

# **Season of the Machete Study Guide**

**Season of the Machete by James Patterson**

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## Plot Summary

The story of Damian and Carrie Rose is one of cold-blooded murder. The two are hired to create chaos on the island of San Dominica. Through a series of double crosses, both are left presumably dead. Damian has just committed a murder when Peter Macdonald rounds a corner on his bicycle and sees Damian. Peter tells his story to everyone who'll listen, including the police, but officials have already decided that the blame for the murders lies with Dassie "Monkey" Dred, an island revolutionary. They focus all their energies searching for him.

Through a convoluted plot, the United States Government and the Florenza Family of the West Coast - an established Mafia family - join forces to hire Damian and Carrie Rose to create havoc on the resort island of San Dominica. The purpose is apparently to put pressure on island officials to legalize gambling. The Rose's plan is to kill specific people, though not all their victims seem to be chosen for any particular purpose. Over the few days of the "season," Damian Rose shoots a large number of people. Then two mercenaries, an African named Kingfish Toone and a Cuban named Blinkie Thomas, hack the victims to bits with machetes. In several of the cases, the men then leave a machete in the sand beside the bodies.

Meral Johnson is the chief of police. Johnson admits that he's out of his league with regard to investigating the murders. He works to make a connection between a series of seemingly random events that include the shooting death of Leon Ratchet - an associate of Monkey Dred and convicted murderer himself. The killer is then murdered in his own jail cell - hacked to death with a machete. The act is one example of the ability of Carrie and Damian Rose to orchestrate events. Carrie Rose also kills Carol Hill, wife of Harold "Harry the Hack" Hill as a message to Hill and CIA agent Brooks Campbell.

Campbell is part of the plot and is furious when he discovers that Peter Macdonald saw Rose. Campbell is the one who gives Peter a glimpse into the true reasons behind the murders, including the Mafia's involvement. Over the course of the days it takes for the "season" to end, there are a series of double crosses. Carrie Rose hires a lady of the evening to check into a particular motel room and police shoot the lady, believing her to be Carrie Rose. Carrie also reportedly sells out Damian's escape plan, leading him to be captured and killed.

The Roses bring Monkey Dred in, arming the revolutionary who seemed to be floundering with little direction before the Roses intervene. The plot thickens as more bystanders are found to be involved. Peter's girlfriend, Jane, is eventually killed, and Peter becomes interested only in revenge. The book ends after the apparent deaths of Damian and Carrie Rose. Though Peter makes no comment on Damian's death, the final pages reveal that Peter has joined forces with Meral Johnson in a search for Carrie Rose.



# April 30, 1980, Pages 1-30

## April 30, 1980, Pages 1-30 Summary

The opening section is dated April 30, 1980, and details a murder on Turtle Bay. The section describes a beautiful beach, a pair of mercenaries called Kingfish Toone and the Cuban, and a wrecked schooner called the Isabella Anne. As two adolescents - a boy and a girl - run onto the beach, the Cuban and Kingfish discuss whether these could possibly be their targets. The Cuban waves in the direction of a green sedan, receiving two honks of the car's horn in return. Damian Rose is standing atop a hill with a rifle and shoots both teens as they lay on the beach. Then Kingfish and the Cuban hack the pair with machetes. As a final action, the Cuban drives the machete deep into the sand with a red wool cap on the handle. They then return to Damian Rose's position atop the hill.

The Preface describes Carrie Rose's sale of The Damian and Carrie Rose Diary in New York City on January 23, 1981. Bernard Siegal is preoccupied with thoughts of his daughter's birthday as he heads for work at his publishing company. As he enters, he's approached by a woman who tells him that she's about to present him the information that will put "a dent in history" - the diary of Carrie and Damian Rose as they committed the machete murders on San Dominica. Carrie then explains that the diary is about "an awful nest of machete murders."

On February 24, 1979, in Lathrop Wells, Nevada, Isadore "the Mensch" Goldman is driving through Nevada on his way to a meeting at Lathrop Wells. Goldman is seventy-four and one of twenty-seven men who show up at the farmhouse in Nevada. Of those, thirteen are "important" and actually participate in the meeting. They read from two plans submitted by the Roses. One was titled "Systematic Government Assassinations" and the other was "Machete." Those present included Brooks Campbell and Harold Hill. The two groups represented were the United States government working as a proprietary company called Great Western Air Transport and the Charles Florenza Family of the West Coast - a mob family. Frankie Rao is also present, though his role in the story is very brief. Frankie is summarily executed as he and his driver leave the farm house. It's said the decision was made by those at the farm house as Frankie represented an "unacceptable risk."

On June 11, 1979, Damian is in Paris at the apartment he shares with Carrie. He carefully applies his disguise as a professor seeking to buy drugs, and then plans to meet the mercenary known as the Cuban. He is fashionably dressed and leaves home in a black convertible. As he pulls out, he sees a girl riding a bicycle. She strains her neck to see him, but isn't fast enough. It's noted that as of that date, "no one who shouldn't would know what the face of Damian Rose looks like."



## April 30, 1980, Pages 1-30 Analysis

A five-page section appears in the book before the prologue, and it seems likely that the date is incorrectly printed in the book. The date indicates the murder occurs on April 30, 1980, but Kingfish Toone, the Cuban and Damian Rose were all apparently killed in the summer of 1979. It's left to the reader to determine the significance of the scene and whether Damian and his mercenaries are truly dead. It's vital that the reader keep this in mind as he encounters the scenes in which Kingfish, the Cuban and Damian are killed.

Note that Carrie Rose approaches Bernard Siegal regarding the diary more than a year after the machete murders. Damian notes that, by participating in all the murders, he has made the couple "marketable." However, Carrie cashes in on that marketability. Carrie tells Siegal that she and Damian kept the diary, but there's never an indication in the book that Damian works on the diary.

The meeting in Lathrop Wells, Nevada, is meant to be a clandestine affair between the government and the mob. There's little explanation at this point about the reason for wanting to begin the chaos in San Dominica, though it will later be revealed that the goal was purely financial. There's also little discussion about the reason for executing Frankie Rao. It's likely that this is simply an example of the power the major players have.

The June 11 section seems to have little relevance except to introduce Damian as a meticulous person who pays attention to his appearance. The other point made in this section is that no one - except those who are supposed to have that knowledge - could identify Damian Rose.



## **April 24, 1979, Pages 31-42**

### **April 24, 1979, Pages 31-42 Summary**

April 24, 1979, Coasttown, San Dominica, is the date and location of the trial against three accused of robbing and murdering an American Tourist, Francis Cichoski, a Waltham, Massachusetts, fireman. Accused are fifteen-year-old Leon Ratchet, thirty-year-old Franklin Smith and Chicki Holt, father of fourteen children by five women. The three are sentenced to be hanged within the week. As soon as the verdict is read, Potts Rum factory is destroyed in a fiery blast, two white mine foremen are beaten, a hundred car windows smashed in an executive parking lot and rental cars are blown up. As Leon steps out of the courthouse, someone threw a silver Frisbee in the air. As Leon looks up, a white man shoots him three times in the face while Carrie Rose watches from the crowd.

That night, Damian Rose shoots a crude bomb on a runway at the Robert F. Kennedy Airport in Coasttown, blowing the airplane apart, killing six and injuring fifty.

### **April 24, 1979, Pages 31-42 Analysis**

Leon Ratchet is an important player only for the fact of his likely connection with island mercenaries. The chaos begins immediately following the verdict in his trial happens by design to encourage authorities to decide that it's all in retaliation for the guilty verdict. There's no indication that Carrie and Damian know about the machete murder before making their own plans, but it seems likely they did. There are many details that are left to the reader's imagination for explanation. The Frisbee, for example, could be significant or could be simply the means to an end - the distraction of police and Leon Ratchet provides enough time for a man to kill Ratchet.



# April 25, 1979, Pages 43-71

## April 25, 1979, Pages 43-71 Summary

On April 25, called the second day of the "season," twenty-eight-year-old Peter Macdonald rides his ten-speed. He is just considering that a swim in the Caribbean is a great idea, but admitting that he is very tired, when he rounds a sharp corner and sees Damian Rose. Rose is standing beside a green sedan and is carrying a gun. Peter takes notes of minor details - the tag on the man's suit and the first two numbers of the sedan. Peter doesn't think much of the encounter until he sees the two black men, smeared with blood, running up the hill toward the car. As Peter sees Damian Rose, he picks up his speed a little - the human reaction of showing off for any audience. It's that, apparently, that saves him because the Roses are not supposed to leave witnesses. Peter is "in deep trouble, but at least he's on the run."

Michael and Faye O'Mara are walking along the beach leading toward Turtle Bay. The pair discusses the price of their motel room and Michael says that cost is the reason he isn't sleeping well. Faye picks up seashells, naming the friend she'll give each to. As they walk and talk, Michael suddenly finds the machete and "two hippies who had been killed and mutilated" by the Cuban and Kingfish Toone. Michael is running, apparently to chase off a herd of wild goats from the bodies.

Later that evening, police arrive in force at the beach where the murders have taken place. Dr. Meral Johnson, chief of the police force, arrives and takes time to count the number of white helmets on the heads of his officers. Then Meral makes his way through the throng of people to the murder scene and informs Constable Bobbie Valentine that he has counted hats and that no officers are to sell their hats as souvenirs of the crime scene. Meral takes long moments to evaluate the scene before he steps into it - which seems to aggravate Bobbie Valentine. After he looks at the murder victims, Meral takes time to gather himself. He says he's trying to give his audience the idea that he's handled murders of this type before.

Meanwhile, at 7:45 in Coastown, Brooks Campbell is seated at a table in Princess Hotel waiting for Damian Rose. Campbell has called the meeting because of the "way the Roses worked." There were supposed to be ten or twelve murders, but Campbell notes that there will be more than that. Rose never arrives, leaving Campbell furious. As Campbell walks back to the U.S. Embassy, he discovers that someone has seen Damian Rose earlier that afternoon near where a couple was murdered and hacked to bits by machetes.

Meral is then in his library where he examines the machete and then takes a moment to swing it around as if sword fighting. He then turns to the curious events of recent days and lumps together the pair chopped up by the machete on the beach, the bombing of the airplane and the shooting of Leon Ratchet. Meral decides that he's looking for Dassie "Monkey" Dred and his revolutionary army - an "honest bust costly mistake and



one the Roses had counted on." Meral instructs officers working on the case to focus on the revolutionary angle. As they begin interviewing witnesses, they hear about a hobo wandering on the beach, an old black man with some mangy goats and a bunch of unruly native boys. Then Peter tells of seeing the man he would later know as Damian Rose and the two mercenaries near the green sedan. The policeman dismisses Peter's account, saying that Dred is bound to be involved.

Peter is at work at the Plantation Inn where he's talking with his girlfriend, Jane Cooke, and serving up "gallons" of liquor for the guests. He tells Jane that he may be paranoid but that he feels the police weren't listening to him regarding the Englishman he saw near the murders. At the same time, Meral Johnson is being shown the dead body of the man who shot Leon Ratchet. The man - who is never identified - is killed by a machete while in his jail cell.

## April 25, 1979, Pages 43-71 Analysis

Peter doesn't yet know who Damian is when he encounters him for the first time. It's important to note that Peter is ex-military. Though he joined the military in an effort to win his father's approval, that training comes into play as his role in the drama plays out. Peter believes it was by chance that he saw Damian standing at the road with his gun and the two men emerging from the bush, covered with blood. He will later discover that it was planned. There's no indication of the victims' identity.

The discussion between Michael and Faye O'Mara is mundane - that of a couple that has shared a lifetime. While Michael is working not be overly hateful about the situation because he wants Faye to be happy, Faye is looking for a reason to be happy with Michael. The two are never mentioned again after their grisly discovery. The two victims are also not identified. At first glance, it could seem that these were the two teens killed during the introductory chapter, but the reader should note that the dates don't match and it's not possible.

Meral immediately becomes recognizable as one of the traditional good guys. He's deliberate but not slow. It should be noted that the two victims are never described. The reader is left to make of this one what he will. Brooks Campbell, however, is a different story. He is working for the right side of the law but seems from the beginning to be someone to watch out for. Campbell is one of those who believe himself invincible, a common theme throughout the book. In his case, Campbell thinks he can control Damian Rose and that Rose will listen when Campbell speaks. He has yet to learn that Damian has the same case of pride and believes he has no reason to listen to anyone else. Peter is one of those who come forward as police are interviewing witnesses, but he tells his story to an officer who has already been told what to look for - and a white man with a green sedan isn't on their list. The police are focused solely on searching for the revolutionary, Monkey Dred. Even though Peter has the one true lead, he isn't heard. It's important for the reader to remember that Damian planned to have Peter as a witness. It's an example of Damian's self-confidence that he doesn't expect to be caught





even with an eyewitness giving police a complete description. Damian counts on the fact that police will be focused on the revolutionary until his plan has escalated.

The fact that the man who shot Leon Ratchet was never identified could be significant in itself, but the details are never explained. The reader must decide whether it was someone who was double crossed by Carrie and Damian Rose, sent to jail and murdered there, or if it was a coincidence. Since there seems to be a carefully orchestrated plan in place, it seems doubtful that it was coincidence, but the reader is left to decide.



## May 3, 1979, Pages 72 -112

### May 3, 1979, Pages 72 -112 Summary

The section begins with an account of the events on the island. There were nine murders on the second day, but only four were machete killings. As the idea that a full revolution is about to erupt, news crews from around the world flock to the island while tourists rush to leave.

On May 3, 1979, at Titchfield Cove, Damian climbs a cliff, assembles a rifle and shoots Walter Marks as he and his two children walk along the beach. Damian fires only a single shot, apparently not shooting the children. Then Kingfish and the Cuban arrive on the beach with machetes. Damian says that "fortunately, but at the same time unfortunately" the children had to be witnesses but there's no indication of whether the children were killed.

That same day, Peter and Jane watch a group of marines pick up everything from the beach at Turtle Bay, then rake all the sand back into place. Peter and Jane make love on the beach, and then Peter goes to the Plantation Inn and asks his boss for the use of his BMW motorcycle. Peter plans to go to the U.S. Embassy to tell them about his sighting of the Englishman near the machete murders. Peter's boss, Maximilian Westerhuis, refuses the use of the motorcycle but Peter and Jane take off on it anyway.

Carrie Rose stands in Politician Square in Coastown searching for a person who'll do an errand for her. She selects a child and gives him fifty cents to hand a letter and five dollars to a man she's selected from a crowd of hippies and druggies hanging out on the streets. Carrie dubs the man, "Loner," and watches as he takes the letter to 50 Bath Street, location of the Evening Star newspaper. The man rings the doorbell of the newspaper office, a woman opens the door, accepts an envelope from the man and the man is shot. The envelope contains a letter supposedly from Monkey Dred, claiming responsibility and promising more murders unless "white foreigners" left San Dominica. Meanwhile, Peter meets with Brooks Campbell at the Embassy. He tells what he saw and Brooks listens. He tells Peter not to worry, but is immediately upset because he knows that Damian Rose has left a witness.

The story then moves to Fairfax Station, Virginia: Harold Hill, otherwise known as "Harry the Hack," is at home with his son Mark and wife Carol when Brooks Campbell calls with the news that Peter saw Damian Rose. Hill says that they should keep track of Peter since he's the only one who could identify Damian. He reminds Brooks that Damian is to be killed before he can leave the island. Meanwhile, in Coastown, Peter and Jane are at a restaurant talking over the events when they see a children's minstrel named Basil. It will later be revealed that Basil is actually a disguise used by Damian Rose. It's noted that Jane and Peter sleep together that night for the last time.



At Crafton's Pond, the Roses meet with Monkey Dred and his people to discuss the trade of arms. Dred brings along an extra car and Carrie Rose tells him that they won't be doing business that day because Dred violated their agreement to have only two cars. She tells him to meet them the next day at the Codd estate.

## **May 3, 1979, Pages 72 -112 Analysis**

A brief account gives a number of deaths, though the reader won't get details of many of those. This is true throughout the book as there are apparently many more murders by Damian and his crew than are detailed

The Marks children are one of the mysteries of the book. There is no indication that Damian Rose, Kingfish and the Cuban let anyone witness the attacks and then live. At the same time, Damian says it's fortunate that there were witnesses, but unfortunate that it had to be the Mark children. The fate of the children is left to the reader's imagination.

Carrie puts on an appearance of total self-assurance, but shows evidence of at least some doubt. She tells a child to deliver an envelope to a man who is to then deliver it to a newspaper office. She pays the kid fifty cents and the man five dollars - perhaps enough to ensure compliance. However, when Carrie loses sight of the child, she rushes to look for him. She's relieved when the plan continues without a problem.

It's important to remember that Brooks Campbell was in on the plan to hire Damian Rose for the murders on San Dominica. When Peter describes Damian, Brooks is angry that there's a witness. It's much later that Damian reveals that he purposely allowed Peter to see him.

The fact that Damian Rose, disguised as Basil, is so near Peter and Jane is notable. It's a statement of Damian's pride that he believes he won't be detected. In this case, he's correct. It's also a statement of Peter's own pride that he simply can't give up. Even though he's told his story to police, he goes to the U.S. Embassy to seek someone higher to hear his description of the man near the machete murder scene. Though Peter couldn't know that Brooks Campbell was involved with the murders, Peter's insistence has now put him in the middle of the situation.

Dred tests the Roses by violating the two-car agreement, and is almost killed for his trouble. Both sides feel they must be the strongest and most aggressive, and posture to that effect.



## May 4, 1979, Friday, Pages 113-142

### May 4, 1979, Friday, Pages 113-142 Summary

The excerpt from the Rose Diary indicates that by May 4, "ordinary farmers wielding machetes in their fields stimulated heart attacks." On this, the fourth day of the killings, four machete murders were reported and 45 U.S. Marshals arrived prompting the interrogation of dozens of witnesses with an array of stories and lessening the chance that anyone would listen to Peter's story.

Lieutenant B.J. Singer and his wife Ronnie are hanging out at their hotel on Coconut Bay, avoiding the beach because of the recent murders. They finally decide they'll go for a walk anyway. B.J. sees "two shirtless blacks" in a grove of trees and recognizes that they are the murders. The couple swims toward the wrecked schooner, the Isabella Anne. B.J. is shot in the back but they make it to the wreck when two barracudas swim near. They swim near the schooner for a while, eventually making their way back to shore where Damian Rose shoots them both.

Carrie Rose is at the Coastown Princess Hotel when she meets Phillip Lloyd Becker, a New York stockbroker. Becker is vocal about the unfairness of the situation - that he paid for a vacation and the revolutionaries ruin it. Carrie decides that she "likes this one well enough," and agrees to accompany him back to his suite. Carrie calls her time with him a "femme side plot," and an experiment.

Peter and Jane spend some time in Coastown and Peter tells officials and newspaper people his story. None of them pay attention, all focusing on Monkey Dred. The two are walking along a beach when Kingfish and the Cuban begin chasing them. Peter and Jane run through crowds and finally into a ladies' shower room with the two killers in pursuit. One of the men is getting near their hiding place in a shower stall when the other yells and they leave. They again go to the police, but officers pay little attention. Later that day, Peter convinces Jane to stay with friends in Coastown while he returns to Turtle Bay. Peter discovers Max's Afghan hound, Fool's Hot Toast, chopped in half by a machete. Peter then steals Max's BMW motorcycle again. Damian Rose watches him leave.

For the first time since the Lathrop Wells meeting, officials of "Great Western Air Transport" and the Florenza Family meet. Tommie Hicks, an intelligence operative, follows Isadore Goldman to Caesar's Palace. They meet in the restroom where Tommie asks Izzie for permission to "get rid of both of them," referring to the Roses.

### May 4, 1979, Friday, Pages 113-142 Analysis

B.J. Singer exhibits some of that same pride seen in others. Singer seems to believe that he wouldn't be targeted, nor that he could be killed, and it's that pride that puts the couple's wife on the line.



There's no explanation about Carrie's decision to accompany Becker to his suite. Becker is never mentioned again except that Damian later asks Carrie how she enjoyed the New York stockbroker. As Carrie and Peter are running from the Cuban and Kingfish, there's no indication of how they happened to run into the pair. Again, Peter's stubborn belief that the police eventually have to listen to him is denied as he makes yet another police report. Police are so caught up in their own theories of the crimes that they simply aren't willing to listen to anything contrary to that theory. Peter's pride is further seen when he assumes that Jane will be safe if he is not near her. Damian's own pride is again evident as he watches Peter leave Turtle Bay on Max's motorcycle.



# May 5 and 6, 1979, Pages 143-188

## May 5 and 6, 1979, Pages 143-188 Summary

The section begins with San Dominica Prime Minister Joseph Walthey calling a press conference and attributing the murders directly to Monkey Dred. While most tourists flee the country - causing tremendous waits for planes - several hundred rush to San Dominica hoping to get a photo or a sound bite worthy of news time.

Peter spends a night in the jungle. He's picked up his Colt .44 long-barreled handgun from home and there's a cross-country kit in the motorcycle. He makes a meager breakfast and eats, then takes time to take a single practice shot with the gun - killing a snake on a tree at thirty-five paces.

The chapter begins with an excerpt from the Rose Diary describing Damian's brother who swallowed sulfuric acid. Though he didn't die, he was paralyzed and lived in an institution. His mother was also institutionalized and Damian made plans to kill his father one day.

Carrie and Damian are walking along a beach, both naked. Carrie asks Damian to leave with her rather than to remain on the island. Damian says he must stay to complete the plan or Harold Hill and Brooks Campbell will someday track them down. He abruptly changes mood, pointing out that he's become sexually aroused. Just as they begin to have sex on the beach, Damian asks Carrie, "how was your handsome stockbroker?" referring to Phillip Becker. Carrie doesn't reply. That evening, Monkey Dred is talking with Kingfish when Damian enters. He makes a deal to give the revolutionaries guns, though he declines to provide machine guns saying that he doesn't want Dred armed "that well." As they finish the deal, Damian throws a candle off the veranda and Carrie approaches shore in a boat, bringing the guns. Then Damian tells Dred that he has "just a bit of advice," but doesn't say what that is. The chapter ends with a brief description of additional machete murders. Then letters are delivered to local newspapers. Dred claims responsibility for the murders and promises the violence will escalate until a percentage of interest in all local businesses - including hotels - was turned over to the people.

At 7:15 a.m. on May 6, Peter Macdonald stepped through the back door of Brooks Campbell's expensive Coastown villa. He first hits Campbell, then says he'll shoot him unless Campbell tells everything he knows about the murders. Campbell says he doesn't believe Peter will actually kill him. Peter hits Campbell with his pistol then holds his head so close to a heated burner on the cook stove that Campbell's hair begins to smoke. He tells Peter that the Mafia is involved and that something "big" is about to happen. Peter leaves with the parting shot that Campbell shouldn't believe he wouldn't kill him.



That same day, Carrie Rose is writing in her diary. She flashes back to an Aug. 10, 1978, meeting with her ex-partner, Nickie Handy, at a Parisian bistro called the Atlantic City. Nickie is in a wheel chair and his face is disfigured. Carrie says she wants to talk about the shooting at Saigon. Nickie first declines, but Carrie says she and Damian are about to enter into a business deal with Nickie's "friend" Books Campbell. Nickie says that he met with Brooks one night to get paid, but that Brooks had simply shot him with no warning and no provocation. They talk for a while longer, and then Carrie reaches into her purse, pulls out a gun and kills Nickie. She says there were two reasons for her action - that Nickie was the last person remaining who could identify the Roses, and that she couldn't stand to see Nickie in his condition. When Carrie leaves the restaurant, she meets Damian, and the two prepare to be double-crossed themselves.

Wylde's Falls, San Dominica; Monkey Dred becomes more involved in the plot at this point. He is waiting at the top of Wylde's Falls when a young black boy tops the hill leading a couple of tourists. Dred pulls the boy away and tells him to leave, and to not look back. Dred's soldiers immediately fall on the couple, hacking them to death with machetes. The drift back down the falls where others see them.

That same day, Peter has lunch at a restaurant and a waitress remembers him. When the police ask about Peter, the waitress remembers him. Later, from a bus terminal in Trelawey, Peter calls Jane and finds that she's returned to the Plantation Inn at Turtle Bay, and that she's alone and afraid. Jane believes she's seen Damian Rose at the Inn and Peter assures her that he's on his way. Jane is afraid while she waits inside her room, but then a woman's voice calls to her and her window shutters were being broken by something "sharp and powerful, like an ax."

Meanwhile, San Dominica's Prime Minister Joseph Walthey, Brooks Campbell, Isadore Goldman and Izzy's "man on the island," Duane Nicholson have lunch together. Izzy wants to simply let the Roses do what they want and "forget about them." Campbell says he has orders from "higher up" that the Roses are to be stopped. Walthey asks what harm it would do to rid the world of the Roses, and Goldman says the first point is that he doesn't believe they can be caught.

## **May 5 and 6, 1979, Pages 143-188 Analysis**

Peter's time in the jungle brings back memories of his days in Vietnam and he's likely slipping back into his military training. Peter's pride in himself and that training means he'll take chances - confronting Brooks Campbell, for example. Peter wants desperately to stop being the hunted and to become the aggressor, but doesn't seem to be able to make it happen. It's likely that he doesn't yet realize the extent of the plot he's become part of.

The fact that Damian becomes aroused as he and Carrie are walking along the beach talking about killing is a piece of insight into Damian's character. It's likely that the kills, for him, are thrilling. It's interesting that Damian asked about Carrie's interlude with the stockbroker. Though Carrie describes it as a side plot, there's never another reference



to Phillip Becker or to Carrie's brief affair with him. The "advice" Damian gives Dred isn't spelled out, though it seems likely that claiming responsibility for the violence and promising more could have been at least part of it.

The pride is evident in Peter again as he confronts Brooks Campbell. Brooks also initially exhibits that pride, but is quickly brought to his knees by Peter's torture tactics. Peter says he knows that Brooks hasn't told the whole truth, but apparently leaves believing that he has a better idea of what's happening.

Carrie Rose again shows some weakness. She admits to being nervous both entering and leaving the restaurant. She shows herself to be as cold-blooded in some ways as Damian because she shoots her ex-partner in cold blood. The difference is that Carrie tries to offer some justification for her actions. Though she admits to the selfishness - that Nickie could identify them - she also says that she couldn't stand to have Nickie enduring his condition. Carrie is already learning about double crosses and she and Damian apparently take on the job at San Dominica expecting to be double-crossed.

Dred's very public execution of the tourist couple could have been Damian's idea. It was certainly an event to catch the attention of those in power - and the tourists. Dred's self-confidence is evident as he commits the murders in broad open daylight with potential witnesses nearby.

Peter's own pride convinces him that he can reach Jane before Damian and that he can save her. For Jane's part, she may never have realized just how much danger she was in, or may have truly believed that Peter would save her. Though Jane will survive this initial attack, her life will end very soon. There's no indication why those who attacked her in her cottage didn't kill her.





## May 7, 1979, Pages 189-209

### May 7, 1979, Pages 189-209 Summary

At 4 a.m., Jane wakes up in the Mandeville Hospital. Meral Johnson is at her bedside and assures her that she's safe. Peter, claiming to be Max Westerhuis, gains entrance to Jane's hospital room that afternoon. Peter and Jane hold each other and begin to make plans for their own escape. Peter insists the hospital isn't safe, and Jane says that the killers had her on the previous evening, that they only wanted to know Peter's whereabouts. They plan to meet on Wednesday in Washington.

Meanwhile, Damian is in Cape John planning the final stage of the "season." He thinks of "the massacre," Carrie's escape, then his own, and a new face to the scene - a killer named Clive Lawson. That afternoon, Carrie boards a flight off the island. A few minutes later, Damian calls Brooks Campbell. Damian tells Brooks that Dred is about to commit a "major act of violence," that it's the final act he and Carrie have planned, and that he'll kill Campbell if the agent tries to catch either of the Roses.

Franklin James is the driver of the "Grasshopper," a red and black tour bus that goes to Elizabeth's Fancy - a restored plantation popular with the tourists. He drives the bus on Tyndall's Goat Highway that afternoon while Dred and his soldiers lie in wait. As the bus nears, Dred sights in on the Cuban, and "the whole top of the Cuban's head splattered," Kingfish Toone, also present, was shot in the back, "a big dark hole in the back of his khaki shirt." Dred says he's well paid for the executions with two machine guns. A woman and boy step into the road, and Franklin James stops the bus. Then Dred and his men begin firing. A twelve-year-old girl from Surrey, England, ran through the fields and was the sole survivor. Dred is happy with the massacre but then he sees Damian Rose just as Damian shoots and kills Dred. That evening, the U.S. President was given the details - including the secret meeting at Lathrop Wells. "You're shitting me," was his comment.

### May 7, 1979, Pages 189-209 Analysis

The passage seems to clearly indicate that the Cuban and Kingfish Toone were killed by Colonel Dred. That means that it becomes the reader's job to decide what really happened. It's important to note that a five-page passage prior to the book's first chapter indicated that Damian Rose was on the beach at Turtle Cove with Kingfish Toone and the Cuban almost a year later - in 1980. While it seems unlikely that the two somehow survived, there is the possibility that Damian has simply picked up another pair of mercenaries similar to the two, and the names are generically used for every mercenary Damian works with. It could also be that the first section contains a typographical error and was actually meant to be dated 1979.

There's little indication about Peter's state of mind when he and Jane are planning to meet in Washington. However, it seems likely that he simply believes they are going to walk away without a problem. While this could be naiveté on his part, it could also be pride - that he believes the fact that he plans to contact the newspapers and legislators in the United State will afford him immunity from those seeking him.



## May 8, 1979, Pages 210-242

### May 8, 1979, Pages 210-242 Summary

In Fairfax, Virginia, Harold Hill's family is getting ready to start their day. Harold's son Mark showers and goes downstairs where he finds a man and woman wearing white terrorist masks. One of them is Carrie Rose and the other is unidentified. Mark's mother, Carol, assures him that everything will be fine if they do what the pair says. Then she says that her husband will be home soon, but she is interrupted by Carrie who says they are "friends" of Harold and know that he isn't in the country.

Harold Hill is in Coastown while his family is being terrorized. He hasn't slept all night but has made a list of everything he believes could be helpful in tracking down the Roses. There are fourteen items on the list - finding Peter, finding out why Damian Rose has called Brooks Campbell and that the entire situation has likely been considered "play" by the Roses are on the list. He walks out of the Embassy and into the sunlight feeling that he's had a productive night.

At 5:30 a.m. on May 8, Damian Rose is in the village of Cap Foyle. He calls Brooks Campbell and promises that both Brooks and Harold Hill will be sorry if either of them come looking for Damian and Carrie. That same day, twelve men hired by Carrie - models, in fact - are headed to San Dominica. Carrie has selected men who resemble Damian Rose as he appeared when Peter Macdonald saw him on the highway near the machete murders. This is called part two of their great escape.

On the afternoon of May 8, Brooks Campbell and Harold Hill are quietly informing every major law enforcement department in the world that they are searching for Damian and Carrie Rose. They also begin a serious search for Damian on the island and include Peter Macdonald in their search. House-by-house searches begin and the authorities check "the dead men," the Cuban and Kingfish Toone. Police begin picking up the models who look so much like Damian, which slows down the process of the search considerably.

Later that day, Peter arrives in Port Gerry by bus. He rents a room in an all-black hotel, feels very welcome and calls Jane before he sleeps for the night.

At 2:30 a.m. the following morning, two Virginia troopers approach the Hill residence in Fairfax. James Walsh and Dominick Niccolo answer the call after a neighbor reports hearing screams coming from the house. The two enter through an unlocked back door. A dog runs to them, covered in blood. They find Carol Hill in an upstairs hallway, hacked to death with a machete sticking in her body. Mark Hill is unharmed, tied up in a closet. The murder occurred just fourteen miles from Washington, D.C. and "the message couldn't have been clearer."



## May 8, 1979, Pages 210-242 Analysis

The man accompanying Carrie is never identified. Carrie's purpose in terrorizing the Hill's is to be certain that Harold Hill doesn't try to catch the Roses. Carrie will kill Carol but will allow Mark to live. It seems reasonable that had she killed both, Harold would have no reason not to track them down.

Hill apparently hasn't considered that his family might be targeted in order to keep him playing along. Hill is showing some of the pride evident throughout the book. He believes that he has the ability to track down the Roses, and that he will.

Carrie's hiring of the twelve men who greatly resemble what Damian looked like when Peter saw him would prove to be a great move. The men are just what it will take to muddy the waters of the search. There will be sufficient sightings of these men to keep officials busy, leaving the real Damian Rose free to do what he will.

Kingfish Toone and the Cuban are referred to as "the dead men," indicating that they truly are dead and have not miraculously survived. Peter is on his way out of the country, and the night of sleep helps him imagine that he is going to make it back to the United States. He talks to Jane, and she apparently reports no problems, though she is still in the hospital.

Carrie seems to be sending multiple messages with Carol Hill's death. Not only has she bridged the ocean and brought the machete murders to the United States, she's killed Harold Hill's wife and is only a short distance from D.C. - possibly indicating that they could strike even nearer the heart of the nation, if they so desired. The fact that Mark lives could be a significant look at Carrie's lesser desire for violence. However, it's more likely that they needed Harold Hill to realize that he had a son left to protect - thereby encouraging Hill to give up the chase for the Roses.



## May 9, 1979, Pages 243-262

### May 9, 1979, Pages 243-262 Summary

The next chapter is taken from the Rose Diary. According to the excerpt, Carrie approaches Clive Lawson in December of 1978 to be part of their plan. There are two reasons for hiring Lawson - he is a killer and he resembles Damian. Carrie and Clive meet and she tells him that his job will be to lead the San Dominican police on a "wild goose chase all over the island." She tells him she'll pay fifty thousand dollars. He asks for sixty thousand and she agrees. On May 9, 1979, Carrie says they turned Clive loose to make a big kill while posing as Damian.

Harold Hill, from Coastown, calls Brooks Campbell at 5:30 a.m. on May 9 and says that they have to find Peter Macdonald. His reasoning is that they could actually have Damian Rose already in custody among those models they've arrested, but that Peter is the only one who can identify the man. A few hours later, Harold learns that Carol has been murdered. Though Carrie might have meant it to be a warning, Harold takes it to mean that it's kill or be killed, and doubles his efforts to find the Roses.

That morning, Peter wakes up in his hotel room. A pretty waitress brings him breakfast and he's calm enough to enjoy looking at her and becoming aroused. Peter then heads to a boat called the Fish 'n Fool. He plans to take the boat to Caneel Bay where he'll catch a plane home. John Sampson is working on the boat and asks Peter where he's from. He lies and says New York, and is slightly amazed at how easily the lie flows. Sampson isn't fooled and immediately heads off for a telephone. A few minutes later, Meral Johnson takes Peter into custody. Meral tells Peter that Jane was killed earlier that morning.

Just before 10 a.m. that same morning, James McGuire wheeled Jane out of the Mandeville Hospital. They were accompanied by James Dowd. Both McGuire and Dowd are FBI inspectors. Jane quickly leaves the wheelchair behind, and the three walked down a path, talking. Jane sees the three men who are attacking before the FBI men. The attackers use an Uzi to cut down the FBI men. Jane is attacked and sees the "blond Englishman." She fights, biting one of the men. People from the hospital run toward the scene just as Clive Lawson shoots Jane in the temple.

### May 9, 1979, Pages 243-262 Analysis

Clive Lawson's participation, as it turns out, is vital to the Rose's plan for escape. Like the models, Clive's main job is to be a distraction that the police can't quite get around. Lawson won't survive the final shootout, but Carrie has already called him the most expensive "pigeon" in the history of crime.

Clive Lawson is another of the men hired to create havoc in San Dominica by his sheer presence. Unlike the models, Clive will actually commit a murder. He's going to kill

Peter's girlfriend, Jane. That's borne out by Harold Hill's concern that Damian could be one of the many men already in jail.

Jane believes she's seeing Damian Rose as she's being attacked. She never realizes that it's not Rose. It seems that Carrie's plan to create chaos by flooding the island with people who look like Damian has worked. Jane's final thoughts are of Peter, wishing that she could hold him again. It's notable that both Jane and Peter are ready to voice their love after the first attack on Jane. Perhaps it's simply human nature that makes a person so ready to hold onto something they came near to losing.



## May 10, 1979, Pages 263-288

### May 10, 1979, Pages 263-288 Summary

In Washington, D.C., Carrie Rose, going by the name Mrs. Susan Chaplin, is at the Gralyn Hotel meeting with Betsy Porte-Smith - a London prostitute. The two women greatly resemble each other. Carrie tells Betsy that she has an "unusual" proposition in mind. Carrie says that her husband is due to arrive in Washington within the next week and that she isn't able to meet him. She wants Betsy to meet Damian and to "stay with him a night if I'm not here ... That's all." Carrie says she'll pay two hundred dollars a day plus the room at the St. James Hotel, and that Betsy is free to "work" until Damian arrives. Carrie flies out for Zurich. She says that she realizes that she has only about thirty hours left to "outwit several self-acclaimed geniuses, all of them male."

In Coastown, Peter has been hidden away in the Coastown Golf and Racquet Condominiums and is heavily guarded by CIA agents. He grieves for Jane and that grief quickly turns to rage as he contemplates revenge. Peter realizes that he probably won't have to search for the blond Englishman - that he'll simply come face-to-face with the man someday just like the first time they met.

At the same time, Clive Lawson - who police believe is Damian Rose - is running around the island pretending to be Damian Rose. In addition to killing Jane Cooke, Clive masturbates while watching seventeen-year-old Denise Stormy Lascher do the same. When the police arrive, Lascher is deranged - a combination of drugs has made her less than coherent - and she can't say when the man she knows as Damian left. Meral Johnson believes they're closing in on the blond Englishman, though he still thinks he's chasing Damian Rose rather than Clive Lawson. Outside the hotel, Brooks Campbell tells Harold Hill that he's sorry about the death of Harold's wife, Carol. Harold says that he knows Brooks felt he should say something, but that he feels nothing else. They briefly discuss whether Damian might try to kill Peter Macdonald and are considering whether they could use Peter as "bait."

Peter is interviewed at length by the CIA. He gives the details of everything that happened since he saw Damian Rose and helps create a drawing of Rose. Peter asks for a gun, but is denied. Then Peter, accompanied by an entourage of agents, leaves for the Church of the Angels where Jane's body lies. There is a crowd outside, yelling, "United State. Murderers." Peter is met by a Catholic priest and followed by news cameras. The priest urges Peter to take off his baseball cap out of respect for God. Peter says, "I doubt it means diddly-shit one way or another to our Lord." When Peter arrives at Jane's casket, he agrees to take off his hat. In return, the priest opens the casket though none of the others have been opened. Jane looks unnatural to Peter and is wearing a dress that isn't her own.

Damian is in the church, watching Peter. He says he is also watching the "English killer" in the church loft. Rose thinks that the killer had had an opportunity, but that it was



probably wise to let it pass. Damian notes that Lawson leaves, and that the final scene will obviously have to wait. As Damian leaves the church, he's mobbed by children because Damian is dressed as Basil, the Children's Minstrel.

That evening, the police conduct a manhunt using Peter's drawing of Damian Rose. The murders - which had at one point resembled a Cuban revolution called the Bay of Pigs - have been dubbed "Bay of Pigs II," and it's noted that it's quickly becoming a panic situation. Neither Damian nor Clive Lawson is located. At 7 p.m., Harvey Epstein is playing solitaire on the floor of his surveillance van and listening to calls coming into the villa owned by the Forlenza family. Duane Nicholson - the man who accompanied Isadore Goldman to the meeting on May 6, answers a call. Damian Rose tells Nicholson to "Put your part of things into operation." Nicholson replies, "Tomorrow, right?" and Damian hangs up. Harvey takes the information to Harold Hill and Brooks Campbell.

Peter calls his parents and his mother wants him to come home. His father says that Peter doesn't owe anyone anything and that he should take care of himself. Peter says he misses them all and hangs up. That night, agents move Peter to the Dorcas Hotel in Coastown. Peter tells the agents guarding him - including Harold Hill and Brooks Campbell - that his parents have lodged a formal complaint with the State Department and that he wants to be part of the plan to catch Damian and Carrie Rose or he'll insist that he is allowed to go home. They include him and a short time later, Peter is joined by Meral Johnson.

Then Damian Rose is alone in a small den. He meticulously disassembles his rifle, and then reassembles it. He watches TV and compares his character - Basil - to the characters of the movie "Notorious." Then Damian dyes his hair back to its natural color - black. He unwraps a new machete and goes to sleep.

## **May 10, 1979, Pages 263-288 Analysis**

Peter seems to be coming to some conclusions about his role in the situation. He says that he expects to look up someday to find the blond Englishman standing there. It could be that Peter has finally decided that his part hasn't been by accident but was actually engineered by Damian Rose. Peter calls his parents and that could be an indication that he realizes that he's in grave danger.

As the plot begins to move more quickly, it's important to keep track of the various players and their actions. Carrie has hired someone to meet Damian, but she's selected someone who looks very much like Carrie - possibly in an effort to provide herself the same protection as Clive Lawson has provided Damian. Damian has called on Goldstein's man, Duane Nicholson, to begin his part. Though it's not yet clear what that role is, it soon seems evident that Damian expected Nicholson to be followed. Though there's never a clear explanation of Isadore Goldman's role in what's about to happen, it's noteworthy that Goldman's hired man is involved, doing Damian a "favor."



As Damian takes back his natural hair color, he notes that there is now only one blond Englishman running rampant on the island, indicating that he plans for Clive Lawson to take the fall for the entire sequence of events. There's no indication as to the plans for the final machete.



## May 11, 1979, Pages 289-328

### May 11, 1979, Pages 289-328 Summary

On Friday morning, which would be the last day of the "season," Meral Johnson and Peter Macdonald are sharing breakfast when Meral realizes that he's feeling paternal toward Peter. Peter tells Meral that he "keeps fantasizing" that Jane isn't really dead. Meanwhile, Damian Rose is in Tralawney working on a Bertram Sportsman boat. The owner of the boat, landscape artist Eric Downes, is dead in a closet of his nearby home. Damian spends some time thinking about Carrie - good memories of spending time together. Then he puts the new machete in the cockpit of the boat. He notes that the time is almost 9:00 and realizes that Carrie should be on her way to Morocco. However, Carrie is actually at a bank in Zurich. She withdraws six hundred, twenty-nine thousand dollars and moves it across the street to another bank - "All part of her master plan."

Damian is in the boat, contemplating meeting with Carrie in Morocco. Peter accompanies Brooks Campbell and Meral Johnson to the Forlenza family villa, supposedly to identify Damian Rose if he arrives. "Unofficially," Harold Hill is preparing to use Peter as bait. About this same time, Betsy Porte-Smith checks into the St. James as "Mrs. C. Rose." Carrie Rose is in Zurich putting the final touches on her diary. Duane Nicholson leaves the Forlenza residence and Peter's group follows. Damian Rose, dressed in a security guard uniform, is waiting at Tryall. Nicholson leads Peter and the group on a wild chase that ends when they are shot at by a sniper. Peter sees the tall blond man - actually Clive Lawson - and thinking it's Damian Rose, gives chase. The gunfight leads to the veranda of the clubhouse while a rainstorm limits visibility. When the lights are finally turned on, Peter shoots the blond Englishman - Clive Lawson. Lawson is then shot in the head several more times, effectively limiting identification. Peter thinks back to Turtle Bay and says, "He's the one." Then Meral says something to Peter and the two ran away from the clubhouse.

Damian believes he's succeeded. Peter's identification means people will believe Damian is dead. Damian says that if Carrie is also successful in Washington, the pair will be "home free." Then Harold Hill steps onto the boat and introduces himself to Damian. He asks why Damian didn't kill Peter, and Damian says he thought a live witness would be more valuable. Hill strikes Rose with his pistol, saying the blow was for his wife, Carol. He then tells Rose to get out of the boat. There is a brief conversation about "renewing their partnership." As they begin to climb the ladder to the dock, Peter and Meral are waiting. Hill then uses the machete from the boat to kill Damian Rose. Hill untied the rope, setting the boat free. He was thinking that it "never ends," and that he now has to deal with Meral and Peter because of their knowledge of his "partnership" with Rose. Meral shoots several holes in the bottom of the boat, allowing it to sink. Peter then raises his own gun and shoots Hill, knocking him into the water. Peter and Meral then walk away.



## May 11, 1979, Pages 289-328 Analysis

The fact that Damian is thinking happy thoughts about Carrie seems to be an indication that he doesn't expect to be double-crossed by his wife. However, he does think that she's on her way to Morocco - apparently part of their plan - while Carrie is actually arriving in Zurich and wiping out their bank account. As Carrie walks the money across the street to a new bank in Zurich, she is perspiring. This is another case of Carrie's insecurity with regard to her own abilities and plans.

It's during the shoot out on the golf course that Peter suddenly realizes he could have been killed, and that he's apparently being left alive for a reason. The fact that Clive Lawson is shot several times after Peter kills him is an indication that he's likely being shot by Damian Rose in an attempt to limit Peter's ability to identify him as someone other than Damian. Peter seems to sincerely believe it is Damian, but doesn't seem surprised to find that Damian is alive in the boat. Harold Hill indicates that it was Carrie Rose who told him how to find Damian during his attempt to escape. The very first section of the book is dated 1980 - almost a year after the machete murders. In that section, Damian, Kingfish Toone and the Cuban are all involved in a murder on Turtle Bay. It's up to the reader to decide whether Damian truly died or if the 1980 date is incorrect. Considering that Betsy Porte-Smith is killed later and misidentified as Carrie Rose, it seems possible that Damian also escaped and that the entire escapade was part of the master plan. Carrie will later reveal that she intended to kill Damian.



## **May 12, 1979 through 1981, Pages 329-341**

### **May 12, 1979 through 1981, Pages 329-341 Summary**

In Washington, D.C., Alex Fletcher and John Devereaux enter the back of the St. James hotel, sneak up the maintenance stairs and go to room 502. The two agents stop long enough to say that they are undertaking this assignment "For Harold Hill and Carol." They enter the room and Betsy Porte-Smith - mistakenly identified as Carrie Rose - reaches for a nightstand. She is shot and killed by Devereaux who had orders not to return the woman alive.

A diary entry written by Carrie indicates that she believes she has succeeded in her own plan. Carrie writes that Damian trained her, then refused to let her use that training. She writes that she had to kill him, "had to." On June 13, 1979, in Coastown, Prime Minister Joseph Walthey announces that a new age of prosperity is about to dawn, but doesn't give details. On July 14, he is made lifetime Prime Minister. The first casino opened on October 1 of that year.

On March 3, 1980, Carrie Rose received two million dollars from the sale of her diary. She quickly moved the money, just in case Damian had managed to elude Harold Hill.

May 9, 1981, finds Peter Macdonald and Meral Johnson at a Parisian café. They are approached by a Frenchman with a briefcase and a question. "You are the men who look for Carrie Rose?"

### **May 12, 1979 through 1981, Pages 329-341 Analysis**

This part of the plan worked for Carrie Rose, though she'll eventually discover that it didn't work as well as she might have hoped. Carrie did plan this well. Betsy even has letters from Damian in her possession, another reason for authorities to believe they've killed Carrie Rose.

It seems clear that Carrie Rose believes Damian dead, leading the reader to believe that she did double-cross her husband and partner. However, Carrie is also careful to look over her shoulder, just in case he isn't. That again brings up the question as to whether Damian truly died or if he is alive and committing additional murders on Turtle Bay in 1980. Meanwhile, gambling has become legalized in San Dominica. The machete murders were apparently successful in achieving that goal. There's no indication as to how Peter and Meral come to know that Carrie isn't dead, or how they have come to be tracking her.



# Characters

## Peter Macdonald

Peter Macdonald becomes known as "the witness." Peter is riding his bicycle near the beach when he happens upon a murder scene. The Cuban and Kingfish - both covered with blood - are coming out of the dunes onto the road while Damian Rose is standing on the road with a gun. The initial thought is that Peter has been fortunate - or unfortunate - in his timing and that he literally stumbled onto the scene. It will later be revealed that having him as a witness was very carefully planned. Damian's idea was to be certain that someone would lead the police on a wild goose chase searching for the tall, blond Englishman, and that the witness would eventually identify Clive Lawson as being that Englishman who orchestrated the murders.

As it happened, Peter fit into the plans nicely until the final scene - when he discovers the real Englishman, Damian himself, trying to flee. Peter, at 28 years old, is the youngest of six boys and has something of a complex as he's the "baby" of the family and feels he has never quite acquired his father's approval. His father is military and Peter attended West Point, following up with a stint in Vietnam. Peter is on San Dominica working as a bartender for a beach hotel. He talked of the fact that he was a disappointment to his father because he wasn't making anything of himself, but personally seemed to be enjoying his life. His girlfriend, Jane Cooke, tells him that the fact that he isn't working around the clock doesn't make him a bum. He and Jane met on San Dominica, fell in love and moved in together. Peter's military training will eventually make him a bigger threat to the Rose's than they intended.

## Damian Rose

Despite the fact that Damian Rose is actually one of the main driving forces of this book, he becomes something less than a main character in some ways. Damian isn't often seen and is often in the background. Nonetheless, it's the fact that Damian is prompting action that keeps the book moving. Damian is a cold-blooded killer and has become something less than human, probably because of his killer tendencies. He has no compunction about committing murder, though he also has no problem hiring others into doing the same. Damian is an interesting character in many ways. For example, he is married to Carrie, and it seems the two have worked closely together to plan the summer of murders in San Dominica. However, he knows that Carrie spent time with a stockbroker in her hotel room and seemed not to be angry with her at all. Later, as the two are walking naked on the beach, he is aroused by her nearness.

Damian is also egotistical. Carrie tells of an incident in which she and Damian were in France. Damian found a street cleaner who spoke no English and told the man the entire story of their "work" in Cambodia. At one point, Damian makes the statement that he and Carrie have made money committing the murders, but they've also become



infamous - thereby becoming highly marketable. There's no indication whether the diary was the sole idea of Carrie, but it's a fact that Carrie was the one who collected on their infamy. In the first introduction of Damian, it's revealed that he has one addiction - sensational tabloid news.

## Carrie Rose

Carrie is Damian's wife and she pulls the ultimate double cross in order to walk away with everything, leaving Damian dead in San Dominica. Carrie doesn't apparently commit any of the machete murders in San Dominica directly, though she seems to be highly involved with the planning and provides support for Damian. Carrie is directly involved with the murder of Carol Hill, but it's notable that Carol's son Mark is not killed in that attack. Carrie seems to be just as ruthless (or more so) than Damian. She kills her former partner in cold blood, justifying it by saying, among other things, that she couldn't stand to see him in his condition. The man was in a wheelchair and was bitter, but was alive until his encounter with Carrie. As a final point, Carrie arranges for a woman who closely resembles her to be in a place where authorities expect Carrie. When the woman is killed, Carrie hopes authorities will believe it to be Carrie and will not look for her. She almost succeeds, though Peter and a San Dominican police officer continue their search.

## Brooks Campbell

Campbell is a government agent, identified at one point as working in the U.S. Embassy and later as a CIA agent. Campbell is supposed to be overseeing the Roses as they work in San Dominica and he believes in his ability. Campbell seems to think that because he is a government agent, Damian Rose is going to acknowledge that Campbell is somehow in control. When Damian doesn't, Campbell is angry. Though he's caught up in the web of intrigue regarding this case, Campbell does seem to be one of the good guys.

## Harold Hill

Harold "Harry the Hack" Hill is married to Carol Hill who is destined to become a victim of the machete murders at the hands of Carrie Rose. The purpose Carol's death is nothing more than to send a message to Harold, and it works. Harold himself is deeply involved with the intrigue of the plot and ends up dead at the hands of Peter Macdonald. Hill does capture Damian Rose briefly, then apparently shoots and kills Rose. Hill has reportedly been told of Damian's escape plan by his wife, Carrie.

## Dassie

Colonel Dred is an island revolutionary thought to be responsible for the initial murders. It's said that Monkey Dred takes responsibility though it's never clear whether he said



that his revolutionaries were responsible or someone from Damian Rose's operation told the media that story. In any case, Dred becomes the prime suspect from the beginning, pulling interest away from what Peter has to say about the man he saw near the first murders. Dred does become part of the scheme. Damian provides arms for Dred's army, and those soldiers shoot up the tourist bus at Elizabeth's Fancy.

## **Dr. Meral Johnson**

Meral is the police chief of San Dominica. He realizes that he doesn't look the part and admits to working hard to create an air of confidence during the first of the machete murders. Meral early on connects several actions that might have seemed unrelated - the bombing of the plane, murder of Leon Hatchet and machete murders - but dismisses Peter Macdonald's eyewitness account of the man responsible. Instead, Meral focuses all his attention on Dassie "Monkey" Dred, an island revolutionary. Meral does come back to Peter, locates him as he's trying to leave the island, and spends time with him working on the case. It's important to note that the book ends with Meral and Peter seated in a Parisian cafe and looking for Carrie Rose - the Carrie Rose believed by most to have been shot months earlier.

## **Kingfish Toone**

The mercenary hired by Damian Rose. Kingfish and the Cuban hack up the bodies after they've been shot by Damian. Kingfish is apparently killed by the island revolutionary Monkey Dred, but is alive to help Damian with another murder on the beach at Turtle Bay almost a year later.

## **The Cuban**

Blinkie Thomas, also known as the Cuban, is a mercenary hired by Damian Rose. The Cuban and Kingfish hack up the bodies after the victims have been shot by Damian. The Cuban is apparently shot by Monkey Dred during the slaughter of the tourists at Elizabeth's Fancy, but helps Damian shoot another young couple on the beach at Turtle Bay almost a year later.

## **Carol Hill**

Destined to be the only of the machete murders committed in the United States, the death of Carol Hill is meant merely as a warning to her husband, Harold Hill.

## **Walter Marks**

President of American Society of Travel Agents. He was killed on Thursday, May 5, 1979, while he and his children played on the beach. Rose says that "fortunately, but at the



same time unfortunately for the Marks children, there had to be witnesses this time." Rose doesn't say whether the children were killed.

## **The Loner**

Later to be known as "Dyno-mite," the young man was selected by Carrie Rose at random to deliver a letter to a The Evening Star newspaper office. Upon the delivery, he was shot and killed by Carrie. The letter appeared to be from Monkey Dred and demanded that white foreigners leave San Domingo.

## **Nickie Handy**

Carrie Rose's ex-partner who was shot and left for dead by Brooks Campbell. It was Carrie who shot and killed Nickie in 1978 in a Parisian bistro called the Atlantic City.





## Objects/Places

### Lathrop Wells, Nevada

The location of the deserted farmhouse where representatives of the U.S. Government operating under a proprietary company named Great Western Air Transport meets with members of the Charles Forlenza Family - a West Coast family with Mafia ties. They plan to hire a pair of mercenaries for more than a million dollars to create chaos on San Dominica in order to push the officials there into legalizing gambling.

### Turtle Bay

A resort beach on San Dominica and the site of many of the machete murders.

### Robert F. Kennedy Airport

The San Dominica airport where the 727 landed and exploded in flames on Tuesday, April 24, 1979, at 9:45 p.m. Six were killed and fifty burned.

### Isabella Anne

A wrecked schooner off the coast at Turtle Bay.

### Lincoln, Nebraska

Carrie Rose's hometown.

### Fairfax, Virginia

Home of Harold Hill, otherwise known as Harry the Hack.

### Coastown Princess Hotel

The hotel in Coastown, San Domingo, where Carrie Rose was staying when she wrote about the August 10, 1978, Paris incident.

### The Plantation Inn

The resort hotel where Peter worked as a bartender. Jane Cooke also worked at the Inn.



## **The Atlantic City**

A Parisian bistro, popular with American tourists, where Carrie Rose meets her ex-partner, Nicki Handy, and shoots him in a booth in the crowded restaurant.

## **Elizabeth's Fancy**

A restored nineteenth century sugar plantation located on Tyndell's Goat Highway. It was the Elizabeth's Fancy tour bus that was attacked by Colonel Monkey Dred.

## **Grasshopper**

The nickname for the red and black bus that delivered tourists to and from Elizabeth's Fancy.

## **Fish n' Fool**

The boat Peter Macdonald hopes will take him from San Dominica but from which he is taken into custody by the CIA.

## **Coastown Golf and Racquet Condominiums**

The resort where agents hold Peter Macdonald after Jane is killed.

## **Mandeville Hospital**

Where Jane is taken after she is attacked. She is on the hospital grounds with FBI agents when she is killed.



# Themes

## The Double Cross

The double-cross is a theme often seen in mysteries and this book is no exception. In this case, the double cross appears from the first time the two groups - the United States government and the Florenzo Family - come together. As they're leaving the farmhouse, Frankie "the Cat" Rao is killed in cold blood by his own driver simply because others involved with the plan to implement the murders is considered an "inappropriate" risk to the plan. The double cross is seen again as Carrie Rose heads to the Swiss bank to retrieve the money Damian had placed there as a failsafe - in case they had trouble getting out of San Dominica with their payment for the murders. Carrie also double-crosses her former partner, Nicki Handy, in the tiny Parisian bistro. Both Brooks Campbell and Harold Hill are likely planning to double cross Damian and Carrie, but the killers plan to double cross Hill and Campbell first. The fact that Carrie ultimately double-crosses Damian by giving up his plan so that Hill can kill him is never revealed to Damian.

The Kingfish and the Cuban are both killed by Dassie "Monkey" Dred as payment for additional arms. Damian gives Dred the additional weapons in return for killing the two, though they've been loyal to Damian at that point. The double crosses continue to stack up throughout the book with few people being willing to trust others. The sheer number and fact of the double crosses eventually leads the reader to wonder about every character. As Jane is killed, it's almost natural to expect that someone delivered her to her death on purpose, though that doesn't seem to be the case. The same is true of several other situations. All tolled, there are too many double crosses to list.

## Pride

It was ultimately pride and self-assurance that brought about the deaths of several of the characters. Damian is certain that he won't make any mistakes that will lead to his death. His ultimately fatal issue is that he believes he has trained Carrie to be the perfect "significant other" for his escapades. Carrie points out that Damian has never let her do anything on his own - that he trained her but then kept her so much under his control that she had limited freedom. It seems likely that Damian is proud of that accomplishment, but trusts Carrie entirely too much - especially since it's Carrie who ultimately betrays him. To a lesser degree, Peter shows his own type of pride. In Peter's case, it's his own military training that kicks in and he comes to believe that he can save himself and Jane. He pulls up the name of a friend of his father - a senator - who can make people listen once Peter arrives in the United States. As it turns out, Peter is unable to get himself out of the country undetected and unable to keep Jane from being killed. It's also notable that Damian purposely doesn't kill Peter because he prefers a "live witness."



Brooks Campbell, Harold Hill, and B.J. Singer are each certain of their own abilities. In the end, it's the pride that puts each in danger. Singer believes he and his wife will be safe, for whatever reason, but comes face-to-face with the killers on the beach. Campbell and Hill each think they have control of the situation. When Campbell summons Rose, he fully expects to be obeyed. When Rose doesn't show up, he's furious.

## The Quest for Danger/Thrills

There's little doubt that Damian and Carrie Rose are eager for the thrill that accompanies the planning and execution of their business in San Dominica. They spent a lot of time putting together the plan and are being paid, but they seem to greatly enjoy the danger. For example, as Carrie and Damian are walking naked on the beach, they are talking about their plans and Damian becomes sexually aroused. That indicates not only a desire for the money, but a love of the thrill. Damian is not the only one who enjoys that type of danger.

The "hero" of the story, Peter Macdonald, finally takes matters into his own hands, steals a motorcycle and goes to the home of CIA agent Brooks Campbell. He threatens Campbell and holds Campbell's head near a hot stove in order to make the agent reveal the details of the murders. As Peter leaves, he admits to be excited. He says that he should perhaps give up his current lifestyle and consider becoming a cop or a detective. The desire for excitement and drama is strong, even though Peter had experienced war.

Carrie's own quest for thrills seems to be more motivated by greed than Damian's. She admits that Damian could live on a pittance, but that she likes to have money. Carrie puts her own life on the line as she seeks to double cross her husband. Carrie also kills her former partner, Nickie Handy, in broad daylight in a crowded restaurant because Handy could be used to identify her. Carrie isn't as proficient about the acts as Damian and says that she's nervous, often perspiring and looking over her shoulder. Carrie will likely live her entire life expecting to see Damian appear around the next corner.

Thrill seeking is a human trait also seen in the crowds that rush to San Dominica after the murders begin. Those people are mostly newshounds, looking for a story or a photograph. Police Chief Meral Johnson says that he quickly learned that people wanted to collect souvenirs from crime scenes.



# Style

## Point of View

The story is written from an omniscient point of view, which is really the only point of view that would have worked for this book. No single character is present for all the events that occur, meaning that any one person couldn't have told the entire story. For example, Carrie Rose completes several actions apart from all the other players. Leaving those details out would have seriously changed the book, limiting the reader's understanding of what's happening. Likewise, it's necessary for the reader to know the thoughts of some, and those thoughts are included in the omniscient view. Additionally, there are sections of the diary presumably kept by Carrie and Damian Rose during the season of the machete murders. These offer a look deeper in to the characters of the killers that would not otherwise have been possible. This becomes an effective tool to give the reader an even wider point of view than would otherwise have been possible.

## Setting

The book is set in 1979, mainly in San Dominica. There are events that happen elsewhere, such as the murder of Carol Hill that happens in Virginia, USA, and the meeting of the Mafia, CIA and others at Lathrop Wells, Nevada. The fact that Carrie Rose is in New York in 1981, as presented in the preface, gives the reader a hint as to the outcome.

The setting is appropriate largely because of the tropical "paradise" that becomes a place of terror when the murders occur. Though the machete murders would have been equally gruesome in some other setting, the backdrop of the beautiful beaches and the fact that many of the victims are vacationers seems to make them more so. The setting is also appropriate because of the potential for the presence of a revolutionary such as Colonel Dasso "Monkey" Dred.

## Language and Meaning

The book is written in English, although there are passages designed to resemble the language of San Dominican people. The use of those words adds to the drama and helps establish the "feel" of the tropical island in a way that mere description of people and settings could not. However, there are times when those words are so unfamiliar to the English reader that it slows the pace. The reader must either skip those dialogs or take time to re-read and decipher the meanings. The San Dominican dialogs are few and overall, not a problem. There is sufficient dialog between the English-speaking people to describe those people and the happenings.

The book's language is very straight forward, but the reader must carefully attend the casual references in order to keep track of the players. A person might be casually

mentioned in one setting then formally introduced in another, meaning the reader could easily miss the fact of the earlier introduction. For example, Basil the Children's Minstrel is introduced when Peter sees him in a restaurant, but it is only later revealed that Basil is actually the disguise used by Damian Rose.

There are also quotes from the Rose Diary, presumably kept by Carrie Rose during the season of the machete murders. These quotes appear at the beginning of each chapter and offer insights into the deep evil of Damian and Carrie. They are slightly different in tone from the rest of the book, making the idea that they were written by a killer more believable.

## Structure

The book is divided into sections, typically dated for a specific date or event. Those sections are further divided into twenty-nine chapters, varying greatly in length from three pages to more than twenty. The epilogue is included as part of the book and contains chapter twenty-nine. There is a prologue that does not contain a numbered chapter that tells of Carrie Rose, her meeting with a book publisher and her plans to sell the diary she kept during the machete murders.

There is also a five-page section at the beginning of the book that tells of the murder of a teenage boy and girl on April 30, 1980, on Turtle Bay. It seems possible that the date is a typographical error because two of the main players of that scene were killed in May of 1979. More than likely, the date should have been April 30, 1979. It's also possible that there's another explanation, and that (in typical James Patterson style) Damian's apparent death didn't really happen. Following this initial section, the book then backtracks to March of 1979 in Lathrop Wells, Nevada.

The dating sequence helps keep things in order, but some readers may find it difficult to transition between the flash back and the sequence of events that follow. Each chapter begins with an excerpt from the Rose Diary. The quotes there offer additional revelations into the life of Damian and Carrie Rose.



## Quotes

"Your writer's source material will be a diary my husband, Damian, and I kept last year. An unusual, very original diary that will cost you two million dollars. It's about ... an awful nest of machete murders. Over a hundred of them."  
— Carrie Rose, Introduction, Page 12

"One plan was titled 'Systematic Government Assassinations,' the other was simply called, 'Machete.'"  
Chapter 1, Page 21

"He even picked up speed a little. The slightest show-off move. Daniel Morelon imitation. That saved him, they said."  
Chapter 4, Page 48 as Peter McDonald bicycles past Damian Rose

"The Philadelphia doorman had found a bloody machete driving halfway to China in the sand. He'd found the two hippies who had been killed and mutilated by the Cuban and Kingfish Toone. And so had a hungry band of wild goats."  
Chapter 5, Page 54

"He's spent the previous ten minutes, the entire slow dance back through the mutilated bodies, simply trying to gain some confidence from this crowd. To give the impression that he'd handled murders like this before."  
Chapter 6, Page 60, referring to Chief Meral Johnson

"As the only legitimate witness walked out of the investigation .. as the unbelievable confusion and mistakes just started to mount ... Dr. Meral Johnson wandered out on the dark Plantation Inn grounds."  
Chapter 6, Page 66

"Then it was Meral Johnson himself who came up with the name 'Dead Letter' to describe the delivery. Thus far, Dr. Johnson realized sadly, it was just about his only contribution to the extraordinary case."  
Chapter 9, Page 99

"That night they slept together for the last time. Ever."  
Chapter 10, Page 109



"Here you finally make time for a vacation. You pay over two thousand, say, for ten glorious days of not having to schlepp around Manhattan with all the gum snappers, panhandlers, the general roll call of sewer snipes ... And then suddenly, slam-bam, you don't just get a little rain to ruin your good time ... You don't get a sunburn ... You get a bloody revolution."

- Phillip Becker, Chapter 13, Page 135

"The two of them were going to be as famous as Charles Manson and Company - and marketable to boot."

- Damian Rose, Chapter 13, Page 142

"'I'm seventy-four years old,' he said quietly, so that they all had to concentrate on his words. 'I don't understand why you ask me all these school-boy questions about the Roses.' Goldman signed. 'Why can't you let them do their work? Pay the money and forget about it.'"

— Isadore Goldman, Chapter 17, Page 179

"Beginning unofficially at 6:00 P.M. on May 8, officially at 9:00 A.M. on the ninth, a straight-faced, very serious attempt was made to take the eighty-one-by-thirty-nine-mile island of San Dominica, turn it upside down, and shake, shake, shake it like a child's piggy bank."

Chapter 22, Page 231

"The machete murders had come to America. Almost to Langely. Just fourteen miles from the White House. The warning couldn't have been any clearer."

Chapter 23, Page 242

"'Strange, unaccountable things are still happening on our island,' Meral Johnson said to Peter. The man seemed to pause out of confusion, then tears started to roll down his cheeks. 'Jane Cooke was killed this morning,' Johnson whispered to Peter. 'I'm very sorry, mister.'"

Chapter 25, Page 258

"'I'll be fine,' Carrie smiled, effectively cutting off the man. 'If you read in the New Zurchen about someone murdered in the streets of downtown,' she went on, 'you'll know that someone tried to take away my money.'"

— Carrie Rose as she removed the cash from the Swiss bank account, Chapter 27, Page 298

"Damian was convinced that San Dominica represented the best field work done since





John Kennedy was hit in Dallas."  
Chapter 28, Page 302

"In a special session of the San Dominican Assembly, Prime Minister Joseph Walthey was named president for life on the island. He made a long speech about nationalism, the economy, and tourism on San Dominica: he lied at length."  
Chapter 29, Page 339

"At ten-thirty that morning, a hit little Frenchman carrying a thick leather valise approached. He sat with them at their cafe table. 'You are the men who look for Carrie Rose?' the Frenchman asked."  
Chapter 29, Page 341, the final sentence of the book



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Carrie Rose? How does Carrie Rose plan her own escape from those who would track her down following the murders? Is she successful?

Who is Damian Rose? How does he plan his escape from San Dominica following the murders? What was his mistake?

Who is Dassie Monkey Dread? What role does he play in the murders?

Describe how Peter Macdonald becomes a witness. What is eventually revealed regarding the incident?

What was the purpose of the murder of Carol Hill?

The Rose's presented two plans regarding the murders at San Dominica. What were they called? What were the reactions to the two plans?

Who initiates the series of murders? What was the purpose of the murders? Is that part of the plan successful? What is the eventual outcome?

Describe how the use of lookalikes complicates the police investigation.

Describe some of the double crosses that occur. Do you believe that Carrie's double cross was truly successful?