

Noble House: A Novel of Contemporary Hong Kong Study Guide

Noble House: A Novel of Contemporary Hong Kong by James Clavell

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Plot Summary

Noble House is the continuation of James Clavell's exciting story of the biggest and most important trading house in Hong Kong. The original tai-pan devised a list of promises that all succeeding tai-pans must swear to uphold. Now a new tai-pan, Ian Dunross is to be sworn in and he also is expected to swear to uphold the pledge.

The continuing story of the Noble House, Asia's biggest trading company, is as exciting as in the previous novels. The new tai-pan faces many problems that his predecessors faced along with involvement with Chinese spies, a Russian spy ring, drugs and arms smuggling, and now stock market manipulations. Ian must uphold the legacy of Dirk Struan, the original tai-pan and honor the oath that all tai-pans must swear to uphold. He also inherited the legacy of intense rivalry and hatred for Quillan Gornt and his rival company.

Unlike previous tai-pans, Ian Dunross has taken the Noble House public. This makes the company a target for corporate raider Linc Bartlett and his associate Casey. Bartlett makes deals with both Gornt and Dunross and backs Gornt's short-selling in a stock attack on the Noble House. Much of the novel involves Ian trying to find the money to save his company during a period of runs on the banks in the colony.

There is also suspense and intrigue throughout the novel which takes place over the course of a little more than a week in time. There is the kidnapping of John Chen, the murder of the Russian Voranski, the espionage of the Chinese spies and the Russian spies as the authorities try to find out who is Arthur, the head of Sevrin, and who are the high placed members of the ring. There is also an incident of gun smuggling, links to the Mafia and a meeting of the drug bigwigs in Macao. Since many of the authorities are also involved, it becomes rather confusing. There is also a love angle in the book with the relationship between Casey and Linc and Linc and Orlanda.

Even though the book is long, over eleven hundred pages, it is hard for the reader to put down. Clavell's book is recommended reading for people who like novels with suspense and action. The book is available in one or two volumes due to its length but it is worth the time invested in reading.



Prologue-Chapter 8

Prologue-Chapter 8 Summary

Noble House is the continuation of James Clavell's exciting story of the biggest and most important trading house in Hong Kong. The original tai-pan devised a list of promises that all succeeding tai-pans must swear to uphold. Now a new tai-pan, Ian Dunross is to be sworn in and he also is expected to swear to uphold the pledge.

Alistair Struan, the current tai-pan, and Phillip Chen, the compradore, are waiting for Ian. Chen will witness the handing over the reins of control from Alistair to Ian. There are seven points to the pledge and Ian cannot become tai-pan if he does not agree to commit the company to China trade and Hong Kong.

It is now three years later and John Chen is at the airport awaiting the arrival of a charter plane called Yankee 2, which is owned by an American millionaire and corporate raider named Lincoln Bartlett. While waiting, he talks with Superintendent Robert Armstrong of Kowloon CID. Bartlett arrives and introduces him to Casey Tcholak and Armstrong clears them through Customs.

Chinese mechanics at the airport arrive to check Yankee 2. A police jeep arrives and arrests them for gun smuggling. Bartlett claims he knows nothing about the arms shipment or how the racks to hold the arms got there and allows them to search the plane. They all discuss different scenarios of who the guns are for.

Casey is riding in a Rolls heading for a meeting with Noble House. They are trying to undermine Noble House in business and Linc has told her they are targeting Struan's, Rothwell-Gornt and Asian Properties by buying shares of their stock. She arrives and introduces herself to Ian.

Brian Kwok and Armstrong visit Ian in his office and tell him about the arms shipment. Ian gives them a copy of the dossier that he has on Bartlett. They discuss various people, mainly Tsu-yan and John Chen and the possibility of them being involved with the Communists. Tsu-yan departed quickly for Taipei after hearing of the arrests for the gun smuggling and they cannot find John Chen.

The meeting with Casey, Ian and his staff takes place. Bartlett is meeting with Quillan Gornt, who tells Bartlett that they can better any deal that he can make with Struan. Gornt also has more contacts in Shanghai than Struan has. Gornt is hoping that his dealing with Bartlett will end the rule of the Noble House and tells them that Struan's has a cash flow problem.

Gornt introduces Bartlett to Orlanda Ramos. Gornt wants her to become lovers with Bartlett so she can get information from him. He promises her various gifts if she does. Quillan calls Havergill to have some stock sold short. They have a signal and a system



where eight people will buy or sell on Gornt's orders and it cannot be traced back to him. He is trying to financially ruin Struan and needs money.

Ian drives to Phillip Chen's house after the luncheon. Phillip shows him a shoe box that had been delivered with some of John's belongings in it, including a severed human ear. Ian calls Brian Kwok and tells him that they think that John Chen has been kidnapped and that there is a ransom note. They all blame the triads.

Ian tells Phillip of his business plans and of his meeting with Bartlett. Ian's brokers will begin to buy Struan stock and that the Chens should do the same to force the price up. Ian will then announce the takeover of Asian Properties, which will force up its stock price. Then they will dump the stock at a profit. He plans to announce the deal the following week.

Prologue-Chapter 8 Analysis

The Noble House has its own procedures for the selection of tai-pan. Part of this involves the taking of a pledge and swearing to bind the Noble House to Hong Kong and China trade. Ian does this and then tells them he plans to take the company public the next year since it is the only way to raise the capital that they need. He also plans to take the company international.

Part of becoming tai-pan means he inherits the legacy from Dirk Struan. This includes the company's rivals and enemies, principally Quillan Gornt. Their families have been rivals and enemies for many years.

The American millionaire, Lincoln Bartlett, arrives in Hong Kong for a business meeting with Ian Dunross. They are awaited for by the CID division of the police for some reason. They clear Customs but are curious themselves of why they have attracted the attention of CID. Apparently Four Fingers Wu is also awaiting their arrival.

An arms shipment is found in the belly of Bartlett's plane. Armstrong and the police catch the Chinese dressed as mechanics unloading the shipment. Bartlett says he does not know anything about the shipment or how the racks were specially built to accommodate the arms. Bartlett signals to Casey and is apparently involved in the gun smuggling. Armstrong questions Casey also but she also said she knew nothing of the shipment.

Casey causes some excitement at the Hong Kong hotel by staying in Bartlett's suite. The grapevine in the Chinese community quickly spreads the news, as it did of the arrests of the gun smugglers. Armstrong and Brian Kwok talk with Ian at his office and tell him they think someone in Noble House Chen is involved with the triads and the Communists and they mention the names of John Chen and Tsu-yan. Tsu-yan quickly departs for Taipei and they cannot locate John Chen.

Casey represents Bartlett at the meeting and finds the men difficult to deal with. They seem to look down on dealing with a woman, even though she keeps telling that she



has full authority to negotiate with them. Bartlett, in the meantime is meeting with Gornt who tells Bartlett that they can better any deal that he makes with Struan. Gornt has his own plan for trying to destroy the Noble House and wants Bartlett as an ally. He orders a short sell of Ho-Pak stock with a pre-arranged signal through his attorney, Paul Havergill. He is trying to take over the Struan empire.

Casey laughs inside at the behavior of the men. Their behavior is as she expected. This chapter also reveals that Casey has plans to marry Bartlett. She thinks of the Noble House as being the wedding gift from her to him or from him to her. Or perhaps it will be a good-bye present.

John Chen is missing and his family receives a ransom demand. Phillip, Diane and Ian blame the triads and Phillip says he will pay the ransom. Then Ian tells him of his plans for stock manipulation and the profit they will make.



Chapter 9-17

Chapter 9-17 Summary

Brian Kwok has the severed ear analyzed by the police pathologist, Dr. Meng. The John Chen case does not fit the typical kidnapping pattern for the local area. Both Armstrong and Kwok think that Chen is already dead. They are both summoned by the head of SI, Roger Crosse.

Crosse wants to find the link between Bartlett and the gun smuggling, Tsu-yan fleeing to Taipei and John Chen's disappearance. Crosse tells them that there is a KGB spy ring in Asia and Hong Kong, code named Sevrin that holds high positions in government and business. Crosse thinks that the gun smuggling and disappearances are somehow linked to the spy ring. Kwok and Armstrong discuss the information and Kwok says that the only one that could be the spy is Crosse.

Ian reads the same file the police officers read before the party is to begin. The man who wrote the report, Alan Medford Grant, is secretly on Ian's payroll. His intelligence information helps Ian's business.

The file states the plans that Sevrin has for Hong Kong, basically its total destruction, and the means they will use to achieve this goal. The cell head in Hong Kong is code named Arthur and there are six agents. Arthur was educated in England and is believed to be in his forties or fifties and that is all that is known about him. There are seven safe houses and Sevrin's New York contact is Guilli who has Mafia and CIA connections.

The High Dragon, Divisional Staff Sergeant Rang-po of CID, is meeting with his Triad and tells them that they want John Chen found quickly and they want the Werewolves, the group that kidnapped him, found. All nine of the men are members of the triad and police of different ranks.

Casey watches Gornt arrive at the party and is introduced to him by Ian. Gornt mentions his negotiations with Bartlett and Casey tells Ian that she did not know anything about it. Gornt makes it clear that he is trying to drive Struan out of business.

Ian plans on talking to Kwok and Armstrong after dinner. He has learned from Grant's assistant that Grant did not have permission to send him the copy of the report. He also learns of a numbered Swiss bank account.

Phillip Chen has been quiet all evening having gone through his son's safety deposit box earlier. He found notes for gambling debts and other things that disturbed him. He also found a contract dated three months earlier with Par-Con that was signed by Casey. He also found correspondence with Bartlett that refers to a Zurich bank account.



Kwok and Ian find Crosse and talk to him. Crosse tells Ian how they found out about the report and Ian tells Crosse about Grant's death and wonders if Sevrin is involved. They decide to talk again the next day.

A Soviet freighter, the Sovetsky Ivanov, is docked in Wampoa Dockyard in Kowloon. A man named Voranski leaves the ship and is killed by several Chinese. The Chinese then call Tang-po and tell him about the Soviet agent. When they leave the phone booth, they are followed by two CIA agents.

Phillip Chen is very excited when he arrives home and rushes into the garden to a hidden place and digs up a buried locked box. None of the contents seems to be out of place but he finds that the half coin and the paper with the explanation are missing. They had been handed down by his relatives and represented his hold over The Noble House. When Dirk Struan needed money, the co-hongs loaned it to him, and the half coins represented favors to be repaid.

Chapter 9-17 Analysis

Roger Crosse, the head of Special Intelligence, wants to know the tie-in between the arrival of Bartlett and the gun smuggling, the fleeing of Tsu-yan and the kidnapping of John Chen. He wants the answers as quickly as possible. He is also concerned about a secret Russian spy ring, Sevrin which is supposed to be operating in Kong Hong. It could mean that there is a traitor in the ranks of the police department and the government, not to mention business. Crosse also thinks there is a link between the gun smuggling incident, the disappearances and the spy ring and he wants Kwok and Armstrong to obtain some information from Ian.

Kwok and Crosse discuss the information in the file and Kwok thinks that Crosse is the mole. They discuss the consequences and how to go about investigating him without being hurt themselves. Ian also has a copy of the file that he received from Grant and then finds that Grant was killed that day in England.

It is revealed that Ian pushed his father out of the role of tai-pan and had Alastair Struan installed until he, Ian, could take over. He felt his father would ruin the company in their continuing battle with Rothwell-Gornt. When Gornt arrives unexpectedly at the party, it is obvious that the rivalry is still there when Gornt tells Ian of his dealings with Bartlett and how he intends to drive Struan out of business.

He is a part owner in the new Par-Con (Asia) Trading Company and there is reference to him neutralizing his father in any proxy fight. He leaves the party abruptly and early, surprising Ian.

Penelope introduces Casey to Ian's sister Kathleen Gavallan, whose husband was at the meeting at Struan's. She is also introduced to Fleur Marlowe, the husband of Peter Marlowe. Since they both live in California, they talk and Fleur explains who some of the women are.



Upstairs, a man sneaks into Ian's study and makes a phone call and is put through to Arthur. Interrupted by approaching voices, he hides in the shadows, as Kwok and Ian enter the study. Ian notices the painting has been moved. They talk about the Eastern Cloud, which was impounded in India for smuggling gold. Ian said that had nothing to do with him or his company and wants the ship released. Kwok says it can be arranged since it was basically a conspiracy of the triads. He also explains how the gold smuggling operation functions. Kwok also tells Ian that Roger Crosse wants to read all of the reports that he has received from Grant. Ian decides they will talk to Crosse.

Gornt unexpectedly shows up at Ian's party and tells him of his plans to drive Ian and the House of Struan out of business. He leaves thinking that someday the Great House and everything else that Ian's owns will be his someday. After his accident, when the brakes fail on his Rolls Royce, he wonders if his brakes were tampered with while he was at the Great House.

John Chen's involvement with Bartlett become known to his father that afternoon when Phillip goes through John's safety deposit box. He finds gambling debts, a contract with Casey, correspondence with Bartlett, and the fact that John was part owner in Par-Con (Asia) and had plans to neutralize his father in any proxy fight that occurred. Phillip is worried about this information and is preoccupied with it at the party. He leaves early, surprising Ian.

Arthur sends a man into Ian's study to find the reports that Ian has received from Grant. While he is there, Ian enters with Kwok and they talk about the reports and the fact that Crosse wants to read the reports that Ian has received in the past. Kwok does not tell Ian that he suspects that Crosse is Arthur.

At the party, Ian talks with first Kwok and then Crosse. Crosse wants to read all of the reports that Ian received from Grant and Ian tells him they will talk again in the morning. They are looking for a traitor and do not seem to trust one another. Crosse orders a guard on Ian after hearing about Grant's death since Ian brings up the possibility that Sevrin might be involved.

Ian meets with both Linc and then with Casey. Bartlett was concerned about the debts of the Noble House and how they would be paid. Ian was incensed that Bartlett knew about them and changed the terms of the deal. When he met with Casey, Casey told him that the deal was off since he changed the terms and he would have to negotiate a new deal with Bartlett.

Phillip Chen's ancestors were part of the co-hong that loaned money to Dirk Struan in order to save the House of Struan. Part of the deal was six half-coin representing favors to be repaid at some date. When Phillip digs up his buried locked box holding all of his important papers, he finds that his half coin is missing. This represented his hold over the Noble House and he blames his son, John Chen.



Chapters 18-26

Chapters 18-26 Summary

Gornt arrives at Jason Plumm's penthouse and they talk of Ian Dunross's financial position and which pieces of the Struan empire they each want. They both agree to work for the destruction of the Noble House.

Plumm calls Arthur after Gornt's departure and leaves a message that the meeting is delayed for another day. Gornt meets with Four Fingers Wu and is met by a man who introduces himself as Paul Choy, a nephew of Wu. As they walk to the junk, Gornt finds that the young man has a Harvard MBA. Four Finger Wu wants Gornt to give Paul Choy a job in his shipping and airplane division. Gornt agrees to.

The Aberdeen branch of Ho-Pak Bank does not have enough money to pay their customers. Crowds gathered around the bank demanding their money. At this time, Brian Kwok and Roger Crosse appear and demand the files that Grant sent Ian and Ian refuses. Kwok threatens to use the Special Powers Act. Ian has until six that evening.

The American nuclear carrier is being watched by three men on the Sovetsky Ivanov. One of the men is Captain Gregor Suslev. Suslev receives a secret coded message that he has been ordered to take over Voranski's assignment. Suslev feels that Voranski was betrayed and they will find out who and deal with them. He is to tell Arthur to obtain Ian's files from Grant, since there is so much interest in them from the Americans and the British. "We'll get them from him. After all, Dimitri, one of our people is family, another one of his partners, another's in Special Intelligence, there's Arthur and Sevrin everywhere he turns, and then we've a dozen decadents to call on in his parliament, some in his government," (Chapter 22, p. 319). If something happens to Ian, their man could become tai-pan.

Ian plans to sell his Ho-Pak stock the next day. When asked about the Par-Con deal, Ian says there is a verbal agreement and they will announce the deal on Friday. They then talk about Mata wanting to increase gold imports and why Four Finger Wu thinks they can safely do it. Afterwards, Mata tells Ian that Tsu-yan called him from Taipei and asked Mata to send a car for him. Mata did and was told he appeared dressed in dirty coolie clothing, said he would see them latter, jumped into a cab and went to the Barrier Gate. He ran by foot into mainland China. Neither of them can believe it since he was always a strong anti-communist.

After Mata leaves, Kwok and Crosse arrive with the warrant that Crosse says will be served at six. Ian wants to talk to the governor first. Crosse wants to hold the files until then but they agree to Ian putting them in a safe deposit box at Victoria Bank. The warrant is canceled and Ian leaves.



Ian meets with Casey and Bartlett. They discuss their deal and Bartlett says that they are prepared to proceed. The Struan ships are to be part of a separate secret agreement. Ian asks if Bartlett knows a man named Banastasio, an American gangster, and based on the information, Ian sees how all of the pieces fit together.

Chapters 18-26 Analysis

Gornt and Plumm are conspiring to destroy the Noble House. They talk about who will take what part of the Struan empire. Plumm is one of the agents of Arthur, a fact which becomes clear when he calls and tells them a meeting has been postponed. Gornt finds that Four Fingers Wu wants his son to be trained in Gornt's transportation department.

There is a run on the Ho-Pak Bank and Paul Choy transfers his family's funds to other banks. The bank was formed by Richard Kwang using the money from people in the gold and gambling syndicate. He is trying to find out who it is that is selling his stock and finds there are rumors of more big depositors pulling out. He is warned that he is being targeted.

Crosse wants the files that Ian has received from Grant and gives him until six in the evening to produce them. Ian decides he cannot get rid of the files and he cannot turn them over. Crosse threatens to use the Specials Powers Act against him. Crosse then meets with the CIA and FBI and they all know that something is going on in Hong Kong, but they do not know what. They are checking on Bartlett's associates and the gun smuggling incident and are looking at the possible involvement of drugs. They know the real identity of Voranski and of his activities in Hong Kong and elsewhere. Rosemont and Langan want copies of the files Ian received from Grant. Crosse does not have them yet but does not tell them that. He stalls them. When they leave, he fills out a Detainment Order for Ian and tells Kwok and Armstrong to meet him. Ian has until six to turn over the files and Crosse is prepared to take them if Ian does not. Crosse and Kwok appear at the Struan building and show Ian the warrant. He says he will call the governor, and they say either way it will be served at six.

Captain Gregor Suslev is watching the American nuclear carrier from the Soviet ship. He is a Soviet intelligence agent and is ordered to take Voranski's mission. The KGB also want the files that Grant sent to Ian. He talks to the senior officer of the men they have in place in Hong Kong, including the one in the House of Struan. They joke that if anything happens to Struan, their man could become tai-pan.

Dunross agrees to deliver the files to representatives of British Intelligence in person and agrees to place the files in a safety deposit box. Crosse and Sir Geoffrey discuss having him and the bank guarded because they do not want any of the information to fall into the hands of the KGB. The Soviet ship is still docked in Hong Kong and it is under heavy surveillance. The issue of Philby, a Soviet spy who held a high ranking position in the British government, is still on everybody's minds. They do not want another incident like that and they are determined to catch the mole and the others involved in Sevrin.

Ian finds out enough information from Bartlett to see how Bartlett, John Chen, Tsu-yan, the gun smuggling and the Mafia are all linked. He wonders if Par-Con launders money for the underworld or is actually dominated by the Mafia. He needs the Par-Con deal to help his company financially.



Chapters 27-35

Chapters 27-35 Summary

Ian is up early the next morning, Wednesday, and riding at the Happy Valley Race Track and helping to exercise his horses with his trainer, Alexi Ivanovitch Travkin. Ian leaves and Alexi looks at the note he was handed by a messenger. It tells him that there is news of Nestorova. He pales at this information because no one knew of his past in Russia. The note requests a meeting that afternoon at the Green Dragon Restaurant.

Richard Kwang, also at the race track, negotiates a loan from his cousin Smiler Ching. They also decide to make a deal with Gornt's jockey. If they take their horse out of the race, then they can make some money on the two other favorites. Smiler Ching tells him that Vincenzo Banastasio will arrive soon. He calls him a High Tiger of the White Powders which indicates that he is in the drug trade.

Marlowe tells Armstrong that he has heard that the guns were a sample shipment intended for a Chinese pirate and that they were a rush first shipment. The guns are U.S. Army weapons and they are paid for with bulk opium and are intended for the Vietcong guerrillas. The Mafia then sells the heroin in the U.S. He also tells Armstrong that there is going to be a big narcotics meeting in Macao soon but he does not know the date. Armstrong asks him to find out more information if he can.

Gornt is also at the race track talking to the steward about Saturday's race. There is to be increased security at the track to guard the horses until then.

Linc shows Gornt Ian's balance sheet. Bartlett wants an attack on the Noble House to begin that day. They decide who will receive what of Ian's belongings and holdings after his destruction. After Ian, Jason Plumm is next on Bartlett's list along with several others. The two men plot their actions. Bartlett will finance Gornt's buying of Struan stock. The money will be deposited in Gornt's Canberra Limited account in Zurich.

Rosemont arrives at Crosse's office with the news that Crosse's men who were undercover were hit the night before in Canton. Their cover is gone and Rosemont thinks it is due to information in the report that Grant sent to Ian. He also tells them that Grant's death was not an accident. As for the people who killed Voranski, Rosemont thinks they were tipped off by the mole. Rosemont also tells him that American troops have gone into Iran at the Shah's request in an operation called Dry Run since there was an insurrection planned in Azerbaijan in a few days. There is a security blanket on the events now taking place in the area.

Rosemont asks about the possibility of having Ian placed in protective custody and is told that it is out of the question. The FBI has tied Banastasio to Bartlett and that both Bartlett and Casey visited Moscow on tourist visas. Rosemont says the FBI thinks there



is a big gun smuggling operation since over seven hundred M14s have gone missing in the past few months.

Armstrong and a sergeant go to the office of the Ping-sing Wah Developments Asian and China Shipping with a search warrant looking for Mr. Lim and Mr. Tak, and Mr. Lo. Lim, they find out, is from America and is currently in South America. He looks through the appointments calendar and finds the name V. Banastasio scheduled for ten on Saturday morning.

Gornt is at the stock exchange watching the activity. His stock is also falling, but not as much as the stock of Struan properties. Gornt would make millions on his short sales of Ho-Pak stock. He decides to keep selling Ho-Pak and Struan instead of covering his outstanding position and taking his profits.

Alexi Travkin appears at the restaurant for the meeting. The man waiting for him is Suslev. He tells him that he knows he is a prince and has news of his wife. Then he wants to know about Ian Dunross. If he wants to see his wife, who is now sixty-three and living in Yakutsk, he better cooperate. He shows Alexi a picture and Alexi says he does not believe that is his wife. He has a picture of a man who he says is Alexi's son and of three children. Suslex will have Alexi's wife brought to Hong Kong in exchange for information on Ian. Suslev excuses himself to go to the men's room and disappears.

Tung, Chin and Mata are part of the gambling and gold syndicate. Mata offers Ian a deal from them. They will give Ian twenty percent of their syndicate revenues for fifty percent ownership in Struan's. They want Struan to be privately owned and Ian will stay on as tai-pan. Ian cannot accept the terms under the oath he signed from Dirk Struan when he became tai-pan. He is told that the offer is good for two weeks.

The Werewolves call Phillip Chen and say the ransom has to be three hundred thousand paid that night. Phillip has to come alone. He calls Four Fingers Wu and talks to Paul Choy and tells him the instructions of the Werewolves. Paul tells him that Four Fingers will provide the cab driver and have people all over the area. He is to do what the Werewolves say and leave the rest to them.

Phillip Chen rides in the taxi to Kowloon Tong to pay the ransom. Wu's men, Goodweather Poon and others, follow the youths to their father's hideout, a rent flat in Kowloon City. They kill the old man and are told that John Chen is dead. They want to know about his belongings since they are looking for coins. They search the place and find a note that the men were going to leave on John Chen's body.

Chapters 27-35 Analysis

Ian's horse trainer, Alexi Ivanovitch Travkin is from Russian. It is not known that he was from Kurgan and that he had had a child bride named Nestorova, yet he receives a note that someone who has news of her wants to meet him that afternoon at the Green Dragon Restaurant. He does not know who sent the note or how they know of his past.



More information about Vincenzo Banastasio is given when Smiler Ching refers to him as a High Tiger of the White Powders. This means that he is in the drug trade. Banastasio will be arriving in Hong Kong, according to Smiler Ching, who agreed to lend his cousin Richard Kawng money to help cover Ho-Pak Bank's position.

Gornt receives information from Linc Bartlett regarding the financial status of the Noble House. They do not have enough cash to pay the notes to Toda Shipping. Bartlett wants to put together a deal with Gornt for them to loan the money to Ian. This way they would have a hold over Ian and the Noble House, since they are bent on destroying Ian's company.

Bartlett, a corporate raider, enlists Gornt to being an attack on the Noble House, beginning that day. Bartlett will finance and Gornt will direct the stock market activity. The attack will continue until Friday at two when Gornt will buy back the stock if the attack is not successful. Gornt agrees to the deal because of his hatred for the House of Struan.

The CIA's Rosemont provides information about Crosse's undercover groups cover being blown in Canton and that he thinks that the murder of Voranski was tipped off by the mole. He also tells them that Grant's death was not an accident. Rosemont thinks the Soviets are acting on the information that is in the report that Grant sent to Ian. Cross sends Kwok to try to talk Ian into surrendering the files before anything happens and sends Armstrong to check out a Chinese business in a building where Tsu-yan often visited. He tells Kwok that he thinks that Armstrong is the mole.

Phillip and Dianne Chen decide to pay John's ransom without informing the police. Four Fingers Wu is Phillip's cousin and Dianne tells him to let some of his men accompany Phillip when he pays the ransom. Dianne is the mother of Kevin and wants him to inherit from Phillip. She sees John's betrayal as the way for Kevin to inherit.

The attack on Ho-Pak stock continues as well as on the Struan empire stock. Both Gornt and Ian are at the stock exchange watching the action and trading. At the end of the trading day, there are more than five hundred thousand shares of Struan offered for sale. Ian had bought what was on the market. He is trying to save the Noble House, which is under attack.

Alexi correctly pegs Suslev as KGB. He does not have any way of knowing if the woman in the picture is his wife. He accuses Suslev of contriving it all. If he provides information on Ian Dunross, Suslev will have his wife flown to Hong Kong by Christmas. Suslev disappears, leaving Alexi wondering what to do.

Ian is greatly overextended with his purchase of the stock. He then finds out that Mata is reneging on the letter of credit but he feels that the bank will back him since he owns a controlling interest in the bank. Mata also tells him of a deal the gold and gambling syndicate is offering him. They will give him twenty percent of their revenues in exchange for fifty percent ownership in Struan. Ian cannot accept under the terms of the



legacy from Dirk Struan, but he thinks of what he could do with the money, if he could accept.

Ian learns from his servant Lim of two men loitering across the street from his house. He also learns of someone who tried to enter through the veranda and was scared off by Lim. For the first time Ian is happy that he has an SI guard.

Phillip Chen is to pay the ransom that night for the release of his son, John. Men from Four Fingers Wu will accompany him. Paul Choy will make the arrangements. Choy is a Harvard MBA and saw a way to make money in the stock market by short-selling Struan stock and buying it back at a lower price before the close. He used his father's name to make the trades without telling his father. Four Fingers acts angry when he hears about it but is inwardly impressed with his son and the amount of money he made. He has Paul explain the mechanics of the trading to him and then finds Paul telling him they should start their own Chinese stock exchange. The old man tells him to put it in writing.

Phillip Chen follows instructions and Four Finger Wu's men go after the kidnappers. They follow them to a hovel in Kowloon City and find that John Chen is dead. Their orders are to retrieve any money, particularly coins. Chen and Wu want the half coin that is missing. The police had felt that John Chen was dead but they did not tell Phillip that.



Chapters 36-44

Chapters 36-44 Summary

Orlanda interviews Linc Bartlett earlier that morning and invites him and Casey to the party at Shi-teh's. Casey finds herself in a battle with Orlanda for Linc's attention all through the sumptuous dinner. As they are talking there is a scream of "fire" and they see smoke billowing from the dumb waiter. All of the main characters make it off of the burning boat.

Suslev goes to an apartment in the Sinclair Towers which is their safe house. After a time, there is a knock at the door and Jacques deVille enters. They talk about who the next tai-pan will be, the fire at the Floating Dragon, and then the runs on the banks. Suslev says the KGB is not involved, in response to deVille's question.

Linc visits Orlanda Ramos at her apartment and has breakfast with her. Orlanda decides she will try to marry Linc, who came to her after Casey refused to marry him immediately. After Linc leaves and is looking for a taxi in the rain, he reminds himself not to be distracted by Orlanda. He wants to sleep with her but he does not want to marry her. It is Casey that he wants.

Kwok and Armstrong are linking some of the characters, like Banastasio, Chen, the guns, Tsu-yan and Lim together. Lim, who is in South America, they feel is a middleman but he kept notes and records with names and has papers that document the fraud scheme of the charities. They can make a case against Lim if they can catch him. They also talk about the problems with the Soviets. They are under pressure to capture the killers of Voranski. While they talk, three plainclothes men enter, place a hood over Kwok's head, and take him out. From the clippings found at the apartment raid and his discussions with the arrested women, he concludes that Brian Kwok is a communist mole. The picture had Kwok's formal Chinese name.

Armstrong talks to Crosse afterward. He cannot really believe that Brian is a mole except that all of the pieces fit. They try to identify the other people in the picture. Crosse has ordered an interrogation and assigns Armstrong and tries to blackmail Armstrong about his homosexuality. Armstrong says he will resign and Crosse tells him that he cannot afford to.

Chapters 36-44 Analysis

At the dinner at the floating restaurant, there is a lot of small talk and talk about politics. They hear a shriek and find that the boat is on fire. Some flee through the stairway to safety. Others, like Gornt, Ian, Marlow, Casey, Bartlett and others are trapped on the top deck and jump into the water.



Suslev is meeting with Arthur at their safe house in the Sinclair Towers. This is the same building where John Chen had lived. Ian also owns an apartment on the same floor. Jacques deVille arrives. He is a member of Sevrin.

Goodweather Poon has searched John Chen's body and the area for the half coin. They arrange for the burial of the dead Werewolves so there is no trace of the bodies. They take the live Werewolves with them and question them as they drive. They search them looking for the half coin. They tell the one that helped kill John Chen to get into the trench and lie down and he begins to babble about the plan to kidnap Phillip Chen. He is killed by Goodweather Poon. Four Fingers Wu's men follow his instructions and leave the note from the Werewolves on the body and take the surviving Werewolves with them. Armstrong receives a phone call that John Chen's body has been found.

Ian is at the race track to help with the training and is talking to Alexi, who is preoccupied with his own problems. Suslev had called him the night before and demanded information on Ian. Ian is looking for Gornt and cannot find him. Alexi walks away and finds Suslev and Clinker on the grounds. Many of the others are there watching the morning work outs. There is talk of canceling the race the next day if it rains but the decision will not be made until the next morning.

Crosse and Kwok both are relieved to find that Ian survived the fire. Sindere will be arriving the next day and they will have the files.

Ian finds out that Christian Toxe cancelled the reports on the rumors. Ian knows that Gornt is behind the raids. Haply tells Ian that the publisher ordered the series cancelled and they had to listen because it is his money. Crosse and Kwok are in club watching the conversations, trying to lipread, along with Suslev and Clinker. Suslev asks them if they have found Voranski's murderer yet, and they say they have not.

Suslev tells Crosse that Center ordered him to take over Voranski's assignment. He wants to know who led Sevrin to Grant and is told that whoever it is is a dead man. Suslev asks Crosse if he has an escape plan and if he needs sanctuary on the Soviet ship. The KGB rated Crosse at the same level of importance as they did Philby. Crosse tells him of the impending arrival of Sindere and also of what he was told by Rosemont.

While this is taking place, Armstrong is at Sha Tin Road where John Chen's body has been found. They are looking for clues.

Ian arrives at his office and tells Claudio to set up a meeting with Lando Mata and has her place several phone calls. Brian Kwok calls to tell him that John Chen's body has been found and they have not told Phillip or Dianne yet. They agree to meet for a drink later that evening. Ian talks to Lando and again asks for his backing and is told he has to discuss the matter with Tightfist. His Inner Court, the names given to the top executives, felt that the bank would back Ian and he still has the Par-Con deal.

A man named Jamie Kirk calls Ian and says he is a friend of Grant. He said Grant gave him the number and told him to call Ian when he arrived in Hong Kong. He saw Grant two weeks ago. Ian sets up a meeting with him and then talks to Paul Havergill about



setting up one hundred million in credit for thirty days. He says no and tells him that Gornt has foreign financing behind him.

Four Finger's men follow his instructions to look for the half coin. They do not find it on John Chen's body. They search the surviving Werewolves and still do not find it. The one who helped kill John Chen is killed by Goodweather Poon and the other is taken along with them.

The whole group is at the race course the next morning. Even Suslev and Clinker are there along with Kwok and Crosse. It is the day before the big race. Suslev and Crosse have a discussion, quietly. It appears as if Crosse is Arthur, as Kwok had suspected. The KGB values Crosse as much as they valued Philby and Suslev makes sure that Crosse has an escape plan and asks if he needs sanctuary on the Soviet ship.

Ian begins his day at the office with asking Lando to back him. This will be a big day for the Struan stock.

After Casey's refusal to marry Linc immediately, he goes to visit Orlanda Ramos in her apartment. They talk and kiss a few times, and Linc wants her to meet him for dinner that night. She says no and that she will be in her apartment at eight. After he leaves she decides she wants to get out of Hong Kong and marry him. She does not know about the deal between Linc and Casey and that Casey had refused to marry Linc immediately.

Armstrong refuses to accept payoffs, no matter how much he needs the money. Smyth, who is known to be on the take, talks to him but finds that Armstrong follows the rules. The information at the search site and that obtain from Ah Tam indicates that Brian Kwok in a Chinese mole. Armstrong has him arrested and Crosse orders an interrogation, based on the information in the clippings and the discrepancies in his background. He order Armstrong to be in charge of the interrogations and blackmails him over his homosexuality. When Armstrong threatens to quit, Cross tells him that he cannot afford to.



Chapter 45-53

Chapter 45-53 Summary

The day at the stock exchange is disastrous for Struan with rumors fueling the selling and the next day looks as if it will be just as bad. The Ho-Pak Bank is expected to fail the next day. Ho-Pak closes all of their branches but the headquarters. Ian tells Linc that there is no way that Gornt could take over Struan and that the most he could do would be to obtain a seat on the board. Casey wonders to herself how much Ian knows about the deal she and Linc have with Gornt.

Jamie Kirk and his wife arrive. Jamie has a package and a letter for Ian from Grant. Ian opens the package after Jamie leaves and finds a typewritten letter telling him of a security leak. There is a name and number in Geneva that Ian is supposed to call if anything happens to Grant and the woman there will send him certain papers. Grant also writes that he has identified three of the Sevrin moles: Jason Plumm, Lionel Tuke at the phone company and Jack deVille. Ian cannot believe it about deVille or Plumm. The only thing that Grant knows about Arthur is that his initial is R. Ian thinks of the possibilities which include Robert Armstrong and Roger Crosse.

Brian Kwok awakes in his prison cell, thinking he has been drugged. He tries to orient himself as he gets up. He wonders how he was found out and who betrayed him. Armstrong and others came to question him. He does not know that he has been constantly watched through spy holes. They have him on a chemically induced sleep and wake schedule where he receives constant injections to try to disorient him. If he holds out there will be three days of sleeplessness.

Ian is still trying to secure credit for his fight to save his company. He asks Johnjohn to ask a man named Tip Tok-toh, known as Tip-top Toe from Human province about obtaining credit. The man is from the Bank of China. Johnjohn says he cannot help him. If Ian is off the board then the board can do whatever it wants.

Chapter 45-53 Analysis

Gornt openly admits to Ian that he has partners in his attack on Struan and they are making a lot of money on the attack. The deal with Par-Con and Ian is still on and Ian says he may delay the announcement. Casey wonders if Ian knows about the deal between Gornt and Par-Con and that Linc is secretly backing Gornt. She does not know that Ian knows about the two million in Switzerland.

Ian is disturbed at the information in the communication from Grant, hand delivered by Jamie Kirk. He identifies three of the Sevrin group and the names include Jacque deVille and Jason Plumm. Ian cannot believe it of either of them. Grant also advises Ian to invest in Scotland in preparation for the North Sea oil that will become important in the near future. Ian would make a lot of money if he invested in the area before the



North Sea oil find becomes public and the Arabs force up the price of oil, which Grant predicts will happen in the near future. The last piece of information is that Arthur's initial is R.

Suslev delays deVile's trip to France without telling him, except to say that he will call him that evening. Suslev knows there is a leak on his ship and that he has to find out who. He is meeting with Arthur later that evening.

Cross sends Armstrong to arrest a man that is involved in picking up a drop from the American nuclear carrier. The man is Russian and they knock him out with chloroform.

Casey is not happy about Par-Con's arrangement with Banastasio. She knows they cannot pull out of their arrangements with Banastasio and Linc tells her that he has been no trouble. He gives Linc his proxy vote and they could not have survived without Banastasio's money. She is less happy with Linc and his mood. He is going out that evening without her and she knows he is going to see Orlanda. She is seething with anger, wishing she had let Orlanda drown during the fire.

Linc keeps his date with Orlanda who has been coached by Gornt on what to say.

Kwok is being broken through the use of chemicals. Both his sleep and waking hours are chemically induced and there are periods of sleep deprivation. Armstrong does not believe it is really physical torture but he has to keep reminding himself that Kwok is not a friend but is an enemy agent.

Smyth has taken over the Werewolves investigation from Armstrong and comes to tell him that. There are problems with other people being threatened by thugs calling themselves Werewolves. Four Fingers Wu has the surviving member of the Werewolves being tortured on his junk. When they have obtained all of the information that they can, Wu has Paul Choy kill the man.

Paul Choy wants to use his father's money to gamble in the stock market. Wu says no but Paul knows they will negotiate over the amount. He also tells his father that he wants to leave Hong Kong. His father says he will leave when Wu says he can leave.

Ian is considering asking the Bank of China for money if he cannot obtain credit from Havergill. He asks Johnjohn for help and is refused. Johnjohn tells Ian that if he is off the board of directors, then they can do what they want.

Robin Grey meets with Suslev. He does not know who Suslev is but he knows that he is Russian. They talk to him of the situation in China with the trade delegation talks and of the political situation in England. They also talk of Philby. Suslev suggests that Robin reveal his links with the Noble House at a press conference.



Chapters 54-62

Chapters 54-62 Summary

That night, Suslev is waiting for Arthur at the Sinclair Towers. He changed the rendezvous to there because of his meeting with Grey. He knows that Sinderson is arriving the next day. Jason Plumm arrives at the apartment and the two men greet each other. Plumm says he thinks the apartment may be under surveillance. They talk about the two men arrested by SI caught in the act with the drop. Suslev assures him that the Soviet sailor knows nothing about Sevrin. The Soviet sailor's name is Metkin and he was set up by Suslev because he was prying around in Suslev's business.

Plumm did not know that Crosse also functioned as a KGB informer. The phone rings once and then stops. This is a code for danger. Both men quickly leave the apartment, escaping through the stairwell. Suslev asks if Plumm thinks it the Kuomintang and Plumm shrugs indicating that he does not know. Plumm feels that there are too many leaks and he will tell Suslev where they will meet the next day. Since Ian has a good memory, Suslev decides they can use chemical interrogation on him.

Ian is walking by the waterfront on his way to a meeting with Four Fingers Wu. Paul Choy greets him and leads him to his father. Ian is trying to get credit from Wu. They show Ian a piece of wax with the imprints of three half coins. He tells Ian to check the fit with his half coins and then they take the coins to an assayer for testing. Ian knows he has to honor any favor of the holder of the half coin.

Ian drives to Tiptop's home. While he is waiting, he is thinking about the wax imprints and how the two half coins he has fit those imprints. Tiptop asks Ian about the stock market and the banking situation in the colony. Ian admits that his usual banks will not advance him the needed credit. They ask Ian if he could deliver a load of thorium oxide. Ian knows that thorium is used for nuclear purposes, but he can legally obtain the thorium oxide and he tells them that. Tiptop asks if they could have permanent contacts with the Victoria Bank. Ian says he is sure that could be worked out.

Ian tells Havergill and Johnjohn of his discussion. He receives the formal order from thorium from Photographer Ng. Havergill agrees to have the Bank of China representative in his bank. They talk about the stock market and how the stock prices are falling. Ian has an argument with Havergill—he wants an immediate board meeting and Havergill will not call one. The market closes with the Struan stock falling even lower.

Phillip tells Ian the story of opening John's safety deposit box and learning of the contents and finding that half coin missing from his own safe box. In the course of the discussion he learns Phillip is Wu's cousin. He wonders how Wu obtained one of the half coins. Ian is enraged at the story from Phillip Chen and sends Andrew Gavallan home with Phillip and tells Phillip to give Andrew all of the papers.



Casey is next to see Ian after Phillip's departure. She tells him it looks bad for Struan and they are considering their deal. She offers a deal through their New York bank involving the purchase of two Toda ships. Struan must promise to deposit half of its foreign exchange with the bank for a year. Ian is happy with all of the conditions of the deal. Casey made all of the arrangements for the deal without consulting Linc and she will have the attorneys draw the contracts. Casey and Linc agree to meet for dinner at the Mandarin at eight.

Casey tells Dave Murtagh of Par-Con to present the deal to Linc as his plan and not Casey's. She will back him. Afterward, she is thinking about her discussion with Linc about his time with Orlanda. He accused her of being jealous. Rosemont approaches her as she is thinking. As they talk, he mentions Vincenzo Banastasio. He tells her about the two seamen arrested in the drop case.

The files are given to Sindere and they tell Ian they will give a photocopy to Rosemont, which is okay with Ian. Ian remains at the bank to do some business after they leave. He opens another safety deposit box where the real files from Grant are hidden. He had given Sindere the files from the package that Kirk had delivered. He will decide what to do when he sees the information from Riko.

Rosemont, Crosse and Sindere leave Government House after reading the files from Ian. Sindere says he will talk with Suslev the next day and Crosse says he wants to be there. Crosse wants to know how Rosemont found out that the Sinclair Towers apartment was a safe house. He will not answer but says he will give him copies of the fingerprints they took from the glasses in the apartment. They then talk about Ian and the files. With his photographic memory, Ian could have memorized the contents and destroyed the files.

Armstrong arrives and asks questions about the sailor, Metkin, and Suslev says he does not know about any espionage. Armstrong asks if he can search the ship and Suslev says no. Armstrong tells them that the ship must leave by Suslev right away since they believe it would be attacked by the Chinese triads. Suslev is requested to appear at Police Headquarters at ten on Sunday. Armstrong, looking for a toilet, wanders into the radio room. He says there is a fire and knocks over a stack of cables, one of which he keeps.

Casey is having dinner with Ian and discussing the deal she presented to him when Armstrong and Sindere arrive. Ian receives a phone call and leaves. He has a message to call Tiptop. Tiptop tells him of the arrest of Brian Kwok and that he should be released and allowed to leave. Ian says he will do what he can to find out information. Tiptop will have the answer about their business deal the next day, Saturday, by lunch time.

After the call, Ian joins Sindere and Armstrong and asks about Kwok. They want to know how he found out and he tells them about his conversation with Tiptop.



Chapters 54-62 Analysis

Ian does not know that Brian Kwok has been arrested and waits for him in the bar. When he calls Brian's office, Armstrong tells him that Brian is out of town. The police are apparently keeping the arrest quiet.

Linc again cautions himself to be careful around Orlanda. He is beginning to think that their relationship is a setup from Gornt, and he is correct, but he does not know it. He has no way of knowing about the deal between Orlanda and Gornt.

Suslev is waiting for Arthur at the Sinclair Towers and the man who arrives is Jason Plumm who is apparently Arthur. While they are talking, the phone rings indicating the signal for danger. The two men escape and Plumm says there are too many leaks. They also decide that Ian is a good candidate for chemical interrogation.

Four Finger Wu send for Ian who arrives to meet him. Ian needs money to save his company. The half coin issue surfaces again and they decide to have the coins tested by an assayer.

Both Kwang and Havergill spend time with their Chinese girlfriends, which is a common practice in Hong Kong. They both obtain information from them, just as they do from the men.

Casey is sitting in her room, ostentatiously busy, but is really waiting for Linc to call. She does a lot of thinking about Orlanda. She talks to Peter Marlowe when he returns from the hospital where his wife has lost the baby she was carrying. He knows Casey is upset about Linc and tells her Linc would be a fool to leave her.

Ian meets with Tiptop and representatives of the Bank of China for credit so he can save his company. They want him to sell them thorium which he can legally do. They also want a representative of the Bank of China at the Victoria Bank. After the meeting, he talks with Havergill and Johnjohn. The PRC orders the thorium through Photographer Ng and the bank agrees to the Bank of China representatives. They then talk about the significance of Dr. Yu moving to China.

Ian learns some interesting facts from Phillip Chen. He learns he is Wu's cousin and he learns of the events of the ransom delivery. When he shows Phillip the wax matrix, he realizes that Phillip had the coin that was stolen. He wonders how Wu obtained a half coin.

Casey offers Ian a deal with easy terms that can help him save Struan. Their original deal is basically on hold due to Struan's financial position. She says she has her own reason for not wanting Gornt to come out on top.

Casey meets Rosemont on the ferry ride. They talk about Banastasio and the two seamen arrested for spying. He walks her to her hotel and then waits for his meeting with Armstrong, who accuses him of orchestrating the raid at the Sinclair Towers.



Rosemont denies it. Armstrong has been interrogating Kwok all day and is tired. Kwok is sticking to his story and they are talking about using other methods, which Armstrong is against.

Ian did what they did not think he would do. He did not give them all of the Grant files. He substituted the file that Kirk delivered. Ian does not trust them either. He wants to wait to see what is in the material that Riko arrives with.

Gornt and Linc talk about Orlanda. Gornt assures Linc that he is not using her in any way to advance his business dealings. They also talk about the raid on Struan. Gornt thinks that he will have enough stock to become tai-pan by Monday at noon, or at least to take three seats on the board. He does not know about the more than fifty percent of the stock that is secretly held by Ian and that he could never get more than one seat on the board. Linc tells him that he supports Gornt in the raid since it is his money but that he will side with the winner. Gornt is not happy about not having an outright commitment.

Jason fronts for Roger Crosse as Arthur. Crosse is the real Arthur and Jason is the only one that knows that. Not even Suslev knows the truth. Armstrong and another officer visit the Soviet ship. Suslev says he knows nothing of the espionage involving the Soviet seaman. The Russians are told their ship must leave by Sunday night. Armstrong wanders into the radio room and comes back telling them of a fire. He steals a cable on his way out, which he gives to Sindere who is waiting outside in the car. Sindere tells Armstrong that it is a weather report instead of telling him the true contents.

Ian learns of Brian Kwok's arrest from Tiptop who wants him released and to be allowed to leave. He is basically telling Ian that Kwok is a spy for the PRC. The money for Ian is apparently tied to Kwok's release. The money is more important to Ian than Kwok being a spy, but Sindere does not agree. After Ian leaves, Sindere tells Armstrong they must intensify the questioning.

Armstrong and Crosse are prepared for Vincenzo Banastasio. They have his room bugged before he arrives and watch his movements at the airport.



Chapter 63-71

Chapter 63-71 Summary

Ian tells Chen that if he does not secure financial support from Mata and Tightfist Tung that he wants Chen's resignation Monday morning.

Kwok finally talks about thorium and China's nuclear program and how a bomb will be tested in a few weeks. Sindere and Crosse feel that the information and Kwok are very important.

Ian receives the envelop from Riko. There are pages with invisible ink that should be passed on to Sindere or the prime minister. He knows that if he turns over this kind of information, he is admitting that the other files were not real.

One of Ian's horses wins one of the races, but Ian is concerned about the big race with Noble Star. His regular jockey is sick. Alexi offers to ride Noble Star, when they talk about whether or not the other races were fixed. He asks to meet Ian over a personal problem and suggests Sunday or Monday at the Sinclair Towers. They decide on Tuesday and Alexi signals to Suslev.

Crosse, Sindere and Armstrong are also at the race track. They are watching the activity and pointing people out for Sindere. Crosse has coffee with Plumm and tells him of Ian's announcement. They talk about the raid on the ship and Suslev. Plumm gives Crosse a phone number to call and tells him when. They figure Suslev is scared about having to appear at police headquarters but they think Sindere is just applying pressure.

Crosse tells him about Suslev's fingerprints from the Sinclair Towers. Crosse removed Suslev from their files years ago but he knows it's only a matter of time before the CIA identifies them. They decide to wait on their report to Center. Plumm is nervous but Crosse tells him not to worry. The Grant files are accurate in all the details, especially about Banastasio. They try to figure out how he fits in with Photographer Ng. Crosse is angry at Center's order to abduct Ian. There will be total disruption if Ian disappears. Plumm feels it would disrupt Hong Kong and advance the course. This weekend would be a perfect time. They decide to talk again later that evening.

The big race begins and Ian watches from the stewards' room. At the finish line Alexi is thrown as Noble Star falls and there is an objection flag. It is against Gornt's horse, Pilot Fish. Noble Star is uninjured but Alexi is carried off on a stretcher. They wonder what caused the weal on his hand. They declare Pilot Fish the winner. The remainder of the races are cancelled due to the weather and rescheduled for the following Saturday with the big race being run again. Ian decides he will ride in the next week's race.

Crosse tells Ian that there is a problem in the Grant files. Sir Geoffrey wants to talk to him later about the files and the exchange for Kwok. They also announce the deal to



save the Ho-Pak Bank while they are in the clubhouse. The formal announcement will be at a Monday press conference.

Suslev is still upset about the incident on the ship and the destruction of his radio equipment from the fire. He and Clinker discuss the plan to kidnap Ian. Suslev sets up a meeting with Crosse at the Sinclair Towers for that evening. Suslev needs protection against Moscow Center. He needs Ian or the files.

Bartlett and Case arrive at the Hilton to see Banastasios. Vincenzo asks about the deals with Gornt and Ian. He tells them his organization wants move involvement in Par-Con business and a seat on the board. He offers to buy out Linc's stock and Linc says no and tells him to stay out of Par-Con.

Ian meets with Crosse and Sindere at Crosse's office. He tells them of the package from Riko. He will give it to them in exchange for Kwok's release and then he can do his deal with Tiptop. Crosse asks if the package came from Mrs. Gresserhoff. Ian says no. In response to Sindere's questions, Ian says he will swear under oath that he does not have the original Grant files. Grant always kept the originals. He tells Sindere that there were discrepancies between the file that they intercepted and the ones he had from Grant. Sindere says they will consider his request concerning Kwok. Ian needs an answer by eight thirty when he talks to Tiptop.

Ian is in Phillip Chen's study waiting for Tiptop to call. They discuss the Brian Kwok situation and the situation with Bartlett. Chen explains his proposal which includes Canadian, United States, Australian and South American loans and the loan of two Toda old tankers. The deal involves Photographer Ng, who, unknown to Ian, owns a large fleet. Chen says Gornt has to buy on Monday and they want to set the price high. Chen says they can do this if they can get the exchange to trade without their stock from trading until noon.

Sindere calls to say they agree to the deal. If Ian delivers the information, they will take Kwok to the border where he can go to the PRC. He relays the information to Tiptop who is not happy at the delay.

Ian has the bank give him access to his satisfy deposit box that night. He removes the letter with the special pages noted by Grant and a cigarette lighter. He followed Grant's instructions, burning the letter to reveal the code. He repeats this procedure until he has all the ciphers. After he departs, Crosse appears and photographs the pages of the files.

Suslev checks with Banastasios to insure the Par-Con scheme was in placed and finds he is not in control. He tells Banastasios to go ahead with his meeting in Macao. They have an arms shipment to deliver.

Chapter 63-71 Analysis

Ian pushes Phillip Chen to negotiate the deal for money from Mata. If he does not have a deal by midnight the next day, he wants Phillip's resignation on Monday morning. Ian



is still angry about the mess John got them into and he is not very gentle with Phillip since he tells him at John's funeral.

Ian wants the material from Riko as soon as possible, but she does not bring it to the office, since she wants to confirm his identity first.

Casey is not in a good mood when Ian's limo arrives to take her and Linc to the races. They had a disagreement at breakfast over who to back. Casey wants the Par-Con deal with Ian and Linc wants the deal with Gornt. Each believes that they are right and that the other is wrong. Casey is still upset about Orlanda and finally breaks down and cries. She does not feel as sure of herself.

Brian Kwok finally breaks and begins talking under the torture of the total disorientation of the Red Room. Sindere and Crosse who are observing the interrogation feel that Kwok's information about China's nuclear program is very important. Armstrong feels that Kwok is being honest in the information he is giving them. He does not like using the Red Room.

Ian's horse in the big race is Noble Star and the regular jockey is sick. Ian asks about race fixing, but nobody knows anything. Alexi offers to ride Noble Star. He sees winning as a way out of his predicament with Suslev.

Is Ian gambling when he announces that they are going to oppose the General Food merger? He assures them he will have the papers and down payment on Monday morning. Linc thinks he plans to use the two million that he talked Linc and Casey into investing. The move will force Gornt into selling on the market opening. Casey is more or less trapped because she has not yet told Linc about the deal that she and Murtagh worked out.

Crosse and Plumm discuss the situation with the Soviet ship being visited and Suslev being told to report to headquarters. They wonder what report they should file with Moscow Center. Neither one of them trusts Suslev and they know he is frightened. Crosse is angry at Center's order to kidnap Ian for information about the Grant files. It would disrupt Hong Kong so much, Plumm says, that their cause would be advanced by many years and Sevrin's goals would be achieved. This weekend would be perfect. They decide to discuss the situation later that evening.

Havergill and Ian talk about the government saving the Ho-Pak Bank. Havergill offers to put up the two millions for Super Foods in exchange for half of Ian's bank stock and Ian says no. Havergill makes it clear that he does not like Ian's tactics or his influence at the bank and that he wants to cut that influence.

One of the jockeys tells Alexi that he is not supposed to win the race. There was a lot of interest in race-fixing and the other jockey basically proved that it was taking place. The other jockey will not tell him who said that Noble Star was not supposed to win.



Alexi rides Noble Star in the big race. He is fouled right at the finish line and thrown from the horse. He is unconscious and cannot tell Ian what happened so they declare Pilot Fish the winner.

Casey is still worried about Orlanda and talks to Peter Marlowe about the situation. He tells her that Orlanda is a woman that any man, including Linc, would be happy with. She has to choose between Par-Con and power and Linc and it is her decision.

Suslev is in trouble with Moscow Center over the leaks and the incident on the ship. He figures he needs either Ian or the Grant files as protection. He sets up a meeting with Crosse for that evening.

Banastasos, who has Mafia links, tells Linc and Casey that his people want a seat on the Par-Con Board and more involvement in the company. They bailed out Linc when he needed money. Linc and Casey are both very disturbed over Banastasos and discuss all of the events that have taken place and how they fit together. They decide they will talk to Rosemont or Armstrong or to both.

Ian is supposed to talk to Tiptop at eight thirty that evening. He talks to Sindere and Crosse about securing Kwok's release. He offers the package from Riko in exchange for Kwok's release and then he could obtain the money he needs from Tiptop. He also tells Sindere that there were discrepancies in the file they intercepted and the ones he received from Grant.

Bartlett is thinking about his business dealings. He knows his deals with Gornt and Ian are both good in spite of things. He is worried about Banastasos and has talked to Rosemont. He also wonders if Orlanda is working on her own or if she has Gornt orchestrating the situation.

Ian meets with Phillip Chen who presents a very workable business proposition. Ian is surprised to learn that Photographer Ng is involved and owns a fleet. They discuss business and Ian is impressed with Chen's plan. Sindere calls to say the government agrees to exchange Kwok for the information from Riko. They assume Brian will go to Mainland China when they deliver him to the border. Tiptop is not happy with the deal.

Ian follows Grants' instructions and obtains all the ciphers from the files. After he departs, Crosse appears and photographs the files. It is not clear how Crosse gets into the bank after hours.

Suslev meets with Koranski, a specialist in chemical interrogation and obtains the instructions for how to do his own. He cannot return to Russia empty handed and the ship sails at midnight. They plan to drug Ian at Plumm's party and bring him to the ship in a trunk. Suslev is also involved with Banastasos and tells him to proceed with the Macao meeting an substitute arm shipment will be in Saigon. He is upset that Banastasos has not obtained control of Par-Con.



Chapters 72-80

Chapters 72-80 Summary

The rain causes mudslides in Hong Kong. Ian surveys the damage from a helicopter. He has made two photographs of the ciphers and gives Riko one set.

Suslev and Boradinov are at Police Headquarters as requested. They claim they do not know anything about Arthur or Metkin. Suslev, questioned separately about Sevrin, says he did not know anything. If Sinderson does not get the information he wants, he will see that information concerning Suslev reaches Moscow.

Crosse arrives for his meeting with Ian and finds Sinderson already there. Ian gives the envelope to Ian. Sinderson looks at it and says it is meaningless and tells Ian that Kwok must be at the border. He does not promise. Ian says he will not deliver the ciphers unless Kwok is released. If not, they will be published in the paper on Tuesday. Sinderson again threatens him with the Official Secrets Act.

Ian phones Tiptop and tells him Kwok will be released at sunset the next day. Ian is not sure and Tiptop knows it. He goes on to tell Tiptop about Sevrin. Tiptop asks to see the document and is told he can. Tiptop wants the papers as soon as possible and says the money could be transferred if Ian, Havergill and the governor bring the papers. They work out an invitation to the races where the governor will be.

Ian wants the deal with the Bank of China announced that night but Tiptop said it is not necessary. Ian decides to announce the deal that night at Plumm's party.

Suslev arrives at Clinker's and goes through the tunnel to his meeting at the Sinclair Towers. Crosse is waiting for him at the apartment and gives him the copy of the Grant files that he made from Ian's safety deposit box. They are word for word the same as the ones Ian gave to Sinderson. Suslev tells him about the threat from Sinderson if he does not expose Arthur. Suslev still plans to go forward with his plans to debrief Ian. Crosse meets Rosemont and tells him that he does not have any information. Rosemont suspects that something is not right.

Crosse goes to Plumm's party at the Asian Properties apartment. He is looking for Ian, who arrives with Riko. Plumm spills a vial of drugs in a glass and carries the tray of drinks to Ian. He announces the Bank of China deal. As Ian makes the toast, Crosse stumbles into him, knocking the glass out of his hand. He completes the toast with Riko's drink.

Crosse confronts Plumm in the back bedroom and punches him several times. Crosse tells him that Suslev plans on naming Plumm to Sinderson. Sinderson's men are checking every box at the wharf so they can never get the trunk on board without being found out. Crosse calls Arthur's members and tells them that Ian did not show at the party.



Chapters 72-80 Analysis

Linc and Casey are both questioning their feelings for one another. Linc is thinking about Orlanda and the fact that he could be happy with her. He is also a little disappointed in Casey not telling him about the deal she worked out for Ian. Peter Marlowe tells her it looks like she is Gornt's girlfriend when she appears on the Sea Witch without Linc.

Suslev is not happy about his interrogation at police headquarters. If Sinderson does not obtain the information, he will pass disinformation to Moscow about Suslev, who he knows has his problems with Center already.

Neither Ian, Sinderson or Crosse are happy after their meeting. Ian gives Sinderson the envelope without the ciphers which he will not deliver unless Kwok is released. If not, he will have the ciphers published in the newspapers on Tuesday.

After Ian leaves, Sinderson tells Crosse that Hans Gresserhoff is an East German spy who also uses the names Viktor Grunwald and Simeon Tzerak. Tzerak is the name of the man who took in Riko and her mother.

The Riko angle is further developed. She was the wife of Hans Gresserhoff, an East German spy. Upon his death, she followed his instructions and left Zurich and emptied the safety deposit box in Geneva. She found money, papers for a new identity and the deed to a chalet, which is where she was when Ian called.

Linc's involvement with Orlanda intensifies as they spend the day driving around the area sightseeing. They profess their love for each other and end up in bed. During this time, Casey is with Gornt and they part deciding they are best friends.

Ian secures the deal with Tiptop in exchange for Kwok's release. Tiptop wants the government involved and Ian smooths it over by inviting the Chinese to the races where they will meet the governor. Ian will announce the deal at Plumm's party that evening. Ian is so involved with the money end and the Struan stock that he does not realize that the PRC basically negotiated the release of a spy and that is why they wanted the government to be involved.

Four Fingers Wu has been named head of the new drug Brotherhood. He is proud of his achievements. He has worked to set up the big meeting the following week in Macao where Banastasios will be. He has people in place in both Struan's and Gornt's for smuggling drugs and arms. His only problem is the Kowloon Dragon, Tang-po, will not cooperate with them.

Suslev and Crosse talk about the predicament Sinderson has created. It is either Suslev or Arthur. Suslev talks about killing Plumm, who he thinks is Arthur. They finally decide that Suslev will proceed with his plan to kidnap and chemically debrief Ian and Crosse will write a report to Moscow Center explaining the situation.



Crosse stops Ian from drinking the drugged drink after Ian announces his big deal with the Bank of China and with Par-Con's New York bank. Gornt is angry with Casey who never told him anything. He also stuck with his sort-selling since trading in Struan stock will not begin until noon.

Crosse has decided to let Suslev be sacrificed. He stops the planned kidnap attempt and tells Plumm that Suslev is planning to deliver Plumm to Sinder as Arthur.



Chapters 81-89

Chapters 81-89 Summary

Casey has not seen Linc all day. She is at the party alone, knowing that Linc spent the day with Orlanda and leaves.

Ian comes out of the building and asks Casey to join them for dinner. She says no. Just then, a landslide occurs. The landslide knocks down the Rose Court apartment building. It also takes out the Sinclair Towers. Suslev is buried in the tunnel and manages to pull himself out of the rubble and flee.

Ian finds first Orlanda and then Casey, as the emergency vehicles approach. Armstrong is with them. Ian starts looking through the wreckage. He helps the man called Clinker out of the rubble. Gornt returns, having heard about the disaster and meets Paul Choy who is looking for his uncle, Four Fingers Wu. Gornt figures if he can help rescue Four Fingers, maybe he will help him out of the mess he is in at the stock market.

Suslev returns to the ship disguised as a coolie. He tells Boradinov to tell anyone looking for him that he has not returned from the Rose Court and they do not know his fate.

Linc is alive in the debris. Paul Choy tells Ian that they have not found Four Fingers Wu yet. As soon as Ian walks away, the body of Four Fingers Wu is found and identified by Paul Choy. Paul takes the chain with the half coin from the body along with other valuables. He now feels he can take over the business.

The rescuers begin to work on extricating Linc. There is a very strong smell of gas as they try to find a way to the spot where Linc is. Ian and Gornt go to the spot to assist. They all begin to dig and remove the rubble.

Another mudslide occurs, burying the area. They are start to dig faster trying to save Bartlett.

Bartlett does not survive. They finally reach his body late at night. Casey is there until his body is brought out.

Casey and Ian meet before the start of business. Casey is the head of Par-Con now. She solidifies Par-Con's deal with Ian. She is leaving that night at ten.

Paul Choy arrives with the half coin. Ian says the coin was stolen from Phillip Chen and Choy says he knows nothing of it and that it came from his father. Ian knows there is no way that Phillip Chen can prove the coin is his. Ian says they will go to the assayer but Choy does not want to. Choy tells Ian his plans.



Ian agrees to help Choy start a Chinese stock exchange and they negotiate the terms. In return for the coin, Choy also wants an introduction to Lando Mata and a stewardship at the Turf club. Ian agrees but he can only ask Lando, he cannot promise anything.

Chapters 81-89 Analysis

Casey has a rough time at the party. Ian is busy, Linc is not there, and Gornt leaves in anger. She slips out unnoticed and meets Orlanda in the parking lot. Orlanda tells her that she and Linc love each other. Casey decides that Orlanda will make her money flat on her back but she Casey, will work for her. She has to decide about Linc and what she will do.

A landslide occurs that takes down both the Sinclair Towers and the Rose Court apartment buildings. Casey, Orlanda and Ian are outside at the time and are unhurt. Gornt, hearing the news, returns. Both Gornt and Ian are looking for Linc in the wreckage and helping who they can.

Sinders and Crosse are looking for Suslev. Sindere feels he would have provided the identity of Arthur. They figure he is dead and are looking for his body.

Suslev makes it back to the ship where he tells Boradinov to tell no one that he is there. They ask for permission to delay their departure, which Suslev really does not want but does for the sake of appearance. They receive the permission. They have a girl on board who is not identified.

Linc is alive and buried in the wreckage. Four Fingers Wu's dead body is found and Paul Choy removes the half coin and other valuables. In spite of all of this, the main characters are thinking about business the next day.

They are working trying to extricate Linc. Ian and Gornt are also helping with Ian and Linc talking business. Another mudslide occurs, burying the area. Bartlett dies in the rubble.

Casey tells Ian that, under her agreement with Linc, she is now head of Par-Con. She does not inherit anything but control and the deals they negotiated are good. She is leaving Hong Kong that night.

Paul Choy is jockeying for power in his own family. As a result of his education and taking the half coin, he is now the advisor to Goldtooth Wu, the oldest son. Ian agrees to Choy's requests, help in starting a Chinese stock exchange, talking to Lando Mata and a stewardship at the Turf Club. He really does not have any choice since he does not want any involvement with narcotics.



Chapters 90-91

Chapters 90-91 Summary

The guards at both sides of the Lo Wu bridge are jittery and neither side knows why. Brian Kwok is brought there that evening. They tell Kwok that he is formally ordered out of the colony. Kwok does not believe they are freeing him. Kwok ran across the bridge into China.

Casey is at Peak lookout, gazing at the view and thinking. She knows she has to be strong and begin again. She wonders if she should go see Orlanda and calls her. Orlanda invites her over. They talk and both cry. Casey gives her a check for ten thousand dollars and says it is from Linc. Casey tells her Linc would want them to be friends. She will help Orlanda find a job in the United States.

The Soviet ship has sailed, but they still have not found Suslev's body. They have to decide what to do about Sevrin now that Plumm is dead. Crosse is a triple agent.

Ian is at the airport to say goodbye to Casey. He hands her a check for \$750,000. It is from the Struan stock he traded for her. There is also a check for \$250,000 for her part of the General Foods deal. There would be more in the future. "Yes. Actually it comes to a million—these two checks. By the way, don't forget you're tai-pan of Par-Con now. That's Linc's real gift to you." (Chapter 91, p. 1139).

Chapters 90-91 Analysis

Brian Kwok is taken to the Lo Wu bridge and sent to China. He is formally expelled from the colony.

Crosse goes to Government House to give his report. He is actually a triple agent and he does it for the money.

Ian brings Casey one million dollars in checks for their business deals. He helped get the drop-dead cash that she wanted and says he will see her when she returns in one month. He reminds her that Linc's real legacy to her was making her tai-pan of Par-Con.



Characters

Ian Dunross

Ian Dunross is in his early forties at the opening of the book. He is the cousin of Alistair Struan and the nephew of Phillip Chen. Ian becomes tai-pan at the book's opening. He had forced his father out of the position ten years earlier and had Alistair Struan installed until he was ready to take over. He felt his father would wreck the company in his battle with the Gornts.

Ian is involved with trying to save his company. He has some debts that he does not want known, but Bartlett, who he is trying to do business with, finds out. He has to fight Quillian Gornt and Jason Plumm, who are trying to wreck his company. Ian has secretly had a man named Grant on his payroll so he could receive intelligence reports about things that would affect the Noble House and Hong Kong. Grant is killed after sending a report about a Soviet spy ring called Sevrin. The government wants the reports that Grant has sent and threatens to arrest Ian under the Special Powers Act.

Ian has a photographic memory and they know he could destroy the real files, having memorized the contents. They are worried about the Soviets abducting him. When he finally does turn over the files, he substitutes the contents of the package he received from Kirk, waiting to see what information he receives from Riko. She supplies him with information leading to ciphers.

Ian is happily married to his wife Penelope and has three children who appear periodically during the novel. As tai-pan he is steward of the Turf Club and involved in many different activities with many different kinds of characters.

Quillian Gornt

Quillian Gornt is tai-pan of a rival company called Rothwell-Gornt. He is the son of Morgan Brock and a Virginia woman named Kristian Gornt and was born in Shanghai. When his father became tai-pan of Brock's, he bought his son Rothwell and Company, an American trading company. He hates the Struan's because of the Struan's destroying Brock and Sons. Gornt is a widower and pays for Orlanda Ramos's apartment.

Gornt is bent on destroying the House of Struan and driving them from Hong Kong. He makes this clear to Ian at Ian's party and is in the process of negotiating his own deal with Linc Bartlett and Jason Plumm. Gornt is the one leading the attack on the Struan by short-selling Struan stock, backed financially by Bartlett.

Gornt has made a deal with Orlanda to entice Linc. Her rewards depend on her success, even though Gornt assures Linc that he and Orlanda are just good friends and he does not use her in his business dealings in any way. Gornt thinks he will have enough stock to take over the Noble House as a result of the raid. He does not know



that Ian secretly holds more than fifty percent of the stock. Ian's last minute deals mean Gornt has to cover at a loss. Gornt leaves the Rose Court before the mudslide, but comes back to help search for survivors.

Lincoln Bartlett

Lincoln Bartlett is an American millionaire and corporate raider. Linc negotiates with Gornt while Casey negotiates with Ian. Upon his arrival in Hong Kong, his plane was found to hold guns that were being smuggled into Hong Kong. Linc said he did not know anything about the guns. Bartlett lets Casey handle most of the negotiations with Ian. He and Casey had an agreement to wait for seven years until they married when Casey becomes twenty-seven years of age. When Casey refuses to marry him immediately in Hong Kong, he visits Orlando Ramos in her apartment. Linc becomes romantically involved with Orlanda Ramos, which disturbs him and Casey.

Linc has ties to the Mafia through Vincenzo Banastasio who is linked to the drug trade. He lets Gornt know that he supports him in the raid against Struan but he will support whoever the winner is. He favors Gornt and Casey favors Dunross. Bartlett is killed in the mudslide leaving Casey in charge of Par-Con.

Casey Tcholak

Casey Tcholak arrives in Hong Kong with Linc Bartlett. Casey is of Armenian background with grandparents who immigrated to America. Her real name is Kamalian Ciranoush Tcholak and the Chinese refer to her as Golden Publics. Her father had been a jeweler and a store in Providence, Rhode Island. She attended secretarial school after high school and worked in her grandfather's import-export business. She is a high level executive with his company, as treasurer and executive vice president of Par-Con Industries. Bartlett signals her after the police find the arms on the plane. Casey handles many of the negotiations for the deal with Ian. She met Bartlett when she was twenty years old and he wanted to marry her. They made an agreement to wait until she was twenty-seven.

Casey is outside the Rose Court when the mudslide occurs. She survives and becomes the head of Par-Con.

Phillip Chen

Phillip Chen is the compradore of Struan's and is in his late sixties as the book opens. He is the grandson of the illegitimate son of the first tai-pan, Dirk Struan. Phillip Chen has blood from both sides of the Struan clan and holds one of the half coins that was passed down from his relatives, which represents his hold over the Noble House. His son, John Chen, is kidnapped and Phillip learns of some of his activities from the contents of his safety deposit box.



When Phillip checks his buried strong box, he finds his half coin is missing. He enlists the aid of his cousin, Four Finger Wu when he goes to pay the ransom, but they do not find the missing half coin among the Werewolves. Phillip Chen is killed in the mudslide.

Brian Kwok

Brian Kwok is a police department official in Hong Kong. He was born in Canton and sent to school in Hong Kong when he was six. He was in England on a scholarship at the age of twelve when World War II began and was sent to Canada. He worked for the Royal Mounted Police and then the Royal Hong Kong Police. His parents and family were killed in China and he blames the Communists. He is called by Ian when John Chen is kidnapped. Based on information Armstrong obtains during a search and arrest of Ah Tam, Kwok is arrested as a Chinese mole.

Kwok is the first to suspect Crosse of being Arthur when he reads the file. Kwok is a Chinese mole and is arrested by the police. He is released and flees to mainland China.

John Chen

John Chen is the son of Phillip and next in line to be a compradore. He is not happy in Hong Kong and wants to run their operation in America, but his father will not allow him to. He is married to Barbara. He disappears after the gun smuggling incident at the airport and his family receives some of his personal belongings and a severed ear, along with a ransom note. He has worked out his own deal with Par-Con and is supposed to negate his father in any coming proxy fight. He is found dead, having been killed by the Werewolves who kidnapped him.

Roger Crosse

Roger Crosse is the director of Special Intelligence in Hong Kong. He is in his fifties and is a part of Sevrin. The Soviets value him as highly as they did Philby and Suslev makes sure that he has an escape plan. Roger Crosse is the real Arthur, even though the Soviets think that it is Jason Plumm. He has used Jason as a front for his activities since the Second World War. Crosse is involved in espionage for the money and he is a triple agent.

Richard Kwang

Richard Kwang is the founder of the Ho-Pak Bank in Hong Kong. When there is a run on the bank, he becomes very nervous because he founded the bank with money from the gold and gambling people. He orders his people to buy stock to keep it from falling as he tries to find out who is behind the situation. He is warned that more big customers will leave the next day and that he is being targeted. His bank is eventually bailed out by the colony government.



Wu Sang Fang

Wu Sang Fang owns a sloop moored in Aberdeen Harbor. He is nicknamed Four Fingers Wu and is the captain of the fleets. He is the cousin of Phillip Chen and sends his men to protect Phillip when he pays the ransom money. His son, Paul Choy, is a Harvard educated MBA who he has working for Gornt to learn the shipping business.

Jason Plumm

Jason Plumm is the tai-pan of Asian Properties which is the third largest hong. He is in his late fifties and is a member of Sevrin. He and Gornt are working together to try to destroy the Noble House. Suslev thinks that Jason is Arthur since Jason fronts for Roger Crosse, who is the real Arthur. Plumm is killed in the mudslide at the Rose Court.

Gregor Suslev

Captain Gregor Suslev is a Soviet intelligence agent who is aboard the Sovetsky Ivanov. He is ordered to take over the assignment of Voranski after Voranski's death. Suslev's operation is plagued by a series of leaks and mishaps and he knows he is in trouble with Moscow Center. He survives the mudslide and reaches his ship safely.

Orlanda Ramos

Orlanda was born in Shanghai where her father worked for Rothwell-Gornt. She attended high school in San Francisco and is a friend of Quillan Gornt and wants him to use her contacts to get her into movies. She sets her sights on Linc Bartlett and decides she wants to marry him. Orlanda is outside the Rose Court when the mudslide occurs and survives.

Penelope Dunross

Penelope Dunross is the wife of Ian Dunross. She had lived in London before marrying Ian, when her parents were killed during a bombing raid in the war. Her brother is Robin Grey who is on the British Trade Delegation that is visiting the Mainland. She is in England when the mudslide occurs.

Kathleen Gavallan

Kathleen Gavallan is Ian's sister and is married to Andrew who is one of the higher ranking executives at Struan's. She is the sister of Robin Grey who is a British politician and a member of the British Trade Delegation that is visiting China. She is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.



Robert Armstrong

Robert Armstrong is a police officer in CID. He is involved in the arrests of the gun smugglers at the airport and questions both Linc and Casey. When trying to find the Werewolves, he arrests Ah Tam and searches the apartment. He finds old news clippings that indicate that Brian Kwok is a Chinese mole and has him arrested.

Vincenzo Banastasio

Vincenzo Banastasio is an American gangster. He is believed to be a member of the Mafia and involved in Sevrin. He is referred to as the High Tiger of the White Powder and is supposed to attend the meeting in Macao. He appears in Hong Kong and tells Linc and Casey that his people want a more active role in Par-Con and a seat on the board.

Dianne Chen

Dianne Chen is the wife of Phillip Chen and the mother of John Chen. Dianne supports her son, Kevin, over John Chen and wants him to be heir to the Chen Noble House. She is injured in the mudslide but survives.

Wu Fang Choi

Wu Fang Choi is the seventh son of Four Finger Wu. He is known as Paul Choy because his father had his birth registered in Hong Kong and had one of his cousin's listed as the real father.

Duncan Dunross

Duncan is the fifteen year old son of Ian and Penelope. He has been in Australia on holiday and returns home on Thursday afternoon.

Tang-po

Tang-po is a Divisional Staff Sergeant of CID and the High Dragon of the Five Dragons that control gambling and prostitution in Hong Kong.

Claudia Chen

Claudia Chen is an employee of the Noble House. She keeps Ian informed of the gossip in the Chinese community.



Sir Geoffrey Allison

Sir Geoffrey Allison is the governor of Hong Kong. He is in his fifties and has spent his career in the Diplomatic Corps. He speaks Russian, Mandarin, French and Italian.

Alastair Struan

Alastair Struan is tai-pan of the Noble House at the novel's opening.

Kevin Chen

Kevin Chen is the son of Phillip and Dianne Chen.

Sven Svenson

Sven Svenson is an associate of Linc Bartlett.

Tsu-yan

Tsu-yan is a Hong Kong millionaire who fled to Taipei after the gun smuggling arrests.

Adryon Dunross

Adryon Dunross is the oldest daughter of Ian and Penelope Dunross.

Glenna Dunross

Glenna Dunross is the second daughter of Ian and Penelope Dunross.

Andrew Gavallan

Andrew Gavallan is an executive at Noble House and is married to Ian's sister Kathleen.

Lando Mata

Lando Mata is a member of the Nelson Trading board and is a Macao businessman.



Objects/Places

Hong Kong

Hong Kong in the 1960s is the setting for the novel.

Struan Building

The Struan Building is a Hong Kong skyscraper that is the headquarters of the Noble House.

Kai Tak

Kai Tak is the airport in Hong Kong.

Aberdeen Harbor

Aberdeen Harbor is located on the south side of the island of Hong Kong.

Kowloon

Kowloon is an island near Hong Kong with frequent ferry rides.

Rothwell-Gornt Building

Rothwell-Gornt Building is the headquarters of Rothwell-Gornt, Struan's rival.

Happy Valley

Happy Valley is a part of Hong Kong.

Happy Valley Race Track

The Happy Valley Race Track is a social gathering place in Hong Kong. Ian Dunross, Richard Kwang and Qullian Gornt all own race horses.



Albert and Victoria Hotel

The Albert and Victoria Hotel is the best hotel in Hong Kong. It is where Casey and Linc are staying and the lobby and bar are social meeting places for people.

The New Territories

The New Territories are a part of Mainland China. It borders Hong Kong.



Themes

Conspiracy

The theme of conspiracy is one of the most prevalent themes in the book. Most of the main characters are involved in some kind of conspiracy and this is what contributes to the flavor of intrigue and suspense throughout the novel. The reader waits to see who teams up with whom and for what purpose.

The biggest conspiracy is the team of Gornt and Linc Bartlett in the short-selling and stock manipulation scheme. Par-Con has entered into business deals with both Gornt and Ian. Linc has given Gornt a two million dollar Swiss bank account to lead the attack on the Struan stock. The short selling forces the price of the stock down at a time when Ian needs cash for other business deals. Even though Casey favors Dunross, Linc keeps the attack on the stock going and will support whoever wins, Gornt or Ian.

There is also the conspiracy of those involved in Sevrin, the Soviet spy ring. This leads to many different schemes that occur throughout the novel. There is Suslev's setting up Metkin for arrest. There are the various schemes to obtain copies of the Grant files that Ian has received. There is also the plot to drug and kidnap Ian that is foiled by Crosse.

Roger Crosse, of Special Intelligence, is also involved in many conspiracies. He is a triple agent and is motivated by money alone. His prime goal is to survive and to maintain his flow of money from the different sources. He manipulates the various situation to his own advantage to protect his own position.

Romantic Relationships

Romantic relationships are another theme of the book. The most obvious is the relationship between Linc Bartlett and Casey Tcholak. They met when Casey was just out of school and she became a high ranking executive with Par-Con, having the authority to negotiate her own business deals. Linc was almost ruined financially by his divorce and Casey helped him build his company. He wants to marry her but she wants to wait until she is twenty-seven years of age. She wants to prove herself in a man's world. She loves Linc, but she does not want to give up her position with Par-Con. At one point, Peter Marlowe tells Casey that she will have to choose between the power and wealth of being a Par-Con executive and being Mrs. Linc Bartlett.

Linc becomes attracted to Orlanda Ramos at the restaurant fire and begins to see her. This makes Casey worried and jealous. Orlanda is being coached by Gornt with the promise of different rewards, depending on how involved she becomes with Linc. Linc begins to suspect that Gornt is the one who orchestrated the arrangement with Orlanda even though both Gornt and Orlanda deny the fact. Linc is at Orlanda's apartment and trapped by the mudslide when it occurs.



After Linc's death, both women meet and cry. Casey knows she must be strong and begin again and tells Orlanda she will help her find a job in the United States and gives her money, saying it is from Linc. Casey is doing what she thinks Linc would want her to do.

Rivalry

Rivalry is another theme of the book. It is also part of the legacy inherited by both Ian Dunross and Quillan Gornt. The rivalry began in the early days of Hong Kong when both families formed their trading companies. Dirk Struan and Brock both kept trying to drive each other out of business and tried to have the other killed. The rivalry follows through to 1960s Hong Kong in the form of business competition.

Both Dunross and Gornt would like to see the business of the other eliminated. Gornt tells Ian several times during the course of the novel that that is his purpose. He wants to destroy the Noble House. Ian wants to see Rothwell-Gornt eliminated, but he is not as obvious as Gornt is. Gornt teams up with Bartlett to attack the Struan stock and he lets Ian know that he has done this. This is why Ian has to try to raise money to support his stock, which he does successfully.

The rivalry between the two men is also evident at the race track where Gornt's group fixes the big race by working through the jockeys. Both men are intensely competitive, fueled by their dislike for one another.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in third person point of view with the author, James Clavell, functioning as the narrator. He fills in the pieces of information in terms of history and scenery setting to describe the scenes for the reader. There is plenty of dialogue in the book in which the characters express their own opinions, with the author functioning to fill in any gaps in time or setting.

The third person point of view is a better choice than the first person point of view for this novel. If the book were written in the first person point of view, the knowledge of the reader would be confined to situations and events that took place in front of the storyteller and would miss out on events that occurred away from the storyteller. This situation is avoided with the use of the third person. The reader is party to events that take place with all of the characters and can get to know them through their use of dialogue.

Setting

The setting for the novel is 1960s Hong Kong. All of the action takes place in and around the colony, even though other places are referred to or a character thinks of or relates an event that occurs in another place. Much of the action takes place in the Struan Building where Ian's offices are or at his house, known as the Great House. The novel opens with Ian at the Struan Building taking the oath as Tai-Pan. Gornt's headquarters is the Rothwell-Gornt Building.

The banks, like the Ho-Pak and the Victoria, are also the setting for much of the action, as is the stock exchange. There is a run on the Ho-Pak and the Victoria is Ian's bank. He has his safety deposit boxes there.

The various government buildings are also settings for some of the action. There is police headquarters where Brian Kwok is interrogated in the Red Room and where there are various meetings between Armstrong, Crosse, Kwok and others. There is also Government House where Sir Geoffrey is called upon to make various decisions.

The Kai-Tak airport is also the setting for some of the action. It is where the arms shipment is found on Linc's plane. It is also where Marlowe tells Armstrong about the meeting of the drug bigwigs, including Banastasios. It is also where Ian says goodbye to Casey after giving her a million dollars in checks.

There are scenes at various hotels, like the Victoria and Albert and the Mandarin and at various restaurant and bars. The mudslide destroys the Rose Court and Sinclair Towers apartments where most of the characters were attending a party.



Language and Meaning

For the most part, the language of the novel is clear and easy to read. Any hidden meanings in terms, especially in the scenes involving espionage, are explained immediately by the author so the reader is not left wondering. Terms affecting the stock market are also explained for the reader. The book is basically written in easy to understand everyday English.

There is the use of foreign languages in the book. There are terms in French, Chinese, German and Japanese but they are basically there to add flavor to the scene and realism to the characters. They do not slow the reader down and the translations really are not important to the novel. There is a lot of dialogue in the novel, which takes place over the course of a little more than a week and some of this could have been omitted.

Structure

The book is divided into chapters. There are also divisions into days. The book begins with a Prologue and then skips three years. It opens on a Sunday and ends on the following Tuesdays. Each of the chapters has a different time given so the book is chronological. Even though the chapters are chronological, there are many flash backs and jumping around in time within the chapters as the characters or the author explain the history and background of different situations.

The structure works well for the book. The Prologue sets the scene of Ian's role as tai-pan and the events that are to take place. It stresses the legacy of Dirk Struan and the oath that the tai-pan has to uphold. There are points in the book where the reader loses track of what day it is and has to go back to discover this information, but aside from this, the structure of the book is good for the kind of book that it is.



Quotes

"We're here to usurp the Noble House of Asia with the secret help and collusion of a Judas Iscariot, John Chen," (Chapter 4, p. 45).

"No. I don't care about the gambling. All Chinese want to gamble and if some Chinese police officers run illegal street gambling it'll be mostly clean and mostly fair though bloody illegal. If they don't run it, triads will, and then the splinter groups of rotten little bastards, we so carefully keep apart will join together again into one big tong and then we'll really have a real problem. You know me, lad, I'm not one to rock any boats, that's why I won't make assistant commissioner. I like the status quo. The Dragons run the gambling so we keep the triads splintered—and just so long as the police always stick together and are absolutely the strongest triad in Hong Kong, we'll always have peace in the streets, a well-ordered population and almost no crime, violent crime," (Chapter 9, p. 147).

"How many more generations? He asked himself. How many more tai-pans will have to sign blindly and swear the Holy Oath to do the bidding of a man dead almost a century and a half?" (Chapter 10, p. 153).

"The calligraphy of the ancient scroll was exquisite: 'On this eighth day of the sixth month of the year 1841 by barbarian count, I, Chen-tse Jin Arn of Canton, Chief Merchant of the co-hong, have this day loaned to Green-Eyed Devil the tai-pan of the Noble House, chief pirate of all foreign devils who have made war on the Heavenly Kingdom and have stolen our island Hong Kong, forty lacs of silver...one million sterling in their specie...and have, with this bullion, saved him from being swallowed by One-Eye, his archenemy and rival. In return, the tai-pan grants us special trade advantages for the next twenty years, promises that one of the House of Chen will forever be compradore to the Noble House, and swears that he or his descendents will honor all debts and the debt of the coins. These are four of them. The coins are broken into halves. I have given the tai-pan four halves. Whenever one of the other halves is presented to him, or to a following tai-pan, he has sworn whatever favor is asked will be granted...whether within their law, or ours, or outside it,' (Chapter 17, p. 255).

"Last night while the house slept, Dunross had gone to his study and reread the files. Rereading them now with the new knowledge of AMG's death and possible murder, the involvement of MI-5 and -6, probably the KGB, and Crosse's astounding anxiety; and then the added thought that perhaps some of the material might not yet be available to the Secret Service, together with the possibility that many of the pieces he had dismissed as too farfetched were not—now all the reports took on new importance. Some of them blew his mind." (Chapter 21, p. 299).



"Oh yes, she thought fervently, faint with anxiety, knowing that Linc Bartlett was the single most important opportunity of her life. Abruptly she was petrified again that she had overplayed her game and that he would not come back. She burst into tears," (Chapter 42, p. 597).

"Christ, Armstrong wanted to shout in anguish, it's all impossible! Impossible for Brian to be a deep-cover agent but it all fits. Why else would he have a completely different name, different birth certificate? Why else such a carefully constructed cover story—that his parents were killed in Canton during the war, murdered by Communists? Why else would he risk sneaking secretly back to Ning-Tok, risking everything so carefully constructed over thirty years unless his own father was really dying? And if those facts are true the others automatically follow: That he must have been in continual contact with the Mainland to know about his father's approaching death, that as a superintendent of H.K. Police he must be totally personal grate with the PRC to be allowed in secretly and allowed out secretly again. And if he was persona grata then he must be one of them, groomed over the years, nurtured over the years. "Christ,' he muttered, 'he'd've become assist commissioner easily, perhaps even commissioner...!'" (Chapter 44, p. 621).

"His terror returned. He knew he was not really prepared, not experienced enough, though he had had some survival training against capture, what to do if the enemy captured you, the PRC Communist enemy. But the PRC's not the enemy. The enemy are the British and Canadians who've pretended to be friend and teacher, they're the real enemy," (Chapter 51, p. 681).

"Shakily Dunross poured a long drink. He felt the new motion of the sampan being sculled again. His fingers brought out the waxen imprints. A thousand to one the coin's genuine value. Christ almighty, which will that devil ask? Drugs, I'll bet it's something to do with drugs! That about the curse and the Evil Eye was made up—not part of Dirk's bargain at all. Even so, I won't agree to drugs," (Chapter 56, p. 747).

"Dunross stared at him, hating him, hating John Chen for selling Struan's out, hating his mentor Chen-chen for the first time in his life, sick with rage at so many betrayals. Then he remembered one of Chen-chen's admonitions years ago when Dunross was almost weeping with anger at the unfair way his father and Alastair were treating him: 'Don't get angry, young Ian, get even. I told Culum the same thing, and the Hag when they were equally young—Culum never listened but the Hag did. That's the civilized way: Don't get angry, get even!'" (Chapter 59, p. 791).

"It had been easy to arrange. When Crosse was in Military Intelligence in Germany at the tail end of the war, information was whispered to him privately that Plumm, a signals expert, was operating a clandestine transmitter for the Soviets. Within a month he had got to know Plumm and had established the truth of this but almost immediately the war had ended. So he had docketed the information for future use—to barter with, or against a time he might want to switch sides. In espionage you never know when you're being



set up, or betrayed, or being sold for something or someone more valuable. You always need secrets to barter with, the more important the secrets the safer you are, because you never know when you or an underling or overling will make the mistake that leaves you as naked and as helpless as a spiked butterfly. Like Voranski. Like Metkin. Like Dunross with his phone files. Like Rosemont with his naïve idealism. Like Gregor Suslev, his fingerprints from the glass now on record with the CIA and so in a trap of my own choosing," (Chapter 60, p. 830).

"Suslev nodded to himself. Yes, its workable. And if the tai-pan's intercepted and discovered? I know nothing, Boradinov knows nothing, though he's responsible and I shall just sail away, leaving Boradinov to blame, if necessary. Roger will cover everything. Oh yes, he told himself grimly, this time it's Roger's neck on the British block if I'm not covered. Plumm's right. The Werewolf kidnapping of the tai-pan will help to create complete chaos for a time, certainly for almost no-risk—enough time to cover the Metkin disaster and the intercept of the guns." (Chapter 71, p. 985).

"May Sindere rot in hell! I know he'll shop me—I would if I was him. Will Roger know the secret deal Sindere put to me? No. Sindere would keep that secret, secret even from Roger. It doesn't matter. Once I've passed anything over to the other side I'm in his power forever," (Chapter 79, p. 1057).



Topics for Discussion

What is the significance of the gun smuggling incident? What chain of events did it set off?

Who are the Five Dragons? What is their meaning?

What is the significance of the two broken half coins that Ian received when he became tai-pan as part of the legacy from Dirk Struan?

What information was contained in the files from Grant?

What is Sevrin and what is its significance?

Why was Brian Kwok arrested?

How are Gornt and Struan and others manipulating the stock market? What is the purpose of the manipulations?