

Silent Prey Study Guide

Silent Prey by John Sandford

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



Contents

Silent Prey Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.....	4
Chapter 3.....	6
Chapter 4 and Chapter 5.....	8
Chapter 6 and Chapter 7.....	10
Chapter 8.....	12
Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11.....	14
Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14.....	16
Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Chapter 17.....	18
Chapter 18, Chapter 19, Chapter 20, and Chapter 21.....	20
Chapter 22, Chapter 23, and Chapter 24.....	22
Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27.....	24
Chapter 28 and Chapter 29.....	26
Chapter 30 and Chapter 31.....	28
Chapter 32.....	29
Characters.....	30
Objects/Places.....	34
Themes.....	36
Style.....	38
Quotes.....	40
Topics for Discussion.....	42



Plot Summary

Silent Prey follows the escape of Dr. Michael Bekker, a psychopath on trial for multiple first-degree murders, and Lucas Davenport, the retired cop who caught him the first time. Bekker escapes the courthouse where his trial is being held and disappears into the underbelly of New York City. Lucas Davenport is called in by his old flame, New Yorker Lily Rothenburg, to take pressure off the NYPD Bekker case and also to track down a rogue police force, nicknamed the Robin Hoods. Robin Hood is suspected of taking justice into his own hands and killing off criminals that slip through the justice system, but the rogue group has killed off a fellow cop, Walter Perry, who was hot on their trail. Bekker holes up in SoHo as an old lady's caretaker, and gets his drugs illegally from Whitechurch, a dealer at Bellevue hospital. He is searching for the moment between life and death where a person's essence leaves their body, and he hopes to capture the moment on film. He becomes more and more dependent upon the drugs, and narrowly escapes capture by the police.

Meanwhile, Davenport has been sent back to Minneapolis to interview Bekker's cellmates and also to secretly follow a lead for the Robin Hood case in Charleston. After interviewing Burrell Thomas, he realizes that Bekker is masquerading as a woman, and that is how he is able to get so close to his victims. After Charleston, he is able to narrow down the Robin Hood suspects to two: Kennett and O'Dell. After the announcement that Bekker is dressing as a woman, Bekker shaves his head and his persona as Beauty is gone. Davenport and Fell track him down to the Lacey building, and Fell shoots him just as he is about to shoot Davenport. Davenport must wrap up business with Fell and O'Dell about the case, and he is seen off to his plane by Lily. They still take comfort in one another after all they have been through, and Davenport realizes there is no fantasy land where he can escape from all his responsibilities. He has effectively solved both of his cases and may go home to Minneapolis, hopefully more at peace.



Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter one begins with Dr. Michael Bekker daydreaming at his trial. He hates his defense attorney and thinks the whole trial is a circus and does not believe he is being judged by a trial of his peers. His hair is cut short but he has grown a bushy blond beard to cover his facial scars. The trial was twenty-one days long, and all that time Bekker had been languishing in jail with his "medicine." Bekker knows he will be found guilty but has a plan for escape, and he focuses on his plans as the jury files out of the room. He has gym shorts under his suit, a razor taped beneath his testicles, a Sox baseball cap under his belt, and white socks and tennis shoes.

Raymond Shaltie, a sheriff's deputy, comes to take him to his holding cell. Though Bekker had been drifting in his own thoughts, Shaltie grabs him just above the elbow and the pain brings him back to the present. Shaltie takes Bekker to the men's restroom out of pity, under the false impression that Bekker has hemorrhoids. Bekker made a point throughout the trial to always use the restroom at noon, and Shaltie had gotten into the habit of uncuffing Bekker so he could wipe himself. Bekker's leg chains are still attached, so Shaltie does not think there is any real chance of escape. Once in the stall, Bekker uses the razor to hack off as much of his beard as possible and his mind drifts to Lucas Davenport, who ruined his formerly beautiful face. He detaches the steel toilet paper roll and uses it to overpower the much older Ray Shaltie, brutally beating him. He unlocks his leg chains with the keys. He finishes shaving his face with soap and water, drags Shaltie into the bathroom stall, and throws his expensive suit in the trash. This leaves him in gym shorts, a tank top, a cap, and running shoes: hopefully, he can pass for a lawyer out on a jogging break. He takes Shaltie's money and escapes down the stairs of the building, hoping Davenport has not come to see the verdict, and jogs away from the building with no one the wiser.

Chapter two introduces Lucas Davenport, recklessly driving his Porsche through his Minnesota town. The evening before he had left town in search of a bookstore, but ended up in a bar hoping for a fight. After swerving past a family in a van at a stoplight he had forgotten, he slows, wishing his lake house sanctuary gave him more peace of mind. He is pulled over going sixty in a fifty-five, but knows the cop who has stopped him: Kelly Larsen, who informs Davenport that Bekker has escaped and has begun killing again. Davenport immediately calls Harmon Anderson of the Minneapolis Police Department, who informs him Sloan and Del have been sent to his house just in case Bekker shows up. Del and Sloan fill Davenport in on the situation, explaining how Bekker escaped. Though they doubt Bekker would come all the way out to Wisconsin after Davenport, he takes no chances and cleans a Colt Gold Cup .45. Two days later, Bekker tracks down a former friend of his wife's, Katherine McCain. He murders her and slashes her eyes so her ghost couldn't follow him. Bekker misses the hunt and the pressure of his job, and waits for Bekker to surface again.



Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Analysis

In chapter one it is immediately obvious that Dr. Michael Bekker is a psychopath. He floats in and out of reality, having difficulty concentrating even on his escape plan. He is extremely intelligent, but addicted to various drugs he refers to as his "medicine." He has meticulously planned his escape, even gaining some measure of trust with poor Ray Shaltie. Bekker plays on his sympathies and succeeds in the first phase of his escape plan, but almost succumbs to the frenzy and adrenaline of his attack. He constantly has to rein himself in: if he cannot concentrate on this escape, he will go back to jail and be forever without his medicine and unable to continue his research. Bekker feels that he is above his peers of the jury and believes his pseudoscientific "research" is truly valuable work. He hates and fears Lucas Davenport, the cop who beat the scars into his face. Bekker also seems to have a preoccupation with beauty and aesthetics: he mentions how, before Davenport, he had a beautiful face, and is self-conscious about the scars now marring his visage. He is a brutal man with no regard for human life except in the ending of it.

Davenport, speeding in his Porsche down the highway, is presented as restless in chapter two. Though his lake house had been a sanctuary for him when he was a cop, he now feels empty, his life like his refrigerator. He is a man who thrived on the pressure of being a cop and enjoys "the hunt", as he puts it. Davenport is bored with his successful business and vacation lifestyle. He is shot through with adrenaline upon the discovery that Bekker has escaped, and immediately calls his old boss at the Minneapolis Police Department. They think Bekker may come after Davenport, but after two days he still hasn't been seen and Davenport's police buddies seem to forget about him. He feels a certain ownership of Bekker and knows how the psychopath thinks. In these first two chapters antagonist and protagonist are juxtaposed, as the chase begins again for each of them: Bekker killing in the name of his research, and Davenport biding his time, waiting for Bekker to slip up.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Chapter three begins with Bekker watching the life drain from his victim Louis Cortese. His months in jail have changed him for the worse, and he imagines his brain like a gum ball machine: he never knows what color he will get, but he can watch the exploit as if on a huge screen, like he was actually back in a moment of his past. Bekker watches Cortese die, fascinated with the moment between life and death. He wonders where Cortese's consciousness will go, if anywhere at all. Bekker's eyebrow begins to spasm at all the possibilities, and he must restrain it with a hand. Cortese is hooked up to an EKG machine, and Bekker can barely contain his excitement as he watches the blood pressure drop. He feels Cortese's "essence" being to leave his body, and takes photos trying to capture it. His goal is to measure the last moment between life and death. He is afraid of the dead man's eyes, and must slash them so he will not be haunted by any ghosts. The experience overwhelms him, and he retreats into another memory.

Meanwhile, two assassins known as Thick and Thin are moving to stake out a target. Thin is wavering, unsure of their assignment, but Thick is angry and resentful of the man who is threatening them with computers. Thick is older than Thin by twenty-three years and two days. The two are holed up in an apartment across from the restaurant, aiming out a window with a specially altered AR-15 rifle. Thin is conflicted about killing the man because he is a cop, but Thick seems convinced if they do not kill him, a lot of good people will go to jail.

Bekker goes about the cleanup of his experiment by routine, reliving the moments in his mind. He pops some pills, thinking about the stainless steel countertop he had purchased in Queens. His subjects are restrained to the table with a rubber cone preventing breathing from the mouth, and their eyelids are removed. His monitors came from Whitechurch, a dealer at Bellevue. He comes back to reality with a sigh, startled that he has lost some time in his musings. His equipment is better this time around, his Sony recorders far superior to what he'd had at the University of Minnesota.

He goes away again and comes back, feeling the need for more medication. He is living in Mrs. Edith Lacey's basement and acting as a live-in caretaker, bringing her illegal drugs to help with her arthritis. He had convinced her to move her money into different accounts when he first began working for her, and had obtained her ATM cards and codes, extracting \$500 a day. Bekker rolls Cortese's body in a paint drop cloth, gives Mrs. Lacey her pill, and takes his Volkswagen Bug out to dump Cortese's body. Thick and Thin's target finally emerges, and they shoot him and try to escape quickly. Bekker catches them in the headlights of his Bug, though the body is seated next to him in the car. He knows the sound of the gunshots from being in Vietnam. In his panic to escape he catches Thick and Thin's faces clearly, then speeds away to dump the body. He stashes the car back at the Lacey building and begins cleaning the examination table. He becomes lost in Cortese's disembodied eyelids.



Chapter 3 Analysis

Chapter three is the first time the reader sees Bekker in his element, performing his experiments. He imagines his brain like a gumball machine: as a gumball drops he goes away, retreating into his vivid memories. He never knows which memory will overtake him, but he is completely engulfed in the images. He sees his research as legitimate, and is truly interested in the soul's departure from the body. Though very analytical and scientific in some ways, he also has an irrational side: he slashes his victim's eyes because he is afraid they will haunt him. He thinks of eyes as the windows to the soul. Some of his psychoses may stem from his time in Vietnam, where he endured physical and mental trauma. He panics when he hears the gunshots from Thick and Thin, and speeds away as soon as he can.

Thick and Thin seem to be rogue police officers, assassinating a man who is going to bring some grand plot to light that would incriminate a lot of "good guys." Thick is obviously more seasoned than Thin. Thick is the actual shooter, and Thin is trying to stop him up to the very moment the gun goes off. Thus a subplot emerges: rogue police officers who, for some reason, are assassinating one of their own.



Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Summary

In chapter four, while tiling his roof, Davenport receives a visit from Lily Rothenburg. The two are attracted to one another and have a history. Lily inquires about Lucas's daughter Sarah and former wife Jen, and he reveals they are over and she is remarrying. They small talk for a while, and finally Lily admits she wants him to come to New York. They need someone who knows how to handle the media, and it will look good for the department to have the cop who caught Bekker the last time.

Also, Lily needs Lucas to investigate thirteen murders, one of which was Walter Perry, who was investigating the possibility of a rogue group within the police department. Most of the murders were scum who had evaded punishment and had died in a manner one who expect considering their lifestyles. Walter Perry was a computer specialist and had noticed a pattern to the killings. He went to interview a witness, Cornell Reed, but Reed disappeared and Perry was killed that very evening. Davenport is being brought into the case officially to catch Bekker, but Lily plans to put him close to some people Walt was looking at in hopes that he can shed light on the Robin Hoods.

Walt was one of Lily's oldest friends, and she has a recurring dreams that is haunting her: they had grown up together in Brooklyn, and she is tortured by the thought that she could have saved him. She has an ex-husband and children, but rarely sees them. She is currently dating a cop, Dick Kennett, a smoker who recently had a third heart attack. They care about each other, but his heart attack severely limits his ability to be physical with Lily, who is a very physical person. Lucas and Lily's attraction is undeniable, and they sleep together, not out of tenderness but out of physical need. Lucas later discovers Dick Kennett is running the Bekker case.

In chapter five, Davenport arrives in New York. He meets Kennett, who he immediately likes. Kennett is wearing a Gaugin necktie, and resents how careful he must be because of his heart. They go to a conference room where Davenport meets Barb Fell and a half dozen other cops. Diaz shares that a taxi cab went missing around the time Bekker arrived in the city. Davenport does not think the Laski scam will work: Laski is a Colombian pathologist who has agreed to condemn Bekker's work in the Times, but Bekker will see him as an equal, not a subject. Davenports suggest they get someone to lecture on the experiments of Dr. Menegle, a Nazi. He thinks Bekker will not be able to resist a comparison of his work to Menegle's. O'Dell, the deputy commissioner, enters into the conversation. Bekker does not have a specific pattern other than his victims are all small and healthy. Davenport thinks Bekker is holed up somewhere with a protector. Kennett does not like O'Dell: though O'Dell is overweight and seemingly slow, he is actually continually weaving a web, maneuvering, and manipulating. Lily likes him and trusts him, though Kennett cannot understand why.



Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 Analysis

Chapter four introduces Lily and Lucas's relationship. She wants him to investigate Bekker, but really needs him to find the Robin Hood within the department. Lily and Lucas have a past, and are each hurting: Lucas is lonely and feeling unfulfilled, and Lily has found someone but cannot fully enjoy the relationship. They are each damaged by the same things: their lives as police officers and their personal relationships. It is not necessarily love between them, but an understand and a passion. Lily tells Lucas how close she was to Walt, and Lucas knows the Robin Hood case is very personal to her. This subplot examines ethics just as Bekker's story line does. If the rogue police officers are making the streets safe, albeit by illegal means, should they be stopped? Perhaps they would have been left alone had they not killed Walt Perry.

Davenport and Kennett meet in chapter five, and they are surprisingly similar. Davenport likes Kennett, and is slightly uncomfortable that he slept with Lily. Kennett's condition chafes at him because he is a man of action. His whole life he's pushed himself: he is a smoker, a drinker, and a tough cop not afraid of a fight. Now, after the heart attack, he cannot even open doors himself. He resents getting older, and advises Davenport to die before he could have heart problems. Davenport sees some of himself in Kennett. Davenport has been thrown into the department and must learn everything, from names to politics, and at the same time let no one suspect he is on the search for Robin Hood. He knows to play to Bekker's intellectual side, and baits him with the alluring possibility that his work could be legitimized in the eyes of the public. Davenport knows Bekker well.



Chapter 6 and Chapter 7

Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 Summary

In chapter six, Davenport and Fell go looking for "fences," or dealers. They know Bekker's measurements in his experiments must be taken with medical equipment and they search out Lonnie, who deals in surplus equipment, among other things. Lonnie claims to have gotten his syringes from a mystery man in Atlantic City, so they continue to look for Bekker's equipment source. They question Jackie Smith, who has lots of connections in reselling stolen merchandise, though on paper his business is legitimate. Fell has tailed Jackie before, and questions Davenport about his relationship with Lily. Jackie's warehouse is huge, with lots of mismatched furniture, stereos, and household appliances. Though initially he is unwilling to cooperate, Davenport intimidates by recounting how he beat Bekker up the first time. After leaving the warehouse, Fell and Davenport go to a bar near her apartment on the Upper West Side. While Fell is distracted by a former acquaintance, Davenport stealthily makes a mold of her apartment keys to use in his investigation of the Robin Hood case.

In chapter seven, Lily has Fell's keys copied, so Davenport can examine Fell's apartment for any clues. She and O'Dell pick Davenport up the next morning, with Aaron Copland driving the car. They have breakfast and O'Dell asks if Davenport thinks Fell is part of the Robin Hood circuit, but Davenport does not think she is. They had run the murders against the police officers who originally brought the criminals in, and Fell's name came up multiple times. Though they are acting illegally, many people are glad the Robin Hoods are taking criminals off the streets that somehow slip through the justice system. The whole matter has been expedited because of a letter Bekker sent to the New York Times, claiming to have witnessed Perry's murder and gotten a detailed glance at the two shooters, whom he describes as Thick and Thin. Bekker offers to identify the killers, and O'Dell thinks this will incite them to try and kill Bekker, which will drive home Robin Hood's point: that some people need to be killed, to be taken out of society, by any means necessary. They think Bekker will lead them to the Robin Hoods, but that requires Bekker to be on the street a little longer, which risks innocent lives. After breakfast, Davenport takes the key copies to Fell's apartment while she waits for her lunch date in midtown. There are various matchbooks from different bars, pictures of her family, and letters from an old boyfriend named Jack, also a cop. He takes pictures of her personal phone book and leaves, then meets her at the office.

According to where he had dumped the bodies, Bekker was living somewhere in SoHo. They put out alerts to taxi drivers, hotels, flophouses, and theatrical makeup suppliers, but are still trying to figure out how Bekker gets close enough to his victims to gas them. Fell accuses Davenport of being with Internal Affairs, which he vehemently denies, citing an earlier falling out he had with internal affairs. They later talk about their personal lives, and Fell admits she is ready to get married and have a family, though she does not want a cop or a crook. They get word that Bellevue hospital lost monitoring equipment in one of their repair shops that matches Bekker's equipment.



They begin to run background checks on Bellevue employees and contact Jackie Smith again to get the names of people who purchase out of Bellevue: Rose Arnold and Thomas Leese. Afterward, Davenport goes to Lily's apartment to share information gathered from Fell's apartment. Davenport works until 2am, but is jumped by two men as he exits Lily's. Lily saves him with her Colt .45.

Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 Analysis

In chapter six, Davenport begins to case Fell: his primary goal is to find Robin Hood and she seems to be a candidate. When they question Jackie Smith, she admits she would like to bring charges against him, but has not been able to catch him in any illegal dealings yet. When Davenport begins destroying everything in Smith's warehouse, he does it to both intimidate Smith and impress Fell. If he is going to get information out of her, she needs to respect him and even be impressed by him. He can tell she is attracted to him, and she inquires about his past with Lily. He answers honestly and is able to glean more information out of her by sharing that one tidbit.

Chapter seven again examines one of the main issues explored in the novel: do the ends justify the means? Though Robin Hood is murdering these criminals, is it worth condoning the murder to have one more bad egg off the streets? The idea of Robin Hood or some masked vigilante is appealing to society, and many people applaud this group taking matters into their own hands. To catch Robin Hood, the police need to use Bekker as bait, which requires him to be at large a little longer. This is another Catch-22: Bekker, a psychopathic murderer, must be allowed to kill more innocent people so the police can bring some of their own to justice. Davenport has been dropped right into the whole mess and must balance these very large "rights" and "wrongs" in a way that satisfies him personally and will also make headway in each case. The people who jump him are probably part of the Robin Hood group, and they intend to make an example of him to others who might try and hunt them down.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

In chapter eight, the story shifts back to Bekker, who has frozen in place staring at a book he took from the Medicine/Anthropology section: *Final Cuts, Torture Through the Ages*. The clerk checks on him because he has been frozen for so long, and Bekker realizes he is trying to pick him up. He reflects on how the Minneapolis cops took Beauty from him and gave him his telltale scars. After leaving the bookstore, Bekker sees himself and Davenport on the cover of a newspaper, and is lost in his anger at the interview he reads. He has purchased the book because of a photograph taken in the 1880s of a Chinese man condemned to the death of a thousand cuts. Bekker sees radiance in the dying man's face, which is exactly what he searches for in his own work. He pops some pills and calls Whitechuch to purchase more. He gets cash out of his stash and brings two morphine pills to Mrs. Lacey, though Bridget Land confronts him about the pills' legality. A thought strikes him: perhaps ultraviolet light brings out the shift he is looking for in his dying subjects, and old cameras could catch it because of their wide-spectrum film.

Bekker meets Whitechurch near Bellevue and picks up drugs from him: coke, crosses, angels. He cannot resist a sample as he heads for home, and the drugs take him over. He has been using a stun gun on his victims and then gassing them, mostly attacking women, and especially around Bellevue and in parking garages. He heads to a parking garage in Chinatown, snorts some coke, then waits by the stairwell for someone to come. His mind flashes back to the actress he killed with a hammer in Minneapolis, and he retreats into the memory, returning with a sigh. He follows a woman into the elevator, but she realizes she is in danger and runs from him. He panics and throws her over the median, and she falls six stories to her death. He drives out of the parking garage with no problem and goes home to work on his paper, taking comfort in his mobile of spiders. He begins to panic when he realizes he did not slash the woman's eyes, and screams into a sheet.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Chapter eight is the first time the reader goes on the hunt with Bekker. After finding out Davenport is looking for him, Bekker experiences a twinge of fear, but also rage because of the damage to his formerly beautiful face. Outward appearance is very important to him, and he takes note of the clerk's attraction to him, appreciating it though not necessarily wanting it. He still must play the old women in his favor because he needs the safety of his shelter. Though Bridget Land does not trust him, Mrs. Lacey's morphine pills are very important to her and she will keep her friend in check. When Bekker has his "breakthrough" about the ultraviolet light, the reader sees the justifications his drug-addicted minds makes: he deserves to take his pills because he has made a breakthrough. He deserves to take a specimen as well. Fueled by drugs, he



behaves recklessly by attacking the woman in the parking garage, though she does not seem to realize the danger until it is too late. Though a hardened killer, Bekker is still unable to deal with his victim's unslashed eyes and is convinced she is coming to haunt him. This realization plunges him from sleepy contentment straight to blood-curdling terror.



Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11

Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11 Summary

Chapter nine opens with Lily and Copland trying to figure out who attacked Davenport. They are convinced Fell has something to do with it, though they cannot find the evidence they need. Davenport was not seriously hurt in the attack, but Lily is worried about his safety regardless. She is torn between Davenport and Kennett, and feels as if she is betraying them both.

In chapter ten, Davenport must deal with the aftermath of the mugging, and the fact that both his attackers were cops. He wants to check Perry's apartment and the place where Perry was shot. Lily reminds Davenport about Kennett, despite their past that everything should be completely professional between them. Kennett and Fell make fun of Davenport's beat-up face, joking that was a great way to get ladies, though Kennett is suspicious of Davenport's intentions toward Lily. Davenport catches a tender moment between Lily and Kennett, and Fell sees his discomfort.

Fell and Davenport visit Rose Arnold, who recently moved some paper out of Bellevue, and she gives them the name of her contact, Lewis Whitechurch. Davenport convinces her to help them by using his personal grief for the woman Bekker killed the first time. They interview Whitechurch, who claims to know nothing about supplies going missing. They decide to let him stew about the interview in hopes of stirring up more information.

Chapter eleven opens with Davenport stewing in his own juices about Bekker: where he is staying, how he is getting money, and what he is using for transportation. He wonders why Lily looked out the window in time to chase off his attackers, and worries that everyone around him may be involved in the Robin Hood group. Lily and Davenport talk about trying to push Bekker out in the open: he needs drugs, money, and shelter, and if they can deprive him of any of these he will be much easier to find. Davenport asks Lily if she thinks Kennett could be Robin Hood: he has the connections, the charisma, and the organizational skills. Lily does not want to believe Kennett could be Robin Hood, and equally does not want to believe it could be O'Dell.

They are preparing to interview Bobby Rich, a Lieutenant with information on Robin Hood. He got information that a kid named Cornell Reed had seen Fred Waites murdered, and it was by two cops. Cornell had been in college but addicted to crack, and finally got out of town. Rich has been looking for him ever since but with no luck. Then Lily and Davenport visit the sight of Perry's shooting, marking where the gunman should have been. The interview Marcy Logan, one of Perry's neighbors, who claims she heard mysterious male footsteps the night Perry was murdered. Later, Davenport calls Harmon Anderson to search for outgoing flight from New York under the name Cornell Reed. Davenport thinks Reed was flying on a non-refundable ticket, perhaps issued by the government or a police department.



Chapter 9, Chapter 10, and Chapter 11 Analysis

Chapter nine is very short, but gives good insight on Lily's conflict: her significant other, Kennett, may or may not be involved in the Robin Hood group. Also, he does not know she and Davenport have a past, and she feels guilty about withholding the information. She and Davenport seem to fit better than she and Kennett, but she is very much caught between the two of them both emotionally and professionally.

In chapter ten, Davenport knows he is going the right direction with the Robin Hood case: he has been warned by the mugging to back off. He still feels uncomfortable around Kennett and Lily, and somehow envious of their relationship. It is the same feeling he had with the Minneapolis police department before: he is on the outside looking in. Whitechurch is a huge break in the case, though Davenport and Fell do not yet know how big.

Chapter eleven brings the information all back to Davenport: he is preoccupied with Bekker, against whom he holds a very personal grudge. Everything seems to be pressing on him in this chapter: his mugging, his relationship with Lily, and his suspects in the Robin Hood case. Cornell Reed is also a very important break in the case, but finding him at this point seems hopeless. Davenport knows Lily is very upset about Perry, and this counts against her likelihood as a member of Robin Hood. These three chapters are weaving a complicated plot, setting up for action in the latter chapters.



Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14

Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14 Summary

Chapter twelve picks up after Bekker, who is just coming off a two day speed binge in an effort to avoid his victim's haunting eyes. He feels like he has hundreds of ants crawling along his veins, making off with his blood cells. He has been pacing in the basement, and finally takes a scalpel to his arm in an effort to let the bugs out. He finally gets hold of himself by focusing on his need for more "medication" and calls Whitechurch, who informs him the police came calling. Bekker throws him off the trail by implying that he sold the drugs to kids on Staten Island and they meet two hours later. Whitechurch recognizes him, and Bekker quickly kills him in the stairwell of the hospital after taking the drugs. He then finds a woman outside a bar to take back for his experiments.

In chapter thirteen, Lily and Kennett have just finished making love. Kennett feels like an invalid because he cannot participate like he used to, and Lily reminds him he should do what the doctors say. Kennett wishes things were more simple, and Lily feels guilty for sleeping with Davenport.

In chapter fourteen, the police discover Whitechurch's body. They learn he has been dealing drugs to Bekker, and request the phone records for the hospital. Fell and Davenport go talk again with Rose Arnold to get more information about Whitechurch, but are interrupted when they get a message that Bekker has killed again. Upon arriving at the scene, they decide Bekker was reckless with this victim: probably high and having fun. Davenport notices two burn marks on her neck, and they realize Bekker has been using a stun gun to down his victims. Whitechurch had been a maintenance foreman, an easy job to steal supplies from the hospital. Dotty Bedrick, who works in housekeeping, comes forward with information that Whitechurch would sometimes call in over the speakers, like he was a doctor. Whitechurch may have had code names for his clients, and thousands of calls are placed through the hospital switchboard every day, so their lead might not be as lucrative as they hoped. Davenport thinks they should interview people who knew Bekker, like the guys who were next to him in jail, to try to get clues. Later, working on the Robin Hood case, Davenport begins to suspect Kennett. Cornell Reed had seen an old white man with white hair, and Kennett has the intelligence connections in the department. Davenport worries that Lily may be involved.

Chapter 12, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14 Analysis

In chapter twelve, Bekker is taking a reckless turn. He is very distraught that he did not have the time to slash his last victim's eyes, and must turn to a drug binge to get his horrifying thoughts out of his system. The ants are hallucinations, probably due to a combination of lack of sleep, drugs, and stress. Even in this state, which is the most out-of-control the reader has seen of Bekker, he is able to pull through his neuroses in his



need for more drugs, though more and more the need is controlling him. He knows he must kill Whitechurch because the police are on to him, but he is on a rampage. Jacked up on the pills and killing Whitechurch, he cannot help but take another victim. This death is more brutal than the others, and even the police think the body looks like Bekker was "having fun."

Chapter thirteen again exposes Lily's guilt toward Kennett. In his physical state he cannot satisfy her sexual needs, but she loves him and wants the relationship to work. His weakness chafes at him, as for most of his life he has been a tough, hard-as-nails cop. Though he tries to make Lily believe he is being careful, she knows he drives his truck around sometimes at night when he is not supposed to be driving. Though they care about each other, they are still keeping big secrets from one another.

In chapter fourteen, the police team figures out how Bekker has been capturing his victims: the stun gun explains why none of the bodies show any sign of struggle. For the police, the Bekker case seems to always be one step forward, two steps back. Though they know Whitechurch was dealing him drugs, they now must trace specific calls through the hospital switchboard, which transfers thousands of calls a day. Davenport and Kennett are in a strange situation: on some level they each still care about Lily and they can each give her something she needs. Kennett gives her affection and love, while Davenport could give her a physical relationship. Davenport also likes Kennett, which makes him feel guilty for sleeping with Lily. Also, though Kennett fits the profile for the Robin Hood suspect, Davenport does not want to believe he could be involved, especially if that involvement would implicate Lily.



Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Chapter 17

Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Chapter 17 Summary

In chapter fifteen, Davenport and Fell discuss the Bellevue switchboards over dinner. They are trying to match up the calls with the switchboard system and are looking for a suspect. Davenport recounts some of his old cases, including a sexual psychopath who killed women. He can understand the psychopath's behavior by classifying him as insane, but cannot wrap his head around Bekker's cold, clinical killings. Davenport and Fell dance to a song in the restaurant and she confesses her interest in him. Though she does not want to stay with him that night because she is too tired, after some wine she decides to go upstairs with him, though she accuses him of being with Internal Affairs. After they sleep together, she asks if he and Lily are really over, and he says they are complicated. She is slightly self-conscious and does not want to be used.

In chapter sixteen, Anderson calls Davenport back with Cornell Reed's outgoing flight, and they find out he is in Charleston. Davenport lies to Fell about the call, claiming it was a personal call about his daughter. Davenport decides if they do not capture Bekker at the speech he will go back to the Twin Cities and interview men who were in jail with Bekker. He calls down to the Charleston police headquarters to get a lead on Cornell Reed and is given an interview with Reed by Darius Pike. He decides to make a round trip from New York to Minneapolis to Charleston back to New York in order to follow his leads on both cases. Davenport is invited to go sailing with Lily and Kennett, and they go out onto the water in the Lestrade, Kennett's boat. Kennett recounts his heart attack to Davenport, who is frightened by the idea. Davenport helps with the sails, and Kennett talks of sailing away to the Islands and never coming back. Davenport recounts his medical depression, and decides he would rather run to the Islands than ever go through it again. Kennett reveals he has been depressed as well, after his second heart attack, and tries to smoke a cigarette. Lily is upset with him, and he throws the pack away. Davenport witnesses Lily and Kennett having a tender moment as they button up the ship, and does not regret it as much as before.

In chapter seventeen, the police are trying to trap Bekker at the Mengele lecture at the New School. Bekker arrives at the lecture and is excited about all the attention he will be receiving, despite the danger of actually being in attendance. He spots Davenport in the hallway to the auditorium and exits quickly into a courtyard, but there is not another way out besides where he came in. In a panic, he devours most of the pills he has with him. He finally finds a door to the backstage area and beats a police officer with a music stand. After dragging him outside to the courtyard, he slashes his eyes and calls over the radio as Frank, the police officer, saying he has found Bekker. He escapes by pretending to make a call with his phone and walking away.



Chapter 15, Chapter 16, and Chapter 17 Analysis

In chapter fifteen Davenport is setting Fell up. He likes her, but first and foremost she is a suspect in his case and he must find out everything he can about her. He confesses a weakness to her to get her to trust him: though they are trading tough cop stories, he makes it clear that he does not understand Bekker's coldness. He understands complete insanity more than Bekker's horribly calculated human experiments, and this insight gives Fell the chance to take the upper hand. She is both self-conscious and wary of men, and still does not completely trust that Davenport is what he says.

In chapter sixteen, Davenport is trying to make ends meet with both cases. Dropping the hint to Fell that he has personal matter to attend to in Charleston is a good excuse to go there, no questions asked. He is also forced to confront Lily and Kennett's relationship head-on, and finds he likes Kennett a lot. The idea of going to the Islands to run away from it all is a central theme in the book: everyone is trying to escape something, either literally or figuratively. Lily and Kennett make Davenport think about his own personal life and what he could be doing that would fulfill him. He is still the man who seemingly has everything, but feels empty. Even when he sees Lily and Kennett kiss, he feels slightly envious, but is comforted by the fact that he actually likes Kennett.

Chapter seventeen is another example of Bekker's control slipping. He knows rationally that he should not have gone to the lecture, but cannot help stroking his own ego by secretly attending. As soon as he sees Davenport he realizes his mistake and overcompensates for his own stupidity by the brutal murder of the police officer. It is as if he must prove to himself and every cop there that he is still on top. His behavior is becoming more and more sporadic, fueled by drugs rather than his cold intellectual planning.



Chapter 18, Chapter 19, Chapter 20, and Chapter 21

Chapter 18, Chapter 19, Chapter 20, and Chapter 21 Summary

In chapter eighteen, the police deal with the aftermath of Bekker's appearance at the lecture. About twenty-five people escaped from the lecture hall with no police debriefing. They realize Bekker made the call on the radio pretending to be Frank, and possibly escaped out the front while everyone ran to the back. Davenport suggests lying to the media and saying Bekker hid in the building during the day, then killed Frank and made the radio call to taunt the police. That way, Frank is technically to blame, but no one will blame him because he is dead. Kennett tells Davenport to go back to Minneapolis and find them some leads.

In chapter nineteen, Davenport must face one of his biggest phobias: flying. He is horribly afraid of dying in a plane crash. The next day Davenport meets with Quentin Daniel, the Minneapolis chief of police, and asks for the names of the men who had jail cells next to Bekker. Daniel reveals that he is unhappy and hopes to retire soon. Davenport and Sloan go to interview the guards of the prison, and find Bekker had been next to a drug addict, Clyde Payton, a car thief, Tommy Krey, and Burrell Thomas, who was in on an assault charge. Davenport and Sloan interview Tommy, whose attorney is present. Tommy does not think Bekker gave him any clues, and remembers Bekker would cry all the time for his drugs. He knows Bekker and Burrell talked a lot, so Sloan and Davenport track down Burrell through a friend of his, who says he always goes to a bar called Hennepin. Davenport discovers Burrell is a transvestite who talked to Bekker about how to transform himself into a woman. That is how Bekker was getting around undetected: as a woman. He calls Fell to break the case.

Chapter twenty picks up with Bekker, who is performing his toilette. It is a ritual for him, and an escape from pain. He is following all the advice Burrell gave him, right down to nylons and perfume. He goes back to the parking garage, reminiscing on his old captures. He overtakes a young nurse, Shelley Carson, and thinks as she dies that he has proof of her essence flowing from her. By this time it is seven o'clock in the morning, and Mrs. Lacey calls him upstairs because she sees him on TV. She tries to run from him, but Bekker breaks her neck.

In chapter twenty-one, Kennett visits Lily in O'Dell's office. He point-blank asks Lily about the Robin Hood case, worried that he is a suspect. He thinks the entire case is coincidental, and does not trust the computer's patterns. He thinks O'Dell is trying to set him up and asks for Lily's help. She makes him swear he is not Robin Hood, which he does. She agrees to help.



Chapter 18, Chapter 19, Chapter 20, and Chapter 21 Analysis

Chapter eighteen puts the police in a tough position: they definitely could have had Bekker at the lecture, and they lost him. Their last resort must come into play and Davenport must fly back to Minneapolis, though no one else knows he plans to go to Charleston as well. Davenport helps Kennett develop a story for the media, though they know it will not last long unless they can really get a break in the case. The public needs someone to blame for Bekker's escape and Kennett does not want it to be him.

Chapter nineteen is a pivotal chapter in the novel and reveals a huge secret. The reader learns that Davenport is afraid of flying, which is an interesting phobia for such a hard-boiled cop: he is not afraid of a psychopathic killer, but the one-in-a-million chance his plane may crash terrifies him. He has to call on his old colleagues in the Minneapolis police department, with each of whom he has an extensive history. Davenport is chasing shadows at this point, on the off-chance they can come up with something useful. When he interviews Burrell and discovers Bekker has been masquerading as a female, it is the major break in the case. Davenport, with his knowledge of Bekker, knows such behavior makes complete sense for Bekker. He calls Fell to break the case to gain her trust, still in pursuit of his Robin Hood and thinking she is a player.

Bekker truly reveals himself in chapter twenty: the reader follows along as he performs his now-ritualistic toilette. He follows Burrell's instructions to a tee, the transformation into a woman both necessary for his work and soothing to his psyche. Beauty is his alter ego, and as Beauty he can forget his horrible scars and how they were made. He has been able to get so close to his victims because of his disguise, then after a quick shock from the stun gun they are quickly immobilized. With Shelley Carson's dying photos, he is absolutely sure he has captured her essence leaving her body and thus proved his work is valid. It is ironic that immediately after his breakthrough discovery, his picture is plastered all over TV as Beauty. Though he is at a professional high, he is now in great danger of being discovered.

In chapter twenty-one, Kennett is suspiciously pumping Lily for information about the Robin Hood case. She agrees to help him because they are lovers and he swears he is not Robin Hood, but she is hesitant because of his behavior. This chapter makes it clear that Lily is not involved in Robin Hood at all, but O'Dell or Kennett may be using her for their own means.



Chapter 22, Chapter 23, and Chapter 24

Chapter 22, Chapter 23, and Chapter 24 Summary

In chapter twenty-two, Davenport heads down to Charleston in search of Cornell Reed. He still hates the flight because he feels out of control, but sleeps almost the whole first flight. Darius Pike meets him in Charleston and explains "Red" Reed's background: his father owns a successful garage and gas station and Reed attended Columbia University on a scholarship. Then, addicted to cocaine, he dropped out of school and recently came back home to Charleston. Davenport grills Reed about the shooting he witnessed, and discovers Reed is not giving them the whole truth. Reed knew O'Dell, who bumped many of the chargers against him down to lesser charges. Upon arriving back in New York, Davenport learns Bekker has killed another girl, and heads straight for Midtown South.

When Davenport returns to Midtown South in chapter twenty-three, it is a-buzz with activity. Bekker sightings are rampant, though three are legit and they now know he is driving a Volkswagen Bug. Davenport goes to Lily's office, where he tells Kennett that Gauquin died in 1903 and was a symbolist, not partnered with Christian Dior making ties. Pictures of Bekker's latest victim have leaked to the press and the department is under even more pressure to capture Bekker. Davenport gets a message from Fell when he returns to his hotel, and reflects on his former relationship with Jennifer, his daughter Sarah's mother. He thinks of Fell as one of the others, not like Jennifer or Lily. He and Fell stay the night together, and the next day meet with Jackie Smith to have him tell all the dealers he knows that Bekker will be looking for drugs. He agrees, and Davenport asks if Smith was who jumped him the night outside of Lily's apartment. Smith denies it, and Fell and Davenport spend the rest of the day combing her contacts for clues. He takes Fell to the diner where Petty was killed and she denies ever having been there.

Davenport later meets with Lily and asks about her relationship with Petty. They had grown up in the same neighborhood in Brooklyn, and he had been in love with her. He was socially inept and extremely smart, and she was more well-adjusted. They each became cops, and he moved off street patrols to investigation and crimes scenes, which he was very good at. Though Lily was not attracted to Walt sexually, they loved each other in a very platonic way. She feels very guilty for taking Walter for granted. Davenport wants to know who Lily and O'Dell think the Robin Hood suspects are, and they think Fell is the best candidate. Davenport mentions Kennett and even O'Dell, both who have the connections for the job and may have set up Fell as an alarm. Davenport thinks O'Dell is setting Kennett up because he is going to die—all the evidence point at Kennett and then he dies of natural causes. Davenport lets Lily in on the rest of his evidence, including Reed.

In chapter twenty-four, Lily meets Kennett on his boat. After they make love she confesses the extent of her guilt for Walter Perry and how she and her friends would



laugh at him in school. He always loved her and never wanted anything from her, and she realizes in her own way she loved him back.

Chapter 22, Chapter 23, and Chapter 24 Analysis

Chapter twenty-two sends Davenport to Charleston. He still hates the lack of control that he feels when flying, but is reaching a tolerance level. Cornell Reed's father helps Davenport out, demanding that his son tell the truth and stow the lies. The revelation that Reed has had contact with O'Dell is a huge indication that O'Dell is the Robin Hood, or that he at least has some hand in the plot. O'Dell helped the young man get his drug charges reduced, but in turn flipped him as an informant.

Upon returning to New York in chapter twenty-three, Davenport is almost resigned to the plane ride—he is overcoming his phobia. The leaked photos are putting a lot of pressure on the department, where heads will undoubtedly roll if Bekker is not caught soon. He is driving a Volkswagen Bug, which is ironic considering his obsession with his "spiders." Davenport knows that Fell is not a long-term relationship for him, but she may not feel the same way. He is keeping close tabs on her because of the Robin Hood case, but seems to have to qualms about the blending of his personal and professional business. For Lily, he still carries a flame, and the reader gets the sense if it was another place and time they could be happy together. Lily's guilt about Perry is a testament to her strength of character: she accepts that she completely took Walter for granted, and has clearly learned a lesson from her loss. Davenport feels compelled to tell Lily that Kennett is one of his prime suspects, not out of jealousy toward their relationship but out of concern for Lily's physical and mental well-being.

Chapter twenty-four illustrates Lily's trust in Kennett. She pours her heart out about Walter Perry and is completely honest with him about her feelings. He seems uncomfortable with her display of emotion and unable to really comfort her. Like the boat in the water, Lily feels at sea, a victim of circumstances she cannot change.



Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27

Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27 Summary

In chapter twenty-five, Davenport and Fell meet at her apartment. After a leisurely afternoon, Davenport glances at a photograph of Whitechurch's murder, noting the money sticking out from under his body. Davenport leaves to return to his hotel, but has no cash for a cab. As Fell lends him her cash card, Davenport has an epiphany about Bekker: he has been using a cash card to get his money. They check the bills found under Whitechurch and two are consecutive, and the Federal Reserve traces the bills to Citibank. Citibank matches the bills up to accounts, and they see Bekker using Edith Lacey's account on the surveillance video.

In chapter twenty-six, Bekker abandons his persona as Beauty, knowing it will get him caught by the police. He shaves his head and dons an old brown wig to go out and search for his drugs. He observes a dealer by Washington Square and approaches to purchase drugs. The dealer Oliveo Diaz recognizes him and shouts to nearby policemen. Bekker runs into a nearby alley and kills a homeless man, trading his clothes to be inconspicuous, and slipping a brick in his pocket for a weapon. Upon returning to the Lacey building, he encounters Bridget Land and hits her with the brick, dragging her down into the basement.

In chapter twenty-seven, after seeing Bekker on tape, Fell wants to call Kennett. Davenport puts her in a cab and explains that he is not Internal Affairs, but has been brought from Minneapolis to hunt down Robin Hood. He then calls Lily and tells her they have possibly found Bekker's hideout in SoHo, and he and Fell spot the telltale Bug in the backyard. They wait to storm the house to see if any Robin Hoods show up, and shortly a thick cop and a thin cop show up at the apartment building. Davenport and Fell stop them from entering the apartment and handcuff them outside, telling the backup cops to watch them. Then, they go into the apartment to arrest Bekker.

Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27 Analysis

Chapter twenty-five is where the plot begins to race: Davenport is closing in on both Bekker and Robin Hood. After seeing the picture of Whitechurch again, Davenport rapidly connects the dots between the cash card and Bekker's money source. Davenport seems to click into a different mode that has not been seen yet from him, like a bloodhound who has just caught the scent. He is a man of action and well suited to the chase. Fell is similar in that she thrives on the excitement, but she does not know the whole story yet.

Chapter twenty-six marks the end of rational Bekker: Beauty is dead, and he must revert back to himself. He hates his scars because they make him conspicuous and remind him of Davenport. He becomes even more reckless, approaching an unknown



drug dealer to get his fix. He is safe nowhere, and takes the bum's clothes out of desperation. Killing Bridget Land is an impulsive crime of passion: Bekker is panicking and feeling like everything is closing in.

In chapter twenty-seven, Davenport finally lets Fell in on his real mission: to find Robin Hood. Events move along so quickly she does not have time to be angry about his lies. His stakeout of the apartment is strategic, and it pays off when he catches two Robin Hoods in action. Davenport suspects O'Dell and Lily, since they did not call Kennett and the cops still showed up.



Chapter 28 and Chapter 29

Chapter 28 and Chapter 29 Summary

Chapter twenty-eight picks up with Lily right after the call from Davenport, and she confronts O'Dell with the evidence against him, namely the ticket vouchers for Cornell Reed with O'Dell's signature. After Lily informs him about the two Robin Hoods that showed up at Bekker's apartment, O'Dell asks her to run Copland, O'Dell's driver, against Kennett. They discover that Copland and O'Dell have a history and Copland probably planted a bug somewhere in the office or the car. Kennett has been listening to everything they say, and that is how Robin Hood's people keep getting inside information. Lily tells O'Dell to cut Kennett out of the loop, though she is extremely upset.

In chapter twenty-nine, the final confrontation happens between the NYPD and Bekker. Bekker begins to cry as he leans over the dying Bridget Land and hears footsteps above him. He is torn between going after his gun to kill Davenport or finishing his work with Land, hoping she will complete his experiments and transcend. As Davenport and Fell make their way downstairs, they discover Mrs. Lacey and her cats stuffed into the refrigerator. A backup sergeant arrives to supervise the Robin Hoods, and Davenport and Fell make their way down the stairs. They need a sledgehammer to open the door, and Davenport decides he is going after Bekker himself and not waiting for backup. Bekker is losing touch with reality, but decides to kill Davenport instead of committing suicide. As Davenport and Fell forcibly enter the basement, they hear Bekker eerily singing "Jesus Loves Me." Fell becomes tangled in the hanging eyelashes, but is able to shoot Bekker in the head just as he attempts to shoot Davenport in the heart.

Chapter 28 and Chapter 29 Analysis

In chapter twenty-eight, Robin Hood is revealed to be none other than Kennett, leaving Lily feeling completely betrayed. O'Dell reacts in a cold and calculating way, knowing whatever has happened can be corrected, but Lily has had the rug yanked out from under her. Copland, O'Dell's driver, has been secretly working for Kennett and bugged the car. The case has been solved, but Lily's relationship with Kennett is effectively over.

In chapter twenty-nine, the police finally catch the bad guy. Bekker has clearly lost his mind at this point and knows his life is over: even if he is taken to jail he will be denied his pills, and that is an existence not worth living for him. He means for the last person he kills to be Davenport, but Fell pulls herself together in the nick of time and shoots him in the head before he can pull the trigger. It is very fitting that Bekker wanted to shoot Davenport in the heart: the first time he was captured he killed the woman Davenport loves, and he wants to get one last shot in. It is also fitting that Fell kills Bekker by shooting him in the head: his intellectual pursuits are the most important thing to him,

and he has no love in his heart for anyone. Fell also will get the notoriety and kudos for bagging the bad guy, though she is simply trying to save Davenport's life.



Chapter 30 and Chapter 31

Chapter 30 and Chapter 31 Summary

In chapter thirty, Lily is dealing with the repercussions and personal realization that Kennett is Robin Hood. She recalls their pillow talk and all the information he probably gleaned from her. She thinks Kennett used information gathered from her to kill Walter Perry.

In chapter thirty-one, Lily goes to the river to confront Kennett. She accuses him of sleeping with her to get information, though he denies it and says he is falling in love with her. He admits that he underestimated Davenport, thinking him a small-town cop and in no way competition for New York cops. Kennett says he had to kill Walt because of the information he kept finding through the computers. He tries to convince Lily they are doing good as Robin Hood by taking dangerous people off the streets forever, but she cannot get over Walt's murder. As they argue, Kennett begins having chest pain and asks Lily for his pills. Instead of retrieving them she leaves, telling him to say hello to Bekker.

Chapter 30 and Chapter 31 Analysis

Chapter thirty is one of horrible realizations for Lily. She feels extremely guilty about accidentally feeding Kennett information, and personally responsible for the death of her dear friend Walter Perry. She dwells on the small moments she and Kennett spent together, torturing herself by picking out specific times she shared information that Kennett probably used.

By chapter thirty-one, Lily's sadness has turned into rage. She confronts Kennett not as her lover, but as someone who has betrayed her. He tries to make excuses for his behavior, but nothing he says will make things right again. The author makes a point here about big city cops versus small town cops: Kennett underestimates Davenport because of where he is from. Good police work is good police work regardless of where one happens to be doing it. Lily does not get Kennett's pills for him, believing a heart attack is a just punishment for him considering all the wrong he has done. She asks him to say hello to Bekker, whom he will presumably see in hell.



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

Chapter thirty-two wraps up the story. Davenport and O'Dell discuss the Robin Hood case, and O'Dell is pleased Davenport followed his lead and found the answers. Later Davenport is at a restaurant with Fell, who is upset that he is leaving her. Davenport admits he knows she is a Robin Hood, but they think she is an alarm and he likes her too much to turn her in. He cannot trust her, which is why they cannot be together. Davenport threatens to return if anyone harms Lily, and Fell says she will put the word out to her partner, whom Davenport later realizes is her father, a retired cop. Later Davenport says goodbye to Lily, trying to comfort her by telling her she could never have known Kennett was to blame. They say goodbye at the airport, friendship intact.

Chapter 32 Analysis

Chapter thirty-two is a big reveal: O'Dell informs Davenport that he had all of them set up from the very beginning, hoping with everyone working so closely that the pressure would make something crack. Davenport likes Fell and they have fun together, but after the Robin Hood case he cannot trust her. He admits everything to her, even copying her keys and searching her apartment. She is startled and angry at his admission, but she owes him for convincing the force that she is simply an alarm and not to be suspected as a Robin Hood herself. Fell has not historically had luck with men and had hoped that Davenport would change that, but after so much deceit they cannot start again with a clean slate. Davenport and Lily, however, have been through hell and back together a couple of times. They are saying goodbye, yet again they seem to take comfort in each other: despite personal tragedy and professional hardships they have and will continue to be in each other's lives.



Characters

Dr. Michael Bekker

Michael Bekker is a true psychopath, with no regard for human life except as subjects for his research. He is also severely addicted to pills: speed, angels, crosses, and even cocaine. His drug use increases throughout the book as his stress level increases. Though he commits terrible deeds, his intelligence cannot be denied. His escape from the courthouse is coldly planned and calculated, and it works. His disguise as a woman while he is at large is also very smart: he can get close to people with no alarms going off, especially other women. He also evades recognition as no one is looking for a women. His persona as Beauty is telling of his psychological state as well. He blames Davenport for taking his attractive face from him and for giving him his horrible, furrowed scars. His need to be beautiful is sad, and the reader watches him unravel when he has to cut his blond hair. In that moment he is almost childlike, innately disappointed and insecure about his looks. He also fears ghosts, which is odd for a man so analytical and intellectual. His very research is pseudoscientific: the idea that the exit of a person's essence from their body can be scientifically measured is ludicrous.

His drug addiction is a driving force of Michael Bekker. His time in jail apparently left him worse for wear, and he seems to think being denied his "medicine" for all that time had an effect on him. If he was as addicted to pills before jail as he is after, that very well may be true: cold turkey detox may have had lasting effects on him. Though he is a monster, his vulnerabilities are what make him real to a reader. He is not an evil genius, but a drug-addicted psychopathic doctor whose only goals are to pop his pills and continue his experiments. He should certainly be locked up as a danger to society, and his weaknesses work with his terrible deeds to make him a terrifying villain.

Lucas Davenport

Davenport is a cop's cop: tough, smart, intuitive, and not afraid of a fight. Presumably in the last Davenport novel, all he wanted was to retire and lead an easier life. He has undoubtedly been in lots of tough situations, and has had to make life and death decisions, both for himself and others. Sarah and Jen, his daughter and ex-wife, are distant figures in his life. He lives at his lake house, formerly his sanctuary but now more like his prison. Davenport does not necessarily miss being a cop, but he misses the chase: he is a hunter, and is good at tracking people down. Though he has a successful business, lovely home, and seemingly everything he could want, he is lonely. He is bored.

When Lily offers in the job in New York, it is a chance for him to get back in the loop. One final hurrah for the tough cop, and unfinished business to boot. He and Lily do not have love between them yet, but they have an undeniable attraction and mutual respect. When he meets Kennett he like him, which makes him feel guilty about



sleeping with Lily. Kennett and Davenport are similar to one another, and Kennett's heart condition strikes a chord with Davenport, who is beginning to feel his age. He had hoped by now he would have found something more, and the days spent fishing or working on the house no longer satisfy him. In a way, Bekker helps bring him back to life, jolting him out of his routine and forcing him back into the hunting frame of mind. Davenport is smart and resourceful, but most importantly he is intuitive. He knows how Bekker thinks and can guess his frame of mind. Though the case is hard on him, he offers help to Lily whenever she needs it, finally admitting there is no island for him to run away to.

Lily Rothenburg

Lily, a tough cop from Brooklyn, is in a difficult situation from the get-go. She, like Lucas, has an estranged ex-husband and children, but has finally found someone she cares about. However, Kennett's heart attacks put a strain on her relationship physically. She has to be extremely careful with him, while with Lucas she can let go and just be herself. She feels guilty for sleeping with Lucas but convinces herself it is purely physical, with no emotion attached. Perhaps under different circumstances Lily and Lucas could have been something, but their lives took different paths. Lily's respect for O'Dell is understandably because of his political genius, though Kennett resents this relationship.

Lily is ultimately hurt again when she finds out Kennett is Robin Hood—he killed Walt, whom she loved, and comforted her when she was upset about his death. She confronts him and leaves him clutching his chest in pain, thus taking her revenge. She and Davenport are still friends and may work together again, but they are from different worlds. She is a New Yorker through and through, and no matter how much she is hurt she will continue to roll with the punches.

Dick Kennett

An intelligent officer in the New York Police Department, and ring leader of the Robin Hood group. Kennett is in a relationship with Lily, one of Davenport's long ago romances. Kennett's Robin Hood group killed Walter Perry and attempts to kill Bekker, but he is found out by Davenport.

John O'Dell

The Deputy Commissioner and one of the chief suspects of the Robin Hoods.

Barb Fell

A detective assigned to the Bekker case with Davenport. She is also one of the Robin Hoods, the "Thin" to her father's "Thick."



Copland

O'Dell's driver of five years and Kennett's rat. He plants a listening device in O'Dell's office or car to spy.

Edith Lacey

An old woman with arthritis who hires Bekker as a live-in assistant, relying on him for drugs to ease the pain from her hands.

Lewis Whitechurch

A hospital employee who routinely steals supplies and sells them on the black market. He has been supplying Bekker with drugs.

Harmon Anderson

Bekker's former boss at the Minneapolis Police Department.

Kelly Larsen

The traffic cop who pulls Davenport over and informs him of Bekker's escape.

Melissa Yellow Bear

A phone operator at the Minneapolis Police Department.

Del

Lucas' old acquaintance from the Minneapolis Police Department.

Sloan

Lucas' old acquaintance from the Minneapolis Police Department.

Louis Cortese

One of Bekker's first victims upon his escape.



Bridget Land

Edith Lacey's friend, who distrusts Bekker from the start.

Thick and Thin

Rogue police officers whose faces Bekker catches right after the assassination of Walt.

Jackie Smith

A goods dealer that Davenport and Fell pump for information about Bekker's medical equipment.

Cornell Reed

A southern cocaine addict college dropout who witness one of the Robin Hood shootings.

Quentin Daniel

The chief of police in Minneapolis. He is apparently a criminal, but Davenport has forgiven him.

Darius Pike

A detective in Charleston who sets up Davenport's meeting with Cornell Reed.



Objects/Places

Mrs. Lacey's building

The old apartment in SoHo is where Bekker hides from the police and performs his experiments. The basement apartment is the perfect lair for him, underground and representative of Hell.

Eyelids

Bekker is obsessed with the eyelids of his victims, referring to them as his spiders. To him, they are the safeguards to the human soul, which is represented by eyes.

Davenport's Lakehouse

Davenport's Wisconsin lake house, formerly a retreat for him, has become oppressive and boring.

Fell's Apartment

The upper East side apartment is where Davenport convinces Fell to trust him, though he has secretly searched the apartment.

Kennett's Boat

The boat is a symbol of freedom. Kennett and Davenport talk about sailing away to the Islands and languishing there, leading stress-free lives.

The Island

Like Kennett's boat, the Island represent freedom from responsibility and the general hardships of life as a cop.

Charleston

Davenport travels to Charleston to interview Cornell Reed, who helps him break the Robin Hood case.



New York City

The New York Police Department are some of the toughest cops in the country, and they are going up against one of the smartest criminals: Bekker. This novel portrays New York as dark and dirty, with little to no mention of the usual tourist haunts. This is a dangerous New York where people are mugged and shot regularly, and the black market can exist almost openly. This New York City is a perfect place for Bekker to drift into obscurity and hide.

Airplanes

Davenport is terrified of flying because it makes him feel completely out of control. As a police officer, he is used to always having control of the situation, and dying in a plane crash is sometimes he sees as mindless and uncontrollable. He is a hunter and hates being made to feel like a victim.

Bekker's Medicine

Bekker's pills are his only true love in life. He must have them to get through the day, and being in jail without them is truly one of his most horrible experiences. His addiction, which he sees as clarifying and strengthening, is actually completely debilitating: his need for the drug severely clouds his judgment and eventually leads to the confrontation that ends his life.



Themes

Lawfulness and Lawlessness: Robin Hood vs. Bekker

The novel juxtaposes two cases: Bekker's murders and the Robin Hood murders. Both are illegally taking human life, but one is a psychopathic pseudoscientist on a drug-induced rampage and the other are police officers picking off criminals who have fallen through the cracks of the justice system, save Perry. The author is pointing out that one is not more illegal than the other: they are each evading the law and taking human life into their own hands. Kennett feels above the law and that power ultimately overtakes him, and he decides to kill the innocent Perry to further his cause. Even though Davenport like Kennett as a person, he cannot let him distort the law to his own purposes. It is much easier to see the wrongness of Bekker's actions, since he leaves his victims horribly disfigured and grotesque, but the Robin Hoods make sure their thugs die in a manner that coincides with the way they lived. It is much harder to see and similarly much harder to condemn.

Escape

Everyone in the novel is trying to escape something. The characters all have different coping mechanisms, but all think that escaping one issue will solve their problems. For Davenport, Bekker is a loose end, and he is more than happy to leave his pseudo-suburban lifestyle behind in favor of the hunt that he misses. Bekker is quite literally trying to escape his captors, and then he desperately needs to prove his research is legitimate science, not the ravings of a madman. He escapes reality with his pills and powders, just as Mrs. Lacey gets rid of her pain with the morphine. Fell is trying to escape obscurity by bringing in the big case, and Lily spends most of the novel suppressing her guilt about Kennett and Davenport. Kennett and Davenport even talk about sailing away to the unspecified Island, learning different languages, and generally pursuing happiness with no one to tell them otherwise. However, the Island is a fantasy because Kennett cannot sail with his heart condition and Davenport does not want to escape away from the action, he escapes into it. His former sanctuary, the lake house, feels more and more like a prison to him and he craves the excitement and exhilaration of the chase.

Love and Loss

The characters in the novel are written as gritty and very real people. They are people who have lived through tragedy and hardship: failed marriages, friend's deaths, and horrifying crimes scenes. Many of the characters have loved someone and subsequently lost them. Davenport's relationship with the mother of his daughter, Jennifer, was significant but did not work out. His relationship with Lily also failed, and his actress girlfriend of the previous book was murdered by Bekker. Lily left her ex-



husband and her children, and she is scarred from the loss of Perry, the only man she feels ever truly loved her unconditionally. Lily and Kennett seem to have a solid relationship, but she cannot forgive him when she discovers his betrayal and his responsibility for Perry's murder. Even chain-smoking, wise cracking Barbara Fell has been burned in love and has high hopes for her fling with Davenport, though he does not have the same feeling for her. These relationships are a sharp contrast to Bekker, for whom loss of life is an exciting prospect. His only real love is for his pills, and he has no regard for human life expect for his experiments.

Though much of the plot is action-driven, the characters retain the things that make them real people: their personal experiences, pain from loss, and hope of redemption for the future. Even Bekker, though terrifying in his cold approach to ending human life, has fears and phobias that give him the tiniest bit of humanity. His major loss in the novel is his persona of Beauty, after which he can no longer ignore the horrible scars on his face and the trauma associated with them.



Style

Point of View

The novel is third-person omniscient, allowing the reader to be able to know the thoughts of multiple characters, mostly focusing on Davenport and Bekker. Knowing both Davenport and Bekker's points of view is essential for the reader to get a grasp on the novel's plot. There are at least a few instances where immediately after a section following Bekker the story picks up with Davenport. The story alternates between protagonist and antagonist, but is also peppered with the peripheral characters' situations: Lily's guilt, Fell's insecurity, and Whitechurch's nervousness all come directly from the characters at some point in the work.

This book is one in a series that focuses on the exploits of Lucas Davenport, and as such there are a few backstories the reader must figure out solely from Davenport's brief encounters. The characters in the novel are tough as nails, but all have very humanizing qualities: Davenport is afraid of flying, Bekker is a drug addict, and Lily feels guilty about Kennett. Davenport knows Bekker very well and is able to use clues about Bekker's personality to catch him.

Setting

The story takes place mostly in Manhattan, but also shifts to Minneapolis and Charleston as Davenport travels. New York is portrayed as gritty and dirty, a dark and crowded city where someone like Bekker has no problem hiding. Even the airport is cramped and crowded, furthering Davenport's flight phobia. Davenport's town is much more suburban, with lakes and minivans full of families and neighbors who turn the sprinkler off for you. Charleston is more spread out than New York, and is described as a perfect city in the Old South.

Bekker's basement is a sterile and terrifying place with its hospital equipment, stainless steel table, and spiderwebs made of amputated eyelids. Mrs. Lacey's ramshackle apartment building in SoHo has a run-down feeling to it, as if the old woman and her cats can only do so much for the place as far as maintenance. The basement is the perfect place for Bekker's experiments, with a door leading to the back where the Bug is parked.

Davenport's lake house is located in a semi-suburban neighborhood, and he has obviously worked hard on the house. One gets the feeling that the house has become less of a hobby and more of a chore, and Davenport has become bored with the mundane life of the homeowner. Lily recognizes the place upon entry and even knows the way to the bedroom.



Language and Meaning

The language in the novel changes subtly depending upon which character is the focal point. Since most of the characters are tough, hard-boiled cops, expletives are used to attempt at authenticity. These characters are not cookie-cutter figures, they are real people who oftentimes express themselves using language that many would find offensive.

The language in the novel does make use of symbolism, and an obvious example is Kennett's dream of the Island: a place where he can go with no worries and simply exist on his own clock. Davenport likes the idea of escape as well, though at the end of the novel realizes he can never truly escape his problems. There is no magical Island where they can run to make everything go away. Bekker learns that lesson as well when he can no longer escape into his character Beauty, a manifestation of what Bekker wishes he was.

Davenport is a man of few words: his communications with others are economical; short and to the point. His thoughts are more complex, and that is where the reader actually gets to know the character. He is constantly putting pieces of the puzzle together internally, and comes to many of his conclusions after turning problems over in his head again and again.

The other character whose language the novel showcases is Bekker: the reader follows along with his thoughts for a significant portion of the novel. The cold and rational Bekker is very different from the Bekker who is high on pills. Scientist Bekker is logical and cautious, while PCP Bekker throws caution into the wind and sometimes cannot even finish his own thoughts.

Structure

The novel has a conventional structure. It is separated into thirty-two chapters, some only three pages long, and the chapters usually represent a change of time, location, or character. The novel is strictly chronological and makes no jumps from present to past, though some characters share very brief memories with the reader. It is third-person omniscient, so it can look into the thought of all the characters, but mainly focuses on Lucas Davenport and Dr. Michael Bekker, the protagonist and antagonist.

In the chapters there is sometimes a break in subject denoted by a straight line, but most of the time the author opts to make the change a new chapter. The chapters are separated into paragraphs which may contain story exposition or character dialogue. The chapters are filled with action, and oftentimes a shorter chapter means a jump in the action. There is an introduction to the text by the author but no afterward, and though the book is one in a series, the author ensures that the reader will not have any trouble with plot points if they have not read the other books.



Quotes

"His life, he thought with little amusement, was like his refrigerator—and his refrigerator contained a six-pack of light beer, three cans of diet caffeine-free coke, and a slowly fossilizing jar of mustard." p. 20

"Bekker's brain was a calculator, an empty vessel, a tangle of energy, a word processor, and an expert anatomist. But never more than one thing at a time." p. 21

"Before the Minneapolis cops had beaten him with their pistols, Bekker had been beautiful, but now Beauty was dead." p. 142

"I used to get beat up whenever I needed to get laid. Worked like a charm...Are you trying to get laid?" p. 166

"He was snared in the eight-seven-eight loop, captivated by the sheer infinity of it, a loop that would last longer than the sun, would last longer than the universe, would go on for...what?" p. 192

"Come to the gingerbread house, little girl..." p. 199

"With his soft blond hair, falling naturally now to his shoulders—no more wigs—he was a woman." p. 279

"There was no sexual impulse at all, but when I thought of him over all those years, that puppy-dog quality, that he loved me...It was like...I don't know. I loved him. That's what it came to." p. 316

"I know that O'Dell's trying to frame Kennett. I know that for sure. The question is, is he doing it because Kennett's guilty and it's the only way to get to him? Or because he's looking for a scapegoat?" p. 320

"Walt was the only guy who ever loved me and didn't want anything from me. No sex, no kids, no favors, just me being there and he was happy." p. 323

"The few pitiful twenties stuck out from under his body like a comment on greed." p. 327

"He marched now, directed by the PCP, upright and dignified, then he was suddenly aware of his penis, bobbling along like an inconveniently large and flaccid nose, doing a color commentary on his dignity." p. 333

"He was fast, angel-dust fast, quicker than a linebacker, smacking her with the brick full in the face." p. 340

"Too soon, they'd come too soon, when he was so close. A tear ran down his cheek." p. 357



"We'll send a couple of guys up—but Bekker would look for a hole, not a perch." p. 359

"They hung on individual black threads from a bundle of crossed wire coat hangers, floating in their separate orbits around Fell's head, wrinkled now, drying, the varicolored lashes as sleek as the day the eyelids were cut from their owners..." p. 365



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the morality of the Robin Hood group. Should it be up to them to take justice into their own hands? Should a rogue group with no legal backing be able to decide these peoples' fates? Do the ends justify the means if they are taking dangerous people off the streets?

Who is trying to escape in the novel, figuratively and literally? Do they make it to wherever or whatever they are looking for?

Clearly, Bekker is a psychopath. Is his behavior fueled through any particular experience or instance other than insanity? Could the drugs, the science, or his time in Vietnam have had any adverse effects?

What does Davenport's lake house represent? Is he happy there? Why or why not?

Davenport is a cop from Minneapolis that comes to New York and saves the day. Do you think the author is biased toward small-town cops, or are all the officers portrayed fairly?

Why doesn't Davenport turn Fell in? Does he really care about her that much? Do they have a future together?

Discuss symbolism in the novel. What do eyes represent for Bekker? How is it fitting that he has been getting around in a Volkswagen Bug?

How has O'Dell set up the Robin Hood group to be discovered?

Who was Walter Perry and what did he mean to Lily? Does she initially realize his importance to her?

What is the significance of Bekker deciding to shoot Davenport in the heart? Of Bekker's death from a shot to the head?