

Shantaram: A Novel Study Guide

Shantaram: A Novel by Gregory David Roberts

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



Contents

Shantaram: A Novel Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1-2.....	4
Chapters 3-5.....	6
Chapters 6-8.....	8
Chapters 9-11.....	10
Chapters 12-14.....	12
Chapters 15-16.....	14
Chapters 17-18.....	16
Chapters 19-21.....	18
Chapters 22-23.....	20
Chapters 24-26.....	22
Chapters 27-29.....	24
Chapters 30 - 32.....	26
Chapters 33-35.....	28
Chapters 36-39.....	30
Chapters 40-42.....	32
Characters.....	34
Objects/Places.....	40
Themes.....	42
Style.....	44
Quotes.....	46
Topics for Discussion.....	49



Plot Summary

Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts is a lengthy book, but very interesting reading. The opening of the book lets the reader know that he/she will be thinking about many philosophical issues during the book. It begins: "It took me a long time and most of the world to learn what I know about love and fate and the choices we make, but the heart of it came to me in an instant, while I was chained to a wall and being tortured. I realised, somehow, through the screaming in my mind, that even in that shackled bloody helplessness, I was still free: free to hate the men who were torturing me, or to forgive them. It doesn't sound like much, I know. But in the flinch and bite of the chain, when it's all you've got, that freedom is a universe of possibility. And the choice you make, between hating and forgiving, can become the story of your life" (Chapter 1, pg. 3).

Lindsay, an escaped Australian convict, arrives in Bombay, and the adventure begins. One of his first encounters is with a woman named Karla, and it is love at first sight for him. He is accepted by her circle of friends. Lindsay must survive and he does so by arranging for foreigners to obtain drugs. He receives a commission on both ends of the deal. When his visa expires, he moves into the slums and runs a medical clinic for the slum residents.

He attracts the attention of Abdel Khader Khan, the head of the Bombay mafia's council. When he assists Karla in one of her schemes he runs afoul of a powerful Bombay woman who has him imprisoned. When he is released, he goes to work for Khader and the Bombay mafia. He becomes involved in various black market operations for them and ends up in Afghanistan delivering weapons and other items to the mujaheddin fighters. As he rises through the ranks of the Bombay mafia, he makes many lucrative business deals for them and becomes accepted as one of them.

Shantaram is an extraordinary book about a man's search for himself and meaning in life. There are many discussions between the characters about many interesting philosophical issues. Lindsay somehow needs to forgive himself for the things he has done in his past. He is searching for answers, as are many other people in the book. Lindsay is basically a good and caring person, despite his past and his profession. He accepts people for what they are without trying to change them. He respects them for who they are regardless of their status in life. All human beings are equal to him.

Shantaram is a long novel of 933 pages but it is well worth reading. The reader will find the book difficult to put down until he/she finishes reading the book. There is enough suspense to make the reader want to know what happens next. Roberts also provides an inside look at the functioning of the various illegal activities of the Bombay mafia.



Chapters 1-2

Chapters 1-2 Summary

Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts is a lengthy book, but very interesting reading. The opening of the book lets the reader know that he/she will be thinking about many philosophical issues during the book. It begins: "It took me a long time and most of the world to learn what I know about love and fate and the choices we make, but the heart of it came to me in an instant, while I was chained to a wall and being tortured. I realised, somehow, through the screaming in my mind, that even in that shackled bloody helplessness, I was still free: free to hate the men who were torturing me, or to forgive them. It doesn't sound like much, I know. But in the flinch and bite of the chain, when it's all you've got, that freedom is a universe of possibility. And the choice you make, between hating and forgiving, can become the story of your life" (Chapter 1, pg. 3).

His life changed when he escaped from the maximum security prison in Australia. He became a fugitive, traveling to different places, working as a gunrunner, smuggler, couterfeiter and joining the Bombay mafia.

Arriving at the airport, Roberts passes through Customs on a forged passport and rides a bus to the city. He is appalled at the poverty of the slums but notices all of the activity. He meets two Canadians on the bus and the three decide to share a room. He says his name is Lindsay, which is the name of the phoney passport. When they arrive in the hotel area, Lindsay hires Prabaker Kharre, or Prabu, as a guide. After settling into their room, Lindsay leaves with Prabu to find a restaurant. On the way he is pulled from the path of a bus by Karla Saaranen, which is how he meets her. She says that he can find her at Leopold's Beer Bar. Prabu tells Lindsay, whom he dubs Lin, what he knows about Karla. Lindsay hires Prabu for one week.

Lindsay eventually goes to the Leopold to find Karla. He is quite taken with her but he doesn't tell her that in the coming months. She introduces him to Didier Levy, and others. Lindsay tells people that he is a writer. Karla tells him basically the same things that the Canadians did. The real India is not to be found in Bombay and that he should leave Bombay.

Leopold's bar functions as the meeting place for many criminals. Various kinds of illegal transactions are openly conducted at it's tables, with payment made outside the bar. Those are the unwritten rules. After several weeks in Bombay, Prabu is still showing Lindsay around.

Didier explains the politics of India to Lindsay. He explains who certain people are in the criminal world of Bombay and talks of the big business opium and brown sugar heroin trade. Didier also explains the purpose of the Shiv Sena party and how they run guns.



He also tells Lindsay that Karla can be a good friend but that she can also be a dreaded enemy.

Chapters 1-2 Analysis

Lindsay arrives in India two years after escaping from prison. He is immediately impressed with the sights and smells of the country and Roberts' love of the country is obvious from the beginning of the book. At first he is appalled at the poverty but then is impressed by the fact that all of the people are busy.

Lindsay does not rely on the experience of the two Canadians that he meets on the bus ride into Bombay. He hires Prabu as a guide, despite their objections. He decides they will stay at the hotel Prabu recommends, even though they say there are less expensive places. They recommend that he leave the city, but he doesn't. Lindsay begins building his own base of friends and acquaintances as soon as he arrives in Bombay. He relies on the experience of Prabu, who he hires for the week.

Lindsay was very impressed with Karla, from their first meeting when she pulled him from the path of an oncoming bus. He goes to Leopold's bar to see her and feels that their attitudes and approaches to life are quite similar. Lindsay likes her a lot but never tells her that. She introduces him to her friends at Leopold's and he learns about the politics and criminal underworld of India.



Chapters 3-5

Chapters 3-5 Summary

Prabu remains as Lindsay's guide, showing him the sights and teaching him the customs and language. When they are in a taxi, there is an accident. Prabu panics and drags Lindsay from the vehicle. He later tells him it is the people he feared, not fire, as they watch the crowd begin to beat the taxi driver. They continued their tour in another taxi and on foot until they arrive at the people-market. This is the market where slaves are purchased and Prabu explains that the men standing around are negotiating price. It is a difficult situation for Lindsay to handle, even when Prabu explains that most of the children would die if they weren't sold into slavery. They are victims of natural disasters and catastrophes.

Didier feels that Prabu was testing Lindsay when he showed him the bad side of Bombay. Prabu has invited Lindsay to travel north to visit his family for several months so he obviously passed the test. Karla arrives at the table in Leopold's and introduces them to a man named Vikram Patel who has been on holiday in Denmark. He tells them about his experiences in Copenhagen. He goes on to tell them that he thinks the people are cool and that India has a long way to go to catch up to Denmark. From this, they go on to talk about the future of India. They agree that people get stoned to avoid sadness in the world.

Lindsay tells Karla of Prabu's invitation to visit his family. She thinks that he should go. He walks her to her home and thinks, as he is walking to his room, that she also has subjected him to some kind of test. He wonders if he passed.

The next day Lindsay leaves with Prabu. At the train station, Prabu leaves Lindsay with the porter and then disappears. When the porter leads Lindsay to his seat, he finds Prabu there. This is Lindsay's first ride on a rural Indian train. He finds the train crowded, but once on board, the people are pleasant. He learns more of Indian customs and gestures during the fourteen hour train ride. They transfer to a bus at Jalgaon. By this time he had learned the Indian head wiggle which was a form of greeting. After a second bus ride, they arrive a Prabu's village late that afternoon. On the way he learns that there is no electricity and there is one water tap for the village of one hour a day.

Lindsay is greeted by the two hundred people of Sunder, plus people from neighboring villages. They haven't seen a foreigner visit in more than twenty years but he breaks the ice and they accept him.

After bathing, they spend two hours with Prabu's family opening the gifts they had brought and asking questions of Lindsay. He is given Prabu's father's bed to sleep in and falls asleep with the family having formed a protective circle around the bed.



Chapters 3-5 Analysis

Lindsay continues to learn about Indian culture and customs from Prabu and realizes he must change if he is going to survive in India. He felt that he had to become more involved. Prabu is now showing him the dark side of the city and he feels that he has to find a way to fit in better.

Prabu takes Lindsay to the slave market. As Prabu explains what is happening, Lindsay has a hard time accepting it. He wanted to stop it, but knew that even if he could, it would open up someplace else. He felt very helpless even when Prabu tells him that many of the children would have died if they weren't sold into slavery. Lindsay relates it to his prison experience.

A friend of Karla's returns from Denmark and sits with them at Leopold's discussing his experiences in Denmark. This gets the group talking about what they see as the future for India and their general views about the philosophy of life. Lindsay says that Prabu has invited him to spend several months at his family's home in the north. Karla thinks he should go and that the experience will be good for him. It will help him feel more at home in India.

Lindsay and Prabu leave the next day via train. It is Lindsay's first experience with rural Indian trains and for him it was a lesson. The crowd is pushy and rude until everyone is in the train. Then they become quiet and friendly. Prabu and the others don't understand why Lindsay surrenders his seat to an old man. This is the result of Lindsay's Western values, even though the old man curses at him when he leaves.

Lindsay's friends were correct in telling him to make the trip with Prabu. He learns a lot about Indian culture, useful everyday things like the head wiggle, which functions as a form of greeting. He also had the experience of riding on rural trains and buses. Karla had told him that he would find that he would sometimes have to surrender in order to win and he learned the meaning of her words when he found himself having to pat Prabu's father's belly.

The clash of cultures is more obvious in rural India. Lindsay is the first foreigner to visit Prabu's village in more than twenty years. He can't speak the language but finds the people relax when he uses the Indian head wiggle that he learned on the train.

Lindsay learns more about the culture when he begins to take a shower. Indians do not bathe naked but wear a certain kind of shorts. Prabu makes him promise that he will never be naked. Again, Karla is right about surrendering some of his Western ways in order to be a part of India.



Chapters 6-8

Chapters 6-8 Summary

Lindsay is made to feel at home in Kishan's house. He becomes close to Rukhmabai, Prabu's mother and spends time talking to her when he learns enough of the language. Lindsay learns the family history from her and of the village's defeat of the dacoits, a pack of roving thieves. The villagers re-enact the battle and show him where the confrontations took place.

Prabu's family go out of their way to teach him their customs and language. He works with the men in the fields during the day and adopts the routine of life in the village. His six month stay in the village included the monsoon season. Lindsay panics at the approaching flood waters from the river and runs to warn the villagers. They send for Prabu and try to calm Lindsay. Prabu explains the village flood-sticks game to him. The flooding river has never reached their village, which is why they don't worry about their safety.

He is basically adopted by the Kharre family as one of the own and the village women give him the name of Shantaram Kishan Kharre.

At the end of six months, Lindsay and Prabu return to the Bombay area. They go to a bar and become drunk and are attacked in the street when they leave. The incident reminds Lindsay of his treatment in prison. Lindsay was robbed of all his money, can't report the incident and has no family he can turn to. Prabu sells Lindsay's watch so they can return to Bombay and Arnand;s hotel.

Prabu finds a place for Lindsay to live in his slum. It gives Lindsay a place to stay while he works out his expired tourist visa problem. He takes Karla to visit the den of the Standing Babas right before he moves to the slum. The best hashish is smoked in their establishment. Karla is impressed and Lindsay is pleased that he is able to impress her. They return to Leopold's and he tells her that he is moving into the slum for a while. Karla offers to help him but he doesn't want to tell her his problems or reveal his past.

Prabu and Lindsay walk through the slum of Cuffe Parade, as Prabu leads the way to the house. People come out to see the foreigner who will be living amongst them. They do not understand Lindsay's fear. Lindsay is introduced to the neighbors. They notice a fire in the slum while they are speaking. The men run toward the first to fight it. This is Lindsay's first encounter with Qasim Ali Hussein, the leader of the slum, who is directing the fire fighting efforts. One tenth of the slum is destroyed by the time the fire is quelled and there are dead and injured. They considered themselves lucky from the numbers. Lindsay uses his first aid kit to treat the injured. The slum dwellers think he is a doctor and the next morning are lined up to see him for first aid. He spends th4e day treating their wounds.



Chapters 6-8 Analysis

For the first time since his escape from prison, Lindsay begins to think of his life and family and hurts from it. He feels accepted by Prabu's family, even though he feels out of his element in the rural surroundings. However, Lindsay leans to live the everyday life of a villager during his six months in Sunder, even working in the fields with the men. He observes that the men and women of Sunder have shorter workdays and workweeks than the people in the city do. They, therefore, have more leisure time than urban dwellers do.

Lindsay's six months in Sunder changed him. He found that his usual ways of dealing with people didn't work with the rural Indians. He begins to change and to become more in touch with himself and, in his view, begins to change into a better man.

When Lindsay is robbed and loses all of his money, he can't report the incident. He remembers Karla telling him to to drink any alcohol on the trip and he now understands why. The incident leads him into the drug trade which begins by him supplying hashish to a German at Arnand's hotel. He receives a commission on both ends of the deal.

Lindsay loves Karla and doesn't want to burden her with his problems or past, even though he knows that her friend Lettie could help with his visa problems. When he says goodbye to her, he knows that he won't see her for a longtime. He will not be able to go to Leopold's while he is living in the slum.

As soon as he moves into the slums, there is a fire and many people are injured. Lindsay uses his first aid kit and training to treat their wounds. He is happy that he is there to help them when they needed help and feels that there is some purpose for his living in the slum and being drawn there at the time of the fire. He happens to be a criminal with first aid training and supplies that was in the right place at the right time to help many people.



Chapters 9-11

Chapters 9-11 Summary

Lindsay explains his prison escape. It took place at one in the afternoon and it had to succeed or they would have been beaten to death by the guards. There were just the two of them and they cut a hole in the roof and then uses the power extension cords to lower themselves to the ground and freedom. There was no turning back once they began because of the cut fence, broken door and hole. They decide to use the buzz saw during the changing of the guards hoping they will attribute the noise to the workers, which they did.

There was a curfew in effect in Bombay when he was living in the slum. The curfew began at midnight and the roundup took place for two or three hours. Lindsay used to walk a lot at night. He purchased medicines and other first aid supplies and kept providing first aid services for the community. One night on a walk, he meets Abdullah, a man he had met at the Standing Babas den. Abdullah introduces him to Abdel Khader Khan, a high ranking member of the Bombay mafia. The slum where Lindsay lives and operates the clinic in in Khaderbhai's territory and Khader is pleased with his work there. They drive to a private club on the Bandra Road where they talk. Lindsay is accepted as a brother by Abdullah and as a son by Khdar.

Abdullah brings medical supplies to the slum. He asks how Lindsay earns his money and how much. Lindsay avoids answering. Abdullah takes Lindsay to meet a Dr. Hamid. Dr. Hamid tells Lindsay that he can refer patients to him instead of sending them to the clinic at St. George Hospital. There is no need for them to worry about payment. They have also made arrangements for Lindsay to receive a regular supply of medicines from the black market in the slum of the lepers.

When Lindsay returns to the slum, Prabu is there and warns him about Abdullah telling him that Abdullah is a gangster who kills for money. Lindsay tells him not to worry.

Lindsay is still making money on his drug commission business with the tourists. The slum dwellers are busy preparing for the monsoon and Lindsay helps out where he can. While this is going on, a Muslim and Hindu get into a fist fight. The fight is broken up by Qasim Ali who ties them together by the ankles and sends them to clean the latrines until they can get along together.

Chapters 9-11 Analysis

Lindsay has many flashbacks to his prison life because he never really had time to think of his life before he came to India. He spends many hours walking the streets at night just thinking and reflecting. Even though he still loves Karla, he still hasn't contacted her. He apparently isn't ready to contact her yet. He is still working out his problems.



Lindsay is introduced to the Bombay mafia lord, Abdul Khadar Khan by Abdullah, the man he met at the Standing Baba's den. Khadar owns the slum land where Lindsay lives and is impressed with his clinic work.

Abdullah and Khadar make arrangements with Dr. Hamid to handle referrals from Lindsay's clinic. Khadar apparently selects slum children and finances their education and training for different professions. They then owe a non-monetary debt to Khadar. Dr. Hamid was one of them and will perform this service for Khadar.

Lindsay figures that he and Abdullah are very much alike and this is something that Khadar sees. Prabu is afraid of Abdullah and worried about Lindsay being around him. Lindsay realizes that Prabu is his friend and he is worried about him.

Qasim Ali is the functioning authority figure in the slum. The people look to him for leadership when there are any kinds of problems. Lindsay comes to admire the way the man handles the various situations that arise.



Chapters 12-14

Chapters 12-14 Summary

Lindsay continues to live and work in the slum. Tensions mount as the monsoon approaches. The supply line to the slum shops were under attack by the local non-slum merchants who wanted the business of the slum dwellers. He is still treating the injured and the sick. One day Karla appears at his clinic and tells him that they miss him at Leopold's. They talk and he invites her to stay for lunch. The luncheon is to celebrate the opening of a school for the slum children. Karla is impressed that the slum people all know and like Lindsay.

The luncheon is on the twenty third floor of the unfinished World Trade Center and dubbed the Village in the Sky. They introduce Karla to everyone and the talk turns to Sapna, a killer of the rich to help the poor. Eventually Karla tells him that she came to ask a favor of him. A friend of hers, a call girl for Madame Zhou names Lisa, needs help. Karla wants Lindsay to go to Madame Zhou and say he is from the American Embassy and to leave Lisa alone. Lindsay agrees to do it.

As they drive through the streets of Bombay to Madame Zhou's Palace, Karla tells Lindsay what she knows of the woman. Madame Zhou is powerful and dangerous. Lindsay will impersonate an American diplomat whose tour of duty ends that day. Karla is reluctant to talk about her role as a facilitator. The meeting with Madame Zhou is rough, but she allows Lisa to leave. She reduces Karla to tears when they speak in German. They pick up Lisa and leave. Outside, Karla refuses to answer any questions. The taxi pulls away leaving Lindsay on the street. A man, Nazeer, approaches him and tells him that Abdel Khadar wants to see him.

Lindsay is driven to the meeting with Khadar, who introduces him to a man named Sobhan Mahmoud, and to the others who are present. They have a poster from Sapna and want his opinion. They tell him about the killings by Sapna's organization. After this, they turn to debating philosophical issues, and Lindsay gives them the topic of suffering. When the discussion ends, Khadar asks Lindsay to return the next day. He wants a favor.

Chapters 12-14 Analysis

Lindsay is still in love with Karla, but he avoids her during the months he is living in the slum. He doesn't want to see her while he is poor because of the guilt and shame that he feels over his predicament. When she appears at his slum home one day, he suddenly feels how small and bare it is, even though he had been content with it before. Karla says she lived for a year in Goa in a similar house and it was one of the happiest years of her life. She feels that there is an inverse relationship between the size of a house and one's happiness. Watching her with the other women at the luncheon,



Lindsay wonders why he avoided her for so long. He is still very much in love with her and tells her that. She says that he isn't and that love is something that she can't handle.

Lindsay impersonates the American diplomat to help Karla. He hopes she will be closer to him. Even though they accomplished their objective, Karla refuses to answer any of Lindsay's questions after the meeting. She and Lisa leave him standing in front of the Palace, confused and angry.

Lindsay meets some of Abdel Khadar's associates who are concerned about the killings by the Sapna organization. Khadar wants a favor from Lindsay and will meet with him the next. Lindsay is becoming more involved with the Bombay mafia.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

Johnny Cigar wakes Lindsay in the middle of the night to tend to a man injured in a gang fight. The man, Ameer, has a severe cut on his arm and needs a doctor but refuses to go to the hospital because of the police. Lindsay finally stitches the wound. Before he can clean up and go back to sleep, Prabu arrives and tells him that his friend is in jail. They rush to the police station where the two bear handlers sent by Abdullah were being held. Lindsay pays the fine for the release of them and the bear.

The next morning, after having breakfast with Qasim Ali, he went by Karla's house and found she wasn't home. He wants to retrieve the clothes he left there the day before but goes on to his meeting with Khadar. Lindsay tells Khadar he will help him in anyway he can to find Sapna, but he will not work with the police. Khadar tells him not to talk to anyone but him about Sapna. The favor he wants is for Lindsay to teach English to a boy named Tariq. Tariq is Khadar's nephew and he wants him to live in the slums with Lindsay for ten or twelve weeks. They agree on a forty-eight hour trial period. Lindsay leaves with Tariq.

They go to Karla's house. Karla isn't home and Tariq falls asleep from drinking too much. He looks through Karla's belongings and journal while he is waiting. Finally, he finds his clothes and changes into them, collects Tariq, and they walk back to the slum. As he leads Tariq through the latrine area, he remembers how sickened he felt when he first arrived. As they are approaching the slum, they are trapped by a pack of wild dogs. Lindsay grabs some bamboo to use as a weapon and has Tariq climb on his back where he stays as Lindsay fights off the dogs. He stumbles and falls and Tariq hits an attacking dog with a block of wood. Lindsay watches him fight to defend them and suddenly loves the boy. As they continue to fight the dogs, Abdullah appears and help them. He had been waiting for Lindsay. They spend the night sleeping in Lindsay's hut.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

The favor that Khadar wants is for Lindsay to teach his nephew Tariq, English and foreign customs. He wants the boy to live with Lindsay in the slums for ten or twelve weeks. Lindsay is afraid of accepting the responsibility for the child. He agrees to a forty-eight hour trial period, and as he leaves with the child, he is mad at himself for agreeing so easily. He didn't want to perform the favor that Khadar had requested, but he agreed.

Lindsay doesn't hesitate to look through Karla's journal, after Tariq and Lisa fall asleep. He claims that he loves her, but he is curious about her and her business. His nosiness shows that he doesn't have much respect for her privacy.

Lindsay's feelings for Tariq soften when he watches him fight the dogs. He feels some guilt at the way he treated the boy as he watches him sleep.



Chapters 17-18

Chapters 17-18 Summary

Lindsay is sitting on the veranda at the house of Abdul Khadar, waiting to see him. He is talking with Abdul Ghani who is talking about loving Khadar. Lindsay has had Tariq with him for three months now. He would still have the boy if Khadar hadn't sent for him.

Walking back to his home, he stops to administer first aid at the site of an accident. An unruly mob forms as he remembers from his first few days in Bombay with Prabu. He escaped in a car with two Nigerians, who introduce themselves as Hassaan Obikwa and Raheem. Hassaan says he owes Lindsay his life and that he will see that the people involved in the accident are compensated. When Lindsay gets out of the car, Hassaan tells him where he can find him if he needs anything.

Lindsay returns home to find Didier waiting for him. They discuss their friends, while they drink tea. Lindsay asks if Didier knows who Hassaan Obikwa is and finds he is known as the Body Snatcher in the African ghetto. Didier wants him to be careful because Hassaan is considered to be a dangerous man.

After talking with Didier, Lindsay sits and thinks. He thinks about Karla and his lover for her and the fact that she doesn't want his love. He thinks of Abdul Khadar and the filial love he has for him. He knows that his life is tied to Khadar's, but he isn't sure how.

Cholera breaks out in the slum and spreads quickly. This is confirmed by Dr. Hamid and members of the health department. The hospitals are too overcrowded to be of much help in the epidemic. They will send whatever help they can, but basically Lindsay and the slum dwellers have to deal with the situation. A meeting is held at Qasim Ali's home and they formulate their plan for dealing with the cholera. They all begin their tasks, when Karla appears. She says she came to help. They begin to visit the sick and this takes twenty hours. They work for forty hours before sleeping. When they finally rested, she tells him her life story. She tells him the background of her friends at Leopold's and answers some questions about what happened at Madame Zhou's. Karla falls asleep before Lindsay can tell his story.

Chapters 17-18 Analysis

Tariq lived with Lindsay for three months. He had come to love the child during that time and wondered why he was so hesitant to take the boy when first requested to do so by Khadar. Lindsay knows he will miss the boy now that he has returned him to his uncle, who sent for him. Lindsay is a little upset at having the child taken from him, even though he doesn't admit it. Tariq had become a favorite with many people during his stay with Lindsay.



Lindsay, after talking to Didier, thinks of his love for Karla and the fact that she makes it clear that she doesn't love him and doesn't want him to love her. She never really did anything to encourage his love. or him it was love at first sight, when she pulled him from the path of an oncoming bus. He hasn't been with any women since he arrived in India and he decides that he will wait for her. He isn't interested in other women.

When the cholera epidemic begins, Lindsay's neighbor, Radha, was the first to die. Lindsay feels guilty that he wasn't there to help her. He had been busy with his drug business and other activities. By the time he found out about Radha, it was too late.

To Lindsay's surprise, Karla appears to help him minister to the sick slum dwellers. He warns her of the dangers but she says that she also feels the need to do something for salvation. She also tells him that she cares about him. He is happy that she is there and learns more about her and her background. Lindsay knows that he loves Karla and he is now starting to like her.



Chapters 19-21

Chapters 19-21 Summary

After the cholera epidemic ended, life returned to normal in the slum. Karla had stayed for six days helping tend to the sick. Lindsay is low on money and returns to his black market commission work. He learns that Karla is stranded by the floodwater and finds a friend with a boat and goes to rescue her.

Lindsay uses Anand's India Guest Hotel for business purposes and to shower. He wants to take a long hot shower to forget the cholera but finds a very nervous Anand. One of the visitors was not breathing due to a drug overdose. Lindsay revives him. As he leaves the hotel, Ulla, one of Karla's friends, calls him to a taxi and says she needs help. She wants him to go to Leopold's with her after the closing at midnight. He agrees to help her because she is a friend of Karla's. After leaving Ulla, he goes to Karla's where they finally have a physical relationship. From Karla's, he goes to Leopold's but is picked up by the police on the way. He is beaten and thrown into a cell where he remains for three weeks. He is rough enough to survive and befriends a man named Mahesh. Lindsay learns that the guards have told everyone not to help him. They are transferred to the Arthur Road Prison.

Life in prison is harsh since the prison is managed by convict overseers, who regularly beat the prisoners. Lindsay recognizes Raheem, the driver for Hassaan Obikwa as one of the prisoners. He is being tortured by the overseers who broke his arms. Raheem had struck one of them. Mahesh helps Lindsay adjust to prison life.

After two weeks, Mahesh introduces him to two men who will soon be released. Lindsay gives them the name of Abdel Khadar and his address along with a note that they will deliver to him. Later that day, the two men are viciously beaten and their sentences extended for six months. It is announced that anyone who tries to help Lindsay will meet the same fate.

One day, Lindsay is hit by an overseer and attacks and beats the man. When they corner Lindsay, they severely beat him. Lindsay is brought to one of the senior prison officials and is ordered to be held in chains. The beatings stopped but he grew very weak from lack of food.

One day he is brought to a room to meet with the prison officials. Vikram Patel is there. He received a message from a friend. The prison officials want ten thousand US dollars for his release. The fingerprints revealed that he had escaped from an Australian prison. Vikram returns with the money, plus an additional four thousand dollars for the release of Raheem and Mahesh. The money came from Khadar.



Chapters 19-21 Analysis

Lindsay, who met Mr. Anand when he first came to Bombay, uses the India Guest House on and off to shower and for business purposes. He still doesn't have a tourist visa but Mr. Anand allows him to rent a room on an hourly basis without having to register. This way, Lindsay avoids problems with the police.

Lindsay agrees to help Ulla because she is a friend of Karla's. He doesn't tell anyone where he is going that night, and when he is arrested, no one knows it. He is held for three weeks at the Colaba Police Station and then transferred to the Arthur Street Prison. No charges are filed and he learns from a man he befriends, Mahesh, that people have been told not to help him. He doesn't know what he has done and has no way of sending a message to his friends.

Abdul Khadar Khan finds out about Lindsay and sends Vikram to secure his release. He also secures the release of Mahesh and Raheem. Vikram tells Lindsay that Khadar found out that someone very powerful had arranged for Lindsay's arrest, but doesn't say who. He tells Lindsay that he will now be safe with Khadar and the Bombay mafia behind him.



Chapters 22-23

Chapters 22-23 Summary

Lindsay now works for Khadar. Khadar sent him to various places, like Palestine, to learn the various black market businesses. Khaled Ansari is in charge of Khadar's black market currency operations. He explains the function of black markets and currency markets to Lindsay. Khaled is a good teacher who is thorough and very knowledgeable. Lindsay works with Khaled after learning the market. He earns a good income and is living at the India Guest House and eventually rents an apartment in Colaba.

Lindsay wants to find out who set him up. Both Ulla and Karla are gone and nobody knows where. Vikram tells him what happened when the fingerprint check revealed Lindsay had escaped from an Australian prison. The police learned about his work at the slums and decided not to notify Australia but to see how much money they could get for him. As they talk, they learn of the assassination of Indira Gandhi, as Didier joins them, and the consequences for the country. Lindsay won't leave Bombay because he is protected by Khadar. Later that evening, he and Khaled discuss the assassination and what effect it will have on their business.

Khadar and Lindsay spend a great deal of time talking, and learning from each other. Khadar now has Lindsay learning the gold smuggling operation from Madjid Rhustem. The next week Lindsay will begin to learn the passport business with Abdul Ghani.

Ulla appears in a taxi and asks Lindsay for help. She says she knows where Karla is. He goes with her.

Chapters 22-23 Analysis

Lindsay feels that he became a criminal when he went to work for Abdul Khadar Kahn. He feels that a smarter man might have just left Bombay after being released from prison but Lindsay wanted revenge. He wanted to know who set him up. The easiest way to carry out that revenge was as a member of the Bombay mafia, which he became when he went to work for Khadar.

After being released from prison, Lindsay had to heal, both physically and mentally. He could not go back to living in the slums, even though he had been happy there. He still felt too much guilt over the death of his neighbor during the cholera epidemic. Khadar paid Lindsay's living expenses at the India Guest House. He visits his friends in the slum, and helps out at the clinic, but he doesn't live there. When he disappeared, they thought he returned home to his own country, and this hurt him that they would think that he just left them.

Lindsay is loyal to his friends. As soon as he had enough money, he bought a taxi license for Prabu. He still loves Karla and keeps looking for her. One day Ulla appears and says she knows where Karla is. He doesn't hesitate to go with her.



Chapters 24-26

Chapters 24-26 Summary

Lindsay helps Ulla retrieve her belongings and gives her some money. She is in trouble over a business deal that's gone bad, but he doesn't ask for details. She says Karla is in Goa, so he is traveling there. He travels to Mapusa, rents a motorcycle, and drives around looking for Karla. He finds her on the beach that night. They spend a week traveling around Goa. She wants him to stay in Goa and he wants her to return to Bombay with him.

Lindsay returns to Bombay and his work with Abdul Ghani. He learns that Madjid was killed the previous night and the name Sapna was written in blood on the walls of his house. After discussing the situation, Ghani begins to teach Lindsay the passport business. Ghani directs a tour of the passport factory, showing Lindsay all of the experience equipment and introducing him to the staff.

Ulla had been staying at Abdullah's, and Lindsay helps her and Lisa find an apartment. Lindsay continues his body-building exercises so he is fit. He grew closer to Abdullah and his friends, who he worked out with. He is so busy with the passport business that he stops working at the clinic. He learns that Johnny Cigar and Prabu are both preparing to be married to two sisters.

Arriving at Leopold's, Lindsay finds a very upset Didier, requiring his assistance in some matter. He tells Lindsay that the woman who set him up is a foreigner who lives in Bombay. They go to the train station and meet Vikram and Lettie. On board the train, Vikram proposes to Lettie and she accepts.

A week later, Lindsay is told that three African men are looking for him and want to kill him. He sends Prabu to find whatever information he can about the situation. Abdullah assigns some men to protect Lindsay and Didier gives him his gun. They find, from Hassan Obikwa, that the men are from out of town. The three men are located and Lindsay and others are smuggled into the adjoining hotel room, where they listen to the men talk of their plans to kill Lindsay. They beat and question the men and find the hit was ordered by Maurizio Belcane. They will deal with Maurizio and the three Africans are never to return to India, or they will kill them.

When talking to Didier, he mentions that Karla has departed from Goa and Didier tells him not to worry about Karla. She is well protected. Lindsay doesn't ask what Didier means.

The trouble at the slum between Anand Rao and Rasheed led to the murder of Rasheed. Lindsay tells the story to a newspaper reporter named Kavita. He wants her to write a big story.



Chapters 24-26 Analysis

Lindsay learns from Ulla that Karla is in Goa so he travels there and finds her. Despite the fact that he loves her, he can't remain in Goa with her and she refuses to go to Bombay with him, but won't tell him why. She says she knew he would find her in Goa, but she won't be there if he returns to look for her.

Lindsay questions both women about the night he was arrested and is satisfied with their answers. He knows he was set up and Didier told him it was by a woman. He is still looking for that woman. Didier provides further information that the woman is a foreigner who lives in Bombay.

The trouble that Ulla is in involves Lindsay. Maurizio had stolen money from an African drug organization and had given them Ulla's and Lindsay's names. Didier, Vulkram, Lindsay, Abdullah and the others learn this when three foreign Africans appear in Bombay, looking for Lindsay. They have been ordered to kill him, but they are stopped by Lindsay and the others. Lindsay severely beats, but doesn't kill Maruizio, even though he feels that he should have.

Lindsay learns from Didier that Karla has left Goa. He doesn't know where she is but Didier tells him that Karla is well protected and not to worry about her. Lindsay does not ask Didier what he means by the comment. What is Karla involved in and who is protecting her?

The trouble in the slum led to the murder of Rasheed. Anand Rao, who thought his wife and sister-in-law were dead because of Rasheed's having them each sell a kidney, had killed Rasheed. Lindsay was told of the trouble that was brewing when he visited the slum but he was too busy to give the situation any time. Now he feels guilty, and wants to help Anand Roa. He gives the details to a newspaper reporter friend of his, Kavita, and wants her to write a big story, so the authorities won't be harsh on Anand Rao.



Chapters 27-29

Chapters 27-29 Summary

Ghani's passport business was thorough and lucrative. The passports were subjected to different levels of security checks to make sure they weren't flagged anywhere. Their clients were economic refugees, political refugees and criminals. Lindsay created identities for himself with American, Canadian, Dutch, German and British passports and kept them up to date. He is also actively involved in double-shuffle operations. After three months, Ghani began to use him as an international courier.

Lindsay visits the slum and finds Johnny Cigar and Prabu busy with plans for their weddings. After leaving the slum, he visits Lisa at the movie sight. He is helping her cast foreigners for the film. He agrees to appear as an extra in the movie. Afterward, he drives Lisa home. Two hours later she calls him and says Abdullah is missing and she has killed Maurizio. Lindsay rushes over to Lisa's apartment and finds that it is Ulla who stabbed Maruizio. He phones Abdullah who arrives with Hassaan. They find that Maurizio was looking for the money from the drug deal and had injured Modena. Hassaan removes the body for which he receives ten thousand dollars of the stolen money. Modena, taken to a hospital, and check out and disappeared.

There was a new group now at Leopold's, centered around Didier. Karla is no longer there. Lindsay walks around the city at night thinking. He reads Kavita Singh's article the next morning. Lindsay visits Anand in the Arthur Road Prison and shows him the article and explains how they are trying to help him. He is amazed to find that Anand doesn't want any help. He wants to serve his punishment and tells Lindsay to never come to see him again.

Lindsay attends the wedding celebration for Prabu and Johnny Cigar. He paid for the dancers. Kishan and Rukhmabai came from Sunder for the wedding and will remain in Bombay for a month. For wedding gifts, he gave Johnny Cigar five thousand dollars to buy the house he wanted and to Prabu he gave the deed to his taxi, which Lindsay had purchased.

As he drives Vikram and Lettie to the airport for their trip to London, Vikram gives Lindsay a card with Karla's address in Goa. Several weeks later, he learns that Abdullah is on a police hit list. They think that he is Sapna. He learns this from Kavita. He later learns from Didier that Abdullah is dead. The body is at the Crawford Market police station so Lindsay went there, and was dragged out of a near-riotous crowd by Khaled who tells him they have people out learning the details of what happened.

Back at Leopold's, he learns that Prabu was in an accident and in the hospital where they think he will die. He rushes to the hospital to be with Prabu and his parents. Prabu dies four days later.



Chapters 27-29 Analysis

Even though Lindsay is a wanted man, he begins work as an international courier. He thrives on the danger and the excitement of the work. While he is encompassed in fear and danger during a mission, he enjoys the feeling of calm and peace when the mission ends.

Lindsay never learned the full story of Maurizio's dealings with the drug dealers and wishes he had. Maurizio had been following Ulla, looking for Modena and the money. He follows her to Modena's and tortures him for information. When he leaves, a terrified Ulla, leaves Modena tied to the bed, injured and bleeding and walks out. Lindsay is haunted by the image after hearing the story, wondering what Modena must have been thinking and feeling when Ulla walked out and left him there.

Lindsay suffers two heavy blows as he loses two close friends within days. He is tipped off by Kavita that the police think that Abdullah is the Sapno killer and have him on a hit list. Abdullah is killed before Lindsay can find him. Khaled tells him they will find out all of the details. As soon as Lindsay arrives back at Leopold's, he learns that Prabu has been in an auto accident and is dying at the hospital. He dies four days later. Lindsay is angry at both deaths, especially the death of Abdullah.



Chapters 30 - 32

Chapters 30 - 32 Summary

Abdullah's body is never found so there is no funeral for him, but Lindsay does attend Prabu's funeral. He finds that Khader's house is closed and that he is gone. Abdul Ghani is also out of town. Khaled is also left for Pakistan. All members of the mafia council were gone as was the second level of command but all of the workers, like Lindsay, continued to perform their duties.

Lindsay prepays three months rent on his apartment, leaves his valuables with Didier, and goes to an opium den. He injects himself with heroin. In three months, Nazeer, Khader's servant, finds him. He carries him to a taxi where Karla was waiting. They take him to a house and Karla says she has to leave Bombay for six to eight weeks to work. When Khader arrives, Khader tells him that he found the real Sapna and had him killed. Khader tells him that he must spend the next several months recovering before he leaves on a mission for Khader. He will learn how to ride a horse and then he goes on a mission to Kandahar, Afghanistan with Khader's men. It is Khader's home country and they will smuggle weapons and other items to the mujaheddin to fight the Russians.

Nazeer nurses Lindsay through the cold turkey and then begins to teach him to ride, since it is the only way to reach Kandahar. Lindsay works his way back to health. Karla returns before they leave for Afghanistan. Nazeer sits on the beach for several hours, giving them time alone.

They begin their journey to Afghanistan traveling under a cloak of secrecy. In Karachi, they all stay in separate places. Karachi was a dangerous but interesting city with a thriving black market due to the war in Afghanistan.

After walking around the bars and restaurants, he meets Khaled who says they go to the border the next day. They drive to a mosque to meet Khader. Khaled finds out that the ISI intelligence police were at the hotel looking for them. Nazeer, tipped off by the hotel manager, grabbed Lindsay's bag with the tickets, before the police arrived.

The group travels to Quetta, on the border, and spends a month there, in 1085. Lindsay used the time to practice Farsi, Urdu and Pashto. He and others were confined to a safehouse horse ranch. One of the men kept him supplied with library books. He spends some time talking with Khader and learns more of his background. Khader tells him how he went to Bombay and how he became involved with the Bombay mafia. He gives Lindsay the gift of a Russian pistol and tells him to openly wear it at all times. They leave for Afghanistan the next morning.



Chapters 30 - 32 Analysis

After Abdullah's death, the top two levels of council in the Bombay mafia all leave the city. Lindsay wasn't notified in any ways and feels more or less deserted and inconsequential. He has lost his two best friends in a few days time and he secretly blames Khader for not protecting Abdullah. Lindsay doesn't believe that Abdullah was Sapna but he now feels the Khader has some connection to the killings. Much of this is due to his anger at Khader for not protecting Abdullah and for leaving the city.

The strain and the losses were too much for Lindsay. He spends the next three months hiding in an opium den, drowning out his pain and thoughts with heroin. He is found by Nazeer and Karla. After he completes his recovery, Karla returns to the house to see him before he leaves for Afghanistan. He says he loves her. She says she doesn't and can't love him.

In Karachi with Khader and his men, Lindsay remembers the note he was given by Didier. Didier says Lindsay was set up by Madame Zhou. Lindsay vows to kill her when he returns to Bombay.

Lindsay thinks about why he is going to Afghanistan with Khader. It isn't his way. Still, he loves Khader like a father and is doing it for him, even though there is danger involved and he could be killed. When Khader gives Lindsay a Russian gun and shows him how to clean and care for it. Lindsay feels very happy and close to the man.



Chapters 33-35

Chapters 33-35 Summary

They rode by horse into Afghanistan. The group rode over the mountains. They traveled at night in blackout conditions so they wouldn't be seen from the air. The group is led by Habib, a local guide. Wherever they met any local clans, they said they were traveling with American protection, which was Lindsay's role. They'd examine his American passport and welcome Khader's group. The locals would then help supply the group, thinking they were sent by the Americans.

The group arrives in a village where a wedding is soon to take place. Khader explains the Afghan customs to Lindsay. When crossing the Shahbab Pass, they are attacked and Lindsay's horse is injured. Habib puts the horse out of her misery. Lindsay helps administer first aid to the injured with Khaled's assistance. As soon as they finish, the group began to move again, taking the dead and wounded with them. They finally reach the camp of the mujaheddin fighters.

They remain in the camp for two months. After two days of rest, they assembled the equipment and helped repair weapons which would be sent to different parts of Afghanistan. When the repair work was completed, they moved toward Kandahar to deliver the horses to Khader's family. Lindsay spends time talking to Khader and finds that he has known Karla for many years and that she works for Abdul Ghani. Khader thought that Lindsay knew this. Lindsay also learns that Karla basically recruited him for the Bombay mafia. That is one of her jobs. Lindsay also learns that the medicines he received from the lepers were being tested on the slum dwellers to see if they were safe before Khader brought them to Afghanistan. He asks about Sapna and finds that Khader used the fight against Sapna as a way of obtaining weapons for the cause. Lindsay also finds that Khader knew he was in prison the first week but did nothing to secure his release. Khader was using a Pakistani client of Madame Zhou's for information. Lindsay says he is leaving Khader and will find his own way back to Bombay. When Khader leaves, Lindsay remains with Khaled.

A few days later at the camp, there is a signal that men are approaching the camp. It is Nazeer and he is dragging the body of Khader. They take them inside and soon the camp is attacked. Most of their equipment and supplies are destroyed. Nazeer attends to Khader's burial.

Their camp is attacked by a Russian helicopter. The men fire at it, and it leaves. They have to leave the camp since the Russians are sure to return. The Russians are looking for them. They hid for four weeks.



Chapters 33-35 Analysis

Khader has the journey well planned. The Americans are helping the Afghanis fight the Russians. Khader's group easily moves through the area by presenting Lindsay as an American. The local clans welcome them and give them supplies. They can't carry much food because of the munitions and goods they carry. So Lindsay was strategic to Khader's plan. This caused some problems for them because all of the clans wanted Stinger missiles from the Americans.

When they arrive at the camp of the mujaheddin, Lindsay helps repair weapons which are then sent to different parts of Afghanistan. He helps do all kinds of work at the camp, basically out of his love for Khader. In one of his talks with Khader, the man asks Lindsay if his father is still alive. Lindsay says he doesn't know and that Khader is more of a father to him than his own was. This angers Khader who tells him to never again say such a thing.

Lindsay is stunned to learn that Karla works for Abdul Ghani and recruited him for the Bombay mafia. Khader reminds him of Lindsay taking Karla to see the Standing Babas. Abdullah was there as her bodyguard. Lindsay feels angry and somewhat betrayed by Karla. Lindsay is devastated to learn that Khader knew he was in prison and left him there because he was using a Pakistani client of Madame Zhou's for information. Khader also tested the medicines from the lepers on the slum dwellers to make sure they were safe for use in Afghanistan. Lindsay feels used by Khader and says he will not return with him. He is leaving Khader and will find his own way back to Bombay. He is angry with himself for having trusted and loved Khader, but he can't hate Khader.

Lindsay is upset by Khader's death. He doesn't know that Khader's last order was to name a man that Nazeer was to kill.



Chapters 36-39

Chapters 36-39 Summary

The nine survivors at the camp discussed their options, as they ran out of food. They sent a scout to find the enemy positions but he never returned. Another man, Juma, volunteered to search for the first, and the leader, Suleiman allows him to go. At midnight Habib appears and tells them the only way out is to the southeast. They decide they will eat the last of the goat meat and stage their breakout attack the next morning.

Lindsay talks to Khaled who tells him that Khader never meant to hurt him. He went about it the wrong way. Lindsay also learns that Khaled had lived with Karla. Their relationship ended when Lindsay appeared. After their discussion, Khaled kills Habib. He then empties all of his pockets and walks out of the camp, reciting the Koran as he disappears.

The next morning, the six men depart on Suleiman's command. They are soon attacked and Lindsay is injured. He is dragged to safety by the injured Nazeer. They eventually reach Pakistan, having been rescued by some Afghanis. It turns out that they had been attacked by friendly Afghanis who thought they were the enemy. In the tent in Pakistan, Lindsay learns the details of how they arrived in Pakistan. For the next six weeks they were moved around to different places to avoid detection by the Pakistani government.

Nazeer is anxious to return to Bombay and is waiting for Lindsay to recover. The two day trip is made by train. They return to Bombay after an eight month absence. Lindsay goes to Khaled's office to obtain some money. He doesn't tell them about Khader's death. He buys clothes and goes to Leopold's and is greeted by Didier and Kavita. Lindsay tells Didier of the death of Khader. He goes to Didier's apartment and retrieves his belongings. Didier tells him that Madame Zhou was attacked and her Palace mobbed. She is without any power now.

They go to see Abdul Ghani and Lindsay tells him that Khader is dead. He then goes to the basement where the passport shop is now located, and updates his. Lindsay and Didier then go to the Palace to see Madame Zhou. While he is staring at the woman, Lindsay is attacked by Rajan. He stabs him and is attacked by another. Rajan is a twin. Didier arrives and shoots one of the twins. They don't kill any of them.

Later they meet Vikram who says Karla has a new boyfriend named Ranjit, a fact Didier omitted to tell Lindsay. Mahmoud arrives at Leopold's with a message from Nazeer. There is a war on within the Bombay mafia for control. Lindsay is told to stay away from the businesses, Ghani is dead. He was the traitor. They will meet again in three days.

Ghani was behind the Sapna killings. Lindsay learns this from Nazeer and the others after the two week war ended. Lindsay takes over the passport business. To his



surprise, Abdullah Taheri appears. He had been shot but not killed and was taken to Thana and Delhi to recover.

Chapters 36-39 Analysis

Lindsay says that he didn't grieve or mourn for Khader even as much as he loved the man. In actuality, Lindsay didn't really have a chance. He was stuck in a mujaheddin camp in the middle of the cold Afghan winter with the camp surrounded by the enemy. The men were freezing and starving and trying to survive. Perhaps Lindsay would have mourned Khader's death if he had been in more normal circumstances. He himself would have been dead if he had left with Lindsay.

Although Lindsay isn't a Muslim, he observes their customs. He has lived with them so closely for several months that he observes their customs and rules and won't do anything to offend them.

Both Nazeer and Lindsey return to Bombay with a mission. Lindsay wants to kill Madame Zhou for having him held in the Arthur Street Prison. Nazeer has a mission to kill a man who was named by Khader before he died. Neither knows of the plans of the other.

Didier tells Lindsay that Madame Zhou's establishment had been attacked by a mob and that she was now a powerless beggar, but Lindsay still wants to kill her. He goes to the Palace and he and Didier fight off the two eunuchs and injure them. Lindsay tells Didier not to kill any of them. He realizes that Madame Zhou is ruined and killing her would accomplish nothing. His hatred of Madame Zhou was tangled up with the guilt he felt over Khader's death. Killing her wouldn't make him feel better.

Nazeer carries out Khader's orders and kills Abdul Ghani. Ghani was originally from Pakistan and had betrayed them. When Abdullah reappears Lindsay learns that Ghani worked with both the Iranian and Pakistani secret police through the Sapna organization. Abdullah is tracking them and killing them.



Chapters 40-42

Chapters 40-42 Summary

Two years after Kahder's death, Nazeer is grooming Tariq for a position of leadership in the Bombay mafia. Their new don is Salman Mustaan and he adheres to Khader's rules regarding heroin and pornography. Rival gangs came to power in these areas.

Abdullah takes Lindsay to a meal with his friends and points out Modena on the street. Lindsay follows him and finally catches him. Modena is grossly disfigured from the attack by Maruizio. The two men talk and Lindsay finds that he has been watching him and the others. He is looking for Ulla. He knows she went to Germany but feels she will return because she loves him.

Lindsay is now accepted by the council of the Bombay mafia, as evidenced by the invitation to the wedding of the daughter of Rajubhai, the accountant. He did his job well and his passport business was very lucrative. After his conversation with Rajubhai, he meets Didier for lunch and finds he just missed Karla. The movie people are there with Vikram and Lettie. Lindsay now has the mafia involved and it is a lucrative arrangement for all of them. Lindsay is introduced to Ranjit. He finds that he doesn't dislike Ranjit and isn't jealous of him. Johnny Cigar arrives and he and Lindsay go to visit friends in the slum.

Tension arises between the gangs in Bombay and the Sapna survivors are planning an attack. Sulman decides to attack first. Lindsay says he is going with them. Salman is killed in the attack and Sanjay becomes the head of the council.

Abdullah and Nazeer ask Lindsay to go to Sri Lanka with him. Many Muslims are caught between the Tamil Tigers and the Army. Lindsay agrees.

Lindsay goes to meet Karla at her request. He finds that Ulla wants a passport for Modena which he says he can take care of. Karla asks if he will go with her to find Khaled. They talk and he learns that she gave Ghani the idea for the Sapna organization, but not the killing part. She knew that Khader knew he was in prison but didn't do anything until he had what he wanted from Madame Zhou. Karla says she was mad at Khader and quit and went to Goa.

Lindsay meets Mukesh who tells him that he and others are meeting with Sapna and that it was Sapna who killed Abdul Ghani. At the slum, he finds that Prabu's parents are in town and that the deceased Prabu has a son. He stays the night in the slum with them realizing that no matter what happens, life goes on.



Chapters 40-42 Analysis

Lindsay is changed by the experience in Afghanistan. He followed orders and remained loyal to the Khader faction and was given charge of the passport business after Ghani's death. He learns more about what was involved with Pakistani and Iranian intelligence when Abdullah re-appears. Lindsay is successful in his work and makes many lucrative business deals for the Bombay mafia. He is accepted as one of them even though he is a gora.

Lindsay knows that Karla has a new boyfriend and is back in Bombay. He isn't in love with her anymore and he is prepared to dislike Ranjity Choudry when he meets him. When he talk with Karla, he discovers that she and Ranjit lead separate lives and in spite of that, she will probably marry him. Then she asks him to go with her to look for Khaled, but finds he has already agreed to go to Sri Lanka with Nazeer and Abdullah.

In a chance encounter, Lindsay meets Muhesh, whom he was in prison with. Muhesh says he is going to a meeting with Sapna, the man who killed Abdul Ghanai. He briefly questions the man, but not in detail.

At the slum, Lindsay is happy to see the dead Prabu's parents and to learn that Prabu has a son. He meets the child and stays with Prabu's family.



Characters

Lindsay (Narrator)

Lindsay is the name on the passport of the narrator, who escaped from a maximum security prison in Australia, where he was serving twenty years for armed robbery. He has used many names, and his Indian guide gives him the name of Lin or Linbaba. Lindsay is thirty years old at the time of his arrival in Bombay. He is a writer and has been married. When they divorced, he lost custody of his daughter and plunged into a world of crime and drugs. He escapes from prison, and after two years of hiding, arrives in Bombay.

Lindsay learns the Indian way by traveling and learning the gestures and actions that are a part of everyday life. In his six months stay in Sunder with Prabu's family, he is basically an adopted son and given the name of Shantaram Kishan Kharre. He knows he begins to change on this trip and call it a change into a better man.

Lindsay moves into a Bombay slum and sets up a medical clinic for the slum dwellers. He becomes known to the Bombay mafia lord who owns the slum. When he is set up and arrested, it is Khader of the Bombay mafia who arranges his release. He wants revenge against the person who set him up and goes to work for Khader in Goa, but she won't return to Bombay with him.

Lindsay goes on a mission to Afghanistan with Khader and his men. He learns some things he doesn't want to know and breaks with Khader, then feels guilty over Khader's death. Back in Bombay, he remains with the mafia and advances through the ranks. He helps the council kill the Sapna members and then learns that Sapna is still alive. When he returns to the slum, he finds his dead friend Prabu's parents, there and learns that Prabu has a son.

Lindsay is changed by his experience in Afghanistan. He rises in the Bombay mafia and runs many lucrative businesses for them. He is over Karla. He is happiest with Prabu's family, perhaps because they are the only ones who didn't try to use him.

Karla Saaranen

Karla is a Swiss woman who meets Lindsay on his first day in Bombay when she pulled him from the path of a bus. Karla is described as a Bombay business woman who everyone knows. She has been in Bombay for five years, having met her boss on a flight from Zurich. He convinced her to work for him. She is originally from Basel, but was raised in the United States after the death of her parents.

Karla visits Lindsay in the slum when she needs a favor. When he tells her that he loves her, she says no, that she can't handle love. She comes to help him minister to the slum dwellers during the cholera epidemic and it is then that she tells him her story. Her



parents had been artists and she had been very happy as a child. Her father was killed in a snow storm and her mother committed suicide one year later. She then went to live in San Francisco with relatives. She was raped when she was fifteen and ran away. Then she met the man on the place and came to Bombay, where she remained.

AT the end of the monsoon, when they finally have a physical relationship, he quickly leaves her to help her friend Ulla. He is arrested and spends several months in prison. Karla is gone when he is released. She has gone to Goa and when Lindsay finds her, won't return to Bombvay with him.

Karla works for Abdul Ghani but never tells this to Lindsay, who finds out from Khader. She has a new boyfriend, Ranjit, when Lindsay returns from Afghanistan.

Prabaker Kharre

Prabaker Kharre, known as Prabu, works as a guide in Bombay. He meets Lindsay when Lindsay gets off the bus. Lindsay likes him and hires him and he shows Lindsay around the area on his first day in Bombay. He introduces Lin to his friends and to different Indian customs and even takes him to the northern part of the state to meet his family.

Prabu is from the village of Sunder in the Northern part of Maharashtra State. His parents and two sisters live in Sunder, where Lindsay visits. He was sent to Bombay at the age of nine to work as an apprentice to his uncle, a cab driver. Prabu lives in the same slum where Lindsay moves to and they remain friends. Prabu obtains his own tax license when Lindsay is out of jail and has enough money for the license and Praby soon leases his own taxi.

Prabu marries Parvati, a woman from the slum. He receives the deed to his taxi from Lindsay as a wedding gift. He soon is in an auto accident and dies four days later. His wife gives birth to his son.

Abdel Khader Khan

Abdel Khader Khan is a high ranking lord of the Bombay mafia. He is called Khaderbhai by the people. He comes to accept Lindsay and draws him into some of his business affairs. He entrusts his eleven year old nephew, Tariq, to Lindsay. When Lindsay is held in prison, Khader finds out and pays for his release.

Khader brings Lindsay into the Bombay mafia and has his people teach him the different aspects. He rescues Lindsay from an opium den after Abdullah's death. Khader has to return to Afghanistan, his place of birth, and wants Lindsay with him and his men.

Khader left Kandahar at the age of ten to study in Quetta. At fifteen, he killed a man and returned to Kandahar. He killed the men who followed him which began a feud. Khader



eventually left in order to stop the fighting. Khader is killed when traveling to Kandahar. Before he died he gave Nazeer the name of a man that he wanted killed.

Khaled Ansari

Khaled Ansari lives in Palestine. He is a member of the Bombay mafia and is instructed to teach Lindsay the black market money trade. Khaled is thirty-four and his entire family had been killed in the Palestinian struggle for independence. He had belonged to the Fatah, and when released, went to Bombay and worked for Khaer. Khaled was in charge of Khafer's black market currency operation and a member of the council. He also makes the trip to Afghanistan with Khader. He kills Habib and walks out of the camp reciting the Koran.

Modena

Modena is a friend of Karla's who Lindsay meets at Leopold's. He has business dealing with Ulla and Maurizio. Modena is in love with Ulla. Modena has the money that Maurizio stole from the Africal drug dealer and is severely injured by Maurizio when he is looking for the money. He appears years later, grossly disfigured, still waiting for Ulla to return to him. She eventually tries to help him secure a passport so he can travel to Europe.

Abdullah Taheri

Abdullah is an associate of Abdel Khader Khan, a high ranking lord of the Bombay mafia. Abdullah met Lindsay at the den of the Standing Babas and introduces him to Khan. They become good friends and help one another out. The police suspect him of being Sapna and have him on a hit list. He is killed by the police or so the story went. He was severely injured and taken to Delhi to recover in hiding. He reappears to Lindsay and tells him he is hunting the members of Sapna and intends to marry Lisa.

Rukhmabai Kharre

Rukhmabai is the wife of Kishan and the mother of Prabu. She is forty years of age when Lindsay first meets her and was married to Kishan at the age of sixteen in an arranged marriage. Being able to read and write, she handles the family finances and their family's wealth is attributed to her good business sense.

Ulla Volkenberg

Ulla is a friend of Karla's who first meets Lindsay at Leopold's. It is Ulla who Lindsay was trying to meet when he was arrested. She comes to Lindsay again for help and he is working for Khader and tells him that Karla is in Goa. She kills Maurizio by stabbing



him when he attacks Lisa. She leaves for Germany and years later wants a passport for Modena so he can join her in Europe.

Nazeer

Nazeer is an aide and servant to Khader, having come from the same Afghan village. He finds Lindsay at the opium den, brings him to the house, and nurses him through the cold turkey of heroin withdrawal. When Khader is killed in Afghanistan, Nazeer tends to his burial. Before dying, Khader gives him the name of a man that he wants killed. Nazeer follows through and upon his return to Bombay, kills Abdul Ghani, who betrayed them to the Pakistan government. He grooms Tariq for a position in the mafia and recruits Lindsay to join him and Abdullah on a mission to Sri Lanka.

Tariq

Tariq is the eleven year old nephew of Bombay mafia lord Abdul Khader. Khader sends Tariq to live with Lindsay for ten to twelve weeks so he can learn English. After Khader's death, Nazeer grooms him for a position in the Bombay mafia.

Kishan Mango Kharre

Kishan is the father of Prabu. He is a farmer in the village of Sunder and has a wife and two daughters. He and his family are well off compared to the other villagers. Kishan and his wife are in Bombay when Prabu dies. He accepts Lindsay as his son.

Maurizio

Maruizio spends time at Leopold's which is how he meets Lindsay. He has business dealings with Modena and Ulla. He implicates Ulla and Lindsay in his dealings with an African drug group and they send a hit team against Lindsay. Maurizio is killed by Ulla when he attacks Lisa.

Madame Zhou

Madame Zhou runs the Palace. She is a powerful woman in Bombay and hated being deceived by Lindsay in releasing Lisa. She arranges for his arrest and period in the Arthur Street Prison. Lindsay plans to kill her but when he returns and finds she has been ruined by a mob attack, he decides not to kill her.



Lisa Carter

Lisa Carter is a native Californian who worked at Madame Zhou's Palace as a prostitute. Lindsay helped Karla secure Lisa's release. Lisa becomes a business partner of Lindsay's, supplying foreign extras for work on movies.

Didier Levy

Didier Levy is a Frenchman, both in Marsailles, who lives in Bombay. He frequently visits Leopold's Beer Bar and becomes a friend of Lindsay's. His father had been a teacher and a fighter in the resistance.

Vikram Patel

Vikram Patel is a friend of Karla's from Leopold's. Vikram raises the money for the release of Lindsay, Muhesh and Raheem from the Arthur Street Prison. Vikram marries Lettie, a friend from Leopold's.

Mr. Anand

Mr. Anand is the manager of the India Guest House that Prabu takes Lindsay to. They become friends and Anand often allows Lindsay to rent a room on an hourly basis without registering.

Johnny Cigar

Johnny Cigar is a leader in the slum of Cuffe Parade and provides Lindsay with a house to live in. He remains friends with Lindsay and eventually marries Sita. Johnny is thirty-eight years old at the time.

Abdul Ghani

Abdul Ghani is a member of the Bombay mafia and in charge of the passport business. He is originally from Pakistan and betrays Khader and his group to Pakistani intelligence. He is killed by Nazeer.

Qasim Ali Hussein

Qasim Ali Hussein is the head of the Cuffe Parade slum. He is the authority figure in the slum and the people look to him for leadership. He has three wives: Fatimah, Shaila and Najimah and ten children.



Rajan

Rajan is an eunuch servant who works for Madame Zhou. There are actually two of them that are twins. They are injured by Didier and Lindsay, but not killed.

Suleiman

Suleiman is the leader of the mujaheddin camp in Afghanistan.

Raju

Raju is an associate of Johnny Cigar and one of the leaders in the Cuffe Parade slum.



Objects/Places

Bombay

Bombay is a city in India where Roberts goes after escaping from prison.

Leopold's Beer Bar

Leopold's is a bar in Bombay that is the center for many criminals to meet.

Sunder

Sunder is a village in the northern part of Maharashtra State where Prabu is from.

Cuffe Parade

Cuffe Parade is the slum area of Bombay that Lindsay moves into.

Mohammed Ali Road

The home of Abdel Khader is located on Mohammed Ali Road. Lindsay visits there many time.

Colaba

Colaba is an area of Bombay where Leopold's is located. Lindsay is held for three weeks in the Colaba jail. He eventually rents an apartment in the area.

Arthur Road Prison

The Arthur Road Prison is a big prison in Bombay where Lindsay is transferred to.

Palestine

Palestine, in the Middle East, is where Khadar sends Lindsay to learn the black market money trade.



Goa

Goa is a state on the Indian coast.

Kinshasa

Kinshasa is a city in Zaire where Lindsay travels several times on business for the Bombay mafia.

Mauritius

Mauritius is an island-nation off the coast of Africa where Lindsay travels on business for the Bombay mafia.

Singapore

Singapore is a nation where Lindsay makes contact for the money changing business.

Pakistan

Pakistan is a country that borders on India and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a country bordering Pakistan and Russia that is engaged in a war with Russia.



Themes

Relationship with Karla

Lindsay steps off a curb in Bombay and into the path of an oncoming bus. He is pulled out of its path by a beautiful woman. She says her name is Karla and he can find her at a bar called Leopold's. For Lindsay, it is love at first sight, and so begins Lindsay's strange relationship with Karla. He wants to be around her and impress her. One of the few times he does impress her is when he takes her to the den of the Standing Babas.

Lindsay is always available to help Karla and her friends. He helps Karla in securing Lisa's release from Madame Zhou's which earns him the wrath of Madame Zhou. On the night that Lindsay and Karla finally have a physical relationship, he has to run off to help one of her friends. He is arrested and held in prison for several months. When he is released Karla is gone from Bombay. He is told that she is on the beach in Goa and he travels there to find her. They spend a week together and then he leaves. Lindsay won't stay there with her and she won't return to Bombay with Him. Even though he tells her the he loves her, she tells him no. She doesn't love him or want him to love her.

In Afghanistan Lindsay learns things from Khader that changes his feelings towards Karla. He was used by her and Khader. When he returns to Bombay, he is over his love for Karla. She remains a friend and business associate, but he is no longer in love with her. He is not even jealous of her new boyfriend, Ranjit.

Cultural Differences

Cultural differences are another theme that recur throughout the book. Lindsay is from a Western culture having been born and raised in Australia. When he arrives in India, he is in a different culture, and he takes the time to learn the little things that result in him being accepted.

The cultural differences are most obvious when Prabu takes Lindsay to Sunder to visit his parents. Lindsay gives up his seat on the train to an old man who was standing. He couldn't in good conscience, sit while the old man was standing. There was also the problems of bathing in rural India where people are never naked, even when they bathe. He had to learn how to bathe wearing the shorts that Indian men wear.

There were further cultural differences evident with the Muslim world in Afghanistan. Lindsay learned and respected their customs. He prayed when they did, even though he had no religious beliefs. When they were starving at the camp in Afghanistan, he wouldn't eat the goat meat until the men had the permission of the leader.

Lindsay has a basic respect for all human beings and this is why he abides by their customs and takes the time to learn them, like the Indian head wiggle and the different languages.



Determination

The third underlying theme can be referred to as determination or the drive for survival. Lindsay is an escaped convict. He survived years in a maximum security prison learning how to handle himself and deal with the different people and the different situations. Lindsay is in good physical shape and can handle himself well. The same is true in the Indian prison. He quickly learned who uses who and how things worked with the help of Muhest. Lindsay knew what the repercussions would be for his actions before he acted, and he made his own choices and accepted the consequences, just as Anand Rao did when he killed Rasheed.

Lindsay was determined to survive when he was in Adghanistan. He did what he could to help the others and he survives because of the help of Nazeer. When he returned to Bombay, he stayed out of the gang war. Lindsay makes sure he has the proper phony passports so he isn't arrested. He is a wanted man throughout the book and has to escape detection by the authorities. He does what he has to in order to survive, which is how he got into the drug commission business.



Style

Point of View

The book is written from the first person point of view and told from Lindsay's perspective. He describes all of the settings, people and all of the action that takes place in the novel. Robert's love of India is evident in the attitude of his main character, Lindsay, and in many of the other characters.

Usually the use of the first person is limiting to the reader who is only knowledgeable about events that occur in the presence of the story teller. This is true of Shantaram also, but there is so much detail, dialogue and background information throughout the book that the reader isn't in any way deprived by the use of the first person. The reader doesn't miss much of anything with Robert's style of writing. The author has a positive attitude toward India and so do his characters.

Setting

The book has various settings but most of the action of the novel takes place in and around Bombay, India. The action begins with Lindsay's arrival in Bombay. He enters the country on a phony passport, meets two Canadians on the bus, and shares a room with them at the India Guest House. He travels around the city seeing the sites with his guide Prabu. Much of the action takes place at Leopold's Beer Bar, since it is the meeting place for many of the main characters.

The rural village of Sunder, in the northern part of Maharashtra, is the home of Prabu's family. He and Lindsay travel there by train and bus. The village consists of mud huts and Lindsay remains there for several months.

Lindsay also lives at the slum of Cuffe Parade for awhile when he has visa problems. He operates a medical clinic in his home there providing services for the residents. Even after he stops living in the slums, he still returns there to visit.

There are also many scenes at Khader's home on Mohammed Ali Road. Khader holds many meetings and discussions there which Lindsay attends as well as the activities at the home of Abdul Ghani. Other settings in Bombay include the prison at the Colaba Police Station and the Arthur Road Prison where Lindsay is held. There are also several scenes at Madame Zhou's Palace, as well as other places in Bombay.

The state of Goa is also a setting. Karla goes there when she leaves Bombay and Lindsay follows.

There are also settings in different countries. When Lindsay goes to work for Khader, he is sent to Zaire, Mauritius and Singapore as a courier. He then agrees to help Khader



take weapons and other items to the mujaheddin in Afghanistan so they travel to Pakistan and then to Adghanistan.

Language and Meaning

Roberts writes an interesting nine hundred thirty three page novel. For the most part it is a quick and easy reading. Roberts has a good command of language and the reader may want to have a dictionary available. There are some words that the reader may want to look up, but the reader will not miss any of the meaning if he/she choses not to.

There are foreign language terms and sentences throughout the novel. In most, but not all cases, those terms are explained by the author, especially if they are common terms used in daily speech. The reader does not lose any of the meaning of the novel where foreign language sentences are not translated.

For the most part, the novel is written in understandable language. There are different sections of discussion on science, religion and philosophy where the reader may want to slow down and think about what Roberts is saying. However, the reader can avoid these issues and just read the novel for the story if he/she chooses.

Structure

The novel consists of forty two chapters divided into five parts. There are no titles for the parts or the chapters and the division into parts could have been omitted without affecting the flow of the novel.

The book is well-written and flows smoothly. For the most part, it is written in chronological order, although there are some flashbacks to Lindsay's time spent in prison, or to the important parts of other character's lives.

There is no Index, but there is no need for the reader to look up characters or places or to backtrack for any reason. Roberts writes in such a way that avoids confusion for the reader who always knows who the relevant people are and what the important places are.

The structure chosen is ideally suited for the book.



Quotes

Through the sleepy night, and into the rose-petal dawn, the train rattled on. I watched and listened, literally rubbing shoulders with the people of the interior towns and villages. And I learned more, during those fourteen constricted and largely silent hours in the crowded economy-class section, communicating without language, than I could've learned in a month of traveling first class. (Chapter 5, pg. 106)

But I couldn't respond. My culture had taught me all the wrong things well. So I lay completely still, and gave no reaction at all. But the soul has no culture. The soul has no nations. The soul has no colour or accent or way of life. The soul is forever. The soul is one. And when the heart has its moment of truth and sorrow, the soul can't be stilled. (Chapter 5, pg. 124)

Some of my friends from the slum worried about me walking alone on the streets at night. Don't walk at night, they said. The night is no safety in Bombay. But it wasn't the city that I feared. I felt safe on the streets. Strange and troubled as my life was, the city enfolded it within the millions of others as if...as if it belonged there, no less than any other. (Chapter 9, pg. 181)

One week became three weeks, and one month became five. From time to time, as I worked the streets of Colaba with my tourist clients, I ran into Didier, or Vikram, or some of the others from Leopold's. Sometimes I say Karla, but I never spoke to her. I didn't want to meet her eyes while I was poor, and living in the slum. Poverty and pride are devoted blood brothers until one, always and inevitably, kills the other. (Chapter 12, pg. 230)

People always hurt us with their trust, Karla said to me once. The surest way to hurt someone you like, is to put all your trust in him. (Chapter 15, pg. 306)

"You know, Lin," he said softly, "we have a saying, in the Pashto language, and the meaning of it is that you are not a man until you give your love, truly and freely, to a child. And you are not a good man until you earn the love, truly and freely, of a child in return." (Chapter 17, pg. 353)

I struggled to swallow it down and then I knew; I remembered. It was the taste of hatred - my devils learn to prey. Every time we turn the key we twist the knife of fate, because every time we cage a man we close him in with hate. (Chapter 19, pg. 404)

Working for Abdel Khader Khan was my first real instruction in organised crime - until then I'd been nor more than a desperate man, doing stupid, cowardly things to feed a stupid, cowardly heroin habit, and then a desperate exile earning small commissions on random deals. Although they were crimes that I'd committed, and some of them were very serious, I was never really a criminal until I accepted Khaderbhai as my teacher. I'd been a man who committed crimes, up to then rather than a criminal, and there's a difference between the two. The difference, as with most things in life, lay in the motive



and the means. Being tortured in Arthur Road Prison had given me the motive to cross the line. Another man, a smarter man than I was, might've run away from Bombay as soon as he was freed from the prison. I didn't. I couldn't. I wanted to know who'd put me in there, and why. I wanted revenge. The safest and fastest way to that vengeance was to join Khaderbhai's branch of the mafia. (Chapter 22, pg. 443)

I pressed my hands to my face, and ran them through my hair. The street around us was as busy and colourful as ever. The crowd at Leopold's were laughing, talking, and drinking, as they usually did. But something had changed in the world that Johnny and I knew. The innocence was lost, and nothing would ever be the same. I heard the words tumbling over and over in my mind. Nothing is ever gonna be the same...Nothing is ever gonna be the same... (Chapter 25, pg. 540)

More than that, there was the danger. For some people, danger is a kind of drug or even an aphrodisiac. For me, living as a fugitive, living every day and night of my life with the fear of being killed or captured, danger was something else. Danger was one of the lances I used to kill the dragon of stress. It helped me to sleep. When I went to dangerous places and I did dangerous things, a rush of new and different fear swept over me. That new fear covered the dread that too often worried me awake. When the job was done, and the new fear subsided and passed away, I drowned in an exhausted peace. (Chapter 27, pg. 571)

But in the clear thought of Abdullah Taheri and the piercing pain of missing him, I suddenly understood a part of the reason I was there, with Khaled and the others, on a journey into someone else's war. One part, a vital part of my readiness to face the risks of taking on Khader's mission, was the guilt I still felt that Abdullah had died alone, surrounded by guns. I was putting myself in the nearest equivalent, surrounding myself with enemy guns. And in the instant of thinking that thought, in the moment of daubing the unspoken words on a gray wall of my mind - death wish - I rejected it, with a shudder that shivered across the surface of my skin. And for the first time in all the months since I'd agreed to do the job for Abdel Khader Khan I felt afraid, and I knew that my life, there and then, was no more than a handful of sand squeezed into my clenched fist. (Chapter 31, pgs. 669-670)

"Remember," Khader said insistently, resting his hand on my forearm to emphasize his words. "Sometimes it is necessary to do the wrong thing for the right reasons. The important thing is to be sure that our reasons are right, and that we admit the wrong - that we do not lie to ourselves, and convince ourselves that what we do is right." (Chapter 33, pg. 709)

And I knew, as well, that the revenge I'd fed myself with and planned through the weeks of my recuperation in Pakistan was not merely hers, not only hers. I was striking out at myself, and at a guilt I could only face in that moment of shame as I looked at her. It was the guilt I could only face in that moment of shame as I looked at her. It was the guilt I felt for Khader's death. I was his American - his guarantee against the warlords and pirates. If I'd been with him, as I was supposed to be, when he'd tried to take the horses to his village, the enemy might not have fired on him. (Chapter 38, pg. 809)



For this is what we do. Put one foot forward and then the other. Lift our eyes to the snarl and smile of the world once more. Think. Act. Feel. Add our little consequence to the tides of good and evil that flood and drain the world. Drag our shadowed crosses into the hope of another night. Push our brave hearts into the promise of a new day. With love: the passionate search for a truth other than our own. With longing: the pure, ineffable yearning to be saved. For so long as fate keeps waiting, we live on. God help us. God forgive us. We live one. (Chapter 42, pg. 933)



Topics for Discussion

Why does Lindsay go to Bombay?

What are Lindsay's first impressions of Bombay?

Lindsay spends six months in Sunder with Prabu and his family. What changes take place in Lindsay during that time and why?

How does Lindsay become involved in a) the drug business, and b) the Bombay mafia?

Why does Lindsay remain in Bombay after being released from prison? Who is he looking for and why?

What is the double-shuffle and how does it work?

How did the struggle between Khader and Abdul Ghani manifest itself?