

Red Dragon Study Guide

Red Dragon by Thomas Harris

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Plot Summary

Red Dragon by Thomas Harris is the prequel to the novel that spawned the popular movie, *Silence of the Lambs*, and is the first appearance of the famed character, "Hannibal Lecter." The plot revolves around the man who captured Hannibal Lecter three years before in his pursuit for another insane serial killer. *Red Dragon* is a crime novel full of suspense and forensic technology that still stands with the best of its genre more than twenty years after it was written.

Will Graham is a retired FBI forensics expert. Graham lives in Florida with his new wife and step son, content to be out of the world of evil. However, his old colleague and friend, Jack Crawford has come to him to ask for his help. Another psychopathic killer is on the loose, and Crawford knows only someone with Graham's unique gifts can help them catch him.

Graham jumps right into the case by visiting the home of the latest killers, submerging himself in the crimes to get a feel for the family, and for the man who murdered them. By submerging himself so completely, however, Graham places himself in a fragile mental state that has him constantly at war with himself and his ability to relate so easily to these types of killers.

The clues are thin at first. There are teeth impressions and broken mirrors that tell Graham a few things about the killer's personality. However, there is nothing solid to go on even after they find an eyewitness who saw a stranger watching the victim's home days before the murders. It is not until later, until after he visits the home of the second family, that Graham realizes the killer likes to watch the family for hours before he strikes. Graham finds a tree in which the killer sat and watched the children bury a family pet. This opens a door for Graham. If only he could find a connection between the two families.

While Graham searches for the killer, the reader is introduced to Francis Dolarhyde. Dolarhyde is a shy film processor who grew up with a devastating deformation, cleft palate. Dolarhyde was abused by his grandmother, abandoned by his mother, and has now become obsessed by a painting of William Blake's *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*. Dolarhyde believes that by committing horrific crimes, he is becoming the Great Red Dragon.

After learning that the killer has Graham's address thanks to Hannibal Lecter, Graham agrees to work with a tabloid reporter he despises to lure the killer into a trap. Graham, an FBI psychologist, and Crawford devise a group of lies that they feel will anger the killer and encourage him to come after Graham. However, instead of going after Graham, the killer goes after the reporter and kills him.

During this time, Dolarhyde has met a blind woman, named Reba, and fallen in love. This feeling causes a split in his personality. Dolarhyde can now hear the Dragon talking to him. The Dragon wants Dolarhyde's girlfriend killed. To prevent this, Dolarhyde goes



to the Brooklyn Museum and arranges to see the original Blake painting. During this visit, Dolarhyde eats the painting in order to become one with the Dragon, once more.

While Dolarhyde is in Brooklyn, Graham receives some home movies of the Jacobi family that had gone missing after their deaths. Graham watches the movies, as well as the movie of the Leeds family, the second family murdered. He realizes the killer must have seen these movies in order to know everything he did about the families. Graham then finds the connection he has been searching for. Both sets of film were processed at the same company.

When Dolarhyde returns to St. Louis, he goes straight to his work place to find his girlfriend. Instead he finds Graham there searching through personnel files. Dolarhyde sneaks out and devises a plan with the Dragon to get away. Dolarhyde kills a man Reba had been dating and takes Reba. Back at his home, Dolarhyde kills himself and sets his house on fire. Reba is barely able to escape.

Graham, satisfied that Dolarhyde is dead, goes home with his family. However, a few days after they return, Dolarhyde appears and tries to kill him. Molly manages to get Dolarhyde away from Graham and leads him up to the house. Then, Molly shoots Dolarhyde and kills him. In the hospital, Crawford fills Graham in on how Dolarhyde managed to fake his death by using another person's body as a decoy. Graham, after all is said and done, finally comes to terms with his own mental stability and the capacity to commit such horrific crimes in his fellow human beings.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Will Graham and Jack Crawford sit at a picnic table between the house and the beach, talking about two criminal cases that have been in the news. Graham is not interested, despite Crawford's opinion that he should be. Crawford is in law enforcement, and he is trying to get Graham to help him with these cases. Crawford shows Graham pictures of two families, and Graham becomes distracted by his own family, his wife and eleven-year-old son, who are playing on the beach.

After Crawford leaves, Graham walks on the beach with his wife, Molly. Molly knows why Crawford was there, as she spoke to him before Graham. However, Molly does not want Graham involved in Crawford's case. Graham was severely injured while working a case, a case in which he caught Hannibal Lecter, a year before they met. Graham had been with the FBI at the time, however he resigned after he was released from the hospital. Graham is now a diesel mechanic working on boats and lives in Marathon, Florida with Molly.

Molly again asks Graham not to go. Crawford returns to their home and speaks with Molly, once more. Molly tells him how worried she is, and how much she does not want Graham to go. However, Crawford tells her he must have Graham on this case, because he has a gift when it comes to finding sociopaths. Crawford believes the only way he will stop this current killer is with Graham's help. Molly helps Graham pack.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Foreshadowing is a strong part of this chapter. The introduction of the two murder cases sets the scene for the mystery to be played out in the remainder of the novel. However, this is not the only foreshadowing in this chapter. The reader is also introduced to three main characters, Graham, Crawford, and less obviously, the killer. These introductions lay the groundwork that the rest of the plot will build on.

There is also foreshadowing in Molly's reluctance to allow Graham to take on the case. This reluctance opens a door to Graham's past, to his relationship with Lecter, and to his unique gifts when searching for serial killers. These are all very important points to the plot, as well as the strain Graham's decision causes on his marriage, which again is an important plot point. Molly's relenting and allowing Graham to go also speaks to the nature of their relationship and foreshadows the future of this relationship.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

Graham arrives in Atlanta and goes to the Leeds's home, the sight of their murders. Graham has come alone to avoid the distraction other people might create, and because it has been a long time since he has done this sort of thing. He is not sure how he will react. Graham walks around to the back of the house and finds the entry place of the killer, a circle cut into a glass door. Graham enters the house and turns on a light over the vent hood, since it had been on the night of the murders. Graham wants the house to look exactly like it did that night.

Graham goes upstairs and stands in the doorway to the master bedroom. The father is the first to be attacked, slashed across the throat. The mother then is shot in the abdomen. Graham studies the blood splatter, curious about irregularities the local police could not explain. Graham then goes to the children's rooms and recalls the details of each of their deaths. The father managed to leave the master bedroom and tried in vain to protect his children. His injuries were too severe, and he died in his daughter's room.

Graham goes back to the master bedroom and sits on the floor for a long time, trying to understand the killer's actions. It is clear that he mutilated the mother and raped her, the autopsy is clear on that point. What is not clear is why the killer broke every mirror in the house, not just the ones which he took shards of glass to use in his mutilation of the mother. Also unclear is why there are unusual bloodstains on the walls, and why the father had rope burns around his chest. Graham also wonders where the dog is.

Graham goes back to his hotel room and tries to get some sleep. He has trouble sleeping and wakes in the grip of a nightmare, less than an hour later. Graham rises from bed and tries to shake of the nightmare by thinking of mundane things, like the pharmacy where he bought aspirin before returning to the hotel. That is when he realizes what the unusual blood stains had been created by. The bodies had been posed to be an audience to the killer's mutilation of the mother. Not only this, but he realizes there was talcum on the mother's leg. This means the killer must have taken off his gloves. Graham calls Crawford and insists that he has the fingerprint technician from the FBI check the eyes and fingernails of the victims for prints.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The killer is introduced in more detail in this chapter through the horror of his crimes. Already the reader knows the killer has some sort of diversion to seeing himself in mirrors and that he likes to be watched, despite the fact that the audience is dead. This is foreshadowing into the man that Graham is searching for.



There is also more depth to Graham in this chapter. The reader gets to see Graham's special gift at work for themselves and to see how deeply this gift disturbs Graham. Through the majority of the chapter, Graham is neck deep in his own fear. This, too, is foreshadowing into Graham's search for the killer and into his own reactions to the effects of the search on his own personality. There is also flashback here. How, Graham works gives the reader insight into his past without the use of flashbacks.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Crawford and Graham meet at the Atlanta police station for a meeting regarding the murders. Graham tells Crawford his theory that the killer had to touch the woman without the use of his gloves, to feel intimate with him. Crawford is doubtful about this theory.

The fingerprint from the FBI goes to the funeral home to print the corpses. The funeral director is not happy about the interruption in the preparations for the funeral later that day. The funeral director is further annoyed by the need of the expert to print every worker in the funeral home.

At the meeting regarding the murders, the chief of detectives lectures his detectives regarding the case, allowing an expert to show his men impressions they made of the teeth marks found on the mother. The teeth are unique in the fact that they are crooked and broken in places. The bite marks and DNA the killer left behind are the best clues the detectives have to go on. The chief suggests to his men that, although the press is calling the killer, the "Tooth Fairy," that they should refrain from using this nickname. The chief then allows Crawford and Graham to say a few words. Graham suggests the detectives check police reports regarding someone who was bitten. The detectives do not think this is a good angle to pursue, but Graham is adamant.

Graham and Crawford then go into the chief's office. Graham asks about the dog and learns that the Leeds's dog was taken to the vet by the Leeds the night they died for a puncture wound. Graham asks if the Jacobi's had a dog and is told their might have been a cat, but they are unsure. The fingerprint expert calls Crawford during this meeting and says he has found a fingerprint off of one of the children's eyes.

When Crawford and Graham leave their meeting, they run into a reporter Graham knows from the Lecter case. The reporter, Freddy Lounds, works for a tabloid called the *Tattler*. Graham dislikes Lounds because of an incident after the Lecter case in which Lounds snuck into his hospital room and took a picture of him with his temporary colostomy bag exposed.

Crawford and Graham discuss the case a moment longer. Crawford tells Graham that the psychiatrist on their team, Dr. Bloom, believes the killer is disfigured or sees himself as disfigured. That is why he breaks the mirrors. After this discussion, Crawford goes back to his hotel, locks himself in, and studies the file.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Graham's insight into this case proves to be startlingly accurate when the fingerprint expert finds a print on the child's eye. This is not only satisfaction of prior



foreshadowing, but it also creates more foreshadowing by asking questions of the reader; such as, why does the killer touch them without the gloves he has so carefully used throughout the rest of the house? The mental state of the killer is also analyzed at the end of the chapter when Crawford mentions that he spoke to the psychiatrist they often use, and he thinks the killer is disfigured. This touches on the theme of mental instability as it relates to the killer.

The theme of mental instability is also visited through Graham. Graham is unusually attached to this case already, unable to sleep and unable to put the case files down. It is also clear that the people around him are unsure of his mental stability in their reactions to his statements and his acknowledgement that the psychiatrist is interested in him on a professional level. Graham's reaction to Lounds, though understandable under the circumstances, is more foreshadowing into the plot as it unfolds in future chapters. The fact that Graham dislikes the reporter, and the fact that he is hot on the trail of this new case, must clue the reader in to the idea that the reporter will appear later in the novel.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Hoyt Lewis, a meter reader, is reading the meters behind the Leeds's home and has a confrontation with a neighbor who informs him that another meter reader came to read these same meters a few weeks ago. After work, Lewis meets up with his supervisor in a local bar and asks him if someone from their company has been reading his meters to check up on him. The supervisor says "no" and advises Lewis to contact the police.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Lewis's irate customer, as unpleasant to Lewis as he is, drops a bit of information that is clearly important to Graham's investigation. This is foreshadowing for the reader, because the reader must realize this is an important clue in Graham's case.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Graham goes back to the Leeds's house, during the day this time. Graham goes from room to room looking at the family's things. Graham wants to know the Leedses, to get a feel for who they were in life. Graham knows that Charles Leeds was a tax attorney, but he wants to know more than just details. Graham finds Mrs. Leeds's diary and reads passages at random, curious about her, as well. The diary reveals a happy woman, a woman who recently had a biopsy on a suspicious lump in her breast.

Graham has a home movie that the Leedses had dropped off for developing and had never picked up. Graham wants to watch the movie in the Leeds's home, so he can get a better feeling for them. The movie shows Mrs. Leeds coming into the house through the same door the killer entered, shows the dog and the kids playing together and other homey scenes. Graham watches the footage several times, sure he would have liked the Leedses had he met them in life.

Graham goes back to the hotel and calls Molly. Graham misses her, but he is glad she cannot see him now, see the connection he has with this killer. Then, Graham drinks until he can sleep.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Graham is digging deeper into the people the Leedses were in life to help him find some reason why they were chosen by the killer. Graham is becoming emotionally involved in the case and that spills over into his conversation with Molly, later. Molly had not known Graham when he worked these cases before, and he is afraid of letting her see what kind of a connection is able to forge between him and these sociopaths. This touches on the theme of mental instability and Graham's fear for his own mental state. The home movie Graham finds is important in his ability to connect with the Leedses on a human level. It is also more foreshadowing into the development of this case later in the novel.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

The Atlanta police find Lewis's call regarding the electric meters among dozens of false reports associated with the case. The chief takes Graham and goes to check out the tip himself. They find Lewis's client in his backyard, working in the garden. While Graham checks the meter pole and its view of the Leeds home, the chief talks to the witness. The man is old and angry, and he is less than cooperative. The chief does not believe the witness. However, when the witness takes the two cops into his kitchen to see the pole from the same vantage point he had that morning, Graham questions him. Graham manages to get a weak description of the man the witness saw, which leads to a generic drawing they can use to show around the neighborhood.

On the drive back to the station, the chief questions Graham about Lecter. Graham tells him that while investigating a string of murders, he went to Lecter to question him about one of the victims who happened to be a patient of Lecter's. Graham had questioned Lecter before and did not suspect him. He only wanted to clarify a few points. While talking to Lecter, Graham noticed some old medical books on his shelves in his office. Graham knew Lecter to be the killer, though at that moment he was unsure why. Graham left the office. However, Lecter followed and stabbed him in the belly with a linoleum knife. Graham later remembered that one of the victims had been pinned to a wall in the same position as an old medical drawing.

The lead investigators decide that the killer must watch the homes of his victims, and because the Leeds's dog was attacked and the Jacobis's cat killed, a fact they found out after Graham asks them to look for a grave, they decide to release a bulletin to vets to be on the lookout for animals injured by human hand. They also decide not to make a general release to the public regarding neither the animals nor the fact that the killer might pose as a utilities worker. To release this information might cause public panic and a rash of false reports. For the next three days, Graham goes door to door with other cops to see if they can get a positive ID. However, they have no luck. It is then that Graham decides he must go see Lecter.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Graham's interrogation of the witness is intuitive and brilliant, eliciting from him a positive ID on the killer, when no one else has come forward with anything similar. This leads to the knowledge that the killer must watch the homes, foreshadowing that will come into play as the investigation continues to unfold.

There is a flashback in this chapter, as well. Graham tells his story in dialogue, explaining in detail how he came to find Lecter, when no other clues pointed in the doctor's direction. Again, the reader sees the amazing depths of Graham's ability to see



what no other investigator can see. This foreshadows Graham's search for this killer, the Tooth Fairy. This also foreshadows the end of the chapter, when Graham surprises the reader by deciding he must go see Lecter.

The animal injuries are also foreshadowing into the future of the investigation. Once again, thanks to Graham's amazing ability to connect the dots, the investigators have another angle they might not have pursued otherwise. This connection is also foreshadowing into the unfolding investigation.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Graham meets with Dr. Chilton, the head of the psychiatric hospital where Lecter is being held, before being led to Lecter's cell. Dr. Chilton is clearly interested in Graham's investigative ability and his mental stability, but Graham wants none of it. Dr. Chilton then describes to Graham an incident between Lecter and a nurse in which Lecter managed to bite half the woman's face off. Graham is then warned to stay away from the cell bars and to only give Lecter papers on which the staples have been removed.

Graham is led to Lecter's cell. Graham is scared to see Lecter, not because of the physical danger, but because of the mental danger. Graham knows what Lecter will say to him, and he is not sure he is strong enough to hear it. Lecter greets Graham, and Graham proceeds to tell him that he would like Lecter to look over the case files and give his opinion of them. Lecter does not want to talk about the case. He would rather talk about Graham. However, Graham promises Lecter if he looks at the case, he will arrange for him to have access to the AMA filmstrip library, a place where Lecter can have access to grotesque photos.

Lecter agrees to review the case and asks Graham to leave for an hour. Lecter then tells Graham that the killer is disfigured, though Lecter suspects Graham already knows this. Lecter also says that this man might like to go out into the backyard while still covered in his victims' blood to see what the blood looks like in the moonlight, since the killer only kills when there is a full moon. Lecter then agrees to write to Graham and let him know what else he finds. As Graham leaves, Lecter asks him if he knows how Graham found him. Lecter says it is because they are one of a kind. When Graham leaves the hospital, Freddy Lounds is outside, and he takes a picture of Graham for his paper.

Chapter 7 Analysis

The theme of mental stability comes in here very strongly. Graham is clearly confused about his own state of mind and talking to Lecter only compounds that confusion. Lecter is convinced that Graham and Lecter are one of a kind, and this idea scares Graham deeply. Deep down, he agrees with Lecter. This also touches on another part of the theme, homicidal capability. If Graham is like Lecter, then he is capable of horrible acts. This idea scares Graham more than his mental stability.

Lecter's insights into the case are minor, but there is foreshadowing in Graham's asking for his help, and Lecter's agreeing to contact him with more information. There is also foreshadowing in Lounds's appearance outside the hospital and the picture he takes. Lounds is a persistent reporter, and he seems set on following Graham through this entire ordeal.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Lecter asks to use the phone after Graham leaves. Lecter has the right to call his lawyer whenever he wants to; therefore, he is allowed the phone. Instead of calling his lawyer, Lecter calls Dr. Bloom's office and charms a graduate assistant into giving him Graham's address and phone number. Lecter has no plans for this information at the moment, but having it makes him happy.

Chapter 8 Analysis

This chapter not only foreshadows an event that is not yet clear, it also shows the depth of Lecter's dislike of the man who caught him and the extent of his mental illness. Not only this, but the reader is also shown the cleverness of Lecter's intellect. All of this foreshadows not the actions of this adversary, but the character of Graham's adversary.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

In St. Louis, in the cafeteria of the Gateway Film Laboratory, Francis Dolarhyde has a quiet conversation with a woman named, Eileen. Eileen is apologizing for remarks her boyfriend made at a party that embarrassed Dolarhyde. Apparently, Dolarhyde has a slight speech impediment, and Eileen's boyfriend made fun of it. After this conversation, Dolarhyde goes back to his office, where he is the head of the processing department.

When Dolarhyde goes home to his large, neglected home, he searches it before he allows himself to relax, because of a rash of robberies weeks before. Dolarhyde showers and stares at his reproduction of a William Blake watercolor, *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*. Soon, Dolarhyde is excited. He goes down to the parlor and watches a home movie. It is the same home movie Graham watched in the Leeds's home, but with splices of Dolarhyde, himself, involved in sexual acts; and Dolarhyde in the Leeds's home after the murders. Dolarhyde is disappointed with how the movie came out, especially with his own loss of control at the end. Next time, he promises himself it will be better. All he has to do is pick a new family, which he does through the movies sent to his department for processing.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Dolarhyde is clearly the killer, and now the reader knows a small part of what his deformity is from the description of his speech patterns and Eileen's apology on behalf of her boyfriend regarding the jokes at a party. This is foreshadowing. It is also foreshadowing when Dolarhyde introduces the reader to the Blake painting, and then shows the reader his home movie of the Leedses. Dolarhyde's apparent obsession with the dragon in the painting also touches on the theme of mental instability, though the depth of Dolarhyde's illness is not yet clearly visible.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Graham flies to Birmingham, all the while trying to find a connection between the two families. There is no obvious connection, except that both families were affluent. Graham does not feel that the murders are random, however. Graham does know that the killer also had an audience in Birmingham, just as he did in Atlanta. However, the Birmingham murders were not as bloody.

Graham goes to the real estate office that is handling the Jacobi house to pick up the keys. The agent tells Graham of all the work being done at the house to prepare it for sale, painting, replacing the mirrors, etc. Graham is not happy visiting the house so long after the murders. Graham studies the house from a distance before walking into the yard. Graham goes inside and inspects the rooms where the murders took place. However, there has been so much remodeling that Graham cannot get a feel for the murders.

Graham goes outside and finds himself wondering where the killer parked his car. There is no place at the front of the house where he could have parked, the gravel in the drive makes too much noise, and the ditch would have been wet and muddy because of a rain storm before the murders. Graham walks along the back fence and sees where the investigators found the dead cat. Graham thinks the killer would have wanted to witness the burial. There are woods behind the house, and Graham pulls out a map to see what is on the other side of it. Discovering a road, Graham drives out to see where it goes.

The road ends in a new housing development that is so new that it is not on the map. Graham parks his car in the parking lot here and walks through the woods to the back of the Jacobi residence. Graham then walks along the tree line, looking for a good place to watch the cat's burial. Soon, he finds a large tree that would be perfect for the killer's purposes. Graham climbs up the tree and finds a coke can stuck in the branches and a branch that has been cut recently. Then, Graham finds a symbol carved into a branch, and he is sure this was done by the killer.

Graham takes the coke can and climbs back down. Graham hikes to his car and calls the Birmingham police, arranging for a forensics team to come and check out the tree. Graham knows he has to give the coke can to the Birmingham police, though he would rather give it to the FBI's expert. Graham is excited about the other evidence, however, and hopes the FBI can figure out what the symbol carved in the tree is.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Once again, Graham's amazing investigative skills are evident here. Ironically, the reader knows something Graham does not. We know how the killer is choosing his victims. Graham does find evidence that the Birmingham police missed because of his



close connection to the killer. This foreshadows the unfolding of the investigation by opening a new door of insight into this killer for Graham. Now, Graham knows not only that the family is scoped out before the killings, but that the killer enjoys watching the children bury their beloved pets.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Dolarhyde borrows a copy of the *Tattler* from his co-worker, Eileen, and finds an article inside about the murders and a sidebar about Graham's visit to Lecter. Dolarhyde is most interested in the sidebar, taking it home and pasting it into a huge ledger he bought at a bankruptcy sale several years ago, a ledger that he uses to keep track of all articles related to his becoming activities, his becoming the Great Red Dragon. It also contains snippets of his own writings. Pieces of scalp adorn the margins.

After pasting the article's sidebar into the ledger, Dolarhyde sits at his desk and writes a note on a piece of quick-dissolving toilet paper he bought on his way home. The note is for Lecter, a man Dolarhyde feels a deep connection with, and whose crimes he has followed closely in the papers. Dolarhyde proclaims his admiration for Lecter, requests a response via a medium that is not yet revealed, and signs the note Avid Fan, biting around the signature not with his own dentures, but with an identical pair to the ones his grandmother once wore.

Chapter 11 Analysis

The article in the *Tattler* introduces Dolarhyde to Graham. This alerts the killer to his nemesis and, by his fascination regarding the man, foreshadows the race between the two men, for one to find the other before anyone else dies, and for the other to stay one step ahead. Dolarhyde's fascination with Lecter and the note he writes to the doctor is more foreshadowing. The reader must wonder what the two men could possibly talk about in their correspondence, and what will be the result of these discussions.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Graham meets with the Jacobis's attorney and discusses the fact that he is the family's executor, even though he has only known the family a short time. The Jacobis only recently moved to Birmingham after Mr. Jacobi was transferred from Detroit. The lawyer, Byron Metcalf, also tells Graham that the Jacobis did not have much in personal effects, because they suffered a catastrophic house fire before their move. Graham insists on looking at what personal effects they did have, in order to get a better feeling of what kind of family they were and perhaps to find a connection between the Jacobis and the Leedses.

Metcalf also tells Graham about Mr. Jacobi's eldest son, a product of another marriage, who recently moved from California to Birmingham to live with his father after spending some time in jail. Graham goes to the local college to find the boy. While in his dorm room, he finds a small photograph of the Jacobi family on his desk. Eventually, Graham finds him in a local bar. The boy, Niles, is with another boy who is obviously fresh out of jail. Graham is a little fearful of this other boy, because he can tell he is carrying a knife. Graham forces the boy to give the knife up and then sends him away.

Niles does not have much to add to the investigation. Niles was not close to his father and his family. In fact, there seems to be a lot of hurt feelings regarding the family, on the boy's part. Graham asks if perhaps one of Niles's cellmates might have done something to the family on his behalf. Niles denies it. Graham then requests a copy of the picture he saw in Niles's dorm room, and Niles tells him to keep it. Graham spends the next few days going through the Jacobis's things in the warehouse where they have been sent, but he does not find anything of any use since most of it is brand new. Graham does get word that the symbol the killer left carved in the tree is Chinese and means 'You hit it' or 'You hit it on the head.' It also appears on a mah-jongg piece, marking the "Red Dragon."

Chapter 12 Analysis

Graham needs to get a feeling for a family in order to get a better grasp on his investigation. The Jacobi family is proving difficult, because they only recently moved to the area. Plus, the fire in their Detroit home took every personal item. The meeting with Niles is not completely useless, however. The acquisition of the picture is helpful to Graham and also offers a small bit of irony. Niles has the picture, although he claims that he does not have any affection for his father and his father's family. This is also foreshadowing.

The Chinese meaning of the symbol the killer left in the tree is meaningless to Graham. However, the mah-jongg meaning is ironically very meaningful to the reader. Once

again, the reader is in a position to know more about the investigation than Graham himself.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Crawford gets a call from Chilton, the head of the psychiatric hospital where Lecter is, about a note a cleaning man found in Lecter's cell. The note is from the Tooth Fairy, and it talks about the Tooth Fairy's belief that he is "becoming," and of the Tooth Fairy's admiration for Lecter. There are several sections missing from the note, one that tells Lecter how to communicate with the Tooth Fairy, since Lecter cannot send mail without it being read and censored. The second missing section comes between a paragraph where the Tooth Fairy discusses Graham and explains why he chose quick-dissolving toilet paper to write the note on, so Lecter could swallow it quickly, and the end of the note.

Crawford arranges for Lecter to remain outside of his cell by convincing him there has been some sort of water leak. Crawford then flies out to the hospital and collects the note so that his forensics team can take a look at it and return it, without Lecter being aware that it was ever discovered. The tooth impression is compared to the impressions taken from the victims and is determined a match. The note is then taken to trace where the technician examines it for fibers and hair. They find only a hair and a few blue grains. Crawford gives her hair samples from both Lecter and the cleaning man to compare. He then goes to Latent Fingerprints.

In Latent, unable to use methods that would mark or destroy portions of the note, the only thing the technician can do is run a laser over it. However, they do not find anything. Next, Crawford goes to Documents where the technician studies the missing sections of the note to try and decipher the words that were inked over. The technician takes pictures of the note and studies them for several minutes. Finally, he suggests there could have been a T and an R in the missing section that refers to how Lecter is to contact the Tooth Fairy. Crawford assumes this means the *Tattler*. Crawford then rushes off to return the note to Lecter's cell.

Chapter 13 Analysis

The discovery of the note seems like a big break for the good guys. The fact that the Tooth Fairy has raised the subject of Graham in this note may lead the reader to question if this might not have been the real reason for the Tooth Fairy to write the note. The fact that there is a missing section below this reference also raises questions; including, the suggestion that perhaps the Tooth Fairy was asking specific information about Graham that Lecter might know. Remember, in a previous chapter Lecter managed to procure Graham's phone number and address. This chapter also does not tell the reader what is discovered by the various technicians when they examined the note. All of this is foreshadowing.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Graham comes back to Washington and goes to the FBI building. This is the first time Graham has been here since the building was still under construction when he left the FBI three years before. Crawford meets him at security and begins to fill him in on the note. In Crawford's office, Graham reads the note from a photograph and is upset to see his name on it. Crawford and Graham discuss the *Tattler* story that is referenced in the note, and when the note could have been sent. Graham knows that the Tooth Fairy could only have gotten the newspaper on Tuesday; therefore, Lecter could not have gotten the note sooner than Wednesday. If the magazine is the way they plan to communicate, the earliest that could happen would be that night.

Crawford assures Graham that they have someone at the *Tattler* printing room searching for a possible ad that could be Lecter's response. Graham wants to know if they should let the ad run as is or put in a fake one of their own design. Crawford would like to put in a fake ad leading the Tooth Fairy to a fake P.O. Box that they would have under surveillance. However, this plan is reliant upon them being able to find the ad and decode it in time for it to go into print that night.

Crawford and Graham head down the hall for a meeting about the note. On their way, they run into the Documents technician. In the section chief's office, they again discuss their options with the decision siding with Crawford's plan. Then, the chief asks the technicians about what they found. The technician from Trace said the hair was Lecter's, and the blue grains were commercial granulated cleaner. The technician from Documents set up photographs and pointed out that the handwriting indicates a man with uncorrected astigmatism and that two different inks were used. The technician also suggests that Lecter had been instructed to sign his personal ad in the *Tattler* 666.

The ad is found twenty minutes before press time. The note is encoded with bible reference that the Documents technician quickly discovers is not the bible, but perhaps a book the writer would have know Lecter would have access to. There is no possible way they can decode the note in the time limit they have, so Crawford gives the order to allow the ad to run as written.

Chapter 14 Analysis

There is a small bit of flashback at the first of this chapter, when Graham remembers that the Hoover building was still under construction when he resigned from the FBI. Graham is clearly uncomfortable being back in Washington and being in a place that reminds him of his past, even though this physical building is not one he has ever visited before. This, too, touches on the theme of mental stability and Graham's struggle with his own mental state.



Finding the personal ad is important, because now, the FBI knows for sure that the note was read by Lecter and that he did send out the request for the ad. However, the fact that the FBI is unable to decipher the code in time creates a dangerous situation. The FBI has no idea if Lecter is instructing the killer on how to kill. This leads to more foreshadowing, as the reader wonders what exactly the note said.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Crawford gets the call in the middle of the night that the FBI has managed to decipher the code. It says, Graham home Marathon Florida. Save yourself. Kill them all. Crawford calls Graham and tells him, and then he arranges to have Molly and Willy brought to a cabin Crawford's brother owns. Molly is cool in her greeting when Graham meets her plane. Molly tells Graham that her son read the article in the *Tattler* and is upset about the things it says about Graham. Molly says that she did not try to explain the article to Willy, and that she expects him to ask Graham about it.

Graham's secretary takes a call, just as she is about to leave for the night. It is a man asking for Graham. The man says to tell Graham it is the Pilgrim. Since Pilgrim is what Lecter called the Tooth Fairy in his personal ad, Crawford knows right away it must be the killer himself.

Willy asks to speak to Graham as soon as the family is settled in the cabin. Willy wants to know if it is true that Graham killed a man, and that he spent time in a mental hospital. Graham tells him that it is true. Graham then explains to Willy that the man he killed was a bad man who killed several college girls, and that when they went to arrest him, he killed his own wife and held his daughter hostage. Graham was so depressed after this event, he explains to Willy, that the doctor thought it would be best if he rested in the hospital for a while. Willy says he understands, however, the discussion wakes memories for Graham that he thought he had come to terms with.

Graham takes Molly the next day and teaches her how to shoot a gun. Graham is honest with Molly and lets her know this may take a long time. She will not be allowed to return home until the bad guy is dead. Molly tries to understand, but Graham knows she is not happy. This upsets him deeply.

Chapter 15 Analysis

There is more flashback in Graham's explanation to Willy regarding the sidebar article in the *Tattler*. This story helps explain Graham's struggles with his own mental stability, as well as his desire to not be involved in this case when Crawford first came to see him. This also touches on the theme of mental stability where it relates to Graham and his struggle with his own perceptions of his mental stability.

When Graham is forced to uproot Molly from her home and to explain these adult things to her child, it is the beginning of a shift of feeling between Molly and Graham that foreshadows a deeper shift yet to come. Graham sees this shift coming, and yet he is powerless to do anything about it. Right now, Graham's main concern is finding the killer and putting this case to rest, which in turn will allow him the ability to distance himself once more from this type of ugliness and regain his mental stability. Molly does not



understand all of this, perhaps because Graham has not told her the extent of his pain, or perhaps because she is too afraid for herself and her child to see Graham's struggles. Either way, it does not help matters when Graham takes her to the firing range to teach her to fire a gun.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Crawford and Graham have arranged a trap for the caller who referenced the Pilgrim. They have arranged to have the call traced. When the call comes through, they will send a fake ring over the line to keep the caller on longer than he realizes he has been on. Then, an agent will answer the phone and tell the caller that Graham has to be paged, again keeping him on the line as long as possible. Graham will pick up and pretend to be annoyed like the psychiatrist, Bloom, has told him to behave.

The first call that comes through is a false alarm. Finally, the caller from the day before calls again. They go through their routine, then Graham answers. Graham pretends not to believe the caller at first, and then runs him through a group of questions trying to get the man to admit details about himself all the while they are tracing his call. The trace goes through, and they send local police to grab the guy. The caller is calling from Chicago. However, when the local police arrive, instead of the Tooth Fairy, they find Freddy Lounds.

Freddy found out about the ad from the personals editor at his paper. The FBI took five envelopes and ad requests from the editor's office. The editor told Freddy, and then showed him copies he had made of each one. It only took Freddy a few minutes to figure out what was going on when he saw the postmark from the psychiatric hospital where Lecter is being held.

Graham wants Lounds prosecuted for interfering with a police investigation. Crawford, however, has a better idea. Crawford talks to Lounds for a few minutes, and Lounds is released from custody. Lounds heads home, thinking about how all the legitimate reporters he knows do not like him, because he is a good reporter who could have made it big in legitimate press if he had only been more patient. Lounds wants money, because money buys the things he needs. Being a man of questionable looks, having some money helps when it comes to women.

Lounds goes home where his girlfriend, Wendy, is waiting for him. Wendy was once a stripper, but now she owns her own place, thanks to Lounds. Wendy helps Lounds pack for his trip to Washington and then she helps him relax, so he can take a nap before he leaves.

Chapter 16 Analysis

A call from the killer could have been a good thing for Graham. It could have ended this whole episode, so he could take Molly and Willy home. It also could have ended it, so he could go back to being a boat mechanic and forget about the evil in the world. This again touches on the theme of mental stability. Graham is deeply disappointed when it



does not end here. Not only is he disappointed, but knowing that it is Lounds on the other end, after what Lounds did to him before, deeply angers Graham.

Lounds and Graham's relationship is filled with much anger on Graham's part and something close to admiration on Lounds's part. It is ironic how much the two men have in common. They are both loners with a gift that leads them into the darker side of human nature, though one embraces it, and the other scorns it. They also crave a simple life with a nice woman, which both have found. However, both relationships seem precarious at this point. This opens more foreshadowing for the reader, where they must wonder where this situation will go from here.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Crawford talks to Dr. Bloom in his office about this new scheme he has devised. Crawford is concerned about Graham's state of mind, and what his plan will do to Graham. Bloom tells Crawford he has never tried to analyze Graham, because he knows Graham will see it for what it is and cut off their friendship. Bloom says Crawford just has to be honest with Graham.

Crawford tells Graham his plan. Crawford has arranged to have Lounds do another story on the Tooth Fairy. However, this time, all his information for the article will be fake details supplied by Graham himself. Crawford is hoping that if they insult the killer, he will attempt to come after Graham, effectively setting Graham up as bait. Graham is not happy with this plan, for the simple fact that he does not want to work with Lounds.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Again, the theme of mental stability where it applies to Graham is touched on here. Crawford is obviously concerned about Graham, or else he might not have consulted Dr. Bloom. However, Crawford knows that a little instability is part of Graham's gift, and he wants to encourage this gift as far as it is used to help him stop a serial killer.

Crawford's plan is dangerous. They know the killer reads the *Tattler*; therefore, they know he will be exposed to their trick. However, setting Graham up as bait is very dangerous, perhaps another reason why Crawford discussed the idea with Dr. Bloom first. Graham is upset to have to work with Lounds, and it does seem to be very ironic that Graham will turn to the enemy for help in this way. However, Graham has already turned to the enemy when he went to Lecter.

Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

When it comes time to fabricate the story with Lounds, Graham is very agreeable, even putting a hand on Lounds's back in one picture taken in the forensic labs. Bloom suggests that Graham tell Lounds to write that the killer had homosexual tendencies, and that is why he covered Mr. Leeds after he killed him. Graham emphasizes this by saying that the killer sexually molested the men after he murdered them. Bloom also told them that this killer is a victim of a horrible childhood, and that his lashing out at the mothers in these families is his way of lashing out at his own mother. Graham tells Lounds that the killer is not very intelligent and promises to tell him more about the killer at a later date.

Graham and Lounds then go and take many pictures; including, one at an apartment building where Graham will be staying that includes the name of the apartment complex in a sign behind them. After all this is done, the SWAT commander from Quantico sets up a team at the apartment building to keep an eye on Graham. The paper is not due to come out for a few days, so Graham goes to practice his own shooting at the firing range and then home to his wife and stepson. Graham does not tell Molly what is about to happen.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Once again, it is ironic that Graham would turn to his mortal enemy to help him fabricate a story to draw out the killer. However, it is only with a tabloid that Graham could release such information, most of which is complete lies. Graham and Lounds have all but printed Graham's address in the article. This is foreshadowing, and the reader is forced to wait several more chapters to find out what the killer's reaction will be.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

There is a newsstand in Lambert St. Louis International Airport that gets most of the daily papers from all over the states off of planes, hours before they will be available in most other areas. The operator of the newsstand is putting out the papers in the middle of the night, when a man comes and demands a copy of the *Tattler*. The stand operator is irritated, because he has not gotten around to opening that package yet. The stranger cuts open the bundle himself, throws some money down, and walks away.

The man who bought the paper is Dolarhyde, excited to see if Lecter has sent him another message. Later, Dolarhyde clips parts of the *Tattler* and puts it in his ledger on a page in which he has written, 'With These He Offended Me.' Dolarhyde is now in the basement unearthing an old, unused wheelchair.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Dolarhyde has gotten the newspaper sooner than Graham and Crawford had thought he would. Now, the reader must wonder what Dolarhyde will do with the information he now has. Clearly, by writing the words he has in his ledger and by getting the wheelchair out, Dolarhyde is planning something. This is foreshadowing that leaves the reader with the question of what Dolarhyde plans to do now.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Lounds leaves work around noon on Tuesday after working most of the day on a paperback novel of the Tooth Fairy case. Lounds heads home long enough to pack a suitcase, before he has to catch another plane to Washington. When Lounds steps out of his car, someone grabs him from behind and presses a rag covered in chloroform over his mouth.

Dolarhyde parks his van behind his house and rolls Lounds out the back in a wheelchair. Lounds is stuck to the chair with epoxy glue. Lounds's eyes and mouth are covered with sanitary napkins. Dolarhyde rolls him into the parlor, removes the napkins, and then covers Lounds with a blanket. Lounds is unsure of what has happened to him, mistakenly believing he has been in an accident and is now in a hospital. However, Dolarhyde begins to talk to him about the article he wrote, showing him pictures of Dolarhyde's victims to prove himself innocent of the false accusations written in the article.

Dolarhyde continues his tirade, despite Lounds's obvious fear. Dolarhyde explains about the Great Red Dragon and how he is becoming. Dolarhyde tells Lounds that what he has done to these families is not a criminal act, not an act of sexual perversion, whether heterosexual or homosexual. The crimes are his art. Dolarhyde then tells Lounds he must do something to help clear his name. He brings a tape recorder into the room. Lounds is beginning to believe Dolarhyde will let him go free. Then, Dolarhyde bites Lounds with teeth different from the set he originally wore, tearing off his lips.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Instead of going after Graham as Crawford suspected, Dolarhyde kidnaps Lounds. Dolarhyde's true mental state is seen for the first time in its entirety in this chapter, touching on the theme of mental instability. Dolarhyde truly believes that he is becoming this dragon from the William Blake painting, and that this is a wonderful thing. It is more important to Dolarhyde that his reputation be upheld rather than the idea that he may be caught which would be ironic if his mental state were normal. To Dolarhyde, this is perfectly normal.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Dolarhyde drives his van, with Lounds inside, back to the *Tattler* building in Chicago. Dolarhyde puts on the white coat of a medical orderly and pulls Lounds out of the back of the van with the blanket covering the fact that he is wearing a blindfold and a gag. However, the blindfold is tented over his nose, and Lounds can see the license plate number. Lounds is careful to memorize the number, as Dolarhyde rolls him away from the van.

Dolarhyde has placed a thermos in Lounds's lap that he has allowed Lounds to believe contains his lips. However, as they draw closer to the building, Dolarhyde assures Lounds that the container does not hold his lips, it holds gasoline which Dolarhyde then pours over Lounds's entire body. Dolarhyde then lights Lounds on fire and pushes him down the slight incline in the road. A security guard, who happened to be outside the building, watches Lounds burn, afraid to approach for the intensity of the flames. Finally, he grabs a fire extinguisher and puts out the fire.

Chapter 21 Analysis

The reader is introduced once more to the theme of mental instability in this chapter. Only a person who has lost some of his mental stability could possibly set another human being on fire and watch him burn. This chapter also shows the reader the depth of Dolarhyde's anger at Graham and Lounds for the lies they tell about him in the newspaper. This sets up foreshadowing in future chapters, with the reader wondering what the killer might have in store for Graham.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Crawford calls Graham with the news of Lounds's meeting with the Tooth Fairy, telling him that Lounds is somehow still alive and asking for him. Crawford also says that Lounds managed to give the license plate number to the cops, and they are searching for the van. Crawford and Graham catch the first plane to Chicago and go to see Lounds, who is in a coma. However, while Lounds was in the ER, a cop was present who recorded everything Lounds said. On this tape, Lounds says that it was the Tooth Fairy and that Graham set him up. Then, he asks for Wendy. Graham finds Wendy out in the hallway. No one will let her in, since Lounds is under police protection. However, Graham insists she be allowed to be with Lounds. Wendy is with Lounds when he dies several hours later.

Chapter 22 Analysis

The theme of death is clear in this chapter. Lounds thought he was about to be a bestselling author, with all the fame and riches that go with that title. Instead, Lounds's death is another notch in the belt of the Tooth Fairy, and another stone of guilt and turmoil for Graham to carry on his shoulders.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Crawford and Graham go to the Chicago Police Headquarters to find out if the police have any new leads on the Tooth Fairy. However, the garage where Lounds was taken is a dead end, and there are no witnesses who saw the van either at the garage or the *Tattler* building. They have learned that the license plate Lounds saw was stolen off a TV repair truck in Oak Park, so that lead is a dead end, as well.

The Chicago police knew Lounds well, and many of the cops are very upset that the FBI did not protect him after setting him up to write this story. The chief of police wants to know if Graham set him up on purpose, and whether or not their bad blood caused him to allow the killer to go after Lounds. All of this is unfounded, of course, since Lounds was supposed to be in Washington under protective custody when the killer got a hold of the newspaper. However, the fact that the killer did get the paper early; the fact that he obviously lives within driving distance of New York; and because he had an old fashioned wheelchair at his disposal, the FBI now have new clues to work with, in order to find the Tooth Fairy. Toward the end of the meeting, the chief of police is informed that the *Tattler* is on the phone. Lounds's secretary at the paper got a phone call with Lounds's voice talking about the Great Red Dragon.

Chapter 23 Analysis

The fact that the police in Chicago liked Lounds does not bode well for Graham. Their cooperation will be limited in this investigation, and that fact foreshadows events the reader should be able to see coming. However, now Graham and Crawford have new clues to work with, in order to find the Tooth Fairy. This also foreshadows the next step in the investigation. Lounds's secretary getting a call that sounds like Lounds is satisfaction of prior foreshadowing. Now, the reader knows what Dolarhyde did with the tape recorder and part of what was on it.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Dr. Chilton removes the books from Lecter's cell, in order to punish him for attempting to help the Tooth Fairy. The section chief at the FBI takes the wheels from the wheel chair to Hair and Fiber for analysis and the ashes from the fire to Trace for analysis. The chief is told the gas that was used to fuel the fire was Servo Supreme blend, a gasohol. The fibers on the wheels are wool and synthetic, one from a vehicle, such as the van Lounds was reportedly transported in, and the other from a home carpet. They also find mold in the treads suggesting the wheelchair was kept somewhere dark and cool.

Graham is staying in an apartment in Chicago that the Justice Department keeps for jurists and witnesses. Graham is wet, tired and still bothered by being watched around the clock, while he investigates Lounds's death. Graham calls Molly, who is angry at him for not warning her that he had been set up as bait for the Tooth Fairy. Molly has also made a decision. Molly wants to take Willy and go stay with her deceased husband's parents. Graham does not want her to go; however, he wishes her good luck, because he knows now is not a good time for a fight. When he hangs up, Graham precedes to get drunk and to have a conversation with the killer in the silence of the empty apartment.

Chapter 24 Analysis

More foreshadowing surrounds this investigation. The discovery of the type of gas used to kill Lounds may lead to the general area where the killer lives and shops. The carpet fibers also tell the investigators that the killer did indeed take Lounds back to his home, as they suspected in an earlier chapter. This narrows the search area to a place where the killer could drive to and from Chicago in less than twelve hours.

Graham's behavior when he speaks to Molly foreshadows the slow destruction of this relationship. Graham knows that by going to stay with her ex-in-laws, Molly will be revisiting a past that his role at her side should have reconciled for her. When he proceeds to get drunk and speak to the killer, not only does this show the reader the depth of his gift to relate to the killer, but it also shows his own desperation to stop this killer from striking again. This investigation has become personal to Graham. This also touches on the theme of mental stability, because Graham's own feeling for himself, his own sense of right and wrong, and his own capacity to become an evil entity like the killer he hunts is very much wrapped up in this case.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

Marian Dolarhyde Trevane gave birth to a son, alone in a city hospital in 1938. Marian lies about her name. When the baby is born, the doctor refuses to let Marian see him because of the severe facial deformities. Francis Dolarhyde is born with cleft palate, a defect that is easily repaired now. However, when Francis was born, it was not an easy repair.

Francis is abandoned by the hospital personnel, except for a lone cleaning woman, who devises a clever way by which to feed him. Then, Marian leaves the hospital, leaving the child behind. The baby is eventually sent to the Springfield Foundling Home, then to the Morgan Lee Memorial Orphanage.

Marian gets a job and annuls her marriage to Mr. Trevane, without mentioning the child. At first, she tells Mr. Trevane that the baby was born dead. However, when he shows up at her boarding house drunk one night, she tells him about the child's defect. Later, when Marian has married a rich man, Mr. Trevane calls Marian's mother and tells her about the child.

Marian's mother has been struggling to keep her home since her husband died. For months, she called Marian and asked for help, however Marian would not return her calls. Finally, Mrs. Dolarhyde is forced to open her home to old, sick people in order to help her cover the costs of the large house. When she learns about the child Marian abandoned, Mrs. Dolarhyde goes to the orphanage to visit him. Mrs. Dolarhyde takes custody of the child.

Marian's husband, Howard Vogt, is a politician running for state legislature. Mrs. Dolarhyde takes Francis to meet his mother. Mrs. Dolarhyde then attends all of Mr. Vogt's political rallies and introduces everyone who will listen to Francis. Mr. Vogt loses by eighteen hundred votes.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Some foreshadowing is satisfied in this chapter of flashbacks regarding Dolarhyde, the Tooth Fairy. Dr. Bloom was not far off when he said that the killer was more than likely a child of a tragic childhood. Abandoned at birth, Dolarhyde surely has quite a few issues to work out as an adult. Now, the reader is also aware of what the perceived disfigurement is that the killer has been suspected of having because of all the broken mirrors in the houses where he commits his crimes. A cleft palate is a terribly disfiguring birth defect, especially when it is not surgically repaired shortly after birth, as it is routinely done now.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Dolarhyde spends the next several years growing up among his grandmother's nursing home patients. During the middle of one night, little Francis has to go to the bathroom, but is afraid to get out of his bed. Francis accidentally wets his bed. When he wakes his grandmother, she takes him upstairs to clean him up and change the sheets on his bed. When all is put right, Francis's grandmother tells him to get her sewing scissors. Mrs. Dolarhyde then takes hold of Francis's penis and tells him if he ever wets his bed again, she will cut it off. Mrs. Dolarhyde then tells him he does not need to be afraid of the dark, he can sit on the toilet like a good little boy. As an adult, Dolarhyde still sits on the toilet in the dark when he needs to urinate at night.

Chapter 26 Analysis

This story is a sad one. It touches, not only on foreshadowing for future events, but also on the theme of mental stability in offering detailed explanation for Dolarhyde's illness. It also addresses the theme of freedom. Here, the reader sees a little boy who is trapped in a situation he cannot control. As an adult, Dolarhyde continues to heed his grandmother's rules. This shows that Dolarhyde has never found a way to rid himself of his grandmother's iron fists, never found the freedom that most adults normally find after leaving their parent's home.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

When Francis is eight, his grandmother begins to change. At first it is visible only in her behavior toward the patients. Grandmother begins to present a proper dinner every night, acting every bit the southern belle she was as a child. Grandmother was a very charming young woman. Grandmother had to be charming, because she had the bad luck to be born with bad teeth. However, when her teeth began to fall out, she had grown so accustomed to them, she had a pair of dentures made to look exactly like her original teeth.

Francis has few friends, because the house is so isolated. Francis enjoys spending time with the housekeeper, Queen Mother. Francis enjoys catching a ride with her and her husband at the end of the day in their wagon. Francis also sometimes plays with the daughter of the sharecropper who lived a few fields away. One day, Francis is playing with the little girl, and she wants to see Francis naked. Both children take down their pants and are caught by Queen Mother. Grandmother somehow finds out and sends Francis to his room, promising to get her scissors. Francis is convinced that Queen Mother told on him. While waiting for Grandmother to come, Francis becomes convinced that he must learn how to protect Grandmother if anyone ever breaks into the house. Francis takes the hatchet that Queen Mother uses to kill the chickens and attacks a chicken himself.

Grandmother continues to get sick. Grandmother begins picking on little things so nastily that most of the household help quits. Grandmother gets into a fight with Queen Mother, and she also quits. Grandmother is barely able to care for herself anymore, let alone her charges. Finally, Queen Mother calls the police, and they call Marian Vogt. Marian comes out and, to prevent a scandal that could hurt her husband, she cleans up the nursing home patients, has her mother taken to a sanitarium, and calls the state to let them know her mother is ill and can no longer care for her charges. Almost as an afterthought, Marian takes her son home with her.

At his new home, Marian's stepchildren are unkind to Francis when they bother to acknowledge him. One day, the son and one of the girls comes to his room and accuse him of being responsible for their father being unable to provide them with ponies and other luxuries any more. Then, the boy beats Francis. A few days later, Francis is placed in a foster home a few blocks from his mother's home.

Chapter 27 Analysis

More foreshadowing comes to an end in this chapter of flashbacks. Now, the reader knows when Dolarhyde's mental slide began and can see that some of it may be inherited. There is also explanation for why Dolarhyde picks whole families to attack,



and perhaps why he sets the corpses up in the master bedroom to watch him mutilate the mothers. In Dolarhyde's mind, perhaps, he is attacking his own mother over and over, while forcing his stepfather and step-siblings to watch.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

Dolarhyde sits in his parlor and watches other people's home movies of Fourth of July picnics and summer vacations. Dolarhyde is picking another family for his becoming. The first is a family playing softball in a park. The second is a family enjoying their new home, including the pool out back. This is the family Dolarhyde wants, the "Shermans." Dolarhyde thinks of how he could perfect his own home movie when he is finished. Dolarhyde decides he needs infrared film, so he can film the family before he turns on the lights, before he kills the father.

Dolarhyde had plastic surgery when he joined the Army. This is also where he learned about film, and where he began to relieve his sexual urges with film that showed horrific trauma suffered by patients treated at the Army hospitals.

Grandma Dolarhyde was released from the sanitarium in 1961. Dolarhyde took a hardship discharge from the Army, in order to take care of her. Dolarhyde met his mother at her funeral in 1970; however, he refused to even acknowledge her.

For nine years after his grandmother's death, Dolarhyde lived in peace. However, when Dolarhyde saw a picture of *the Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun*, he began to realize he was a unique individual who could become the Red Dragon if only he gave himself up to his urges. Dolarhyde went to Hong Kong and had a dragon tattooed to his back. Dolarhyde believes he is growing in strength and glory. Soon, he will become.

Chapter 28 Analysis

The event Graham has been dreading and the author has foreshadowed is coming. Dolarhyde has chosen his next victims. There is also more flashback in this chapter that explains why Dolarhyde speaks with an impediment, but is not deformed like it has been described he was in childhood. This flashback also explains how Dolarhyde came to fixate on the Red Dragon. The theme of mental stability is clear here, when Dolarhyde explains that he lived in peace for nine years before he realized that he was meant to indulge his homicidal urges in order to become the Great Red Dragon. Dolarhyde is beginning to become schizophrenic or psychotic just as his grandmother did when he was a child. The only difference here is that Grandmother was cruel but essentially harmless. Dolarhyde is a serial killer.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Dolarhyde has to go to Baeder Chemical to get the infrared film he needs. Most everyone has gone to lunch when he finds the time to go over. Dolarhyde finds a technician alone in a dark room. At first, he is shy and quiet like he normally is with young women, making the excuse of needing to measure a space for a dryer one of the lab techs wanted. However, when the girl turns on the lights, Dolarhyde discovers that she is blind.

Dolarhyde speaks to the girl with more confidence and tells her that he wants super sensitive infrared film to give to a local zoo, so they can film their nocturnal animals at night. The girl, Reba McClane is impressed with Dolarhyde and glad he does not seem to pity her for her disability.

Chapter 29 Analysis

Dolarhyde's meeting of this blind girl serves to explain more about the man. Dolarhyde is normally very nervous around women, because he is still self-conscious of his defect even though it does not exist anymore. Meeting a woman who cannot see his defect is a new situation for Dolarhyde. This is foreshadowing that could lead to an interesting situation for Dolarhyde if his history of mental illness does not interfere.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Graham goes to Lounds's funeral. There are cops at the funeral, hoping the killer will show up. Wendy is there, and she takes the time to thank Graham for his help in allowing her to be at Lounds's side when he died. Wendy is the only one who is grateful to Graham, however. Most of the attendees are journalists and employees of the *Tattler* who believe that Graham set Lounds up to be killed.

Chapter 30 Analysis

The killer does not show up, so this is a dead end for Graham. The fact that Graham is looked upon as a killer himself does not seem to bother him. However, being without Molly at a funeral does. Graham is lonely and ready for all of this to be over. However, he knows it will never be over until the Dragon, as the press is now calling the Tooth Fairy, is dead. This is foreshadowing, as well as wishful thinking.



Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

Dolarhyde goes back to Baeder to watch a screening of the infrared film. Reba is glad he is there, though she is irritated by her boss when he suggests that he take her home, in front of Dolarhyde. Reba does not want to appear weak. Reba walks outside to catch the bus. Dolarhyde sees her and offers a ride, not because he feels sorry for her, but because it is raining, and it is the practical thing to do. When Dolarhyde says it that way, Reba agrees.

At Reba's duplex, she invites Dolarhyde inside for coffee. Reba cuts a wedge of pie for Dolarhyde, and he is fascinated by the way she is able to cut the pie without sight. They talk for a while, and Reba is aware that Dolarhyde is uncomfortable with her. She is unsure why. When Reba asks to touch Dolarhyde's face, he refuses. Reba likes Dolarhyde's sense of privacy, because she is the same way. Reba has lived in a blind world since she was eight, and has only now taken a job outside of the blind school she attended and worked for. Reba feels Dolarhyde is just the kind of guy she would like to be with now.

Chapter 31 Analysis

Dolarhyde has grown more comfortable around Reba, but he is still hesitant when she wants to touch him. This behavior is more normal for Dolarhyde, who has been struggling with his public and private personas. This is foreshadowing into the future of this relationship and what it might mean for Dolarhyde and his becoming. It is clear Reba likes Dolarhyde; but is Dolarhyde capable of liking her back?



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

Since Lounds's death in Chicago, the public has become panicked, and a countdown has begun. Graham cannot go anywhere without the press hounding him; therefore, he has taken refuge in an empty courtroom in order to pour over the evidence and attempt to make some sense of it all. Crawford finds Graham there, and they go over the newest evidence together.

The gasoline the killer used to burn Lounds is sold at a gas station that has more than forty-one stations in Chicago alone. The injuries on Lounds's face, a bruise on his head and the bitten lips, are different ages, and they found chloroform in his throat. Now, Graham has a time line from Lounds's injury and some idea how the events took place. This helps them create a search grid for the killer's home, assuming that is where the killer took Lounds during the hours he was missing. Crawford also mentions the locations of newsstands where the killer could have gotten an early issue of the *Tattler*, which leaves them with Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Detroit.

Crawford asks about Molly, and Graham tells him that she and Willy are safe and sound at the grandparent's home. Crawford gives Graham a package that came for him, the probate papers from the Jacobi's attorney. Graham begins going through them, again looking for a connection between the two families, curious if Mrs. Jacobi had surgery some time before her death as Mrs. Leeds had surgery to remove a lump in her breast. Crawford leaves Graham to his work.

Chapter 32 Analysis

More foreshadowing surrounds the investigation. The tips on the gas and the cities where the killer could have gotten the paper narrow the investigation slightly, though Graham does not see it just yet. Graham is still focused on the families, focused on the one connection that caused the killer to focus on these two families. The reader already knows how the killer picks his victims; however, it is suspenseful just the same to watch Graham attempt to find the connection himself.



Chapter 33

Chapter 33 Summary

Dolarhyde thinks about all he has seen and read about the investigation since Lounds's death. Dolarhyde is happy they are calling him the Dragon now; however, he still believes that Graham must die. Dolarhyde wants to make Graham dread his own death. Dolarhyde has arranged to give some of the infrared film to the zoo, in case his company checks up on his request. Dolarhyde sees a report on the news with the same zoo official he talked to about fixing a tooth on a tiger. Dolarhyde thinks of Reba. Dolarhyde is thinking of Reba a lot, and he wants to share his secrets with her. However, he knows now is not the time.

Chapter 33 Analysis

Dolarhyde is becoming more and more obsessed with Reba, even as his own obsession with his becoming continues to keep a tight hold on him. This touches on the theme of mental instability, as well as the way his obsessive thoughts foreshadow a relationship that is beginning to materialize.



Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Summary

Graham and Crawford discuss a profile of the killer in the courtroom Graham has taken over. Graham is distracted, annoyed at Crawford for taking him from his examination of the evidence to create the profile; however, it is Crawford's bosses who want the profile. There are only ten days to go before the killer will strike again, before the next full moon.

Chapter 34 Analysis

As the deadline looms, both Crawford and Graham are becoming tense and short tempered. Graham wants this killer caught, but only his way. Crawford is a "by-the-book guy," who knows it has to be done by FBI rules.



Chapter 35

Chapter 35 Summary

Dolarhyde takes Reba to the zoo, where he has arranged for her to touch the sleeping tiger while it is under anesthesia for its tooth repair. Reba is excited by the experience, and Dolarhyde is excited by the wildness of the animal and the way Reba touches it. Afterward, Dolarhyde takes Reba to his house. They sit in the parlor, and Reba tells Dolarhyde what people at work have said about him. Many people saw her get into his van a few days before and are curious about their relationship. Dolarhyde is curious what they say about him. Dolarhyde is surprised when she tells him most people think he is good-looking and shy.

Dolarhyde tells Reba he has work to do that he brought home. Reba lies with her head in his lap, while Dolarhyde watches his home movies. Dolarhyde becomes excited, and Reba begins to encourage his excitement. They make love. This is the first time Dolarhyde has been with a living woman.

In the morning, while Dolarhyde sleeps, Reba takes a shower and makes her way outside. Dolarhyde panics when he finds her gone, afraid she has found some evidence of his crime and has run away to tell on him. However, Dolarhyde finds Reba and is reassured that she knows nothing.

Dolarhyde insists on taking Reba home. They stop at a gas station, and Dolarhyde, who has been struggling to figure out how he feels about Reba and how he feels about what happened the night before, catches the gas station attendant attempting to look up Reba's skirt. Dolarhyde pushes the guy and then twists his arm around his back, telling him to keep his eyes to himself.

Chapter 35 Analysis

Dolarhyde's night with Reba reveals to the reader just how deeply his defect affected his life. Dolarhyde is in his late forties, and this is the first time he has been with a woman. This fact explains more about Dolarhyde than some of the flashbacks have. This chapter also satisfies some foreshadowing in previous chapters that left the reader wondering how deep this relationship would go. Now the question is; how will this relationship affect Dolarhyde's plans to become?



Chapter 36

Chapter 36 Summary

Graham receives a copy of the tape Dolanhyde made of Lounds's the night before he killed him. Graham listens to it alone. On it, Lounds says he lied about the article regarding the Dragon and that Graham forced him to do it. Lounds also says that the Dragon is someone to dread, and they should all dread him. Then, Graham can hear the Dragon biting off Lounds's lips.

Graham listens to the tape several times, until he is interrupted by a clerk. A letter has arrived for Graham. It is from Lecter. This letter encourages Graham to let go and indulge his instincts to kill. Graham decides that he needs a break. Graham goes for a walk to get coffee and finds himself buying a bracelet for Molly that costs most of his paycheck.

When Graham returns to the courtroom, it occurs to him that some things might be missing from the Jacobi's belongings. Graham goes through his lists of inventory and discovers a frame about the same size as the picture Niles gave him is unaccounted for, as well as a projector and film. Graham calls the Jacobis' attorney and asks him to check if Niles might have taken those things from the house the night he went to retrieve his own belongings from the house.

Chapter 36 Analysis

Graham receives two things that play on his guilt and his concern for his own mental health, the tape of Lounds accusing him of setting him up and the letter from Lecter. Again, Graham is testing his own mental stability, one of our themes. However, after a break, Graham has insight into the case he might have missed under other circumstances. Hopefully, this break is foreshadowing into a way to find the killer before he begins to kill again.



Chapter 37

Chapter 37 Summary

Dolarhyde is working out with his weights, when he hears the voice of the Dragon for the first time. The Great Red Dragon is not happy that Dolarhyde is constantly thinking about Reba now. Dolarhyde tries to ignore the voice, but it only becomes insistent. When Dolarhyde finally responds, his words are slurred as though his deformity has returned. The Dragon tells Dolarhyde he must sacrifice Reba for him, before he can kill the Shermans. Dolarhyde does not want to sacrifice Reba. However, Dolarhyde's refusal causes the Dragon to punish him by forcing him to mutilate his own penis with his grandmother's dentures and then lifting more weight than he has ever attempted before. The Dragon steps in for him and lifts the weight itself.

Chapter 37 Analysis

Dolarhyde's illness has taken a new step with this chapter. Dolarhyde has never heard the Dragon's voice before today. Now, in the theme of mental stability, not only does Dolarhyde hear the Dragon's voice separate from his own, but he mutilates himself by the Dragon's orders. It is also interesting to note that the mutilation is the same as the mutilation the grandmother threatened a little eight-year-old Francis Dolarhyde.



Chapter 38

Chapter 38 Summary

Dolarhyde does not go to work Monday. Dolarhyde is extremely upset that he and the Dragon are not one anymore, but two. In a panic, Dolarhyde goes to a hotel and attempts to hang himself in the bathroom in the belief that his own death is the only way to save Reba from the Dragon's horrendous torture. However, Dolarhyde has another idea before he can go through with the suicide.

Dolarhyde goes back to his house and searches through his drawer for the keys to a footlocker he keeps downstairs, moving quickly to keep the Dragon's voice from talking him out of his actions. The phone rings while Dolarhyde is searching. Reba heard he was ill and wants to come take care of him, but Dolarhyde talks her out of it. Dolarhyde opens the trunk that holds dynamite and a valise full of cash and IDs in different names. Dolarhyde grabs the valise and rushes out of the house to drive to the airport.

Chapter 38 Analysis

Dolarhyde is seeking freedom from the Dragon, another theme of the novel. Dolarhyde does not want Reba killed, because he knows what horrible things the Dragon will do to her. Dolarhyde cares about Reba, something he has never had to face before. Dolarhyde's plan to thwart the Dragon is foreshadowed in this chapter; however, the reader has no clue what he intends to do.



Chapter 39

Chapter 39 Summary

Dolarhyde goes to the Brooklyn Museum where the painting of the Great Red Dragon is located. It is only an hour before closing time. Dolarhyde asks the checkroom attendant if the checkroom will be open the next day. The attendant tells him "no," since the museum is closed. Dolarhyde takes the elevator up to the fifth floor where the painting is kept. The Great Red Dragon is not on display, because it is so delicate. However, people who are interested can make an appointment to see the painting. Dolarhyde walks the perimeter of the fifth floor, checking to see if the guards carry guns. They do not. Dolarhyde goes to a local store after leaving the museum at closing time.

Chapter 39 Analysis

There is much foreshadowing in this chapter, as the reader must wonder what Dolarhyde is up to. Dolarhyde wants to be where the painting is located, but he is afraid of the Dragon in a way he was not before he began hearing its voice. The reader might be under the impression that Dolarhyde wants to steal the painting because of his careful observation of the guards and the checkroom. This idea would be ironic, given Dolarhyde's new fear of the Dragon. Being closer to the Dragon should increase his fear, or perhaps Dolarhyde believes owning the painting will give him back some control over the Dragon.



Chapter 40

Chapter 40 Summary

Graham has just returned from a trip to Detroit where he was trying to establish a connection between Mrs. Leeds's surgery and Mrs. Jacobi's volunteer work at a hospital in Detroit. Graham is unable to make a connection, however. When Graham enters the apartment in Chicago, the phone is ringing, but he cannot answer it before it stops. Graham assumes it was Molly and calls her back. Molly is not able to come to the phone. It is dinnertime.

When the phone rings again while Graham is in the shower, he assumes it is Molly. It is not. It is the Jacobi's lawyer. They were able to find out that Niles fenced most of the property he took out of the Jacobi home. However, they were able to find some home movies the boy could not get rid of. Graham asks that the film be sent to him as soon as possible.

Chapter 40 Analysis

The distance between Graham and Molly appears to be growing. Graham is frustrated in the investigation and wants nothing more than to be back to where he was before, but Molly's distance makes it clear that this might not happen. The theme of freedom is touched on here in the idea that Graham might soon achieve personal freedom if Molly continues to be as distant as she has been. The discovery of the Jacobi home movies is not only foreshadowing, it is also a big break that the reader may recognize more at this point than Graham himself. The investigation might be coming to an end very soon.



Chapter 41

Chapter 41 Summary

Dolarhyde goes back to the Brooklyn Museum looking very much like a student, with books in his arms and a guitar case in his hands. However, he also has a gun and a knife hidden under his shirt. Dolarhyde has an appointment to see Blake's *The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed in the Sun*. Dolarhyde signs in with the guards, leaving his guitar in the foyer, and waits for Miss Harper who is to show him the painting.

Miss Harper walks Dolarhyde up to the fifth floor, chatting the whole time about Blake and the study Dolarhyde is supposedly doing on him. In the hallway, Dolarhyde spots a portrait of George Washington and freezes for a moment, convinced it is his grandmother come to mock him. It takes Dolarhyde a moment to regain his composure.

In a workroom where paintings are carefully restored, Miss Harper retrieves the Blake painting and presents it to Dolarhyde on a solander box designed to keep the light in the room from fading the sensitive watercolor. Dolarhyde stares at the painting, once more mesmerized. Dolarhyde thinks of Reba as he stares at the Great Dragon. A phone rings and a woman calls to Miss Harper that her mother is on the line. Miss Harper refuses to take the call. Dolarhyde claims to see a huge rat in a corner of the room. With Miss Harper distracted, Dolarhyde hits her on the back of the head with the gun.

The phone rings again, and a woman comes out of a cubicle to get Miss Harper. When she sees Miss Harper unconscious on the floor and Dolarhyde crouched behind the solander box eating the painting, she rushes to her office to call security. Dolarhyde breaks down the door to her office and knocks her in the head, too.

His task completed, Dolarhyde leaves the fifth floor and very calmly returns his visitor's pass to the guards, leaving the museum. In the Botanical gardens, Dolarhyde rips off his clothes to reveal a jogging outfit underneath. Dolarhyde then opens the guitar case and pulls out a grocery bag, a tennis racket and ball, and a towel. With the towel around his neck, the books and clothes in the grocery bag under a bunch of celery, Dolarhyde looks like a man who stopped by the store on his way home from a workout.

Chapter 41 Analysis

Dolarhyde, despite his mental illness, has successfully completed a brilliant plan to steal a precious painting. However, eating it was probably not what the reader expected him to do. Now, Dolarhyde and the Dragon are one again, which was the goal all along if the reader recalls foreshadowing from several earlier chapters.



Chapter 42

Chapter 42 Summary

Graham and Crawford are once more in the empty courtroom discussing the profile Crawford wants Graham to complete. Graham is distracted. The film from the Jacobi case has arrived, and he is anxious to see it. He hopes to find a connection between the two families, or at least to get to know this family a little better. The film that catches Graham's attention the most is a recent one in which the family celebrates the son's birthday.

Graham notices in the film that, when the Jacobi's bring the boy's bicycle, a gift, out of the basement, they come through a door with a padlock on it. There was not a door with a padlock on it at the house when Graham went to see it. However the killer brought a bolt cutter to the house the night of the crimes, a fact Graham is aware of because the killer used it to trim a branch out of his line of sight. Graham has Crawford call the Jacobi's lawyer to ask when the door was changed. Then, Graham watches the Leedses movie again. Suddenly, he realizes everything the killer needed to know about how to get into the houses. The layout of the houses was on these films.

Graham demands to know where the Jacobi's got their film processed. Crawford and Graham watch the films over and over before the answer comes back. It's Gateway. Now, Graham knows what the connection is between the two families.

Chapter 42 Analysis

Finally, Graham has caught up with the reader and satisfied many chapters worth of foreshadowing. The movies are the connection Graham has been looking for all along. If Graham had not been interested in knowing the families and seeing them when they were alive, he might not have made this connection. Graham's unique way of investigating, of getting to know the victims in order to get to know the killer, is what may have solved this case.



Chapter 43

Chapter 43 Summary and Analysis

Graham and Crawford are flying to St. Louis, when Crawford gets word of what Dolarhyde did to the Blake painting. Crawford is curious why Dolarhyde did not kill the witnesses to keep them from giving his description to the police. The agents investigating called Dr. Bloom, and he said that perhaps Dolarhyde is trying to quit.



Chapter 44

Chapter 44 Summary

Dolarhyde arrives in St. Louis and drives straight to Gateway in hopes of finding Reba on her way home. Dolarhyde checks the bus stop first and then parks in front of Baeder. Baeder appears to be deserted when he goes inside, until the supervisor of Baeder comes walking down the corridor. Dolarhyde hears him speaking to the personnel director. Then, Dolarhyde sees the personnel director's secretary coming down the hall, and Graham opens a door for her.

Dolarhyde realizes the FBI has caught up to him. Dolarhyde sneaks out a window and speeds away in his van. Dolarhyde knows the films must have finally given him away. Now, he needs to think of what to do next. The Dragon begins to speak to him again, telling him he must sacrifice Reba anyway if Dolarhyde wants the Dragon to save him from this mess. Dolarhyde agrees, and the Dragon tells him what to do.

Chapter 44 Analysis

Dolarhyde has discovered Graham trying to find his identity before Graham is ready for Dolarhyde to know they are on his trail. All the foreshadowing in the investigation has led up to this moment. Now, there is new foreshadowing in the question of what Dolarhyde will do now. There are few options. However, Dolarhyde turns to the voice of the Dragon to save him, the same Dragon who ironically got him into this situation in the first place.



Chapter 45

Chapter 45 Summary

Graham studies the offices of Gateway, while Crawford studies the personnel files of all 380 employees. They are attempting to do this search as quietly as possible, in order to not alert their suspect before they are ready. They were hoping to identify their suspect by his unusual teeth; however, that has proven to be a dead end. Graham is worried that if they do not find the suspect soon, he will get wind of what is happening and run. Their best hope now is Miss Harper, who will be flown in as soon as she can travel to attempt an identification when the employees come to work the next morning.

Chapter 45 Analysis

Unaware that they have already been spotted, Graham is becoming frustrated with passing time while they search for the killer. There are too many employees and too many loose ends. Graham is closing in on the killer, which touches on the theme of freedom. In this case, it's Dolarhyde's freedom. Graham very much wants to take it from him, and Dolarhyde wants very much to keep it.



Chapter 46

Chapter 46 Summary

Reba returns from a late dinner with Ralph Mandy, the man she had been dating before she met Dolarhyde. Reba told him over dinner that she no longer wanted to see him, and she thought Randy might have been relieved. After Reba closes the door, and Ralph turns, Dolarhyde shoots him three times. Dolarhyde then hides his body in the bushes. Dolarhyde rings Reba's bell and covers her mouth with a chloroformed cloth when she opens the door.

Reba wakes in the van, terrified until she realizes what has happened. Reba tries to talk to Dolarhyde, telling him Randy was no one to her. The van stops, and Reba is carried into the house. Reba smells gasoline. Reba is placed on a bed, and she knows it is the same bed she and Dolarhyde spent the night together in. Reba continues to try to talk to Dolarhyde. Dolarhyde tells her Ralph is dead. The Dragon begins to speak, and Reba is very scared.

Dolarhyde asks Reba if she knows where the front door is. When Reba says she does, Dolarhyde makes her take a key on a chain from around his neck. Then, Dolarhyde tells her to go unlock the door in a test of loyalty. Reba fails when she tries to run away.

Chapter 46 Analysis

Reba trusted Dolarhyde. It is ironic that this man Reba trusted so much has turned out to be one of the most notorious serial killers of her time. Normally a woman who takes pride in her independence and her ability to defend herself, Reba is made weak and vulnerable by a man she thought cared about her. Now, Reba is in a fight for her life. When the Dragon begins to speak, Reba begins to see the depth of Dolarhyde's mental illness and a glimpse at the theme of mental instability. The test that Dolarhyde gives Reba while confessing his concern for her safety is foreshadowing.



Chapter 47

Chapter 47 Summary

The FBI has gotten a list of all the male employees of Gateway who drive vans. The list includes twenty-six names. When the news comes in that Ralph Mandy has been shot, no one knows who the man is. However, the personnel director's secretary mentions seeing Reba getting into Dolarhyde's van and expresses concern for her. Graham grabs on to this information and goes to search Dolarhyde's office. When he finds denture adhesive and the time and date of a flight to Atlanta written on a calendar, Graham knows Dolarhyde is the Tooth Fairy.

Chapter 47 Analysis

Foreshadowing from many previous chapters is satisfied when Graham finally finds a name for his killer. The suspense is building now, the reader curious if Graham will make it to Dolarhyde's house before he kills Reba in yet more foreshadowing from the previous chapter.



Chapter 48

Chapter 48 Summary

Reba wakes to Dolarhyde wiping her face with a wet rag. Dolarhyde asks her if she knows where she is. Reba answers "yes," she is outside on the ramp. Dolarhyde makes her take the key and go back to the bedroom, then put the key back around his neck. Dolarhyde then shows Reba that he has a shotgun. Dolarhyde tells Reba that he enjoyed their night together and does not want the Dragon to hurt her; therefore, he must stop it. Dolarhyde is crying. Then, the shotgun explodes. At first Reba is not sure if she is hurt. When Reba realizes she is unharmed, she smells smoke and knows the room is on fire. Reba crawls around the room to find Dolarhyde. When she does, she takes the key from his neck, despite the horrific mess the shotgun blast made of his head. Reba manages to make her way out of the house.

Chapter 48 Analysis

Dolarhyde has taken his own life, rather than allow the Dragon to kill Reba. By testing Reba earlier, Dolarhyde has assured himself and Reba that she can find her way out of the house when the house begins to burn. Reba is free to run, free of Dolarhyde's illness and his other self, the Dragon. In the end, despite the vulnerability Dolarhyde forced on Reba, she has proved she can take care of herself, despite her disability. This, too, touches on the theme of freedom in such that Reba is not caged by her disability.



Chapter 49

Chapter 49 Summary

The FBI has trouble finding Dolarhyde's home until the fire reveals smoke in the distance. They find Reba just as the house rocks with a huge explosion. Crawford grabs Reba from where she has fallen in the drive and asks her where Dolarhyde is. Reba tells them Dolarhyde is inside and that he shot himself before the fire began. Crawford sits with her in a patrol car and allows her to cry.

Chapter 49 Analysis

It seems the story has come to a conclusion in this chapter, all the foreshadowing from previous chapters concluded. Reba is rescued, and Crawford shows more of his human side in comforting her. However, the fact that they have yet to search the ashes should show the reader subtler foreshadowing that has not revealed itself yet.



Chapter 50

Chapter 50 Summary

The fire investigator from Washington has arrived to investigate Dolarhyde's fire. From Graham's description of the fire, the investigator suggests that perhaps some dynamite went off in the house after the fire began. The investigator also says that they may not be able to find the remains, because the fire burned so hot.

Graham goes to the hospital to interview Reba. After Reba clearly and honestly tells him everything about her relationship with Dolarhyde, Graham assures Reba that it is not anything about her that allowed her to become infatuated with a killer. Graham then calls Molly and asks her to come home. Molly refuses, saying she has a job she cannot leave. When Graham hangs up, Crawford tells him the fire investigator has found something he might be interested in.

Chapter 50 Analysis

The glimpse of the dynamite in a previous chapter has come into play here in a solution of prior foreshadowing. Graham's visit to Reba in the hospital again touches on the theme of mental stability. Graham assures Reba that she is not sick or a magnet for sick people, just because she got involved with Dolarhyde. In fact, Graham tells her that Dolarhyde might have been trying to stop because of her. Graham is able to tell Reba that she is not mentally unstable in a way that Graham himself needs someone to assure him of his own stability.



Chapter 51

Chapter 51 Summary

The fire investigator is irritating the local authorities by not allowing them into the scene until he is finished when Graham and Crawford return to the scene. The investigator shows Graham and Crawford a shotgun and a pistol he found among the ashes of the house. The investigator also shows them a human femur and a tooth recovered from the ashes. Graham is happy with these findings. Now, he can go home.

Chapter 51 Analysis

Now that Dolarhyde's bones have been found, Graham can go home. There is a question over whether or not Molly will be there from the foreshadowing in the previous chapter, but Graham is happy just the same. This touches on the theme of mental stability, as far as Graham can now move out of the head of this killer and return to a more tranquil way of life in which he does not have to face the evils of the world, the capacity of evil in every human being, and his own questionable mental stability.



Chapter 52

Chapter 52 Summary

Graham goes home after spreading his thanks and love to all the people he worked with. Molly and Willy are waiting at the airport when he lands. Willy stands in front of his mother as though protecting her when Graham appears. When Graham approaches, Willy moves off, and Molly greets him affectionately. On the drive home, Graham soaks in his surroundings, happy to be back where he belongs.

Chapter 52 Analysis

Graham is finally back home where he has wanted to be all along. No more does he have to worry about his own mental stability or the evils of the world. Molly's standoffishness is gone for the moment, which adds to the happily ever after feel of this part of the book. This foreshadows events in the next few chapters, just by the fact that there has been so much foreshadowing of the breakup of Molly and Graham's relationship.



Chapter 53

Chapter 53 Summary

Things between Molly and Graham are strained over the next few days. Graham is glad to have Molly back, glad to be with his family again. However, Molly and Willy continuously talk about Oregon and Molly's ex-in-laws, about the pony they bought for Willy, and how much he misses it. Graham knows his marriage is over, he is simply unwilling to admit it.

Crawford sends Graham a picture of the Shermans and tells him these were Dolarhyde's next intended victims. Graham is relieved. Now, Graham knows he must talk to Molly and Willy. Graham takes them fishing on the beach. Willy is unwilling to fish the way Graham wants to. Molly leaves to get sandwiches. When Molly returns, she tells Graham that Crawford is on the phone for him, that he says it is very important. Graham heads up the beach and runs into Francis Dolarhyde.

Graham and Dolarhyde begin to fight, and Dolarhyde slams a knife into Graham's cheek. Molly swings the fishing rod at Dolarhyde and digs the fishing hooks into his cheek. Dolarhyde takes the knife out of Graham's face and chases after Molly. Molly urges Willy to run as fast as he can and hide him in his bedroom closet when they reach the house. Molly goes back down to the kitchen and shoots Dolarhyde over and over, even after he is dead. Willy climbs out of his bedroom to find Graham. Sheriff's deputies swarm the house, called by Crawford who is still on the phone.

Chapter 53 Analysis

The theme of freedom slips in here again, as Graham describes the obvious deterioration of his family. The fishing trip that is meant to be relaxing and to draw the family together again is strained and uncomfortable for everyone. It does not help when Crawford calls, bringing back into everyone's mind the awful few weeks they have recently spent.

Dolarhyde showing up on the beach has been foreshadowed through the last few chapters. Dolarhyde is a sick man, but he has also proven himself to be highly intelligent and unwilling to allow Graham to get away. The suspense that has been growing throughout the novel has finally come to a head, and Molly is forced to kill Dolarhyde. This is foreshadowing, too, into the question of what will happen between Graham and Molly when all is said and done.



Chapter 54

Chapter 54 Summary

Graham is in the ICU of the local hospital, unable to speak. Molly is with him from time to time, though Graham can feel the distance in her concern for him. Crawford comes to visit and discovers Molly has received a letter for Graham from Lecter. The note is taunting, about how sad it is to be locked up in a hospital. Crawford tears it up. Crawford is there to tell Graham how Dolarhyde came to still be alive; however, he can only stay in Graham's room for five minutes at a time. It takes him several visits to tell the entire story.

Crawford tells Graham how Dolarhyde must have discovered they were at Gateway. Crawford says that he went back to the gas station where the attendant tried to look up Reba's skirt and killed the attendant, taking him and his tow truck, as well as his van, back to his house. Then Dolarhyde went to get Reba. When Reba heard the gunshot, it was actually Dolarhyde shooting the corpse of the gas station attendant. It was this same corpse Reba felt when she retrieved the keys. Dolarhyde did this so that Reba could tell everyone Dolarhyde was dead. Then, Dolarhyde went to the tow truck he hid a distance behind his house and escaped.

Graham tells Molly that he loves her and receives a passive reply. Graham asks about Willy and discovers Molly has sent him back to Oregon. Graham knows now his marriage is over. Graham briefly thinks that he could keep her a while longer by milking his injuries and decides that is not a good idea. Graham later thinks about his own mental stability and his capacity to become someone exactly like Dolarhyde. Graham realizes that this is possible in all human beings. However, most human beings have the capacity to choose their path, and Graham will never choose to be like Dolarhyde.

Chapter 54 Analysis

The hows and whys of Dolarhyde's escape have been explained. Now, the reader can see the foreshadowing that was so subtle in previous chapters that it may have been overlooked. All circles have been closed, all plot points satisfied. Two of the themes of the novel have also come to a conclusion in this chapter. The idea of Graham's freedom from Molly and freedom from his fears of mental instability are concluded. Molly has made it clear to Graham that she remains only because of his injuries. Soon, Graham will have his freedom from marriage again, despite the fact that this is not what he has wanted. However, another freedom that Graham has gained that is welcome is his freedom from the fear for his own mental instability. Graham has finally taken his own advice and realized that, even though he has a connection with these killers, Graham is not one of them and he never will be. This freedom is what Graham has sought throughout the novel and has finally achieved.



Characters

Will Graham

Will Graham is a diesel mechanic, who lives in Florida and works on boats. Graham lives a quiet life with his wife, Molly, and her son, Willy. However, Graham's life has not always been this quiet. Graham was at one time a police officer and then a forensics expert with the FBI. Though never an agent, Graham did have field experience. Graham was one of the investigators who helped track down two sociopath killers, including the infamous Hannibal Lecter. It was during his investigation of Hannibal when Graham was nearly killed and decided it was time to leave the FBI.

Graham has a special connection to sociopaths that makes him an expert at tracking them down. At the beginning of the novel, a killer has struck twice, and the FBI has come to Graham to ask him to help track him down. Graham is reluctant, because he has so much more to lose this time, with a wife and child at home. However, his sense of social responsibility to the families that already have fallen victim to this killer, and future families who may come into contact with the killer, forces Graham to become involved.

Graham constantly second-guesses himself. Graham is afraid of his own ability to connect with these killers, afraid the ability to become a killer is alive and well inside of him. Graham feels his own sanity slipping away, even as he is horrified by the acts committed by the man he is chasing. It does not help when Graham goes to Hannibal Lecter to ask for help, and Lecter tells him the only reason Graham caught Lecter is that they think alike, they are the same. It is not until the end of the novel that Graham realizes there is a difference between him and these sick men, and that he, Graham, is not capable of the evil acts these other men have committed.

Jack Crawford

Jack Crawford is a senior FBI agent who is in charge of the search for the Tooth Fairy. Jack Crawford was a mentor of Graham's at the FBI academy. The two men struck up a friendship that has seen them through two other investigations involving serial killers. Crawford understands Graham's desire to leave this world of crime behind him; however, Crawford is also aware that Graham has a unique gift and if there is a chance of finding the Tooth Fairy before he strikes again, it is only with Graham's help. However, Crawford is also concerned about Graham's ability to connect so readily with these killers, afraid that Graham is a ticking time bomb that has yet to go off. Crawford keeps himself well informed of Graham's activities and also consults a psychiatrist on many occasions regarding Graham.



Francis Dolarhyde

Francis Dolarhyde is a middle-aged man with a good job as a manager in the processing department of a film company. Dolarhyde is very shy and sensitive about his speech, because he had a severe cleft palate that was not repaired until he was an adult. Dolarhyde was abandoned by his mother and placed in an orphanage until he was five. Dolarhyde was raised by his grandmother for several years after that. However, his grandmother was a mentally disturbed woman who was often abusive to the small child.

Dolarhyde grew up to believe he was horribly disfigured and unworthy of love. Now, Dolarhyde is awkward in social situations and spends most of his free time alone in the home his grandmother left him when she died. Dolarhyde saw a picture of a famous William Blake painting in the paper a few years before the opening of the novel and becomes obsessed with the Great Red Dragon. Dolarhyde believes that this dragon is his salvation, that the dragon wants to take over his body, and that he will become this dragon. Dolarhyde also believes that it is the dragon that helps him manage everyday contact with the people he works with, especially one young woman with whom he has become infatuated with. Dolarhyde also believes that in order for him to finish his transformation in becoming the dragon, he must kill families whom he becomes familiar with through the home videos his department processes. Dolarhyde is the Tooth Fairy.

The Great Red Dragon/Dolarhyde's Grandmother

Dolarhyde believes he is becoming. This becoming is a change in Dolarhyde from being the person he was born as, to becoming the Great Red Dragon from the William Blake watercolor. This change, Dolarhyde believes, gives him greater courage, greater confidence, and the ability to speak normally, despite a speech impediment caused by the birth defect cleft palate. The Great Red Dragon is powerful and insatiable. However, it is also the Red Dragon that has this need to murder.

However, when the Dragon begins to speak to Dolarhyde, it is actually his grandmother's words that taunt and punish Dolarhyde. Dolarhyde's grandmother was a bitter woman who used her grandson to punish her only daughter, Dolarhyde's mother, for perceived transgressions. Not long after this, Dolarhyde's grandmother became mentally unstable. During their time together while the grandmother was ill, she mistreated Dolarhyde horribly and made threats that Dolarhyde, even into middle age. It is this abuse that Dolarhyde is reliving when he believes the Red Dragon is speaking to him, and these same threats that Dolarhyde perpetrates upon his own body.

Reba McClane

Reba McClane is a young woman who works in the infrared film department of the same company Dolarhyde works with. Reba meets Dolarhyde one afternoon, when he comes into her dark room to ask to take some infrared film. Dolarhyde tells her that the



film is for a zoo; however, it is really so he can record his own crimes. Reba is blind, which surprises and excites Dolarhyde, because he knows she cannot see any deformity in his face. Reba is a strong, independent woman who does not like to be touched. This is perfect for Dolarhyde, because he does not like to touch. Reba and Dolarhyde strike up a friendship that quickly turns sexual, a first for Dolarhyde. However, the dragon becomes interested in Reba, and Dolarhyde must choose between his love for this woman and his desire to become the Great Red Dragon.

Freddie Lounds

Freddie Lounds is a reporter for a tabloid called *The National Tattler*. Freddie Lounds is despised by other journalists, because they believe he sold himself out to make money. Lounds is also despised by Graham, because after Graham was attacked by Lecter, Lounds broke into his hospital room and took a picture of his temporary colostomy bag. Not only this, but Lounds also publishes a piece in his newspaper about a short stint Graham spent on the psychiatric floor in a Washington hospital, an article that his stepson reads and is upset by. However, Crawford comes up with a plan to use Lounds to play with the Tooth Fairy. Graham gives Lounds an interview in which Graham's location is given away by well-framed photographs, and misinformation about the killer is released. The hope is that the Tooth Fairy will come after Graham, and they will be able to catch him. However, the killer kills Lounds instead.

Dr. Hannibal Lecter

Dr. Hannibal Lecter is a psychiatrist who is also one of the most notorious serial killers that Graham and Crawford have ever encountered. Graham discovered Lecter was a killer by accident. Graham saw some old medical books in Lecter's office when he went to interview him about one of the victims who happened to be a patient of his. When Lecter realized that Graham had discovered his secret, Lecter cut Graham's belly open with a linoleum knife.

Hannibal Lecter liked to harvest body parts from his victims and eat them with his gourmet meals. After he is caught and incarcerated in a mental hospital, Lecter fakes a heart attack and bites the face off a young nurse. Now, the hospital is extremely careful about security when it comes to Lecter. Graham goes to see Lecter during the course of his search for the Tooth Fairy, partly because Lecter is a brilliant psychiatrist and could have some insight. However, his main reason to see Lecter is to connect with him on the level of his sickness to help Graham ease into the frame of mind he needs to have in order to find this killer.

Molly Graham

Molly is Graham's wife. Molly and Graham meet and marry after Graham retires from the FBI. Molly has never known Graham while he works a case or been involved in the danger that suddenly surrounds her family. Molly was married to her high school



sweetheart, a baseball player, who died of cancer when their son was young. When it becomes clear that the killer has Molly and Graham's home address, and she is forced to flee, Molly is extremely unhappy with the situation. This happiness only increases when she goes to stay with her deceased husband's parents. When Dolarhyde shows up at their home, and she is forced to kill him, this is the symbolic end of their marriage, though she does stick around while Graham is hospitalized with the injuries Dolarhyde inflicted upon him.

The Jacobi Family

The Jacobi Family from Birmingham is the first family murdered by the Tooth Fairy killer. The family consists of a mom and dad, two young children and an older boy who is at college. The family is well off, with many expensive toys around their home, a new home they only recently bought. The family suffered a fire in their old home in Detroit and moved to Birmingham. When Graham goes to visit their home a month after the deaths, it is already under repair by the real estate company. Graham does find, however, a tree in the backyard where the killer must have watched the family. Later, it turns out that the older son, a product of the father's first marriage, is a very bitter young man who stole evidence from the house that could have helped Graham solve the case sooner. This evidence was a projector and rolls of home movies.

The Leeds Family

The Leeds family from Atlanta is the second family murdered by the Tooth Fairy killer. Graham arrives at their home only days after the murders and is able to sit among their blood splattered rooms and figure out what happened in their final moments. Not only this, but he also has recently developed home movies to watch in order to get a feel for who the family was. They consisted of a mom and dad and three small children. Graham quickly feels very close to this family and is haunted by their final moments.



Objects/Places

Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama is where the first family, the Jacobis, are murdered.

Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia is where the second family, the Leedses, are murdered.

Washington, DC

Washington, DC is where FBI headquarters is located. Graham spends much of his time here, working with the various forensics people while he is searching for the Tooth Fairy.

Marathon, Florida

Marathon, Florida is where Graham is living since leaving his job as a forensics expert with the FBI. This is also where Lecter sends Dolarhyde to kill Graham.

St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis, Missouri is where Dolarhyde works, and where Gateway Film Laboratory is located.

Chicago, Illinois

Chicago, Illinois is where Freddie Lounds lives and works, and where *The National Tattler* is located.

The Tooth Fairy

Tooth Fairy is the nickname given to the killer by the press after it is released to them that the killer bites the wives/mothers of the families he murders.

Dolarhyde's House in St. Charles

Dolarhyde's grandmother left Dolarhyde a large, old house outside St. Louis near St. Charles. It is here that Dolarhyde brings Lounds before he kills him, and where he



stages his own death with the unwitting help of Reba McClane and an unfortunate gas station attendant.

Dolarhyde's Van

Dolarhyde uses a dark van to transport both Reba and Lounds to his house, in order to commit crimes against them. The van is also a large part of the investigation in finding the Tooth Fairy after Dolarhyde uses it to transport Lounds back to the *Tattler* offices before he lights him on fire.

Gateway Film Laboratory

Gateway is the company where Dolarhyde works, where he meets Reba, and where he processes home movies and uses them to pick families to murder.

The National Tattler

The National Tattler is the tabloid type newspaper for which Lounds works.

"The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed with the Sun" by William Blake

"The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed in the Sun" by William Blake is a graphic watercolor painting depicting a red dragon with his tail around a prone woman. This is the painting with which Dolarhyde becomes obsessed and believes himself possessed by.

Dolarhyde's Diary

Dolarhyde kept a diary of his crimes and his fantasies in a large, heavy ledger book he picked up at an auction.

Social Concerns And Themes

Red Dragon, Harris for the first time takes on one of the most chilling threats in modern society, the killer who consciously and methodically kills one victim after another. Although serial killers constitute an infinitesimally small risk to the average American, we are chilled by their acts far out of proportion to the threat they pose on us. We are also, paradoxically, enthralled by killers such as Ted Bundy, Geoffrey Dahmer, and John Wayne Gacy who manage to elude capture while continuing to carry out their crimes. What, we wonder, creates such immoral — or amoral — monsters? Red Dragon is Harris's first attempt to answer that question.

This novel also investigates the role of the tabloid media in this country.

The Tattler, a weekly tabloid newspaper, and its star reporter Freddy Lounds, figure prominently in reporting the exploits and pursuit of the serial killer dubbed "The Tooth Fairy," and Harris expresses contempt for their lowest-common-denominator sensationalism.

Red Dragon continues Harris's investigation of the similarities between the hunters and the hunted. Will Graham, who captured Dr. Hannibal Lecter, became the Bureau's top manhunter because his combination of intelligence and empathy helps him to reconstruct crimes as well as the mindset of the killers. From Red Dragon's opening epigraph, Bertillon's "one observes only things which are already in the mind," it is suggested that Graham's "gift" is instead a curse, a kinship of sorts with these killers.

Harris also argues that society can be a shaping force that contributes to pure personal evil. While Hannibal Lecter is never explained as a product of society — in Harris's work he is a force of evil almost as elemental as a force of nature — Francis Dolarhyde, the killer the tabloids call "Tooth Fairy," is the product of an almost intolerable childhood.



Techniques

Red Dragon again features an omniscient narration which travels easily between scenes and the thoughts and emotions of characters. Will Graham's skill at reconstructing murder scenes allows us to experience the crimes almost firsthand, a feeling which must be almost as disconcerting to us as to Graham, while the lunar cycle provides a time element which lends great suspense to the pursuit of the Red Dragon.

As in *Black Sunday* (1975), Harris provides authentic details to ground his story in seeming reality. The use of psychological terms and police procedure are particularly valuable in giving a sense of reality to the novel.



Themes

Mental Instability/Homicidal Capabilities

A major theme of the novel, *Red Dragon*, is the concept of mental instability and the idea of a human being having the capacity to commit murder. Will Graham is a gifted investigator, who has tracked down two serial killers who both taxed his mental state before he retired from the FBI. The first killer forces Graham to kill him while he holds a young girl in his arms with a knife at her neck. Graham is haunted by the girl's expression of terror, and the fact that it took many bullets to bring down the murderer. As a result of his nightmares in the aftermath of this situation, Graham is hospitalized for depression in a time when any psychiatric hospitalization is stigmatizing. Graham also faces down the notorious Dr. Hannibal Lecter and finds himself forced to listen to this experienced psychiatrist compare Graham to himself. All these things, combined with the ability to empathize with these killers, causes Graham to question his own mental stability and his own ability to commit evil acts.

There is an old joke that says crazy people do not know they are crazy. Where Graham constantly questions his own sanity, questioning himself to the point of a nervous breakdown, Dolarhyde never entertains the thought that he might be crazy. It is perfectly normal to Dolarhyde that he believes a painting speaks to him, and that he may one day be transformed into this Great Red Dragon. The only time Dolarhyde begins to question himself is when he falls in love with Reba and begins to hear the voice of the dragon calling to him and insisting that he kill poor Reba. Ironically, this voice sounds exactly like that of Dolarhyde's grandmother, the source of his early childhood traumas. Dolarhyde's mental instability is quite obvious throughout the novel, increasing with each scene in which the reader sees him speaking to a reproduction of a painting.

In the end Graham decides the capability of committing these horrible acts is present in all human beings. However, it is the ability to question ones own actions that is the difference between a man like Graham and a man like Dolarhyde.

Death and Love

Death is an obvious theme in *Red Dragon*. The novel begins with the announcement of the murders of the two families, the Leedses and the Jacobis. There is also the description of Graham's near death at the hands of Lecter and his killing of the serial killer, Hobbs. These deaths seem to outline the plot of the novel. However, it is the death of Molly's first husband that brings death home to Graham.

Molly is the happy wife of the main character, Graham. At least, that is what the reader is led to believe. However, after it is revealed that Lecter sent Graham's address to the Tooth Fairy, and Molly is forced to relocate that it becomes clearer what her relationship to Graham really is. Molly loves Graham, clearly. However, after only a few days in the



territory of her dead lover, it becomes clear she never really stopped loving her first husband, and her current husband's occupation is not something she can live with. Molly is no longer content in her marriage with Graham, and though neither of them acknowledges it, they both are aware that the marriage cannot survive this rough patch. This is the real death in Graham's life, the death of his marriage and his quiet, content life.

Love is Graham's salvation. After suffering at the hands of both Hobbs and Lecter, Graham meets and falls in love with Molly and finds a new life. Love seems to work this magic on Dolarhyde, as well. Dolarhyde falls in love with Reba McClane, and suddenly, he no longer is obsessed with the Red Dragon, no longer in such a hurry to murder another family. Dolarhyde wants to be with Reba, to share her bed and share his desires with her. Dolarhyde has not given up the Red Dragon and believes if not for the dragon he could not have ever approached Reba. However Dolarhyde's interest in Reba leads him to separate from the dragon and begin to fight the dragon's hold over him. Reba is his salvation, just as Molly was for Graham. However, like Graham, Dolarhyde will lose his love because of his illness. Love and death are large themes in this novel that plays in both the lives of Graham and Dolarhyde.

Freedom

Freedom is another theme in *Red Dragon*. Dolarhyde fights for freedom his entire life. Born with a grotesque birth defect that is not corrected until adulthood, Dolarhyde must fight as a child for the freedom to express himself in words that are not swallowed whole by his cleft palate. Dolarhyde must also fight a senile and cruel grandmother for the freedom to be a child, to be allowed to make mistakes and to still be loved despite them. Later, Dolarhyde must fight to remain free from the illness that has warped his perceptions of the world around him, and his physical freedom from the incarceration he will face if ever caught.

Graham also is fighting for his freedom. Graham's fight is more on a mental level with himself, however. Graham is terrified of this connection he has with the serial killers he has tracked down and desires only to be free of them and their evil actions. Mental disease and the capacity for evil are two things that will plague Graham throughout the novel. Graham's desire is for freedom from these fears and the knowledge that he is normal, just as normal as the poor people whose murders he is investigating.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in *Red Dragon* is omniscient third person. The narrator moves from Will Graham to Francis Dolarhyde at regular intervals and makes stops in the minds of Freddie Lounds and Jack Crawford, as well as a few minor characters. Despite this jumping narration, the changes are well marked. The change from one mind to another is often transitioned by one chapter moving into another. This type of transition prevents the possibility of confusion for the reader.

By using this type of narration, the writer is able to show what is going on in the physical and mental worlds of not only the good guys but the bad guy, as well. The reader in turn is then able to understand the motivations of all the main characters and this builds suspense. There is also a margin of sympathy built in the case of the character of Francis Dolarhyde. Although the reader is aware that Dolarhyde has committed evil acts, this narration allows the reader to go back in time and see the horrible events in his childhood that may have led Dolarhyde to this point in his life. It also explains to the reader Dolarhyde's actions through the course of the novel. This narration also gives insight into Graham who might have appeared as a psychotic type personality himself if the reader were not granted access into his inner most thoughts and feelings. The narration also allows the reader to see events that might not have been witnessed through the eyes of either Graham or Dolarhyde had the narration been center on only one of these main characters. This type of narration is very effectively used in this novel.

Setting

The novel, *Red Dragon*, is set in many major cities in the United States. The novel begins in Florida and travels first to Atlanta, and then Washington, D.C. Next, the reader follows the main characters to Birmingham, St. Louis and Chicago. There are many scenes in and out of the houses where the murders took place, inside the home of Dolarhyde, inside many hotel rooms and the warm atmosphere of Reba McClane's home.

In the novel, the homes of the murder victims and that of Dolarhyde are darkly contrasted. Dolarhyde's home is clearly neglected and often empty. It is a large home hidden behind a neglected apple orchard full of trees that have been allowed to die. In contrast, the victim's homes are full of sunshine and laughter, full of expensive toys such as a movie projector, golf clubs, and expensive and often unused tools. Other contrasts in the novel also include the warm sunshine of Graham's Florida and the dreary rain of Chicago, the impersonal space of the federal building where Crawford's office is and the well used surfaces of Graham's mechanic's shed.



Many parts of the novel take place in cold, lonely places. These settings underline the emotions of the main characters and the intensity of the situations. When Graham is at ease he is in the sunshine of Florida. When Lounds is killed, the weather in Chicago is cold and rainy. When Dolarhyde finds love with Ms. McClane, the weather outside his neglected home is warm. When he fails this relationship, the weather turns cold and nasty. The settings throughout the novel often follow the mood of the novel, underscoring the feel of the passages.

Language and Meaning

The language in *Red Dragon* is clear, easy to understand English. There are moments throughout the novel when dialogue can become coarse and offensive; however, the language is not totally unexpected. There are also graphic descriptions when the murders are discussed or when the narration moves into Dolarhyde's past, but again, these moments are expected and not unpleasantly gratuitous.

Thomas Harris uses language that is highly scientific when he discusses evidence found in the two murder cases, as would be expected of a novel of this type. There are also discussions between the psychiatrist and several main characters that again contain language that may not be considered mainstream. However, this choice of language only adds to the feel of authenticity this novel must exude in order to convince the reader that the situations described have some measure of reality. Not once does Harris talk down to the reader in explaining certain situations in which a common person might not have experience, instead allowing his characters to explain through dialogue things that may require further explanation. Harris's use of language throughout the novel is clear, intelligent and entertaining.

Structure

Red Dragon is written in fifty-four chapters that vary in length, but tend to be short. There are several quotes at the beginning and the end of the book, most attributed to William Blake on whose painting the novel's antagonist has based his psychosis. The pace of the novel is quick but not breathtaking, an easy read with many breaks not only between chapters, but within the chapters themselves as well.

The novel is mostly linear with a small grouping of flashbacks in the beginning and the center of the novel. Graham explains how he caught Lecter through dialogue, with a few memories inspired by the conversation, to draw a clearer picture for the reader. There are also several chapters in the middle of the novel that deal with Dolarhyde's childhood and the events that possibly led to his shattered self-image. These flashbacks are set in the center of plot that is purely linear and are set off in their own separate chapters in order to reduce any confusion the reader might experience in the jump in timelines.



Quotes

"Crawford heard the rhythm and syntax of his own speech in Graham's voice. He had heard Graham do that before, with other people. Often in intense conversation Graham took on the other person's speech patterns. At first, Crawford had thought he was doing it deliberately, that it was a gimmick to get the back-and-forth rhythm going. Later Crawford realized that Graham did it involuntarily, that sometimes he tried to stop and couldn't." Chapter 1, pg. 3

"There was an opinion he wanted. A very strange view he needed to share; a mindset he had to recover after his warm round years in the Keys. The reasons clacked like roller-coaster cogs pulling up to the first long plunge, and at the top, unaware that he clutched his belly, Graham said it aloud. 'I have to see Lecter.'" Chapter 6, pg. 53

"There were polyps of honesty in Lounds; he had few illusions about the nature of his work." Chapter 20, pg. 159

"'I told you one fib,' Dolarhyde tapped the thermos. 'I don't really have your lips on ice.' He whipped off the blanket and opened the thermos. Lounds strained hard when he smelled the gasoline..." Chapter 21, pg. 168

"There is no sense of vengeance in him, only Love and thoughts of the Glory to come; hearts becoming faint and fast, like footsteps fleeing into silence." Chapter 28, pg. 211

"In his life, Dolarhyde had been in fewer than a dozen private homes. In the past ten years he had been in four; his own, Eileen's briefly, the Leedses', and the Jacobis'. Other people's homes were exotic to him." Chapter 31, pg. 227

"The last of Friday burned down the west. Ten days to go." Chapter 34, pg. 242

"With Reba, his only living woman, held with her in this one bubbleskin of time, he felt for the first time that it was all right: it was his life he was releasing, himself past all mortality that he was sending into her starry darkness, away from this pain planet, ringing harmonic distances away to peace and the promise of rest." Chapter 35, pg. 252

"When he turned around Dolarhyde shot him in the throat and twice in the chest. Three putts from the silenced pistol. A scooter is louder." Chapter 46, pg. 303

"Her mind was coming back. It didn't want to." Chapter 48, pg. 311

"Throat seared with smoke. BONG BONG. Door here. Under the knob. Don't drop it. Click the lock. Snatch it open. Air. Down the ramp. Air. Collapsed in the grass. Up again on hands and knees, crawling." Chapter 48, pg. 313

"She forgot the stance and she forgot the front sight but she got a good two-handed grip on the pistol and as the door exploded inward she blew a rat hole through his thigh--'Muhner!'--and she shot him in the face as he slid down the door facing and she



shot him in the face as he sat on the floor and she ran to him and shot him twice in the face as he sprawled against the wall, scalp down to his chin and his hair on fire."
Chapter 53, pg. 332

Adaptations

In 1986, filmmaker Michael Mann, fresh from his success with television's stylish "Miami Vice," made *Manhunter*, a film which closely follows the events of Harris's novel yet provides Mann the opportunity to demonstrate his personal cinematic style. Critics generally applauded the performances of Tom Noonan as an alternately frightening and sympathetic Dolanhyde and Brian Cox as the film's Dr. Lektor (sic).

Less appealing to some critics was the movie's obsession with style, revealed in stark modernistic sets, obtrusive soundtrack music, and the continuous three-day beard of William Petersen as Graham. Despite mixed reviews, *Manhunter* is generally successful in its translation of the novel's strengths, particularly in its evocation of psychologically complex characters.

An abridged version of *Red Dragon* is available as a book on tape from Simon & Schuster. The reader is Chris Sarandon.



Key Questions

In this work, as in all of Harris's fiction, we find psychological insight, attention to detail (in this case, the lingo of delusional psychosis and of law enforcement procedural work), and disturbing villains drawn from the ranks of those who most frighten us.

Discussion on any of Harris's works might consider his penchant for humanizing the inhuman, for suggesting the depths of good and evil in each of us, and for arguing that although good may triumph over evil, it often does so only at great cost. In *Red Dragon*, specific areas of interest include Harris's blurring of the lines between good and evil (in, for example, the affinities he draws between his hero and his villains), his psychological insight into the bizarre world of Francis Dolarhyde, and his first use of what has become his most famous fictional creation, the psychiatrist Dr. Hannibal Lecter.

1. Some critics have suggested that Dolarhyde's plans for transforming himself are so bizarre that they cannot be understood by "sane" readers. Did you find this to be true? Must we reconstruct his plans to be intrigued by him as a character?
2. This novel makes some suggestions about the societal ills that may create individuals like Dolarhyde. Do you find them convincing? Are such explanations advanced for Lecter?
3. Why is Hannibal Lecter such a compelling character, despite the small space actually devoted to him?
4. In what ways do Graham and his prey seem to be similar? What are the implications of these similarities?
5. In what ways does the film version of *Red Dragon* seem to you to be superior to the novel? In what ways inferior?
6. What does *Red Dragon* tell us about the role of the tabloid media in America? What fears, prejudices, and impulses does it feed upon?
7. What techniques does Harris use to make even characters like Dolarhyde and Lounds sympathetic?
8. After reading *Red Dragon* would you say that you are more or less frightened of serial killers? What fears does the novel seem to exploit?
9. Graham reaches some conclusions on the nature of evil and the nature of man while at the Shiloh battlefield at the end of the novel. Do you agree or disagree with them?



Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast the characters of Will Graham and Francis Dolarhyde. In what ways are they similar? What ways are they dissimilar? Why do you suppose the author made so many connections between the two men? How would it change the plot if their comparisons were lessened? What if their dissimilarities were lessened?

How much bearing does the setting have on this novel? Could the writer have taken the novel and set it in Paris with the same effects? In your opinion, what is the true setting of this novel?

This novel is set in the early 80's. How different would the novel be if it were set in the current time period? Do you think it compares to such crime shows as CSI or Law and Order? Discuss the scientific slant to this novel. Is there enough of the laboratory aspect to keep a modern reader interested?

Discuss the omniscient third person point of view. This is a common point of view in modern best sellers. Discuss why that is. Is this point of view often confusing? How effective would this novel have been if it had been written in the first person or a more limited third person?

Graham spends a large majority of the novel trying to make a mental connection with the killer, while at the same time questioning his own sanity. Do you think Graham has some sort of psychic ability? Do you think Graham is also psychotic? Discuss Graham's investigative techniques and the implications of his inexplicable thought patterns.

Discuss Dolarhyde's childhood. Do you believe a traumatic childhood should be taken into account when punishing a criminal? Do you believe Dolarhyde would have been psychotic even in a loving childhood atmosphere?

Discuss Hannibal Lecter. Why do you suppose Graham went to talk to him during his investigation of the Tooth Fairy? Do you believe Lecter is correct in saying that he and Graham are one in the same?

Literary Precedents

Red Dragon takes its cue from detective novels in general and the police procedural novel in particular, but it goes much deeper in examining the thoughts and motivations of its characters. Many reviewers referred to it as a "psychological thriller." Comparisons to the true crime investigations of larger-than-life killers such as Jack the Ripper and contemporary serial killers would also be fruitful.



Related Titles

Because of the presence of several characters common to both novels, *Red Dragon* and *The Silence of the Lambs* (1987) have significant similarities. Jack Crawford, psychologist Alan Bloom, and Hannibal Lecter all appear in both books, and both plots concern FBI investigators trying to apprehend a serial killer before he can kill again.

The hero of *Red Dragon*, however, differs considerably from his counterpart in *The Silence of the Lambs*. Graham's skill at tracking the killer is distressing to him and those close to him. He says of himself, "You try to reconstruct his thinking. You try to find patterns," and later, he often displays the uncanny ability to think like the killer. When he goes to visit Lecter in his cell, Lecter tells him that the reason Graham was able to catch him is that "we're just alike." Although we recognize that he is trying to strike at Graham's biggest fear, we must also recognize Lecter's perceptive genius and at least consider the implications.

Lecter's role in *Red Dragon* is primarily behind the scenes, and although it is vital to this novel, he is even more important in *The Silence of the Lambs*. In that novel we see even greater evidence of the evil genius he displays in *Red Dragon*.



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