an outsider. There have been several references made to the fact that Stone is not like other policemen, that his background keeps him separate from others. Though Stone wants nothing more than to be a policeman, it seems as if he is facing a difficult time ahead.

Stone and Cary's relationship continues, with each enjoying the other's company and a high sexual energy. Cary once again suggests that Stone take the bar exam and start practicing law rather than continue working for the police department. Cary's family has money, and she is accustomed to the finer things. It appears that she might be grooming Stone to take a place in her life.



Chapters 26-30

Chapters 26-30 Summary

Stone heads home and is met by his tenant, Dr. Feldstein, with his notice to move. Stone is at a loss; his bills are piling up and the income is needed. Heading inside, Stone changes into work clothes and starts varnishing shelves, thinking about the events surrounding the case. Stone does not like the way things are going and knows he needs to make a choice. Dino arrives and asks Stone what he is going to do. Stone tells his partner that he does not know, but that he knows Dino is not behind whatever happens.

In chapter twenty-seven, Stone goes to work and is told Lieutenant Leary wants to see him. Leary tells Stone that the results of his physical show that his knee will never heal properly, and he is relieved of duty with full medical. Stone is stunned, as the doctor had told him his knee was fine. Leary reminds Stone that he never fit in, despite being a good investigator. Stone returns to his desk where his things are waiting in a box for him. No one looks at him as he heads for the door.

In chapter twenty-eight, Stone arrives at home to several phone calls about his job, from the press and then from Cary. Stone asks Cary to come over but she tells him she is working late. Stone works out the next morning and buys a newspaper with an article about Hank Morgan. Stone realizes that the department is setting the groundwork to make Morgan look guilty.

Stone has a message from Herbert Van Fleet, expressing his sadness at Stone's career ending. Another call from Stone's friend Bill Eggers tells Stone that they should have a meeting when Eggers returns from Los Angeles in a few days.

In chapter twenty-nine, Stone and Cary attend a dinner party at Hi Barker's. The other guests are Frank and Marian Woodman, Abbott and India Wheeling, and Edith Bonner. Bonner, a psychic, tells Stone that he will continue to be involved with Sasha, though he will try not to. Bonner also tells Stone that there are two people responsible for what happened to Sasha. Bonner ends the discussion by telling Stone to be careful, as his life may be in danger.

Frank Woodman tells Stone that when Bill Eggers returns to New York he might have something interesting to discuss with him.

In chapter thirty, Stone and Cary wake in his apartment. Stone makes breakfast and gets the newspaper. Outside, he sees an unmarked police car on the street. Upstairs, Cary reads the paper and shows a shocked Stone an article relating the suicide of Hank Morgan. Stone is angry, but before discussing things with Cary, he heads to the basement and is not surprised to find a bug on his phone line. Stone calls Dino and tells him to tell Lieutenant Leary to remove the watch from his house and stop tapping his



phone. Cary tries to comfort Stone, who explains to her that he had made his decision regarding Hank Morgan before being retired. Stone would have gone along with Dino and the others if they had let him stay on the force.

Chapters 26-30 Analysis

Stone's life begins to unravel a bit more as the novel progresses. Notice by his tenant that he will be moving at the end of the month puts Stone under even more financial strain. The real estate market is not good and Stone would never get what the house is worth in its unfinished condition, and he is running out of options with interest payments coming due.

Stone is shocked when he is told that he is being relieved of duty because of his knee injury. The doctor had said nothing to Stone about it, and it becomes clear when he leaves the office that he is being shown the door because of his opinion on the situation with Hank Morgan. Leary once again brings up the fact that Stone never really fit into the department, again highlighting the differences between Stone and his fellow officers.

Stone has time to reflect while working in the house and exercising, and also because Cary is unavailable because of a heavy load at work. Though Stone understands the importance of her career, he is a bit disappointed at first. By the end of the week, when the two get together for Hi Barker's party, Stone realizes that the time alone has allowed him to adjust to things better.

The party at Hi Barker's presents a few items of interest. Frank Woodman speaks to Stone and mentions an opportunity that might present itself when Bill Eggers returns from Los Angeles. Stone is interested, as there is nothing in his future at the moment.

Edith Bonner also introduces some information, though it is apparently derived by psychic means. Bonner informs Stone that he is not finished with Sasha, despite his wishes to be, and that there are two people involved in whatever happened to the broadcaster. Stone takes the information with a grain of salt, but it will be revisited later in the novel.

The news that Hank Morgan has committed suicide shakes Stone, not just because an innocent woman could not stand up to the pressure that the department had put on her, but because he would have gone along with the department in order to stay on the force. Stone confesses this to Cary, and explains to her that the case is effectively closed for the department. Though there is no evidence against Morgan, the publicity will allow the department to let the case quietly go away. The FBI will continue to try and locate Sasha, but the kidnapping and the attempted murder, if that is what happened, are two separate things.



Chapter 31-35

Chapter 31-35 Summary

Stone begins studying for the bar and working on the house each night. Cary is busy all week, but the two have dinner at Elaine's on Saturday. Elaine tells Stone that Doc had been in and a woman claimed that he had tried to push her into a van. Stone tells Elaine that Van Fleet is not even a real doctor and she vows that he will not be allowed back in the bar.

At home, Cary and Stone are both tired and their lovemaking is nothing like the passion they usually share. Cary decides to go home and sleep, promising to be in better spirits the following week. Stone gets a call from Bill Eggers, asking him to meet at The Four Seasons for dinner to discuss something.

In chapter thirty-two, Stone meets with Bill Eggers, who offers him a position working for Woodman and Weld. Stone would set up his own firm and work for Bill's firm as well. Bill explains that Stone has the right presence and background to deal with the firm's clients. Stone happily accepts. Bill tells Stone that he can start the next day and they part. Stone walks home, relieved that things have turned around for him.

In chapter thirty-three, Stone finds Dino waiting for him, and the two go out for a drink. Dino apologizes to Stone for letting him down. Stone accepts. Dino tells Stone that he had gotten the call for Hank Morgan's suicide and felt so guilty he went to confession. Dino also tells Stone that he has made detective first grade, and he knows that he did so because of the situation with Morgan. Dino relates that he will be able to forget and move on, but as he throws his glass through a mirror at the bar, it is clear that right now he is having trouble reconciling his part in the death of an innocent woman.

In chapter thirty-four,, Stone meets Bill at the office and has his first taste of what is expected from him. A client's son has been accused of rape and Bill wants Stone to see if the boy is lying. Stone puts on his best "bad cop" persona and meets with the boy, who appears sincerely confused about what is going on. Stone browbeats the boy until Bill sees where things are headed and meets with the young man on his own. Stone is out of practice, as Dino usually played the role of "bad cop", but Barrington knows that the boy is not as innocent as he seems and that he had done his job well.

In chapter thirty-five, Bill meets with Stone and tells him that the boy confessed to more than he admitted previously and that Stone has saved the family substantial legal fees. Bill tells Stone that his next job will be investigating a woman who is having an affair. Bill does not want Stone to take photos of the woman having an affair, but for him to find someone who can. The woman's company keeps an apartment at the Plaza and the client will contact Bill the next time she claims to be working late.



Stone calls Teddy O'Bannion and informs him of the job. A former policeman, Stone believes that Teddy will be perfect. Teddy agrees to take the job and Stone will call him when the woman meets illicitly in the apartment.

Chapter 31-35 Analysis

Stone tries to settle into life as a retired police detective and keeps himself busy working on his house and cramming for the bar. Now that Stone has nothing but time, Cary is still busy, and for the first time the couple's lovemaking is lack-luster. Stone believes that this is because the two are simply overwhelmed with the schedules they are keeping, but other facts will come to light later.

Stone finally meets with Bill Eggers, who offers him a job that suits Stone just fine. For the first time, the background that kept Stone from fitting into the department is a good thing. The WASP appearance that Stone portrays will make the clients of Eggers law firm more comfortable. Bill informs Stone that his contacts have let him know that Stone passed the bar. The relief Stone feels is overwhelming. Knowing that the position is a perfect fit for him, and that he will still have the opportunity to do investigative work is very pleasing.

Stone goes to work the following day and meets with Bill regarding his first task for the firm. The son of a client has been accused of rape and Bill wants Stone to find out if the man is telling the truth. Using the techniques that Dino usually employed during questioning, Stone is able to save the client an enormous amount of money. It is clear that Stone will fit into the new position quite well. Bill informs Stone of his next task, catching a client's wife in the act of having an affair so that a divorce can be quickly obtained. Stone is tasked to find someone who can photograph the illicit affair and believes he has the perfect person in Teddy O'Bannion, a former police officer. Bill promises to provide details in advance so that Stone can set up the operation.

Stone receives a visit from Dino, and his former partner apologizes for the way things happened. Stone is still happy from the news at the law firm and tells Dino that it is fine. Dino is clearly reeling from the suicide of Hank Morgan, and his part in her death. Despite this, Dino tells Stone that he will be able to put it behind him and move on. This is a clear difference between Dino and Stone.

Though Stone's life is apparently moving forward in a new direction, the relationship between him and Cary seems to stalling. Though Stone chalks this up to the fact that they are both tired, there is an underlying issue that Stone will soon discover, one that is tied to his latest job.



Chapters 36-40

Chapters 36-40 Summary

Stone gets a key to the apartment across the way from where the client's wife meets to conduct her affair. Stone checks the apartment where Teddy O'Bannion can stay and then checks the empty apartment across the hall. While checking things out, Stone hears a woman enter the apartment and he hides in the bedroom. The woman enters and cleans up, then lays down to sleep. Stone waits until the woman is silent and then escapes.

Bill calls Stone and tells him the woman is going to meet her lover Friday evening. Stone is pleased, as the work will not interfere with his date with Cary on Saturday. Stone calls Teddy and lets him know what is going on. Arriving home, Stone has a message from Cary, telling him that she is looking forward to seeing Stone on Saturday and hearing his great news.

In chapter thirty-seven, snow falls in the city and Stone enjoys it while waiting for the job on Friday night. As the day goes on and evening approaches, Teddy is late and Stone begins to panic. Just as Stone is getting ready to go on his own, Teddy arrives. Stone hands the man a camera and tells him he will drive and wait outside for Teddy. Teddy shows Stone a pistol but reassures him that it is only a water pistol and he needs it.

The two arrive at the building and Teddy goes in. Stone gets a start when a police officer knocks on his window, but Stone tells him his wife is having an affair and he is watching to see what happens. Teddy finally returns and regales Stone with the tale of the evening. Teddy tells Stone that the water pistol was used so that when he turned the light on he could spray the couple with water when they covered their eyes. This would allow Teddy to get a clear picture of them in the act. Stone is thrilled that Teddy has managed to get the evidence needed.

In chapter thirty-eight, Stone takes the evidence to the office to show to Bill Eggers. The two watch and the tape plays out, and as the lights go on the couple in bed covers their faces. The water gun spray is seen on the video and both parties are revealed. Stone freezes as Bill Eggers declares happy victory. The couple in the video is Barron Harkness and Cary Hilliard.

Bill explains to a stunned Stone that his client is actually Charlotte Harkness and the tape will allow her to divorce Barron without any trouble. Unable to think, Stone heads home. Once there he listens to a message from Cary, telling him that she has been called home for an emergency and will be unable to see him the following night.

In chapter thirty-nine, Stone thinks of nothing but Cary as time passes. Bill congratulates him on a job well done, and Stone sees an article in the paper



announcing the divorce of the Harkness's. Dr. Feldstein moves out and Stone spends months remodeling the space into an office. Cary never calls.

Dino calls and tells Stone that he is getting married. Dino invites Stone to the wedding, which will take place in a week. The Friday before Dino's wedding, Stone receives a letter in the mail signed 'S'. The letter appears to be from Sasha Nijinsky.

In chapter forty, Stone meets with Dino and tells him about the letter. At first Dino refuses to discuss things, but then tells Stone that if he comes up with any information he will do what he can. Stone hands Dino the envelope so that he can check the fingerprints on the letter. Dino also tells Stone that on top of the cab drivers being killed in the city, there are several cases of people missing from around the city and the department has no idea what has happened to them.

Chapters 36-40 Analysis

What begins as a great opportunity for Stone will soon become a nightmare for him. Arranging for Teddy O'Bannion to catch the wife of Bill's client in the act of having an affair, Stone gets caught up in things and feels the excitement of the assignment. Stone is also happy that the job will not interfere with his meeting Cary on Saturday night, an irony that will reveal itself soon.

As the time approaches, Stone begins to panic because Teddy is late and the weather is bad. When Teddy does arrive, Stone decides to accompany him to be on scene. While Teddy is on the job, Stone is startled by a police officer who wants to know why he is sitting outside the building. Stone explains that he is trying to find out if his wife is having an affair, yet another bit of irony.

Teddy declares himself a great success and Stone cannot wait to present the evidence to Bill Eggers. Once in the conference room, Stone plays the video that Teddy made the night before. Bill is very pleased, but Stone's world implodes when the image on screen shows Cary Hilliard, the woman that he believes in love with him, and her boss, Barron Harkness. A call from Cary announcing the need to return to her parents for an emergency is the last communication that Stone receives from Cary.

Stone tries to repair his life and focuses on turning the suite under his brownstone into a law office. The mindless tasks keep Stone occupied and the months pass with no word from Cary.

Stone does hear from Dino, who surprises his old partner by announcing his engagement. Stone is pleased for Dino but a bit shocked as Dino is a ladies man at heart. Asking how things are at the office, Stone learns that in addition to the murders of the cab drivers, the detectives are now looking for several missing men and women who seem to have vanished off the street without a trace.



Stone receives a letter signed by 'S', seemingly from Sasha. The return of Sasha to the front of his mind is something Stone had not planned on. Enlisting Dino's assistance to check the fingerprints on the envelope, there is little Stone can do but wait.

It appears that Edith Bonner might have been right about Stone being unable to leave the Nijinsky case behind.



Chapters 41-45

Chapters 41-45 Summary

Stone meets with Frank Woodman. Stone shows Frank the letter he received and the two compare it to a letter that Woodman has in his files. The handwriting is similar enough to make them question who sent it. Woodman calls a handwriting analyst, who arrives at the office to look things over. Mr. Weaver tells Stone and Frank that there is an eighty percent chance that the same person wrote the letters, and details some minute differences between them. Weaver then asks Frank if he is sure Sasha wrote the letter in his file because he would have sworn the letter was written by a man.

Stone heads home and gets a call from Cary, who tells him she wants to see him. Stone can barely control himself, but hangs up. Cary does not show up.

In chapter forty-two, Stone stands as Dino's best man at his wedding. Leaving the church after the ceremony, Stone is shocked to see Cary sitting in the church. At the reception, Stone speaks to Dino and congratulates him on tying the knot. Dino gives Stone a report on the letter from Sasha and tells him he does not want to talk about it again.

Dino points out Cary and Stone meets her on the dance floor. Cary leads him off the floor to a secluded office where the two make love, but Cary refused to speak about things. Afterward, Cary cleans up and Stone goes over the report that Dino has given him. Cary is stunned to discover that Sasha might still be alive. Stone tells Cary that things are certainly looking that way. Cary gets quiet and then tells Stone that Barron was not on the plane from the Middle East.

Stone asks Dino if he actually saw Barron Harkness get off the plane. Dino, leaving for his honeymoon, tells Stone he checked the manifest but never says that he saw him debark.

In chapter forty-three, Stone is awakened in the middle of the night by a call from Herbert Van Fleet. Van Fleet has been arrested for attempted rape and wants Stone to represent him. Stone heads to night court and gets Van Fleet, who would like to be called Herb, out on bail. Van Fleet tells Stone he picked up a girl at the Tribeca Grill and the two had become a bit more than friendly. At a traffic light, the girl had taken exception to Herb's advances and leaped from his van in front of a police officer. Herb swears to Stone that things had gone no further and he was simply trying to calm the girl, not restrain her.

Stone gets Herb out on bail and speaks with the assistant DA, getting the charges dropped. Herb thanks him and tells Stone he will never get in trouble again. Stone arrives at his office and his secretary gives him a message to meet Ms. Hilliard at the 4 PM. Stone vows not to go.



In chapter forty-four, Stone arrives at the Algonquin Club and receives a room key from a passing waiter. Arriving at the room, Stone finds Cary waiting. The two make frantic love. Cary readies to leave and Stone is angry, wanting answers. Cary tells him she can't explain, but that he will see her soon. Cary then asks Stone about Barron's flight from the Middle East and tells him that Sasha gave Barron a large amount of money which she wanted returned. Barron had been unable to come up with the funds. Stone remembers the money missing from Sasha's accounts and wonders if these facts are connected.

Stone arrives home and finds an invitation to a dinner party on Saturday evening, with a handwritten note signed again by 'S', saying 'I look forward to seeing you.'

In chapter forty-five, Stone notices in the paper that Hi Barker has gotten his own television show and calls to congratulate him. Barker asks if Stone would like to speak about the Sasha case, and though Stone is not ready to, he asks to meet Hi to exchange information. The two men meet and Stone tells Hi that Barron was not on the flight the night of Sasha's fall. Though Harkness wonders if Stone can arrest Barron, Stone tells him things are not that simple.

Stone then tells Hi about the letters he has received, as well as Sasha's fingerprints on the first. Hi is stunned. Stone tells Barker that if the letters turn out to be fake he would like to have Barron be Hi's first guest and lays out a plan. Hi is delighted with it.

Stone then tells Hi it is time to come clean. Hi confesses to Stone that in the course of his investigation into Sasha he discovered that Sasha was born a boy, but when her parents emigrated to the States, they arrived with a young daughter. At some point in her early years, Vladimir Nijinsky became Sasha Nijinsky. To Stone, this explains why the handwriting samples seem to be written by a man.

At the end of the lunch, Hi Barker asks Stone if Cary is his source of information. Stone wonders why, and Hi tells him that Cary and Barron are to be married that afternoon. If Cary is Stone's source, she will not have to testify after her husband.

Chapters 41-45 Analysis

Events in Stone's life start to take shape and move quickly. Stone takes the letter he received to Frank Woodward and discusses whether it might be from Sasha. Stone is still entertaining the idea that Sasha is alive, and the letter has brought the case back into the front of his mind. The reader is reminded of the meeting that Stone had with Edith Bonner, and how Bonner told him that he would not be able to get away from the case, that he and Sasha were drawn together. It seems that this is the case.

The handwriting analysis is a bit inconclusive, but does reveal one interesting bit of information. Though the writing is similar, it is clear to the analyst that both samples were written by a man.



Cary is back in Stone's life like a thunderclap, appearing at Dino's wedding. Stone is unsure of what happened between them, but is unable to stay away from the woman he thought he was falling in love with. After the two make love, Stone shows Cary the letter that he received and Cary seems not just shocked by the news, but in shock as well. Cary confesses to Stone that she has held back the fact that Barron was not on the plane the night Sasha fell. Stone checks with Dino, but his former partner is leaving on his honeymoon and not in the mood to get into a discussion about it.

Herbert Van Fleet also turns up in Stone's life again, under arrest for attempted rape. Stone represents Herb and gets him out on bail and the charges dropped, after Herb assures him the case is blown out of proportion. Stone remembers the events that Elaine had related to him about a woman claiming Herb had tried to force her in his van, but lets the events go, happy to have his first client in his firm. Barrington will learn that he should pay more attention to his instincts.

Stone meets with Cary once again, unable to stay away from her despite his own wishes. After the two make love, Cary gives Stone more information about Barron, this time stating that he owed Sasha a fortune. Stone does not know how to handle the sudden flow of information from Cary, but it is clear that the image of Cary and Barron in bed is swaying his views about Barron's guilt in Sasha's fall and disappearance.

Stone meets with Hi Barker to exchange information. Stone is not willing to go on the record yet, but knows that Hi has been holding something back from him. The two men discuss Barron Harkness, and it is clear that Stone wants nothing more than to find that Barron has something to do with whatever happened to Sasha. As Barker has no use for Barron, he has no trouble signing on to help Stone with his plan, though it is not revealed at this time.

Barron reveals to Stone that in his research of Sasha's life, he discovered that Sasha had been born a male. No one is sure of why Sasha was then raised as a girl, but Hi Barker refuses to reveal this fact, unless it is proven that Sasha is dead.

Barron also breaks the news to Stone that Cary and Barron are being married. Stone is obviously shocked, having had no hint of this. Barron reminds Stone that if Cary is his source of sudden information about Barron, she will not have to testify once the two are married. Stone is aware of this, leaving him to wonder why Cary is suddenly so forthcoming.



Chapters 46-48

Chapters 46-48 Summary

Stone spends the day trying to stay busy and avoid thought of Cary's marriage. Going over the case in his mind, Stone cannot manage to find anything that points to Barron Harkness as a suspect. Remembering that Van Fleet had some issues while in medical school, Stone heads to Physician's and Surgeons Hospital and meets with Dr. Garfield.

Garfield tells him that Van Fleet was a promising student but had acted strangely. Van Fleet did not like dealing with male patients unless forced. One evening, Van Fleet had been caught having sex with a sedated patient and was thrown out of the program. Stone wonders if Van Fleet is hiding the fact that he is gay.

In chapter forty-seven, Stone wakes up to find Cary in his home, naked. The two make love and Stone tells her they are disgusting, continuing the relationship after Cary's marriage. Cary agrees, and Stone wonders if Cary could ever be satisfied. Cary tells him of a girl who she knew in college that had satisfied her; but the girl had killed herself, stating she loved Cary and knew she would never have her.

That evening Stone leaves Elaine's too drunk to walk and catches a cab. The cab stops at a light and the driver is shot. Stone leaps out and gets in the driver's seat, giving chase to a van. The two vehicles attract the attention of a police car that gives chase. The van takes a turn too fast and flips. Stone has time to exclaim that this would be a great video for Scoop Berman when Scoop gets out of the van and shoots at the police. The police fire back and Scoop falls.

Stone speaks to Scoop, who tells him he has killed the cab drivers because they always got in his way while heading to a news event. Scoop then tells Stone that Herbert Van Fleet was at the scene the night Sasha fell and he acted like he knew something.

In chapter forty-eight, Stone tries to reach Dino several times before going to dinner. Stone finally reaches Dino when a limo arrives to take him to his destination. The driver tells Stone that he cannot reveal the location. Dino tells Stone he is too tired, having just returned from his honeymoon, and to call him tomorrow.

Stone gets in the limo and is driven away, unsure of where he is going. Stone hears the car enter a garage and the driver opens the door and shows him into a vestibule. Stone takes an elevator, then follows the sound of voices. Entering a room, Stone sees several people gathered around a table, and at the head of the table is Sasha. Stone is about to speak when he falls to the ground in pain, having been shot with a stun gun. Before he passes out, Stone realizes that all present at the table are very still, glassy-eyed, and dead.



Chapters 46-48 Analysis

Stone tries to keep himself busy and his mind off of Cary's marriage by rehashing the case from the beginning. Though it would please Stone immensely to find something to tie Barron Harkness to Sasha's fall and disappearance, there is nothing to be found. Stone feels the same way about Herb Van Fleet, but he does think twice about the man's failure to become a doctor, and decides to check it out.

Stone meets with Dr. Garfield at Physician's and Surgeon's Hospital to try and get to the bottom of things. Garfield is reluctant to talk to Stone at first, but eventually decides to as long as Stone keeps things quiet.

Garfield tells Stone that though Van Fleet was an excellent student, he exhibited strange tendencies that made him a poor candidate for becoming a doctor. Van Fleet's aversion to dealing with male patients as well as his obsession for beautiful female patients was something many noticed. When Van Fleet was caught in the act of having sex with an unconscious female patient, he was thrown out of the program. There was no publicity because the hospital did not want the notoriety. Though the story is disturbing, Stone cannot see how the facts would affect Van Fleet's connection to Sasha. Van Fleet's aversion to dealing with male patients will become important in the near future.

Stone is unable to keep himself from Cary when he wakes and finds her in his room. It is clear that Stone is obsessed with Cary, and he appears to have gotten over his thoughts that the relationship is based on love. Cary's comment that she had been thrilled when a fellow student killed herself rather than live without Cary is very telling. Cary is obviously more concerned about her happiness than that of anyone else.

The case of the cab driver killings is finally solved when Stone happens to be in the back of a cab when the driver is killed. Ironically, Stone is the reason the case is finally closed, though he is no longer a detective for the NYPD. Scoop Berman is the killer, upset because cab drivers refuse to yield when he is tracking a story.

Stone finally manages to reach Dino and ask for help as he readies to leave for Sasha's dinner party. Dino is angry at being called after just returning from his honeymoon, and reminds Stone that he does not want to hear about Sasha any more. Dino hangs up on Stone, forgetting that he had promised Stone to always be there if needed.

Stone arrives at a secret location and find himself in what appears to be an elegant old building. The sounds of conversation and dinner lead him toward an open doorway. Stone sees a party taking place, and Sasha at the head of the table, turned as if to great him. As Stone falls to the ground, he is able to observe that Sasha and her guests are in fact corpses. The mystery of whether Sasha is alive or dead, is at last, solved.



Chapter 49-52

Chapter 49-52 Summary

Stone wakes up naked on a table and sees Van Fleet enter. Herb explains to Stone that the people in the next room are his friends, and referring to them as "dead" would upset them. Stone cautiously questions Herb, who tells him that he took Sasha from the accident site, but she stopped breathing after a few days, despite the medical care he gave her. Stone tries to talk to Herb, but whenever he mentions death or Herb's past, Van Fleet gets upset. Stone encourages Herb to tell Stone about the night Sasha fell. Herb tells Stone that he saw someone enter Sasha's building the night she fell, walking right past the sleeping doorman. Herb had seen Sasha and the person arguing and had seen Sasha go over the balcony. Herb slipped out when the doorman waited for Stone to return from chasing the perpetrator down the stairs.

Stone asks Herb who the person was but Herb tells him to ask at dinner and maybe he will get an answer. As Herb prepares to embalm Stone, he tells Herb the truth about Sasha, that the woman he loves is in fact a man. Herb is disgusted and screams at Stone, telling him that he and Sasha have a normal relationship. Stone keeps telling Herb he is queer. Herb prepares to stab Stone but a shot rings out as Dino enters, shooting Herb.

In chapter fifty, Stone convinces Dino not to call the situation in because they still do not know who pushed Sasha. The two make arrangement to meet at the Continental Network the following night to catch Barron Harkness.

In chapter fifty-one, Stone and Dino watch as Barron meets Hi for his interview. Stone is surprised that Cary is there as well. The show begins and Hi starts slowly, but then confronts Barron, stating that he knows that Barron wasn't on the plane. To Stone's surprise, Barron provides witnesses that were with him on the plane. Barron then mentions the two million dollars missing from Sasha's funds. Barron states that Sasha gave him the money to invest and he had a check prepared for her with quite a bit of return on her capitol. Stone is grasping and sends a note to Hi, who tells Barron that the police have just announced that Sasha is alive and will be able to name who attacked her. Stone does not hear Barron's answer because Cary gets up and leaves the studio.

Stone chases Cary onto the roof, where she tells him that she, Sasha and Barron had all been sexual partners, sometimes together. Stone realizes that Cary has used him from the beginning, trying to get information about the case. Cary admits that as Stone wouldn't leave his dead end job, Barron was her only alternative.

Cary is close to the edge and Stone manages to grab her, but the wind blows and the two stumble. Stone is unable to hold onto Cary and she falls from the roof. Someone grabs Stone from behind and he is pulled to safety by Dino, Hi and Barron. Barron mourns his wife, but he is the only one.



In chapter fifty-two, Stone is in court, defending a client. The case ends and Judge O'Neil calls Stone into her chambers to remind him of their bet over Sasha. The judge tells Stone that he owes her a dinner and Stone smiles at the attractive woman, agreeing.

Chapter 49-52 Analysis

The truth about Sasha being alive or dead is revealed when Stone wakes up and finds himself strapped to a table with Herb Van Fleet hovering nearby. Stone learns that Van Fleet's mental status is far from the normalcy he projected on their previous meetings. The table of "dinner guests" is clearly the missing people that Dino had mentioned to Stone; once again Stone has found himself solving a perplexing case for the department that pushed him aside.

Van Fleet's infatuation with Sasha has come full circle, as now he has her in his possession, preserved in a lifelike state that allows him to enjoy a full, even sexual, relationship with her. It is clear by Herb's reaction when Stone refers to the bodies as dead that he is beyond any rational thought. Stone knows that his life is limited, and though he tries to gather information about who pushed Sasha, Herb is no longer interested in talking.

Stone antagonizes Herb, telling him the truth about Sasha being a man. Herb is horrified, refusing to believe that he has been intimate with a man. Enraged, he moves to attack Stone, but Dino kills him. Dino had taken the one bit of information that Stone had given him, that there was new information about Van Fleet, and arrived at the scene. Herb had created his parlor and dinner party in an adjoining property to his own. This is why the police searches had turned up nothing.

Dino comes through for Stone and does not report the "party", hoping to flush out the person responsible for pushing Sasha. Stone believes that everything comes back to Barron, not just Sasha, but his own downfall as well. Stone had met Cary, but lost her to Barron. Stone had become focused on the case and the way things were being handled, and wound up losing the job he loved. The irony is that he finally turned to the law, something Cary had been encouraging all along, but the change had come too late. Cary had turned to Barron, seeking the life she wanted.

The Hi Barker Show is entertaining to all present as Barker begins to question Barron about his life, then turns the subject to Sasha. Though Hi presents the information that Stone has provided in order to trip Barron up, the information is easily refuted by an increasingly angry Harkness.

Barker's final revelation, that Sasha is alive, does not elicit the reaction from Barron that Stone had hoped for, but reveals instead, the true perpetrator. Cary flees with Stone following and the truth is revealed. Cary had been having a sexual relationship with Sasha and with Barron, sometimes the three together. While Cary wanted Barron, Sasha wanted him just for the sake of having him. Cary could not bear for this to



happen, and after arguing with Sasha and a struggle, Sasha had plummeted off of her balcony.

Stone realizes that Cary has been using him all along in order to gather information on the case. Though at first Cary swears this is not the case, she then tells him that she is with Barron simply because Stone refused to move forward in life and leave the police department.

Stone tries to stop Cary from getting closer to the edge of the building but the wind takes them to the edge and Stone is not able to keep Cary from falling. In the end, Cary dies, the same death that she had befallen upon Sasha. Stone, who thought he could never be free of Cary, is now free from her forever.

In the end Stone does move on, freely flirting with Judge O'Neil and planning a dinner. The dinner looks promising, but in the end, it is one more thing that is the result of Sasha Nijinsky's death.



Characters

Stone Barrington

The main character in the novel *New York Dead*, Stone Barrington is an attractive thirty-eight-year-old detective with the New York City Police Department. Stone likes his job and has always been happy as a police officer, despite the fact that he has never really fit in at the department. The only child of parents who were born to wealth, Stone presents a well-bred persona, while the rest of the department is more of a melting pot. Despite this, Stone has done well for himself and with the help of his partner, Dino, acting as a type of buffer, he continues to do so.

Things change for Stone when he happens to witness the fall of Sasha Nijinsky from her twelfth floor balcony. What originally appears to be a lucky break for Stone and his partner soon turns into a nightmare for both. Sasha disappears on the way to the hospital and Stone and Dino are pulled into a case that tears apart their partnership and destroys Stone's career in the police department.

While investigating the Nijinsky case, Stone meets Cary Hilliard, the assistant to Barron Harkness, a suspect in the case. Stone and Cary share an instant attraction, and Stone is unable to resist Cary in any way. Stone is unaware that Cary is using him to gain information in the case, and later to plant misinformation to lead him in the wrong direction. Though it seems that Cary does like Stone, it is clear that the love she has for herself is more important than anything to her.

Stone reinvents himself by passing the bar and working as an attorney. Stone's position working with Woodman and Weld leads him to discover that Cary has been having an affair with her boss, Barron Harkness, all along. Stone tries to move on, but when Cary returns to his life he is unable to resist her. The two continue their sexual relationship, despite the fact that Cary is now married to Barron, though Stone knows that it is wrong.

Stone receives a note from Sasha Nijinsky, requesting his presence at a dinner. Stone attends, hoping to discover what the truth is behind Sasha's fall and disappearance. After arriving, Stone is hit with a stun gun, but not before he sees Sasha and several others posed around a table, dead and embalmed.

Stone discovers the truth behind Sasha's disappearance and almost loses his own life in the process, but his former partner saves him. Stone then focuses his energy on proving Barron Harkness is the person responsible for Sasha's death. Stone arranges a public situation for Barron to be exposed, but the reality is much different. Stone is devastated when he realizes that Cary is the person he has been seeking all along, and that he had misjudged her so badly.

Throughout the novel, Stone Barrington is a good man, though sometimes easily lead when his heart is put before his head. Stone's focus on Cary and the relationship



between them blinded him to the truths around him. In the end, Stone is able to move forward in life, despite the fact the he lost so much in the process.

Sasha Nijinsky

Sasha Nijinsky is the victim in the novel *New York Dead*. A successful television broadcaster on the verge of a great career move, Sasha plummets to the earth from her balcony right in front of Stone Barrington. Stone is shocked to learn that Sasha might have survived the fall, as seen in a video made by Scoop Berman. Sasha, however, never makes it to the hospital, as the ambulance she is in gets into an accident on the way to the hospital and she vanishes.

Throughout the police investigation, Stone and the police department learn from several sources about the person that Sasha was. Determined and career minded, Sasha was determined to succeed from the beginning. Working hard and focusing on her career, Sasha loved power and money. Though her diary seems to reflect a penchant for suicide, several people insist that though Sasha was intense, she had no death wish.

The reader learns that not only was Sasha a successful woman, she was also bi-sexual. Stone learns that Sasha had carried on an affair with Barron Harkness, a man she has worked with in the past, and would have been co-anchor with if she had not disappeared. Stone also learns that Sasha had been having an affair with one of the make-up artists at Continental Network.

As the novel progresses, Stone receives communication from someone that he believes to be Sasha. Though no longer a detective, Stone is unable to let go of the case. Investigation leads Stone in several directions but he focuses on Harkness as the more likely. This turns out to be a mistake.

Cary Hilliard

Cary Hilliard, an attractive woman in her early thirties, is a production assistant for Barron Harkness, the anchor of the news program for Continental Network. Stone Barrington meets Cary when he interviews Barron regarding the fall and disappearance of Sasha Nijinsky. Stone and Cary begin an intimate relationship almost immediately, one that Stone finds all-consuming. Very early in the relationship, Cary becomes a bit combative while speaking to Stone about Barron, but ends the night by telling him that she believes she is falling in love with Stone.

Cary is a smart woman, but appears to be self-involved and has no use for others if they do not fit into her plans. Cary encourages Stone from the very beginning of their relationship, pushing him to pursue a career in the law and leave the police department. Cary's reasoning for this is to make sure Stone can keep his house; however, as time goes on, it is clear that Cary is more concerned about herself than Stone.



After Stone leaves the police department, he takes a job with a law firm that leads him to discover that Cary has been having a sexual relationship with Barron Harkness. Cary disappears from Stone's life for several months, but she is still under his skin as their relationship has been so consuming. Cary eventually appears in Stone's life again and the two resume a passionate affair, one that continues after Cary marries Barron.

Stone still share information about his life with Cary, and tells her that he has received a letter from Sasha. Cary begins feeding Stone information about Sasha and Barron, leading Stone to believe that Barron Harkness has lied to him all along, and has something to do with Sasha's fall and disappearance. After Stone confronts Barron, he discovers that Cary is responsible for Sasha's fall, desperate to have Barron to herself. Cary blames Stone as well, claiming that if he had left the department and pursued law she would have left Barron and stayed with Stone.

Marvin Herbert Van Fleet

Marvin Herbert Van Fleet is a failed medical student working as an embalmer at his family's funeral parlor. Though Herb, as he instructs Stone to call him, was a gifted medical student and intern, he was removed from the program after he was discovered having sex with a sedated patient.

Van Fleet is introduced to the reader when Stone observes him at Elaine's, trying to pick up women at the bar by diagnosing them. Elaine tells Stone that Doc, as he is known at the bar, does this often, but seems harmless. Van Fleet then becomes a suspect in the Nijinsky case when it is discovered that over a period of time he had written Sasha thousands of fan letters. Stone and Dino investigate Van Fleet, even searching his apartment, but the investigation leads nowhere and the police department moves on.

Van Fleet appears again when he is accused of attempted rape and retains Stone to defend him. Stone does, and manages to get Herb off. Stone assumes that Van Fleet is simply an odd man, one that simply has no idea of how to interact with others. Stone learns this is not the case.

After receiving two letters from Sasha, Stone attends an dinner party that he has been invited to. Escorted in a limo, Stone arrives to discover Sasha hosting a dinner party, but all present, including Sasha, are dead.

Van Fleet took Sasha from the scene of the ambulance accident and hid her in a property adjoining his, then embalming her along with others he had kidnapped off the street. Van Fleet almost succeeds in adding Stone to his party, but Dino enters in the nick of time, killing him and saving Stone.

Dino Bacchetti

Dino Bacchetti is Stone Barrington's partner in the police department, and has been for four years. The two men are as close as brothers, though very different. Dino is a



womanizer, who at the beginning of the novel wouldn't mind spending each night with a different woman. Dino and Stone are from very different backgrounds, and Dino often smooths the way for Stone within the department.

Though Dino and Stone have always worked well together, the Sasha Nijinsky case finds them on opposite sides. Dino wants the case closed, no matter what has to be done for this to occur. When the character of Hank Morgan looks like a plausible suspect, Dino has no problem making the evidence they have appear incriminating. When Stone is uncomfortable with the treatment that Morgan is getting in the department and the press, Dino is willing to turn his back on Stone and their partnership.

In the end, Dino and Stone manage to retain their friendship, even after Stone is forced out of the department. Dino asks Stone to stand as his best man when Dino makes the unlikely step of marrying his girlfriend, and provides Stone with information about the Nijinsky case. When Stone is in trouble, Dino is the man that comes to his aid. Dino proves that though sometimes he might have trouble taking the truly correct path, he is true to his friends and tries to do the right thing.

Lieutenant Leary

The head of the detective unit and Stone Barrington's boss.

Mrs. Van Fleet

Herbert Van Fleet's mother and the owner of the funeral home where he works.

Scoop Berman

The man who filmed Sasha being loaded into the ambulance, still alive. Scoop is also the murderer of the cab drivers, angry that they get in his way when he is on the way to a news event.

Hi Barker

A writer for Vanity Fair, Hi wrote the article on Sasha Nijinsky that appeared after her fall and disappearance.

Barron Harkness

Barron Harkness is the anchor of the Continental Network and Sasha was to have been his co-anchor. The two had worked together in the past and were lovers, according to



Cary Hilliard. Barron is a suspect as far as Stone is concerned, but his thoughts are based largely on information he has gotten from Cary Hilliard.

Mrs. Vincent

Hank Morgan's neighbor.

Mrs. Ellen Balfour

A woman mistaken for Sasha Nijinsky.

Vincent Delgado

Chief of Detectives for the New York Police Department.

Commissioner Waldron

The Deputy Commissioner who interviews Stone and Dino about the Nijinsky case.

John Everett

The FBI agent who takes over the kidnapping portion of Sasha Nijinsky's case.

Henrietta

A make-up artist at Continental Network, Hank has been having an affair with Sasha. After being questioned by the police, Hank is the center of the investigation because of inconsistencies in her story, all seemingly explainable. Despite this, the investigation focuses on Hank and she cannot handle the pressure, killing herself. Though Hank is never charged in the murder or disappearance of Sasha, the case is effectively closed as far as the department is concerned.

Judge O'Neil

The female judge who issues the search warrant for Van Fleet's funeral home as well as his residence. Stone and the judge make a bet about Sasha which she collects on at the end of the novel.



Dr. Feldstein

Stone's tenant in the lower level of his home. When Dr. Feldstein gives notice of moving, Stone winds up using the space to open a law office.

Frank Woodman

Sasha's attorney and managing partner in the law firm that hires Stone after he leaves the police department.

Marian Woodman

Frank Woodman's wife.

Abbott Wheeling

A former editor of the New York Times, Stone meets Abbott at Hi Barker's apartment. Wheeling offers to write an article in the Times about Hank Morgan's suicide and the case, should Stone be interested.

India Wheeling

Abbott Wheeling's wife.

Edith Bonner

A psychic, Edith tells Stone that despite his best intentions, he will continue to be involved in the Sasha Nijinsky case. Edith also tells Stone that there were two people involved in what happened to Sasha, though they had worked separately. Edith also tells Stone that his life may be in danger.

Bill Eggers

A former classmate of Stone's, Bill Eggers suggests a new career for Stone, working as an offshoot of Woodman and Weld.

Dr. Garfield

The doctor at Physician's and Surgeon's Hospital who is in charge of interns. Dr. Garfield provides Stone with the information about Herbert Van Fleet's internship and dismissal from the program.



Objects/Places

Elaine's

The restaurant in New York where Stone is a frequent visitor.

Scoop Video

The video company owned by Scoop Berman. Scoop drives around the city looking for footage to sell to the news and tabloids.

The United Nations Plaza

The apartment building where Hi Barker lives.

Vanity Fair

The magazine that publishes articles that Hi Barker writes about Sasha Najinsky.

Physician's and Surgeon's Hospital

The hospital where Marvin Herbert Van Fleet was thrown out of the intern program for having sex with an unconscious patient.

Continental Network

The television network that employs Barron Harkness, Cary Hilliard and Sasha Nijinsky.

The Tribeca Grill

A restaurant in New York where Stone and Cary have dinner.

Weinstein's Fine Gloves

The glove factory where Van Fleet lives. The factory is also the location of Sasha's embalmed body, as well as several people who have been reported missing. Doc has the bodies around a dinner table, apparently interacting with them as if they were still living.



The Four Seasons

The restaurant where Stone meets Bill Eggers for dinner and receives an offer to work for Eggers law firm.

Woodman and Weld

The law firm where Bill Eggers is a partner and where Stone winds up working for after he leaves the police department.



Themes

Betrayal

There are several examples of betrayal in the novel, and most involve Stone Barrington. The first episode of betrayal occurs when Stone is forced to leave the police department because of his knee injury. Though Stone had seen the doctor and done well on his department physical, his superiors use his injury as a way to force Stone out of the department and away from the Sasha Nijinsky case. Stone is pushed aside because others in the department, including his partner, Dino, are unsure if they can count on Stone to keep quiet regarding their main suspect, Hank Morgan. Stone feels betrayed, not just because of the way he was dismissed after so many years in the job he loves, but because in the end he would have kept quiet and gone along with whatever the department wanted. Stone would have betrayed Morgan's trust simply to keep his job.

Another instance of betrayal occurs when Stone discovers that the woman he believes he loves, Cary Hilliard, is having a relationship with her boss, Barron Harkness. Cary and Stone share a passionate sexual relationship, one that Stone hopes will blossom into marriage and a life together. Though Cary has told Stone that she believes she is falling in love with him, Stone discovers that Cary has been intimate with her boss the entire time. Things get even worse for Stone when he discovers that Cary and Barron are getting married. After the marriage, Stone and Cary continue their relationship. Cary is effectively betraying both men in her life each time she is with the other.

Sex

Sex is a major focus in the novel *New York Dead*. Throughout the novel Cary Hilliard uses sex, not only to keep Stone Barrington interested in her, but also to keep his focus divided between his job and their relationship. Cary uses sex in order to maintain a bit of control over Stone. By keeping Stone focused on sex and when he will see her again, Cary keeps the detective a bit off balance. This helps Cary, because Stone is not completely entrenched in the investigation into Sasha Nijinsky's fall and disappearance. Though Stone is a professional and dedicated to the job he loves, he is unable to keep his mind from wandering to Cary and the sexual relationship they have. Cary also uses sex to gain information from Stone about the investigation and the direction it is taking. Because Cary has told Stone that she might be falling in love with him, Stone feels a false sense of intimacy. Using the intimacy, Cary is able to learn things about the Nijinsky case that will keep her one step ahead of the law should they get close to an answer. When Cary discovers that Sasha might be alive, she uses her relationship with Stone, again after having sex, to misdirect Stone, keeping any investigation away from her.



Friendship

Friendship is a theme that runs through the novel, though at times it is the lack of friendship that becomes the focus.

Stone Barrington is friends with his partner of four years, Dino Bacchetti. The two detectives are close, and Dino at one point refers to Stone as "a brother." Though there are many differences between the two men, their upbringing being the most obvious, they mesh well as partners and friends. An example of their friendship on the job and off is the fact that Stone is recovering from a gunshot he received in the line of duty. Though the injury is painful, it would have been much worse had Dino not killed the suspect that had fired the shot.

In the novel, the friendship between the two men is strained to the point of breaking over the Sasha Nijinsky case. Stone is not happy with the way one suspect is being paraded as guilty before the press. The department has no evidence against Hank Morgan, but displays her as if guilty, in order to take the pressure of themselves. Morgan, unable to handle the strain, kills herself.

Stone is forced to leave the department because his superiors are worried that he might blow the whistle on the situation. Dino, Stone's best friend, is also unsure of Stone's plans and does nothing to help his partner keep his job.

Despite the differences over the Nijinsky case, Dino and Stone prove that their friendship is stronger than most. When Stone needs help, he does not hesitate to call on Dino, and Dino never fails to come through. Though the two men go through a difficult situation in the novel, they overcome their differences and maintain the friendship they have shared over the years.



Style

Point of View

New York Dead is written in the third person, with the narrator following the life of Stone Barrington, the main character. This is helpful to the reader as the thoughts and feelings of Stone directly impact the direction the novel takes at times. The reader is better able to understand Stone's motivations for the choices he makes with the insight into his life and those he cares for.

The novel is written with both descriptive passages and dialogue. The descriptive passages allow the reader to get a feel of the world that Stone lives in, as well as the types of people he associates with. The dialogue contained within the novel gives one a sense of the characters and the how they interact with each other. The dialogue also provides a sense of the background of some characters. Though all of the characters are educated, there are several instances where Stone appears to be more intelligent because of the way he speaks. Because of Stone's upbringing and his level of education, he does not quite fit into things at the police department, which is brought to the attention of Stone and the reader several times within the novel.

Setting

New York Dead is based in the city of New York. Several main locations are visited in the novel. Stone Barrington is a police detective; therefore, the police department and the detective squad are visited many times. Stone is also a regular of Elaine's, a popular restaurant in the city. Stone first comes across the character of Herbert Van Fleet at Elaine's, and is on the way home from the restaurant when he witnesses the fall of Sasha Nijinsky.

Stone also visits several locations in the city while investigating the fall and following disappearance of Nijinsky, such as the apartments of the possible suspects, Van Fleet's Funeral Parlor and the Continental Television Network.

When Stone is not working, he spends time refurbishing his home in Turtle Bay, an affluent section of the city, or at the apartment of his love interest, Cary Hilliard. Hilliard lives in the same building as Barron Harkness, her boss and lover, and would have been living across the hall from Sasha Nijinsky if she had lived long enough to move into the building.

Language and Meaning

The language in the novel is modern, as the story takes place in current times. The characters are all well educated, though there are instances within the novel that set some characters apart from others. An example of this is when Dino chastises Stone for



using proper grammar while speaking to a morgue attendant. Stone comes from a different background than most of the characters he interacts with on the police force, and tends to stand out at times. Stone's background and his differences from those he works with is a contentious point in the novel, and the author uses Stone's proper speech as a way to make the differences more visible to the reader.

The language is straightforward and easy for the reader to follow. Though there are scenes that occur in hospitals and within the police department, there is not an overuse of technical language that would bog the reader down. The author uses language easily understandable, creating a much more entertaining novel.

Structure

New York Dead is divided into fifty-two numbered chapters. The chapters vary in length from two to ten pages. Though the chapters are not titled, the novel is divided in such a way that each chapter contains an important piece of information, though the reader might not be aware of the important fact until later in the novel.

The main plot of the novel is the fall and disappearance of Sasha Nijinsky and the investigation that follows. The investigation is conducted by Stone Barrington, the main character, and the New York Police Department.

The relationship that develops between Stone Barrington and Cary Hilliard is a subplot in the novel, and the direction Stone's life takes after he leaves the department is directly affected by Cary's opinion of Stone's position in life. Stone's relationship with Cary causes him to reevaluate his choices in life and what he plans to do with his life.

The novel is fast paced and enjoyable, though at times it seems that there are too many things going on at once. The author neatly ties all of the different directions together by the end of the novel, giving one a sense that the characters have all come full circle. Encompassing several months in Stone Barrington's life, the novel moves quickly, keeping the reader entertained and focused throughout.



Quotes

"It was just luck. He was rolling his head around, trying to loosen the neck muscles, and he happened to be looking up when he saw her. She was free-falling, spread-eagled, like a sky diver. Only she didn't have a parachute."

Chap. 1, p. 5

"Tired, I'd say. Maybe depressed. She was usually pretty cheerful, had a few words to say to me, but not tonight. She just asked for her mail, and, when I told her there wasn't any, she just sighed like this.' He sighed heavily."

Chap. 2, p. 11

"The shot was of Sasha Nijinsky, and she seemed to be flying. The earth was thousands of feet below her, and she was wearing a jumpsuit and a helmet and had an unopened parachute strapped to her back. She was grinning at the camera, exposing rows of large, white teeth; her eyes were wide behind goggles."

Chap. 5, p. 40

"I hope you will, Detective Barrington, because while I will help you in any way I feel I reasonably can, I do not intend to have my privacy unduly disturbed, nor do I wish to have my name splashed about in the tabloids, nor my professional reputation besmirched."

Chap. 6, p. 49

"Do you think she was a possible suicide?"

'Not for a moment. Sasha was one tough cookie; she had goals, and she was achieving them. Christ, I mean, she was on the verge of the biggest career any woman ever had in television news. Bigger than Barbara Walters. That sort of person commits suicide only in trashy novels.'"

Chap. 7, p. 55

"But you're different from other cops.'

Stone sighed again. 'Yes, I guess I am. I've been an outsider since the day I started at the academy.'"

Chap. 10 p. 77

"Barron was fucking Sasha,' she said. 'Secretly, regularly, and for a long time. And I think I'm falling in love with you.' She rapped on the back of the front seat and the car drove away, leaving Stone standing in the street."

Chap. 14, p. 110

"On his way home, Stone reflected on Bill Eggers's prosperous appearance, the handsome office, the prestigious law firm. Was it possible that Woodman and Weld might need someone with his background?"

Chap. 16, p. 125



"Stone walked slowly up Sixth Avenue, not looking for a cab yet. He felt like a traitor, but he wanted to do something to redress the balance. He was in no hurry to get to the precinct. He didn't want to be involved in what was going to happen there."

Chap. 24, p. 182

"Stone froze in his chair, unable to move, unable to speak. The man's face had surprised him, but the woman's rendered him nearly catatonic. The man was Barron Harkness; the woman was Cary Hilliard."

Chap. 38, p. 276

"In my experience, this characteristic of what you might call the 'wounded writer' would be more evident in the writing of a woman, but both of these letters were, of course, written by a man."

Chap. 41, p. 295

"She backed up a couple of steps. The edge was nearer now. The wind was gusting, and she leaned into it for a moment. 'Well, you were useless, weren't you?' she spat. 'You wouldn't free yourself of that dead-end job, so that you could get ahead. Barron was simply the best alternative. I didn't love him, though; I loved you. Why do you think I kept seeing you?'"

Chap. 51, pp. 377-378



Topics for Discussion

Why is Stone on restricted duty?

What is Stone's theory about terminal velocity, and how does it apply to Sasha?

What is Stone's relationship with Cary? How does the relationship change? Do you believe that Cary has honest feelings for Stone?

What happens to Stone's career with the police department? Why?

What is Sasha's secret?

What is Stone's relationship with Dino? How does it change throughout the novel?

What really happened to Sasha?