

Snow Study Guide

Snow by Orhan Pamuk

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Contents

[Snow Study Guide..... 1](#)

[Contents..... 2](#)

[Plot Summary..... 5](#)

[The Silence of Snow, The Journey to Kars..... 7](#)

[Our City Is a Peaceful Place, The Outlying Districts..... 9](#)

[Give Your Vote to God's Party, Poverty and History..... 11](#)

[Did You Really Come Here to Report on the Election and the Suicides? Ka Meets Ipek in the New Life Pastry Shop..... 13](#)

[I Hope I'm Not Taking Too Much of Your Time?, The First and Last Conversation Between The Murderer and His Victim..... 15](#)

[He Kissed My Hand, Love, Religion, and Poetry: Muhtar's Sad Story..... 17](#)

[Political Islamist Is Only a Name That Westerners and Seculars Give Us, At Party Headquarters, Police Headquarters, and Once Again In The Streets..... 19](#)

[Suicide Is a Terrible Sin, Blue and Rustem..... 21](#)

[Are You an Atheist? A Nonbeliever Who Does Not Want To Kill Himself..... 23](#)

[What Makes This Poem Beautiful? Snow and Happiness..... 25](#)

[Do They Have a Different God in Europe? Ka With Sheikh Efendi..... 26](#)

[If God Does Not Exist, How Do You Explain All the Suffering of the Poor? The Sad Story of Necip and Hicran..... 28](#)

[I'm Not Going to Discuss My Faith with an Atheist, A Walk Through The Snow With Kadife..... 30](#)

[How Do You Write Poems? The Dinner Conversation Turns to Love, Head Scarves, and Suicide..... 32](#)

[There's One Thing We All Want Out of Life, At The National Theater..... 34](#)

[Where God Does Not Exist, Necip Describes His Landscape and Ka Recites His Poem..... 36](#)

[My Fatherland or My Head Scarf, A Play About a Girl Who Burns Her Head Scarf..... 38](#)

[Don't Fire, the Guns Are Loaded! A Revolution Onstage..... 40](#)

[And How Beautiful Was the Falling Snow, The Night of the Revolution..... 42](#)



A Great Day for Our Nation! While Ka Slept and When He Woke The Next Morning.....44

But I Don't Recognize Any of Them, Ka in the Cold Rooms of Terror.....46

A Man Fit to Play Ataturk, Sunay Zaim's Military and Theatrical Careers.....48

God Is Fair Enough to Know It's How You Live Your Life, With Sunay at Military Headquarters 50

I, Ka, The Six-Sided Snowflake.....52

This Is the Only Time We'll Ever Be Free in Kars, Ka With Kadife in the Hotel Room.....54

It Is Not Poverty That Brings Us So Close to God, Blue's Statement to the West.....56

Be Strong, My Girl; Help Is on the Way from Kars, Ka Urges Turgut Bey to Sign The Statement
.....58

The Difference Between Love and the Agony of Waiting, Ka with Ipek in the Hotel Room.....60

, It's Not Just You I've Lost, In Frankfurt.....62

When Can We Meet Again? A Short Spell of Happiness.....64

We're Not Stupid, We're Just Poor, The Secret Meeting at the Hotel Asia.....65

, I have Two Souls Inside My Body, On Love, Insignificance, and Blue's Disappearance.....67

A Godless Man in Kars, The Fear of Being Shot.....69

Kadife Will Never Agree to It Either, The Mediator.....71

I'm Not an Agent for Anyone, Ka with Blue in His Cell.....73

You're Not Really Going to Die, Sir, Are You? Bargaining in Which Life Vies With Theater, and
Art With Politics.....75

The Only Script We Have This Evening Is Kadife's Hair, Preparations For The Play To End All
Plays.....77

I Didn't Bring You Here to Upset You, An Enforced Visit.....79

The Joy of Crying Together, Ka and Ipek Meet At The Hotel.....81

It Must Be Hard Being a Double Agent, The First Half of the Chapter.....83

Everyone Has His Own Snowflake, The Missing Green Notebook.....84

I'm Going to Pack My Suitcase, From Ipek's Point of View.....86

The Main Reason Women Commit Suicide Is to Save Their Pride, The Final Act.....88

No One Here Like Ka These Days, Four Years Later, In Kars.....90



[Characters..... 93](#)
[Objects/Places..... 97](#)
[Themes..... 99](#)
[Style..... 101](#)
[Quotes..... 103](#)
[Topics for Discussion..... 105](#)



Plot Summary

Snow by Orhan Pamuk is a love story set in the volatility of today's Turkey with its clashes between tradition and change and religion and modern atheists—all set in the beautiful, but sometimes treacherous beauty of a border city in the midst of a winter snowstorm.

Ka is an exiled poet, who has returned to Turkey upon the death of his mother. After attending her funeral in Istanbul, Ka travels to the northern city of Kars to visit someone he knew in college and admired from afar, learning that she is recently divorced from her husband. Ka uses the excuse of being a journalist sent to the city to write about the recent suicides of young girls and the upcoming mayoral election.

When Ka sees Ipek again, he is overcome by her beauty, which is far greater than he had remembered. Ka is overwhelmed with his feelings that Ipek is the answer to his dreams, and so Ka pursues her relentlessly during his brief stay in Kars. Staying at the same hotel that is owned by Ipek's father and where they reside, makes it easy for Ka to see her often. He is invited nightly for dinner with the family and so gets to love her the more he sees her.

Ka is immediately caught up in the events of the town as he interviews people for his ostensible story: the mayoral candidate, who is Ipek's ex-husband Muhtar and sometime acquaintance of Ka's; the families of the suicide victims; the assistant police chief; even the leader of the theatrical troupe, Sunay Zaim, who Ka knew slightly from years ago and is in town for a performance at the National Theater.

Ka also meets some of the religious high school students, who are interested in him because he is talking to the girls who didn't want to bare their heads. Ka is introduced to some of their leaders, Necip and Fazil, who happen to be ardent admirers of Ipek's sister Radife, who is madly in love with and the mistress of a renowned Islamic terrorist named Blue.

During his brief stay in Kars, Ka manages to fall in love with Ipek and have his love reciprocated, both verbally and physically, resulting in the most happiness that he has ever known. His happiness is overshadowed by doubts that assail him every step of the way. A profound effect of this happiness is his ability to write the best poetry he has ever written - nineteen poems in a few short days that seem to come from another being.

Another manifestation of his stay is his struggle with his belief in God. He has at times thought of himself as an atheist, but during his stay, he visits the local sheik and declares his love for God. The local Islamists question the validity of his claims and tell him he is a poseur just trying to ingratiate himself.

Finally, there is a coup led by Sunay Zaim with help from a man, who was colonel during his military days. Against bloodshed, religious fanatics, theatrical farces and love triangles and betrayals, a blizzard keeps all the participants in the city watching the



events unfolding to a surprising end. A friend of Ka's, Orhan Bey, is a recorder of these events after the death of Ka. In the end, Ka turns out not to be the person that Orhan or anyone else thought he was, except Blue.



The Silence of Snow, The Journey to Kars

The Silence of Snow, The Journey to Kars Summary

A man named Ka, abbreviated from Kerim Alakusoglu, has returned to his native Turkey after a twelve-year absence to attend the funeral of his mother in Istanbul. After seeing friends and spending four days in the city of his birth, he took a two-day bus journey to the city of Erzurum, where he managed to catch the last bus leaving for the northern town of Kars.

The bus driver reluctantly lets Ka board the bus, but tells him it is too late to stow his bag in the luggage area as it is closed, and the bus must leave immediately. Ka takes a seat behind the bus driver next to another traveler, wedging his bag between his legs. The trip to Kars is marked by a fierce snowstorm that at first Ka doesn't really notice as he is so fatigued. He quickly falls asleep with his head resting unknowingly on his seat mate's shoulder and then chest.

A sudden lurch of the bus to avoid a horse and carriage in the road awakens Ka to awareness of the swirling snow and the perilous road that is almost obscured by the blizzard. Ka immediately senses the fear of his fellow travelers as some of them help the driver by wiping condensation from the windshield as the wipers can no longer keep up with the storm.

Ka's fellow seat mate asks him why he is traveling to Kars. Ka replies that he is a journalist going there to cover the stories about the municipal elections and the suicides of the young girls. Ka's companion seems to be impressed that an educated man like Ka is traveling to and taking an interest in what is happening in his city of Kars. Ka feels the man's inner peace that has a calming influence on him, allaying his fears of the storm.

The travelers reach Kars three hours late, but safe, and Ka finds his way to the Snow Palace Hotel passing two people that look familiar to him. He encounters them again at the Green Pastures Café, where he takes some refreshment before retiring to his hotel for the night.

The Silence of Snow, The Journey to Kars Analysis

Ka is introduced as the main character in this novel, and his return to his homeland is a return to his childhood. Ka, therefore, expects that everything will be as it was when he was growing up. Unfortunately, he has difficulty finding much that is the same.

Ka had lied when he told the traveler that he was a journalist journeying to Kars to write a story about the elections and the suicides of the young women. In reality, he is a poet



and being a journalist was a cover given to him by a friend, Taner, who works for a newspaper in Istanbul called the Republican. Taner presented him with a press pass so Ka could return to Kars to see a friend.

Ka had always thought of snow as purity personified. He is now seeing the snow through different eyes and seeing the city blanketed in snow as desolate, cold and desperate. The friend he wanted to see is a beautiful, college friend, Ipek, who is now separated from her husband, so Ka wants to believe that Ipek might be interested in him.

Ka goes to his room in the Snow Palace Hotel after getting his key from the hotel clerk, Gavit. Interestingly, Ipek also lives at the hotel so Ka is anticipating with dread, the thought that he might see his "future" love very soon. After reaching his room, he looks out at the snow still falling with no end in sight.



Our City Is a Peaceful Place, The Outlying Districts

Our City Is a Peaceful Place, The Outlying Districts Summary

Playing his role as a reporter, Ka's first day in Kars was spent interviewing voters and the unemployed of Kars and the families of the girls who had committed suicide. He was treated everywhere like a famous journalist. The local publisher of the Border City News, Serdar Bey took him to meet the Assistant Chief of Police, Kasim Bey, as all travelers were expected to pay a visit to the police, especially one who was a political exile, who had just returned after many years.

Serdar Bey showed Ka where the mayor had recently been murdered, then took him to the police station, which was housed in what was once the mansion of a rich Armenian and later a Russian hospital. The policeman suggested that he needed a plainclothes policeman to accompany him while in Kars. Ka couldn't understand the need.

Next, Ka visited the families of the women who had committed suicide - all of them teenagers around sixteen - some that were single and others already married at a young age as is the custom in Turkey.

The reasons were unclear but the circumstances were similarly disturbing: a girl who had been "forced into an engagement with an elderly teahouse owner;" a quarrel with a sibling had ended with the father beating his daughter as his way of settling their argument; a girl who had been married the year before was beaten every day by her unemployed and depressed husband, and a girl who had been falsely accused by a teacher of not being a virgin so her fiancé broke off their engagement - and all other prospects, and even her own family believed the rumor - which was disproved in an autopsy after she died.

Our City Is a Peaceful Place, The Outlying Districts Analysis

Ka decided his first day in the city of Kars that snow no longer promised innocence. The snow had taken on a menace - a terrifying menace that was tiresome and irritating and it never seemed to stop snowing.

Everything looked decayed and decrepit to him, especially the areas where the young girls had lived. Kars was no longer the fairy tale of his childhood; it had taken on a different meaning to him. Was it always this poor, this backward?



The suicides of the young women would haunt Ka for the rest of his life. As one official told him, it was certain that the women were extremely unhappy, but if that was the only reason, then half the women of Turkey would commit suicide.

Ka was appalled by the speed and the manner in which these girls died - going from dinner or a conversation - and then taking their own life with no indication that they were suicidal or unhappy. Not only that, but they had to do it with almost no privacy - in other words, rushing to do the evil deed before someone could come into the room - using a gun, veterinary medicine or hanging as the means to end their lives.



Give Your Vote to God's Party, Poverty and History

Give Your Vote to God's Party, Poverty and History Summary

Kars has a long history of different prominent groups of people influencing the region - Armenians, Persians fleeing the Moghul, Iranians, and Greeks back to Byzantine times, along with various tribes of Georgians, Kurds, Circassians, Russians, Ottomans and even the British - all leaving their marks on this remote border city.

Ka is summoned to the Border City Gazette by Serdar Bey, the owner. On his way out of the hotel, Ka literally runs into Ipek, the beautiful divorcee he knew when he was at university. Ipek invites him to meet for tea after his appointment, to which he readily agrees. The newspaper owner angrily greets him with accusations of meeting with the wrong people in Kars, that they are telling Ka the wrong things about the city.

Ka is surprised that Bey knows where he's been and who he's seen, but the newspaper owner says he was followed by the police. Serdar Bey says that the Islamic movement wants to turn Turkey into another Iran. Serdar then shows Ka the newspaper he is printing with articles about Ka and about forthcoming events that haven't occurred yet. One of the articles says that Ka will be reciting his latest poem titled "Snow" at a theater that evening. Then Ka says he hasn't written a poem by that name, and he won't be at the theater that evening.

Give Your Vote to God's Party, Poverty and History Analysis

Ka was the son of a middle-class lawyer and housewife living in a comfortable household with a maid and all the niceties that go along with it. His return to Istanbul was a huge disappointment from the standpoint that he didn't recognize anything - streets no longer looked the same, shops and landmarks were gone or in ruin and many of his friends were no longer there. His return to his memories of his childhood home were shattered.

His journey to Kars was perhaps an attempt to try to find some of those memories - and he did to some degree, as shop windows there still displayed items that he remembered from his childhood that were no longer seen in Istanbul. The more he walked around, though, he realized that Kars was so remote and cut off from other places that he felt like he was glimpsing snatches of a picture that he couldn't quite put into focus.

Ka's meeting with Ipek in the lobby of the hotel generated feelings of agitation, perhaps because of her immense beauty, but the reality is that he had come all this way to find



her and ask her to marry him. That is why he is so anxious; he has never felt like he deserved to be happy but is pleased at their first encounter and looks forward to seeing her later at a tea house.

His meeting with Serdar Bey, however, generates many feelings. He is surprised to find that the newspaper's office is only two rooms equal in size to his small hotel room. The circulation of the Border City Gazette is a mere 340 people - most of them government officials with very few of the general population buying his small paper. When the owner accuses him of meeting with the wrong people and knowing all Ka's activities, Ka is outraged.

The newspaper owner then proceeds to show him articles that are printed about events that haven't taken place - including the reading of the unwritten poem titled "Snow" by Ka. Serdar Bey tells him that people fear him because he predicts the future and can relate news before it happens. Also in the newspaper is an article saying that Kars has been cut off from the outside world because of the snowstorm. Bey tells Ka that Muhtar Bey is the mayoral candidate for the Party of God; Muhtar is the ex-husband of Ipek. Taking all this in without showing any emotion, Ka leaves the newspaper office.



Did You Really Come Here to Report on the Election and the Suicides? Ka Meets Ipek in the New Life Pastry Shop

Did You Really Come Here to Report on the Election and the Suicides? Ka Meets Ipek in the New Life Pastry Shop Summary

Ka walked through the falling snow to meet Ipek at the New Life Pastry Shop. Although he was disturbed by his meeting with Serdar Bey, he was determined not to let it ruin his anticipated time with the woman who epitomized the type of person he wished to marry. In his dreams, he had romanticized this moment for a long time.

He became tongue-tied when he finally joined Ipek in the pastry shop and saw again how beautiful she was. She seemed much more composed than he as he searched for topics of conversation. After exhausting all topics including mutual friends, they discovered that each had recently lost their mothers. This seemed to break the ice and relax them both.

They discussed his life in Germany, where he read books in English in the library each day and traveled to speak to groups and read his poetry. They talked about her life married to Muhtar Bey and what happened to their marriage. Ka says he needs to interview her husband so she telephones Muhtar to set an appointment later that afternoon. When she finally asked his reason for coming to Kars, he blurted out that he had come to marry her when he found out that she was separated from her husband. Both Ipek and Ka are appalled at his lack of finesse.

Before their conversation can continue further, a commotion at one of the two other tables catches Ka's attention as he faces that table. A man is confronting another man with a gun. The conversation is hard to hear as the proprietor of the shop is listening to a television turned up very loudly. Within seconds, the man has shot his gun and then fires several more shots at the downed man.

Ipek tells Ka they should leave immediately. Ka wants to call the police, but Ipek says they will already know about it. As they rush out the door, Ipek stops him in his tracks with the words, "Watch what you say to Muhtar as he wants to marry me again."



Did You Really Come Here to Report on the Election and the Suicides? Ka Meets Ipek in the New Life Pastry Shop Analysis

Ka is very disturbed by the troubles in his native country and the city that has remained so backward. But he is optimistic about meeting with Ipek and having his dreams of the ideal woman realized in her. When he sees her, though, he is so afraid of making a misstep that he can't carry on a conversation.

They find mutual ground with the recent deaths of their mothers, and from there, the conversation begins in earnest until Ipek asks him why he came to Kars. His abrupt declaration produced a laugh from Ipek at his clumsy way of proposing to her, and Ka was appalled at what he had done. Ipek's look seemed to say, you couldn't even take the time to flirt with me and get to know me again. Instead you just blurted out your intentions with no introduction to the topic. Ipek says none of these things. Instead she tells him she always knew he could be a good poet and congratulates him on his work.

Before Ka can react to this and recover from his blunder, he becomes aware of two men he had noticed earlier at a table in the corner. Although the proprietor of the shop has turned the volume of the television up high, he can tell that one man is berating another. As he watches, the thin, older man rises from the table with a gun pointed at the man, who happens to be the director of the Institute of Education. Without hearing what is said, Ka sees the man shoot the director, then stand over him and pump more bullets into his body.

Immediately horrified, Ka wants to call the police but notices the proprietor has disappeared, and Ipek tells him they must get out of there. She adds that the police probably already know what has happened. After leaving the shop, Ipek explains that the director wasn't letting girls that continued to wear scarves on their heads into the classroom.

Before leaving Ka, Ipek's last words are that Muhtar wants to marry her again, so Ka should be careful what she says to him.



I Hope I'm Not Taking Too Much of Your Time?, The First and Last Conversation Between The Murderer and His Victim

I Hope I'm Not Taking Too Much of Your Time?, The First and Last Conversation Between The Murderer and His Victim Summary

Unbeknown to Ka or Ipek, the director of the Institute of Education had been receiving threats so he had gone to the Kars branch of the national intelligence agency, MIT. They had equipped him with a recording device to record conversations with suspicious individuals of which the director was concerned; therefore, the whole conversation with his attacker was recorded.

The man was from a village called Tokat, and he had traveled to Kars specifically to target the director for not allowing girls into his classroom who were wearing head scarves. The man never divulges his real name, or does he? He says he is two different names - Vahit Suzme and Salim Fesmekan - but is either of the names real? He insists that the director is causing the girls to commit suicide because they are not allowed into classrooms.

The director responds to the Tokat man saying that he is under orders from Ankara to bar these girls who wear scarves from entering the schools. The Tokat man questions the director's religious beliefs and says the girls are only obeying God's commands as stated in the Koran. The man continues to rant and rave, saying he has been in prison and has a short fuse when angered and has proven it many times. He claims not to be a terrorist and has spent two days traveling through the stormy weather to get rid of an infidel. He claims that head scarves protect women from rape and harassment.

After continuing his accusations to the director, the man says that the Freedom Fighters for Islamic Justice condemned the director to death. When the director nervously laughs, that sets off the man on a tirade saying he now deserves to die and asks him to read a piece of paper and to stop crying like a woman.

When the director tries to reason with the man, he gets more and more agitated, prodding him to continue to read that he was a pawn to strip the Muslims of their religion and honor and that he hounded the girls to their suicides. When the director protests some more and tells him he would be hanged as a murderer, the man tells him to say God is great and then shoots him.



I Hope I'm Not Taking Too Much of Your Time?, The First and Last Conversation Between The Murderer and His Victim Analysis

The director of the Institute of Education was not initially concerned when the man stopped at his table, but he nevertheless turned on the recorder to tape the conversation. He had stopped for a pastry just by chance; it was not planned and now Fate had intervened.

No matter how he tried to reason with this man, his words were twisted around, and the killer would not listen to reason no matter how hard the director tried. The killer noticed his concerns and told him that if he was thinking of turning him into the police, he was not afraid as he was not a terrorist and didn't belong to any religious organizations.

The director realized that no matter what he said, he was about to die and there wasn't anything he could do about it.



He Kissed My Hand, Love, Religion, and Poetry: Muhtar's Sad Story

He Kissed My Hand, Love, Religion, and Poetry: Muhtar's Sad Story Summary

After Ka and Ipek parted ways, Ka continued to the headquarters of the Prosperity Party, but he kept looking for a telephone to call the police, but everywhere he looked, he could not find a phone. Finally Ka found one that was occupied so he stood waiting and contemplating whether he should make the call or not. Instead Ka went to his appointment with Muhtar Bey without making the call. The two embraced when they met, and Ka immediately announced that they have killed the director of the Institute of Education. Muhtar tells Ka that he must call the police at once and tell them what happened. The police say they will send a car to get him so he can give his statement at the station.

After the phone call, Muhtar and Ka sit in stony silence with nothing to say to each other until Muhtar states that he heard Ka was going to read his latest poem at the performance that evening. They then launched into a discussion of mutual friends that led Muhtar to admit that one of their friends, Fahir, was the westernized, self-possessed individual that he Muhtar had always wanted to be.

Muhtar then launched into a dissertation of how unhappy he was with himself and how that led him to drink and stay out late to avoid arguments with his wife, Ipek. On one of these evenings when he was at his lowest point, he found himself at the entrance to a doorway leading to the secret lodge of the Kurdish Sheikh Saadettin Efendi. Through my tears, I found myself returning to Islam and to its religious teachings.

Muhtar found that he could talk to the sheikh about anything - his deepest fears and his sorrow about not having a child with Ipek. Muhtar said he felt more at peace than he had ever felt, so he returned to visit the sheikh often. Ipek finally confronted him one evening to ask why he was staying out late every evening and Muhtar confessed where he had been spending his time. He was pleased that he could now pray openly at home.

Muhtar's newfound religious fervor induced him to start writing poetry again and he felt it was some of the best poetry he had ever written. He sent it to Fahir in Istanbul to get it published but heard nothing. When he discussed his concern with the sheikh, he became somewhat disillusioned with the sheikh, when the sheikh didn't seem to understand why publishing his poems was so important. At that point in the conversation between Ka and Muhtar, the electricity went off, as it frequently does in this part of the country.



He Kissed My Hand, Love, Religion, and Poetry: Muhtar's Sad Story Analysis

While Ka waited to use a telephone, his mind suddenly grasped the fact that he was in love with Ipek - a fact that filled him with a nervous dread that his life would be changed forever. He started wondering whether she would leave Kars with him and escape this backward city.

When Muhtar tells him immediately to call the police, Ka does. While he is on the phone with them, Muhtar creeps over to stand close to hear the conversation on the other end of the phone. His meeting with Muhtar brought back all his feelings about Muhtar that Ka had forgotten. Muhtar was never a good friend; he was the type who might trick you and turn you into the police, and Ka realized he hated Muhtar more than ever.

His next thought was that they both probably loved Ipek as an escape from their mundane worldly accomplishments. Ka is surprised at Muhtar's candid confession of his religious transformation. Muhtar states that Ipek told him that she would not wear the scarf, even though he had gone religious on her. Muhtar says he would never press her to do that.

When the sheikh offered no understanding of his inability to get his poem's published, Muhtar became disenchanted with the sheikh and the men of the lodge and joined the Prosperity Party, where he felt he would get a deeper spiritual meaning from being a party member.



Political Islamist Is Only a Name That Westerners and Seculars Give Us, At Party Headquarters, Police Headquarters, and Once Again In The Streets

Political Islamist Is Only a Name That Westerners and Seculars Give Us, At Party Headquarters, Police Headquarters, and Once Again In The Streets Summary

Ka and Muhtar continue sitting in silence while the electricity remains shut off. After awhile, Muhtar asks Ka the whereabouts of friends and political exiles who had fled to Germany, so Ka launches into his own stories. Ka told of fellow students who had died or joined small gangs, worked the black markets or worked for secret services, and still others who had simply vanished. The happiest political exile was Ferhat, who had attacked offices of Turkish Airlines for the PKK.

Ka and Muhtar continue to talk about the differences between religious men and non-religious men, especially in a country such as theirs. They see the police have arrived and immediately Muhtar asked Ka for a favor. Muhtar wants Ka to tell Ipek that Muhtar wants to marry her again. He says that he made mistakes as a husband and put pressure on her to wear a scarf, and he is sorry for all things he's said and done. He also asked that Ka take his latest poem titled "The Staircase" to Istanbul and deliver it to Fahir. Ka agrees as the two policemen enter the room.

Ka was scolded by the police for writing about the suicides and so causing them to occur, which Ka immediately denied. Then the policemen searched through the drawers and records of Muhtar's office. It was evident that they were treating him better than Muhtar. Upon arrival at the police station, Ka was taken to another room to try to identify snapshots of the killer. When he returned to the room occupied by Muhtar, it was clear that Muhtar had been beaten. Ka was released soon thereafter, but Muhtar's fate was unknown.

After his release, Ka was standing across the street from the scene of the crime, the New Life Pastry Shop when someone tapped him on the shoulder, saying he knew who he was, and there was someone important who wanted to meet with him. He was told that Blue, a famous political Islamist wanted to talk to him. Ka agreed to go with him to meet this militant wanted by many people.



Political Islamist Is Only a Name That Westerners and Seculars Give Us, At Party Headquarters, Police Headquarters, and Once Again In The Streets Analysis

Although it was uncomfortable sitting in silence in the darkness, Ka preferred that to pretending that he and Muhtar were best friends; after all, the only thing they have in common is Ipek. Ka stands and looks out the window at the snowflakes, which have a soothing influence on Ka and remind him of childhood evenings when there would be power outages, and everyone would be concerned about the poor, and Ka would think how fortunate he was. The silence of the snow reminds Ka of God - his version of God.

What amazed Ka was that Muhtar talked about how religious he had become and who the sheikh's group of men were, but not once did he mention God. He thinks that Muhtar is threatened by the westernized version of God. Ka tells him those who pray all day are dependent on the atheists, who deal with the western business world and are experts at managing those relationships.

When Muhtar asked Ka to talk to Ipek, Ka inquired why he didn't do it himself. Muhtar's answer was that he had tried but to no avail, and he felt that she would believe Ka if he told her. Muhtar said that he would probably be behind bars. Ka felt like he was cocooned in a fairy tale as the police car took them to headquarters with the snow cushioning their ride. As they reached their destination, Muhtar's look was unsettling to Ka as if he deserved the treatment he was about to receive from the police because of his desire to be an elected official in a desire for power.

Upon release from the police station, Ka realized that the police wouldn't beat a religious conservative; Muhtar was beaten because he was a radical Islam. Ka decided that Muhtar felt liberated by the beating because it released some of the guilt he felt about his country's backwardness and misery. Ka was depressed by the day's events and the dire poverty and violence he had witnessed, but he was hopeful that he would soon start a new life and love with Ipek.

The stranger who approached Ka was named Necip, a student who had been recruited to relay the message to Ka that Blue wanted to see him. Necip defends Blue when Ka says he has heard of the militant Islamist, but Ka goes with Necip to meet with Blue.



Suicide Is a Terrible Sin, Blue and Rustem

Suicide Is a Terrible Sin, Blue and Rustem Summary

Ka meets his next guide, whose red cap is hard to discern as it has turned white with the falling snow. This boy tells Ka that he cannot tell anyone where he goes to meet Blue, who is called the Master by this boy. His instructions are not to be insolent or interrupt Blue while he is talking.

Ka rings the doorbell of an apartment and is immediately frisked by the man, who at first Ka thinks he is the man who shot the director, but realizes that he is not after careful scrutiny. Ka's first impression of Blue is that he is young, extremely handsome, with deep blue eyes, no beard and brown hair unlike his portrayal in the press as a gun slinging fundamentalist with prayer beads in his other hand.

Blue asks who Ka is spying for and Ka replies that he is spying for the Republican. When Blue says he already knows that, Ka says he volunteered so he could come to see his friends, Muhtar and Ipek. When asked why he was speaking to the families of the girls committing suicide, Ka explained that he was to write articles about them for the press, both in Turkey and other western countries. Blue tells Ka he doesn't want him writing an article about the suicides - that the girls couldn't really be Muslim if they committed suicide.

Blue then tells Ka that he asked him there for another reason as well - to tell him a story about Rustem and Suhrab, an old Turkish story that had been passed down for generations about a father who ends up killing his son in battle. Blue asked what Ka is thinking after hearing the tale. Ka's response is that he doesn't know so Blue tells him to think about it.

Suicide Is a Terrible Sin, Blue and Rustem Analysis

The next boy that Ka meets, with the red-turned-white cap, tells him that he can still change his mind about meeting with Blue; that there is a penalty of death if he ever tells anyone about Blue. The boy's threat didn't scare Ka; he knew of Blue's notoriety as he was accused of murdering a TV host in Germany but had an alibi so was never charged.

Blue continued to hide out, which in turn generated more stories about other heroic deeds that may or may not be true. Blue fueled the flames by staying in hiding and maintained an air of mystery that attracted students. Blue told Ka about being found guilty of promoting his religious beliefs and hence his exile to Germany.



Blue questioned Ka as to why Muhtar was beaten and he wasn't. When Ka exclaimed that he did not know, Blue retorted that Ka was a member of the Istanbul bourgeoisie, so he was excluded from any beating because he might know too many people in high places. Blue's explanation is that Muhtar was glad to show that he could take a beating even though he might be elected in the next few days.

Blue's story about Rustem and Suhrab is a stirring story about father and son not knowing each other but fighting it out in battle. The father is saddened and disheartened when he discovers he has killed his own son. So what is this a metaphor for? Blue leaves Ka to ponder that question - if the story is so beautiful why does it lead a man to kill?



Are You an Atheist? A Nonbeliever Who Does Not Want To Kill Himself

Are You an Atheist? A Nonbeliever Who Does Not Want To Kill Himself Summary

When Blue left the room, he left Ka uncertain about whether he had just received a message or a threat. He quickly let himself out of the apartment and retraced his steps back through the empty train station, where he was stopped by Necip and two of his friends. Necip proceeded to tell him a story about a director of a religious high school in Istanbul, who goes to see a city official in a high-rise building that these boys have only seen on television. The director meets a man in an elevator; the man speaks a few lines over an uncut book and a pearl-handled knife. In the following days, the director is obsessed with death, discovers he has lost his faith in God and becomes more and more infected with a disease called atheism.

Becoming more and more obsessed with death, the director turns to lawlessness, inciting rape, stealing and other amoral activities that he would never have considered before. His hopelessness leads him back to the same elevator to meet the same man with his book and pearl handled knife, but this time, the man plunges his knife into the director's heart. When Necip finishes his story, Ka realizes he has heard a similar version of this story before.

Necip's friends ask Ka if he is an atheist or if he believes in God. They then ask if he would want to kill himself. Ka answers that he doesn't know if he believes in God, but he would never consider suicide. Necip says that he and the other two young men with were in love with girls who wore the scarf, one of whom was Teslime, who supposedly killed herself. However, the boys can't believe she would do such a thing because of her faith, and they don't believe the story that has been told about how she died.

Leaving the boys behind, Ka is elated to hear the call of his inner self, his muse, who wrote his poetry for him. Ka is happy that after four years, the words will become a poem so he hurries in the direction of the hotel to start writing.

Are You an Atheist? A Nonbeliever Who Does Not Want To Kill Himself Analysis

Ka felt like time had stopped and he had been with Blue for a long time, when it had actually only been about twenty minutes, but he felt like many things had changed. While Necip told his story, Ka was reminded of how backward his country was. He was also reminded how much the snow reminded him of God.



As the boys talked about their love for the girls, one of whom had died; Ka asked how well the boy had known Teslime. When he admitted that he didn't actually know her, that he had only seen her once from afar, and they had never spoken, Ka told him that perhaps he didn't know her well enough to understand her motivations for suicide. When Necip says that it's painful for them to even consider that her motivation might have been because she was an atheist, and he could never think that he could love someone that didn't believe in God.

As Ka walks back through the snow to his hotel, he asked himself what he is doing in this world. Seeing the snow from this perspective as these boys look at life, makes him feel miserable, but another part of him feels the surge of joy as he feels the call of his poetry deep inside him and hurries back to write what he thinks will be a beautiful poem.



What Makes This Poem Beautiful? Snow and Happiness

What Makes This Poem Beautiful? Snow and Happiness Summary

Back in his hotel room, Ka feels the poem bubbling out of him with thoughts of the snow, childhood memories and the image of Ipek. This poem was titled "Snow," and he gazed out the window at the falling snow as he finished writing. A knock on the door brought Ipek to his doorstep, delivering a letter to him that he quickly tosses aside.

Ipek tells him that the director's condition has worsened, surprising Ka as he had thought the man had died when he was shot, but apparently he is clinging to life. Ipek tells Ka that she heard that Muhtar had been released but was badly beaten, and Ka tells her that he has just met with Blue. Ipek urges Ka to open the letter, which turns out to be from Saadettin Cevher, the sheikh of whom Muhtar had spoken - he has invited Ka to visit him.

Ipek and Ka embrace, but Ipek won't make love to Ka saying she isn't ready and won't in her father's hotel. Ka insists then on reading his newly-written poem to Ipek, who tells him repeatedly how beautiful it is. Before leaving, Ka gives her a kiss as she tells him again how beautiful his poem is.

What Makes This Poem Beautiful? Snow and Happiness Analysis

Ka thought that his poem "Snow" unlocked the meaning of his life. He felt that the snowflakes falling were the inspiration needed to finish his writing. He is elated when a knock on his door reveals Ipek bringing him a letter. She advises him not to tell anyone about his encounter with Blue, nor should he talk to Blue about her or her family, especially her father.

Ka asked her to marry him then and just escape the city. He started to despair as he felt that his love for Ipek was going to lead him to unhappiness—that he didn't deserve to be happy. But Ipek began to return his kisses and lie with him on his bed but would go no further.

She admonished Ka for thinking lightly of both Blue and the sheikh, saying that he should be afraid of both as they were very smart and very cunning. Ipek then insists that Ka go to visit the sheikh, although Ka says he doesn't need religion now but goes because she tells him it is necessary and only because she insisted he do so. She told him not to be afraid of believing and to stay there until he found understanding deep in his soul.



Do They Have a Different God in Europe? Ka With Sheikh Efendi

Do They Have a Different God in Europe? Ka With Sheikh Efendi Summary

After racing out of the hotel, Ka stopped at the Green Pastures Café, not only to get directions, but also to get some courage with a double raki, along with some food. He then had another raki before setting off to see the sheikh. The room was crowded with about twenty people when Ka arrived, all listening to the sheikh.

The sheikh welcomed Ka by kissing his hand and asking him to sit next to him on his divan. Ka told the sheikh that the snow reminded him of God. Then Ka told him about growing up in Istanbul, how he always wanted to be like Europeans. At that time, Ka felt that there could be a different Allah in Europe than the Allah that was here who required women to wear scarves. Ka said he wanted a God who understood his need for solitude.

Ka told the sheikh that he too was provincial and wanted to be forgotten under a blanket of snow. The sheikh told him the first thing he needed to learn was humility. With that, Ka removed himself from the divan to a cushion in the corner of the room. There he talked in whispers with some men who said that the real reason for the epidemic of suicides is that the girls were being sold to elderly men - men they don't love.

After a time, Ka retired to the staircase as another poem came to him, and he wanted to write it down while fresh in his mind. He called this poem "Hidden Symmetry."

Do They Have a Different God in Europe? Ka With Sheikh Efendi Analysis

As Ka left the hotel, he felt like he was seeing two movies at the same time - one was of him making love to Ipek in Germany, but not in his home - the other one related to the last lines of his poem "Snow." After his shots of courage called raki, Ka still was feeling as though he was on his way to the dentist and dreading the shot of Novocain. Ka was made welcome by the sheikh but the sheikh immediately told him that he was afraid of this city, the house and the people because they all seemed strange to him.

He told the sheikh that he had always wanted to see Turkey modernize and felt that its religion held the country back from prospering. He said that he found out in Europe that the God there was different than the one from the provincial reactionaries wearing beards here in this country. He realized he was being very open and critical and blamed it on the three drinks he had had. He admitted that he was confused.



The sheikh advised Ka that arrogant men always ended up alone and that God doesn't have time for pride. After moving to the corner of the room and learning what the other men had to say about the suicides, Ka felt more at peace, as if he knew the real reason for the suicides all along. He then retreated to the stairwell to write his next poem, although he felt as though this poem was something that someone else had written.



If God Does Not Exist, How Do You Explain All the Suffering of the Poor? The Sad Story of Necip and Hicran

If God Does Not Exist, How Do You Explain All the Suffering of the Poor? The Sad Story of Necip and Hicran Summary

Ka once again headed back to the hotel, but as he walked along, he realized another poem was emerging so he ducked into a teahouse to sit down and write it. Once there, he found he wasn't ready to write so observed all the posters and clippings decorating the walls - the usual Switzerland mountain scenes, cartoons, civil service exam conditions and a soccer schedule. He jotted down some lines that someone had written next to one of the soccer scores showing another loss for Turkey.

His student friend Necip then joined him and asked if he could ask just one more question. Ka reluctantly agreed saying he was short of time and needed to return to a dinner engagement. His question was this - if God doesn't exist, then heaven doesn't exist, which means that all the millions of poor people who hope for eternal salvation have nothing to look forward to and their suffering is all for naught.

Necip then asks to read a short science fiction story to Ka that he has written and wants to get published. Just as he begins the story, the lights go out, so Necip finds a candle to continue to read the story of two boys who are inseparable, love the same woman, but each wants the other to be happy, and each finds that true happiness can only be found if one sacrifices his life for the other.

Necip then says he hasn't finished the story and isn't sure what the ending should be. He tells Ka he is in love with a girl named Hicran, who was a model and has forsaken her old model life and taken to wearing head scarves like the girls she used to laugh it. As Ka and Necip sit in the café, Necip suddenly looks outside and says that Hicran is standing out there.

If God Does Not Exist, How Do You Explain All the Suffering of the Poor? The Sad Story of Necip and Hicran Analysis

As Ka returns to the hotel, he is again inspired as he walks past shops that remind him of childhood memories and he feels another poem coming to him. He stops at the café thinking he could write the poem down, but realizes that he's not ready to write so



observes the people inside - students and the unemployed. When he is joined by Necip, his young student friend tells him that Ka is the only person he has ever known who is a published poet.

After reading his unfinished story to Ka, Necip asked him what he thought of it. Ka told him that he was very moved as it showed that Necip really believes there is another life waiting for you when you die. Necip agreed that he did believe that, but the difficulty is that God wants him to be happy in this life and that is what he finds hard. He is also afraid that by not believing he can be happy now, that means he is an atheist and that is the worst thing for Necip to believe.

Necip tells Ka that he and his deeply-religious friend, Fazil, are as close as the two boys in his story, and Necip believes that if he were ever killed, that Fazil would do anything to seek revenge. When asked where Fazil was right now, Necip replied that he was probably in the dormitory studying as always. After telling Ka the story of who Hicran is, Necip is surprised to see her outside the café in the street.



I'm Not Going to Discuss My Faith with an Atheist, A Walk Through The Snow With Kadife

I'm Not Going to Discuss My Faith with an Atheist, A Walk Through The Snow With Kadife Summary

A woman entered the café wearing dark glasses and a head scarf and walked directly to Ka and introduced herself as Ipek's sister, Kadife. She told Ka she had been sent by her father to get Ka as he was late for dinner. Although plainer than her beautiful sister, Ka found that she was easy to talk to as they walked back to the hotel through the snow.

They discussed many topics as they walked along, about the stormy weather, about life and how short it was and her thoughts that in spite of their differences, people generally have much in common. They passed a beer hall where the head of the theatrical troupe was sitting with his cast members drinking before their big performance that night.

Another poster was seen in a window proclaiming "Human Beings Are God's Masterpieces and Suicide is Blasphemy" so Ka asked Kadife what her thoughts were about Teslime's suicide. Kadife's reply was that if she did kill herself, then she committed a sin, but in spite of that, we remember her with love. She told him she would not discuss her faith with an atheist.

Kadife told Ka about wearing the head scarf and demonstrating, about being thrown in jail and her situation with her father; did they get along? She said that her father is an old Communist, who now spends his days running the hotel and rarely leaving it. Kadife says she knows he went to see Blue, but he should not tell her father about it. Kadife also knew that Ka had written a poem that day so Ka found out that Ipek and her sister discussed everything together.

I'm Not Going to Discuss My Faith with an Atheist, A Walk Through The Snow With Kadife Analysis

When Kadife walked up to Ka, he was surprised and asked how she knew he was there. Her reply was that there were no secrets in Kars. Necip had turned white as he looked at Kadife, whom he called Nicran. Ka found Kadife so easy to talk to that he even wondered if he could love her instead of her beautiful, older sister, but he knew in his heart he could never be sexually attracted to a woman who wore a head scarf.

Kadife told Ka that when she first put on a head scarf, it was supposed to be a political statement, a one-time thing, but after being thrown in jail along with her father, she was frightened and believed that the people of Kars would turn against her. Her father had



always been an enemy of the state; he took satisfaction in her rebellion of wearing the head scarf because he took it as a political statement against the state, which it was meant to be. Now Kadife felt that God had put her through the suffering so that she would realize her belief in her faith.

Turgut Bey, Kadife's father says there are two kinds of communists - those who are arrogant and think they can control everything and those that are the innocents, who think there will be equality and justice for all. The arrogant ones are power hungry and hopefully get what's coming to them, but the innocent ones are always feeling guilty about the suffering of the poor that they, too, become miserable.

Ka then learned that Kadife and her sister Ipek discuss everything as Kadife knew about his visit with Blue and the poem he had written, so there did not appear to be any secrets between them.



How Do You Write Poems? The Dinner Conversation Turns to Love, Head Scarves, and Suicide

How Do You Write Poems? The Dinner Conversation Turns to Love, Head Scarves, and Suicide Summary

As Ka and Kadife passed the National Theater, they saw students, unemployed and the well dressed - all of whom did not let the snow deter them from attending this big event. Ka felt another poem emerging, so went directly to his hotel room when they arrived where he wrote "Stars and Their Friends." Once finished, he hurried to the private rooms of Turgut Bey and his daughters to join them for dinner. Besides the family of three, there was a friend of Kadife named Hande, along with Serdar Bey, the newspaper owner.

While enjoying the dinner served by their maid Zahide, everyone kept turning to the television set tuned into the live broadcast at the National Theater. Hande talked about Teslime's suicide and how she was pressured by everyone, including her family, to take off her head scarf to attend school, but she wouldn't do it so she was about to be expelled. One day the police came to Teslime's father's grocery store and told him they would close it down unless his daughter complied, so her father threatened to disown her and throw her out of his house; then he negotiated her marriage to an older policeman who had recently lost his wife.

Hande said that all Teslime's friends were encouraging her to take her head scarf off just to end this and then Hande suggested she threaten suicide if they forced her to do it. Hande told her it was better to kill yourself than to uncover your head. We never believed she would do it because she was so devout. After Teslime's suicide Hande decided it was better to uncover her head, then to dishonor her parents by killing herself.

Hande then asked Ka how he went about writing poems - how did he concentrate? Hande felt that the more she concentrated on removing her head scarf, the harder it was to do it because she can't picture herself doing it. Hande continues to badger Ka for answers as to how he finds the inspiration for his poems. Finally, Ka replies that it comes from within - from God. He next announced that a poem had arrived as he jumped to his feet. Ipek leads him to the bedroom shared by the sisters to allow him a quiet place to write his poem; Ka asks Ipek to stay with him.

Ka starts writing, telling Ipek that he loves her and wants her to go to Germany with him. When asked if she would go with him, Ipek says she doesn't know. Ipek leaves him to finish the poem titled "The Chocolate Box." Turgut Bey toasts Ka when he returns



asking what the poem is about. Ka replies that it is about everyone he has interviewed since arriving in Kars and the fear that is now inside him.

How Do You Write Poems? The Dinner Conversation Turns to Love, Head Scarves, and Suicide Analysis

As Ka and Kadife return to the hotel, another poem emerged based on his conversation with Kadife - that all people have a star, each star has a friend and every star-carrying person carries a reflection within them. After joining the others for dinner, he feels ecstatic just seeing Ipek again, and he is impatient to start their life in Frankfurt. Throughout dinner he holds on to her hand like a lifeline.

When Turgut Bey questions Ka about not reading his poem at the National Theater, he urges him to do so - that it is important for him to be there so Ka reluctantly agrees. After Hande's story about Teslime and her relentless questioning about how he writes his poems, Ka responds that God is who sends him the poems from inside. Turgut Bey says he's been threatened by authorities and therefore says that God inspires him; Ka says that he is scared, very scared.

When he seemed to get a vision of his next poem and announced one had arrived, all declared that he was bathed in a radiant joy. Turgut Bey says he's just had too much to drink and asks Ipek to find him a place to write. In Ipek's bedroom, Ka tells her that he never wants her to leave him; that he is in love with her. When Ipek protests that he doesn't even know her, Ka explains that there are two kinds of men: one who doesn't fall in love until he thoroughly knows everything about the girl and one like he, who can visualize what life would be like with a woman and fall instantly in love. He tells her he can tell her anything without shame and imagines how wonderful their love life will be.

Ipek asks what his life was like in Germany and then adds why don't you live in Istanbul? Ka feels that he couldn't live in Kars and tells her that life is so hopeless here and people are so poor that he can only think of death here. Ipek then tells him she doesn't know if she is coming with him or not and that they are waiting for them in the other room. She leaves ahead of him, while he finishes his poem.

As Ka returns to the dining room through the kitchen, he finds the two sisters embracing, which shakes him up tremendously. Then when he looks again, he sees no one, so he drinks a glass of raki before going into the other room where the others are waiting for him. When he tells them his poem is about his interviews. Turgut Bey warns him not to believe everything he hears, especially that you believe in God since you saw the Sheikh Efendi, since the Ka doesn't worship the same God as others in Kars. When Hande declares that everyone is afraid of their own voices, Ipek states that is the silence of the snow. But Ka holds Ipek's hand and decides that he would rather do that and watch television here in Kars for the rest of his life.



There's One Thing We All Want Out of Life, At The National Theater

There's One Thing We All Want Out of Life, At The National Theater Summary

When the television announcer declares sorrowfully that Ka will not be with them that night, Turgut Bey tells him he must go at once, or the people of Kars will think he is snubbing them. Before leaving, Turgut advised him to increase his belief in God as the Islamists are getting rid of those who have a moderate faith and especially those proclaimed as atheists. He sets out alone as everyone decided to stay and watch him from the television.

All the people were gone from outside the theater as he entered to hear the overwhelming noise of the audience. As he stood uncertainly in the crowd, Necip emerged to tell him he had two questions on his mind. Necip asks if Ka told Kadife about Necip's feelings of love towards her, to which Ka replied that he had not. Necip then asked if he and Kadife had talked about any inconsequential things, to which Ka answered no.

Necip then starts talking about his belief in God and that when you believe something so wholeheartedly, sometimes you start to doubt yourself, and so doubt your belief in God. He then tells Ka that he has written three letters to Kadife, none of which he has mailed, but he wants Ka to give the letters to her. Necip says the letters are concealed in a bathroom stall and to meet him there in twenty minutes.

There's One Thing We All Want Out of Life, At The National Theater Analysis

When it was announced on television that Ka wasn't going to attend the performance and read his poem, Turgut Bey told him he would be giving great offense to the people of Kars and that he must go to the theater and read his poem. Ka declared that he was feeling the call of God from deep within, but everyone thought those were the words of someone who was drunk.

As Ka walked through the snow, he was again mesmerized by the flakes and inspired by them. Talking with Necip inside the theater warmed Ka and reminded him of his days as a student. Necip reminded Ka that intelligent people who are unhappy are the ones who write good poetry, and you endured your exile from your faith so you could write, but you didn't realize you would end up all alone. As they talk, Necip keeps saying they are being watched. Necip reminds Ka again that his friend Fazil will go after anyone who does anything to Necip.



As they observed the audience that included drunks, Necip made a comment about people drinking because they are unhappy and that Ka had been drinking because he didn't want to face the happiness he was feeling. He then walked away, leaving Ka to find his seat where he could see the advertisements on stage that were parodies of a Westerner in an outrageous dilemma that brought laughter and outrage from the audience. These stories gave everyone an opportunity to laugh at themselves.



Where God Does Not Exist, Necip Describes His Landscape and Ka Recites His Poem

Where God Does Not Exist, Necip Describes His Landscape and Ka Recites His Poem Summary

When Ka met Necip in the men's room twenty minutes later, they waited in line for a stall, where Necip retrieved his stash of love letters and gave them to Ka to give to Kadife. Necip told Ka that once the letters were delivered, Necip would never think about Kadife again and would give his love and passion to God.

As people pound on the stall, Necip tells Ka about his landscape in his dreams - a narrow passage between two buildings that fills him with fear. The road ahead is where God does not exist, and Necip tries to stop from looking down the road where there is a lonely, barren tree that bursts into flames as Necip looks at it. Necip says he tries not to look at the road, but he keeps seeing the same landscape over and over again.

When Ka returned to his seat, they called him onstage to read his poem. He stood out as unusual for a Turk, with his charcoal gray, German coat and his height. When the announcer asked him how he found their beautiful city, Ka responded that it was very beautiful, very poor and very sad. This elicited an immediate reaction from the raucous students in the back of the hall, who started shouting to tell them why he was there. Ka's answer was that he came because he was unhappy, but he was much happier now that he was here.

Ka then proceeded to read his poem through to the end with no problems. When Ka was finished there was some applause, but whether it was from enjoyment or an automatic reaction was unclear.

Where God Does Not Exist, Necip Describes His Landscape and Ka Recites His Poem Analysis

When Ka met Necip in the bathroom and has given the letters to Ka to pass on to Kadife, Necip says that life doesn't make us unhappy - that is our own doing. Ka tells Necip that he thinks Necip is doubting his faith, which Necip vehemently denies saying that would be the death of him. When Necip talks about his landscape dream and that he is overcome with fear, willing himself not to continue to look at the tree that bursts into bright red flames, but he does repeatedly. The reader might wonder if Necip is afraid to look at his faith, which may be in danger of going up in flames.



Necip believes that to become an atheist, you must first become a Westerner - that the two go hand in hand. Necip believes strongly that if a man is abandoned by God, then he will be the loneliest man alive.

Ka's introduction at the theater resulted in lots of noise and reaction from the audience to this man, who was of them, but not of them with his fancy coat—and what Turk is that tall? Ka saw all the people he had talked to - the assistant police chief, the deputy governor, the teachers and others, and Ka realized that everyone had known all along that he was a poet, not a journalist.

Although students in the back of the room were disruptive, they became quiet as he read his poem through to the end with no difficulty. Necip realizes that his landscape was word for word what he had told Ka about the place where God does not exist. There were shouts and scattered applause as he finished.



My Fatherland or My Head Scarf, A Play About a Girl Who Burns Her Head Scarf

My Fatherland or My Head Scarf, A Play About a Girl Who Burns Her Head Scarf Summary

Next on the agenda at the National Theater was the skit titled "My Fatherland or My Head Scarf," which starred Funda Eser, a member of Sunay Zaim's troupe of actors. She had entertained them earlier with parodies of commercials and a belly dance, but now she comes onstage with her head swathed in a black scarf covering her face so the audience didn't recognize her at first.

The premise of the skit is a woman proclaiming her independence by taking off her head scarf, then burning it, much to the dismay of her family and other Muslims. Then as the religious fanatics are dragging her offstage, she is saved by the Republican soldiers. From the moment that Funda took off her head scarf, the audience had mixed emotions of fear, outrage and concern for what would happen next. When Funda proceeded to put the scarf into a basin and pour what looked liquid detergent into the bowl, but was in fact gasoline, people at first thought she was going to wash the scarf so they started laughing. But their laughter turned to shouts of fear as she lit a match and the scarf burst into flames.

The religious students were outraged as they shouted to be rid of atheists and infidels, but Funda Eser continued her dialogue as though nothing had happened, but no one could hear her over the increased booing and shouting by the high school boys. People were beginning to leave, fearful of what would happen next, so Ka took this opportunity to leave as well.

My Fatherland or My Head Scarf, A Play About a Girl Who Burns Her Head Scarf Analysis

The skit about the woman proclaiming her independence portrayed by the ex-belly dancer, Funda Eser, provoked outrage from not only the religious students, but everyone who was there. Some were not so much outraged as worried about what would happen next. Part of their concern was that the portrayal was done by this lewd woman, rather than a young, studious girl, so besides the catcalls and shouting, the deputy governor was heard to say this is wrong.

Part of the audience was also enjoying the scene unfolding of someone expressing their freedom and independence - something that they would secretly like to do. The officials, however, were also concerned that this was a live broadcast that, although it was local,



could get back to higher officials in Istanbul. Everyone relaxed when they thought Funda was using soap on the scarf, but then alarm set in when she set the headgear on fire.

People now realized that the booing and shouting was getting much more serious and some headed for the exits before things got out of hand. Ka had much the same idea, although he was concerned that he might forget the next poem bubbling in his head, and he wanted to return to Ipek. As pandemonium started to take place, Funda continued undeterred with her role, talking about souls, and the scarf being a symbol for the soul, which provoked another student to ask her to take all her clothes off and run to Europe. Some laughter resulted from this comment, though many could no longer hear a word she said.



Don't Fire, the Guns Are Loaded! A Revolution Onstage

Don't Fire, the Guns Are Loaded! A Revolution Onstage Summary

Two actors appeared onstage at this point playing the religious fanatics, who were going to punish her for baring her head. Funda gave a provocative performance as she tried to escape these men, but the men persevered and pinned her to the ground with their knives and ropes. Wearing an army uniform from the thirties, Sunay Zaim comes on stage to rescue Funda, looking more handsome and decisive than he had ever looked. He silences the crowd with one word - "Quiet." He launches into his speech saying that everyone is in torment, although no one is sure who he means.

Soldiers then appear on stage and throughout the aisles, when a messenger from the newspaper appears and runs up to Sunay Zaim and whispers in his ear. Sunay announces that the director of the Institute of Education has just died, and then everything happens at once - the soldiers opened fire on the audience, and no one was sure if this was part of the play or real. When taunts are heard from the religious students, another volley rings out and then a third, which is when the audience finally realized the soldiers were firing real bullets.

Necip rises to tell the soldiers not to fire again when a fourth and final round of shots ring out. At this point, the audience went completely out of control with more shouting, running and trying to get out of the theater. Sunay could be heard saying - "This is not a play, but the beginning of a revolution."

Don't Fire, the Guns Are Loaded! A Revolution Onstage Analysis

Once the actors appeared onstage to punish Funda Eser for removing her scarf, everything moved very quickly. The students were egged on by the people who found them amusing, although sometimes annoying, but the people clapped or booed or laughed when the students did, perhaps because they found the entertainment lacking.

When Sunay Zaim took the stage, he launched into his speech about embarking on the road to enlightenment, whether he meant individual, city, state or religious, no one was quite sure. The soldiers firing at the crowd took everyone by surprise, as they weren't sure if the shots were real or fake. But as they observed some people being hit around them and pieces of plaster and other debris, which were hit by bullets, falling, the audience realized this was real and they were terrified. The first rounds were sent over



everyone's heads, but the last ones were aimed at specific individuals - including Necip, who had only stood up to tell everyone to stop.

After the screaming and shouting ended, Sunay Zaim congratulated the soldiers on a job well done; then he helped Funda rise from the floor of the stage, which generated some applause from the audience. People were acting like the dead bodies were all part of the make-believe world of the stage. Sunay announced that this was the beginning of a revolution in which they would go to any length to protect the fatherland. He, along with a trio of strangers who seemed to know him, shouted slogans about the Turkish people and the Republic living long.



And How Beautiful Was the Falling Snow, The Night of the Revolution

And How Beautiful Was the Falling Snow, The Night of the Revolution Summary

The three strangers who had been onstage with Sunay were Z Demirkol, a former Communist and writer, and two Turkish militant friends, that most people in the audience assumed were in the play. They overtook Ka outside the theater admonishing him that he needed to kill them before they killed him. Ka took a different route to avoid them as he headed back to the hotel, hearing gunshots farther away.

Trudging through the snow, Ka heard voices across the street as some men tried to break down the door to the telephone office. Ka recognizes the three men he encountered earlier, Z Demirkol and his two thugs, who now tied up the telephone company manager who had just gotten out of a police car because he wouldn't open the door for them. They finally untied him when Recai Bey said he would open the door for them.

When he finally reached the hotel, Ipek told him she was proud of him for the way he had read his poem, which heightened his joy, though Turgut Bey scolded him for being late. Turgut also said they had just announced a curfew, but Ka replied that he had no interest in politics. After asking Ipek repeatedly to come up to his room with him, Ka went up to his room where he wrote down the latest poem called "The Night of the Revolution" in his notebook. Afterwards he lit a cigarette and looked out the window.

And How Beautiful Was the Falling Snow, The Night of the Revolution Analysis

Z Demirkol acted like a child in the snow as he shouted the slogans he had called out in the theater. After he and his two buddies shouted at Ka, Ka immediately lost the poem that was in his head. Ka felt ashamed of the militants - the same way he had felt as a young student when he had attended political meetings that he found disturbing, not only because he was from the upper-middle-class, but because he felt everyone acted so childish, like this trio of strangers. When he neared the religious high school, he heard shots and decided to take a different route, which led him to witness the same trio trying to bully their way into the telephone office to cut off the phone lines to the city.

Ka concentrated on the beauty of the snow in spite of the events of the evening and eventually returned to the hotel to find everyone agitated because he was late. Ka was overjoyed when Ipek told him she was proud of how he read his poem at the theater. Ka felt sorry when he told everyone he had no interest in politics, although the revolutionary



atmosphere bothered him and reminded him of military takeovers when he was a child. Ka refused to watch the television, and when Ipek refused to come with him, he returned to his room.

Ka wrote his new poem beginning with his childhood memories about military marches, holiday meals and listening to the radio. Ka felt that one of a poet's most important assets was the ability to shut off tumultuous events while concentrating on a poem. And so, he finished his poem.



A Great Day for Our Nation! While Ka Slept and When He Woke The Next Morning

A Great Day for Our Nation! While Ka Slept and When He Woke The Next Morning Summary

Ka slept for over ten hours dreaming about the falling snow while army trucks and tanks attacked the dormitory of the religious high school. The city remained awake with all eyes on their television sets as the deputy governor formally announced the curfew until noon the next day. Then the evening's entire program was repeated from beginning to end.

A taxi blew up with three people in it, and everyone became aware that a coup taking place before their eyes. The three strangers led by Z Demirkol did cut the telephone lines and then went searching for a folk singer to spread their message on the television. As Ka went down to breakfast, he looked out at the beauty of the snow-covered scenery. The street looked abandoned.

Ka's spirits sank as he found Ipek serving breakfast to another customer. When Ipek was finished, she turned to Ka and asked if he slept well. She then sliced bread and served it with some cheese and olives. Ipek explained that she was handling the kitchen as the maid Zahide couldn't make it because of the curfew. She proceeded to tell Ka what had happened the night before - raids on hostels, party headquarters and the religious high schools, and there had been more deaths.

Ipek continued to tell him about the events of the night - relatives were sent to identify bodies; an amnesty had been granted for one day to surrender weapons; all political activity was suspended as was Koran instruction. Ka could see fear in Ipek's eyes.

Ka asked her to come up to his room, but was sure she wouldn't so was surprised when there was a knock on the door and she was standing there. They embraced and she massaged his head for awhile, but the reason she had come was to tell him that an army truck had arrived and asked for Ka. He put on his charcoal coat and left the room.

A Great Day for Our Nation! While Ka Slept and When He Woke The Next Morning Analysis

Ka awoke after a dream-filled night to see snow falling again. Ka wanted to go outside and play in the snow but instead went downstairs for breakfast. He was appalled to see Ipek serving someone breakfast like a waitress. Seeing Ipek in this role, he despised himself for proposing to her and acting like a drunken Turkish man who had no control.



When she sat down with him after serving him, though, Ka looked at her again with new eyes and realized she was perfect for him and knew that he wanted to return to Germany with her. As she relayed all the events of the night, he looked at her face and her hair, but all he could see was the way she cut the bread into thick slices that were like a fisherman's wife would do.

Ka told her how happy he was yesterday and that he couldn't bear to hear these depressing stories now. He ran upstairs, thinking that he had made a big mistake to even leave Germany. There was a knock on his door and he was surprised to see Ipek there as he had fully expected she would not come up to him as he had asked. She came, though, to tell him that there were soldiers downstairs that came to see him.

Ka put on his charcoal coat remembering how he had bought it in Frankfurt and even remembered the name of the person who had shortened it for him, Hans Hansen, a very German name for a German.



But I Don't Recognize Any of Them, Ka in the Cold Rooms of Terror

But I Don't Recognize Any of Them, Ka in the Cold Rooms of Terror Summary

The police sent to pick up Ka were polite and addressed him as sir, although he was still uneasy as they set off in an old truck to police headquarters. The police station was total chaos with a hospital smell of iodine, fear and death; fear consumed Ka. They told him that although he said he had not seen the killer's face, they had rounded up many religious high school students and wanted him to see if he recognized the man who had shot the director of the Institute of Education. Ka was taken along a corridor where he looked through a small window in the doors that looked into room after room full of boys whose heads had been shaved, and who showed signs of beatings.

When Ka could identify no one there, he was taken back to the truck to go to another facility, where prisoners were being held. As they drove, Ka felt another poem emerge and asked if they could stop at a teahouse so he could write it down. While he was writing, the policeman was searching customers that came in and asking for identity cards.

They returned to the truck and drove to the veterinary school, where Ka noticed an immediate difference as they entered the icy cold building. Ka was taken to three different classrooms, where unspeakable things were being done to the people in them. Ka named the rooms with colors, the first being the yellow room and the third and last room visited he named the red room. He managed to stay calm, but he would be haunted by the visions seen in these rooms.

They next visited the morgue, which was in the basement of the same building. Ka was trying to block his mind to what he was seeing with visions of Ipek, when they came to the third body that he immediately recognized as Necip. At first he felt panic and thought he would cry and then controlling himself, he saw a bullet where his hand had pressed only yesterday as they talked about Necip's visions of his landscape. He told the policemen that this was a friend, who had talked about his science fiction book and had taken him to see Blue.

But I Don't Recognize Any of Them, Ka in the Cold Rooms of Terror Analysis

As Ka drove with the agents, he noticed that the city seemed totally drawn in on itself with curtains closed and no activity on the streets of the snow-covered landscape. On arrival at the police station, Ka decided to act as if he was in charge and not give in to



the fear that was gripping him. When they asked him who took him to see Blue, he was about to panic but simply replied that it was a boy he didn't know from the religious high school.

As he looked through the windows at the bruises and battered faces of the prisoners, Ka was glad not to see anyone he recognized, especially Necip. When they left there, he felt relieved that he had escaped the police station. At the teahouse, he observed the unemployed men who didn't seem to notice the changes in the power structure of the city but rather that acted like it was a good thing that would help them find jobs.

When they looked at the people in the classrooms at the veterinary school, Ka realized that for many men, the time from birth until death was short, and he knew with certainty that he was fast approaching the end of his journey, as were all the others in those rooms. His thoughts were of the shortness of life and feelings of guilt that all men have, but he nevertheless managed to stay calm.

Just as he was blocking out the misery around him and thinking happy thoughts of Ipek, Ka was confronted with Necip's corpse. Wanting to cry, he felt an overwhelming gladness that he was alive, unlike this young boy. He bent over and kissed Necip on both cold cheeks and then told the policeman that this boy had talked to him about being a writer and had taken him to see Blue. The reason for his kiss, he told the police, was that he thought Necip had a pure heart.



A Man Fit to Play Ataturk, Sunay Zaim's Military and Theatrical Careers

A Man Fit to Play Ataturk, Sunay Zaim's Military and Theatrical Careers Summary

After leaving the morgue, Ka was anxious to return to the hotel and be consoled by Ipek but was disconcerted when the truck pulled up in front of an old mansion that had been owned for many years by a wealthy merchant. Since then, part of the mansion had been turned into an appliance center and part a former tailor shop now occupied by Sunay Zaim. Sunay greeted him warmly like an old friend.

As Ka looked around the large, formerly majestic, room, he decided that this was the heart of the revolution with Sunay in charge. Sunay proceeded to talk about his evolution to power. How he and his wife Funda Eser had worked one miserable town after another, sometimes scrounging for places to stay or even to put on their theatrical productions. Through it all, Sunay said, he never lost his belief in his guiding principles or that he would reach the summit of success.

Through the seventies of political theater, Sunay and Funda stood out for their hard work and accomplishments as actors, but also for their versatility and ability to adapt to situations. Sunay had attained fame and was set to play Ataturk, rather than have a European actor play the famous Turk, but Sunay let his success go to his head and made mistakes that proved so drastic that his career seemed almost over, so Sunay and Funda disappeared to the Black Sea and then gradually made their way back, acting as emcees, dancers and entertainers at weddings or establishments along with other third-class acts.

As a doctor checked his blood pressure, Sunay told Ka that all the men are denouncing each other now; all the men who do nothing all day but drink tea or play cards. Funda added that all the women were unhappy as well having worn themselves out having children and trying to keep the families together while their men did nothing.

Sunay said these men accused them of being Communists, or spies who worked for the West and threw us in jail, but they loved his plays and the freedom the entertainment brought to them. He told Ka that when he arrived in Kars, an old friend from the military academy had approached him and told him he would be in charge because all his superiors would be out of town. So, Sunay agreed, it was now or never to stage their revolution.

Ka recognized that some of the phrases and words that Sunay used now were parts of plays he had performed in the seventies. He was always acting a part. Sunay talked to the Colonel through a walkie-talkie issuing orders not to be cruel, but be sure they



understand how determined we are. Ka and Sunay then watch as tanks target some people and explosions rip the peaceful silence.

A Man Fit to Play Ataturk, Sunay Zaim's Military and Theatrical Careers Analysis

After identifying Necip, they rode through streets bereft of people; the only thing moving were the banners about the election and against suicide. When they arrived at the former mansion, Ka was greeted like an old friend by Sunay, which alarmed Ka. After all, they were two people from Istanbul who happened to be on the same bus to Kars, but they were not best friends.

Sunay was obviously in charge, with armed guards, men with walkie-talkies and a frenzy of activity surrounding him. Sunay told his tale of the rise and fall from favor of he and his wife; the struggles they had endured that should have destroyed him, but he never lost his belief that he would persevere. The couple was determined to survive and not weaken, no matter what happened to them, and now they had been given an opportunity that he would not give up.

When the army friend, Colonel Osman Nuri Colak told him he would be in charge, Sunay knew that the time had come to seize the moment. The Colonel went along with the plan, thinking he would gain some glory from the powers that be in Ankara. Sunay told Ka that history chooses who will play the major roles, just as in the theater where courage is tested, so it is on the state of history.

Ka then writes another poem titled "Suicide and Power," incorporating the friendship he had with Sunay and the guilt he felt about the girls committing suicide.



God Is Fair Enough to Know It's How You Live Your Life, With Sunay at Military Headquarters

God Is Fair Enough to Know It's How You Live Your Life, With Sunay at Military Headquarters Summary

After Ka completed his poem, Sunay congratulated him on the one he had read at the National Theater telling him it was a modern poem that most people are not sophisticated enough to understand. Sunay then asked why he didn't identify anyone at police headquarters. Sunay told him the authorities were suspicious of him, especially when they saw his affection for Necip.

Sunay explained that he was the reason that Ka had not been tortured or arrested, but he wanted to know why he had kissed the boy at the morgue. Sunay told Ka that Necip wasn't quite the person Ka thought he was; he was a runaway from school, accused of breaking windows at a beer hall, an admirer of Blue and had murdered a man, among other things. Sunay went on to say the sheikh's apartment was bugged so they knew what had been said and what had happened when Ka was there.

Sunay then said that Ka had grown up loving western films and believing the future led in that direction; that he read poets such as T.S. Eliot, to which Ka responded that Muhtar also read him as well. Sunay told Ka that Muhtar had agreed to withdraw from the election. Sunay said that the religious fanatics will be after Ka because he is different, partly westernized. When Sunay said he wanted to announce that Ka had identified the person who killed the director, Ka stubbornly said he didn't identify anyone, which caused Sunay to be frustrated.

Sunay asked Funda what should be done with Ka. Her answer was that he was in love, that's why he is so emotional. Sunay advised him to help them as he then revealed that Kadife is Blue's mistress and that was why Blue was in Kars - to be with her. Sunay released Ka telling him that he was about to make the announcement on television, so Ka walked towards the hotel. Realizing he was being followed, Ka turned and asked the man to join him at the Green Pastures Café so they could sit and watch Sunay, and Ka could write another poem. The detective proceeded to tell Ka about a mission he had been on to find out who was poisoning some of the Turkish people, but not Kurds, who were eating a sharbat prepared by an elderly woman.



God Is Fair Enough to Know It's How You Live Your Life, With Sunay at Military Headquarters Analysis

Ka was very grateful when Sunay told him he was the one who had protected him from the police who wanted to arrest and torture him after his suspicious actions of kissing the religious high school student. Sunay agreed that the police treated the boys very badly and even enjoyed acting like animals; however, we need to move quickly to find the one who killed the director, hang him and show the city that we know what we are doing.

Ka told him he thought that would increase the terror, but Sunay countered with the fact that the school boys knew Ka's face, would come after him because he wore a nice coat and acted differently than everyone else. Sunay told him that Ka would have a bodyguard to protect him for the next few days. If the army and state don't deal immediately with these fanatics, Turkey will end up back in the Middle Ages, like so many other nations in Asia and the Middle East.

When Ka said he actually thought he was beginning to believe in God, Sunay told him not to kid himself. No matter what he did, he would not be like any of these people. You have to be poor, live like them and act like them in order to believe in their same God. Your intellect is European and you are mixed up, making yourself believe you believe in God.

Sunay continued that the wisest and best course of action is to help us. We could rig you with a microphone like the director had so you would be safe. You need to be careful around Kadife, as she relays everything to Blue about her family, her father especially, and you. As he set out and discovered his police tail, he talked him into joining him at the teahouse, where he proceeded to hear the man's laments about the poisoning case he was working on. Ka promised the man he would bring up the subject with Sunay to get the man taken off the case.



I, Ka, The Six-Sided Snowflake

I, Ka, The Six-Sided Snowflake Summary

Upon return to the hotel, Ka left a note for Ipek with the desk clerk asking her to join him in his room. It was over a half-hour before Ipek came to his room, just as he was thinking again what a fool he was to fall in love. She told him she wanted to make love to him, but wouldn't while her father was in the hotel. She then left him to write another poem titled "Privations and Difficulties."

Ka went out again, not knowing where he was going; he thought about going back to see the sheikh again but remembered that his apartment was bugged. Instead he went into the library, where he enjoyed reading issues of Encyclopedia for Life that he had read as a boy and found the description of snow indicating that each snowflake was a six-sided figure in intricate designs. He then started writing another poem, the tenth since he had arrived in Kars, when he noticed a young man had joined him at his table. When he first looked up, he thought it was Necip sitting there, but the boy told him his name was Fazil, who said he had followed him in there and asked if Necip was indeed dead. Ka confirmed his friend was dead; then Fazil asked if he had delivered the love letters to Kadife as Necip had asked and Ka replied that he had.

Fazil told Ka that Necip was telling him to seek revenge on his killer, but Fazil didn't want to get involved in politics. The detective who had been following Ka, named Saffet, then asked Fazil for his identity card - the policeman took it from him, and Fazil immediately left after Ka agreed to meet him at the Iron Bridge at five p.m. Ka tried to get the identity card back to no avail.

Ka had no sooner left the library then he ran into Kadife, who told him she must meet him privately back at the hotel in a room down the hall from his room, to which Ka agreed. Traffic was very light, whether from the coup or the snow, it was hard to say.

I, Ka, The Six-Sided Snowflake Analysis

Waiting for Ipek to come to him in his room, Ka was filled again with doubts about why he had come to Kars and about his love for Ipek. When she arrived, filling the room with her presence, she told him she would have come sooner, but she had been delayed at the market. Ka expressed his love and longing for her, and she said she wanted to make love to him but could never do it while her father was in the hotel, and then she immediately left the room.

After finishing his poem, he realized that the only things he had done since arriving in Kars was write poems and chase after Ipek so he was feeling liberated, as well as deprived, and felt the only way to happiness was to get her to leave the city and go with him. He returned to the streets noticing that all the banners were down, and the shops and businesses were now open. Ka wanted to talk to the sheikh about his (Ka) troubles



but decided against it because the police would hear everything that was said and would enjoy laughing at him.

His time spent in the library reminded him of his youth, although some pages were missing from the Encyclopedia of Life that he had originally read in his father's library. The poem he wrote next was titled "I, Ka" and outlined his fears, his place in the world and a vision of himself including his unique characteristics.

When he observed someone else at the table, he was startled thinking it was Necip, but the young man turned out to be Necip's friend Fazil, about whom Necip had talked. Fazil felt that Necip's soul inhabited his body and was telling him to avenge his death, but not being a political activist, this was difficult for him. He immediately left after the detective took his identity card after asking Ka to meet him later. Ka himself left and met Kadife, who requested that he meet with her secretly. As Ka walked around until his scheduled meeting, he felt the mood he remembered as a child during coups - a change from the regular routines and new beginnings. There was almost a general lack of interest.



This Is the Only Time We'll Ever Be Free in Kars, Ka With Kadife in the Hotel Room

This Is the Only Time We'll Ever Be Free in Kars, Ka With Kadife in the Hotel Room Summary

Ka met Kadife in a storage room at the hotel, where she told him that the only agent following him was Saffet, probably because the state wasn't that worried about him. Kadife told Ka that Blue wanted to meet with him again because Blue has an important message to convey to him. She told him about a horse-drawn cart that delivered goods to various homes and businesses, whose driver could be trusted - that would be the way they would be transported to see Blue so the police wouldn't know about it.

Ka agreed to go with Kadife but asked why Blue and she were willing to trust him. Blue believes he is an innocent that God has sent to be used for a purpose. Ka repeatedly wants to know what Ipek's feelings are for Ka, to which Kadife says to give her time, that she will love him, but she's not sure about him yet.

Kadife then draws a gun and makes Ka take off his coat, shirt and clothes to see if he has a microphone hidden anywhere. When she is sure he is not bugged, she tells Ka to show respect to Blue and not to tell him about his love for Ipek and that she should trust her because she is his friend. They then leave separately to get in the cart that has pulled up in the courtyard for a short journey, but it seemed longer to Ka as he laid next to Kadife under the tarp that the driver pulled over them.

This Is the Only Time We'll Ever Be Free in Kars, Ka With Kadife in the Hotel Room Analysis

Ka joked with Kadife about having a sharbat before coming there, as if he was tempting the rumors about the poisonings. Kadife was not amused as she told him that he was a westernized intellectual that trusted the state, when, in fact, they knew everything that was going on, including who was doing the poisoning and why. Kadife also ridiculed him for being in love and not paying attention to what was happening around him after she had asked him if anyone was following her and he told her he forgot to look.

Ka continues to question Kadife about Ipek and her feelings for him, but Kadife cautiously tells him to be patient and give her time, that Ipek thinks he is handsome and she will come to love him. Kadife says she wants her sister to be happy. She says that Ipek was unhappy because she didn't have a child and couldn't understand why.



When Kadife tells Ka why she asked to talk to him, he immediately agrees to see Blue but is surprised when she pulls the gun on him. She told him she wouldn't kill him, but would indeed shoot him if she had to, if he had a microphone. She apologized and then told Ka he was not to tell Blue anything about their friendship or the conversation and to not put him down like a sophisticated European intellectual would do.

He almost panicked before getting under the tarpaulin where Kadife was already lying. The short trip would not be forgotten or the smile that Kadife gave him.



It Is Not Poverty That Brings Us So Close to God, Blue's Statement to the West

It Is Not Poverty That Brings Us So Close to God, Blue's Statement to the West Summary

When they arrived at their destination, the driver pulled off the tarpaulin, and Ka could see they were in a courtyard surrounded by auto repair shops. The room they entered to see Blue was another forlorn room with an open suitcase and other things he had seen at the rendezvous the day before. Blue wanted to know what newspaper he was writing his article for, to which Ka replies a liberal German one called The Frankfurter Rundschau, and the contact was Hans Hansen.

Blue asked him to take notes as they were short on time - that he had a statement for the newspaper to speak out against the coup. Blue threw out facts about death tolls, number of arrests, homes destroyed and street skirmishes that had occurred the last night. Blue told Ka that poverty is not what brings the people closer to God, but rather the desire to learn what will happen in the next world. Blue then challenged the West to decide if they would support the coup or would they support human rights?

Blue was concerned about whether his friend Hans Hansen would publish what he wanted to say. Ka explained that he thought there should be statements from two other people besides Blue because if only Blue's statement was in the paper, then it would look like the paper supported the Islamists. Blue was very suspicious of what Hans Hansen's motives would be to print his statement, and Ka proceeded to tell him that he had been invited to the man's home for dinner with his family.

Ka continued to tell Blue that he needed the joint support of Kurdish nationalists and an ex-Communist to make his story worthwhile, to which Blue responded that a young student could represent the Kurdish nationalists. When Blue asked who they could get for the ex-Communist, Ka casually said Turgut Bey, Kadife's father. Kadife was immediately concerned, but Blue convinced her that her father was the right man to do this, but he said he would not come to the hotel, so the next dilemma was how to get her father to leave the hotel. Ka volunteered to do this.

Ka then turned to Kadife to say she should sign the statement on behalf of the women of Turkey, but she said she had no wish to do so. Blue told Ka that he was paranoid at times, but Ka was a stranger to them, and although Blue wasn't angry at Ka, Blue nevertheless felt that Ka was naïve. Ka left after that as he could see that Kadife and Blue wanted to be alone.



It Is Not Poverty That Brings Us So Close to God, Blue's Statement to the West Analysis

Ka started taking notes of things that Blue was saying, but most of the time he was just pretending, as his notebook showed doodles and childish drawings. Ka's feeling was that a poet should retreat when hearing things that weren't pertinent to his artistic nature. He did, however, copy some of Blue's statements that he felt were challenging to the West.

When he started talking about the home of Hans Hansen, both Blue and Kadife were very interested in everything in the home, from the color of the curtains to fabric on the chairs, if there was a cross on the wall, the type of food served and what the wife and children were like. It was clear they were trying to get as much information about something in which they would say they had no interest.

When Ka suggests Kadife's father, Turgut Bey, she is afraid, but Blue said he was a pretender that doesn't care about the people and won't admit that his daughter is the lover of a radical Islamist. Kadife said all she had ever wanted was a normal life, but Blue retorted that the reason she was so interesting was because she didn't live an ordinary life.

Blue told Ka that he has cast doubt into their lives with his Western airs and made them unsure of their way of thinking. He said Ka wasn't aware of the evil inside of him, but now that he had been told, he can't continue to claim his innocence.



Be Strong, My Girl; Help Is on the Way from Kars, Ka Urges Turgut Bey to Sign The Statement

Be Strong, My Girl; Help Is on the Way from Kars, Ka Urges Turgut Bey to Sign The Statement Summary

After Ka left Blue and Kadife, he went to a stationery store, where he photocopied the pages of the letters that had been given to him by Necip to give to Kadife. He then placed the original letters into new envelopes that he addressed to Kadife Yildiz. He hid the copies of the letters in the bottom of his suitcase when he returned to the hotel. Ka then hurried to Turgut Bey's apartment, where he found Turgut and Ipek sitting on a sofa waiting to watch a soap opera called Marianna that was broadcast from Istanbul five times a week.

During a commercial break, Ka talked to Turgut about signing the statement with Blue. Turgut was flattered to be asked but reluctant to get involved, fearing he would be put in jail, but after some discussion, he agreed to meet at the Hotel Asia. Ipek tried to discourage him, but Ka kept passionately explaining all the reasons why it was important for him to meet with Blue and sign the statement for the good of the people of Turkey. In the end Turgut decided that he wanted to sign as a democratic representative of Turkey.

When Kadife returned and was told about Turgut co-signing the statement for the press, she feigned surprise and then said she would go with him to the hotel. Turgut said he would leave immediately for the Hotel Asia and left to go change, with Kadife going along to help him. Ipek asked Ka if he loved her and with an affirmative response from Ka, she said she would come up to his room as soon as they had left.

Be Strong, My Girl; Help Is on the Way from Kars, Ka Urges Turgut Bey to Sign The Statement Analysis

After making copies of Necip's letters to Kadife, Ka realized that he wanted to fight for happiness and would tell any lie or would do anything to make that happen and was determined to make a new life for himself. He kept having recurring childhood thoughts and memories that he associated with being in love and thinking about the people he had loved in his life.

While Ka was persuading Turgut to attend the co-signing of the statement, he described Blue as a fanatic, who was a danger to everyone, but Turgut realized the importance of democracy to his cause. Turgut said that people turn to religion when they are poor, and



while he didn't believe in what Blue and his daughter were doing, he nevertheless respected them. Ka believed that Turgot's intellectual feelings and cultural snobbery had cut him off from having any real feelings of his own, and the soap opera was bringing them to the surface.

Ipek said that Ka didn't believe in anything, but her eyes told him that she didn't care, and he continued to passionately encourage Turgut to attend the meeting to champion for the poor and take responsibility for trying to improve their conditions. Ka even began to believe some of what he was saying. He thought that his passionate words translated to how he felt about Ipek, although passionate words in his youth had exiled him.



The Difference Between Love and the Agony of Waiting, Ka with Ipek in the Hotel Room

The Difference Between Love and the Agony of Waiting, Ka with Ipek in the Hotel Room Summary

He saw Kadife and Turgut climb into a horse and carriage, but it didn't leave right away until the maid brought something out to them. The wait was torture for Ka, as he tried to be patient, but thoughts of his unhappy life dominated him, thinking that the only person who had ever had feelings for him was his mother.

When Ipek finally arrived at this door, he kept asking her why she was late. Then Ka lost himself in the pleasure of being with Ipek and making love to her at last. He tried to banish the images of his pornographic fantasies to enjoy the delights that her body brought to him; as they lost their clothes, they lost themselves in each other.

Ka found Ipek to be a passionate lover and their lovemaking was intense, but she was not as fragile as he had thought, but then he lost himself in enjoying what he had only dreamed of for so long. When they were lying silently after their passion was spent, Ka watched the snow falling.

The Difference Between Love and the Agony of Waiting, Ka with Ipek in the Hotel Room Analysis

Ka was so restless as he waited for Ipek to appear, he could hardly contain himself. When he saw the carriage move away, he expected Ipek to appear immediately, and when she didn't, his doubts assailed him again - that he should never have come to Kars; it was a big mistake and he wanted to be in his own home, his terrible room in Frankfurt. Then the lights went out, which he took as a sign that she wasn't coming.

Ka felt that his whole life would have been happier if he had acted more intelligently, but the worst was that no one realized how miserable and unhappy he was. That's when he thought the only person that would have cared was his mother. By the time the knock came on the door, Ka had convinced himself that Ipek was not coming, so he was very accusatory when she arrived asking where she had been.

Ipek told him to relax and enjoy himself; she had come here to make love with him. Ka had difficulty separating their lovemaking from the pornographic films that he relished, and it was hard for him to realize that his fantasies were all coming true. Ipek was not some insecure maiden, though, and Ka wasn't sure how to react to her enjoyment of

their lovemaking, even when he was rough with her. At times, he almost wanted to hurt her.

Ka and Ipek shared a passion that was equal, but when they were done, Ka felt like the world had ended, and as he looked out the window, it was snowing.



, It's Not Just You I've Lost, In Frankfurt

, It's Not Just You I've Lost, In Frankfurt Summary

Four years after Ka's visit to Kars, a friend of his, Orhan Bey, goes to Frankfurt after Ka's death. The friend was met at the train station by Ka's closest acquaintance in Frankfurt, Tarkut Olcun, an elderly man in his sixties, who had contacted Ka's family in Istanbul after his death. The family had asked Ka's friend, Orhan, to go to Frankfurt to collect his belongings.

Tarkut gave Orhan the small bag that Ka had been carrying when he was shot; this bag had been given to Tarkut by the police. While having coffee, Tarkut told Orhan that no one in Frankfurt besides himself knew Ka very well - that he was a solitary man with daily habits of going to the library, stopping at the same cafes or grocery stores and was known by the vendors of these establishments.

Tarkut showed Orhan where Ka's body was found on a dark street around midnight with three bullets in him. Ka had just returned from Hamburg, where he had read poetry but did not immediately head for home, walking around for awhile and was probably going to the greengrocer that was open at that time of night. The police could find no one that had seen anything other than a Turkish man running away, and no suspects had been arrested.

Ka worked at various jobs in his early years in Germany when he received benefits from Turkish Communists as an exile, but he had cut his links with them. Ka did poetry readings in libraries and Turkish associations with some English lessons to fellow Turks to supplement his income. His apartment was very shabby and worn, with the same clothes he had been wearing since he left Turkey sixteen years before.

Ka had written to Orhan to say that he had finally finished a book of poetry titled "Snow" that Ka had believed were from his visions and poems that emerged in Kars. He had written it all in his green notebook and had planned to make copies for Orhan and for his Istanbul publisher. Orhan searched the apartment thoroughly, but could not find the notebook, so he threw everything into plastic bags - clothing, papers and porno tapes starring someone named Melinda.

Orhan also discovered a pile of love letters written to Ipek but never sent - many of them berating himself for his violent behavior with her. The letters had not even been folded or put in envelopes. Another notebook revealed a diagram of a hexagonal snowflake labeled with Ka's poems inscribed in each line radiating from the center which read I, Ka.



, It's Not Just You I've Lost, In Frankfurt Analysis

Frankfurt was even drearier than Ka's postcards had shown, when Orhan arrived to meet Ka's only friend in the city, Tarkut Olcun. His purpose was twofold: to collect the possessions of his friend to return to his family, but mainly to find the manuscript of Ka's poetry that he said he had completed and was ready to publish.

Tarkut told Orhan that Ka was a lonely man who was very remote and didn't socialize with anyone. The search for answers would make Orhan feel badly about the loneliness of his friend, sitting for hours each day in a library, going to pornographic films and then dying alone before the ambulance arrived. He had been shot in the back, so the police determined it was premeditated—a political vendetta or a jealous lover. But Ka had had no lovers since his return from Kars four years ago; there had been two women in his life before his visit to Kars, but not since.

It was clear to Orhan that Ka had lived very frugally with few times when he made enough to have anything extra. His apartment demonstrated that. His last four years were spent writing what Ka had felt was a book that had hidden meanings, and though it was difficult to hear the voices he had heard in Kars, Ka spent grueling hours completing this work of his art.

Orhan read about Ka's poems from Kars and the events that had occurred there through the notebooks that he went through chronicling his love affair with Ipek and the terrible events he had witnessed while visiting that city four years earlier. Orhan was taken with the painful and wretched life that Ka had led, how he beat himself up over things he might have said or done to Ipek to anger her. Orhan read that Ka felt abandoned and alone, lost to everyone and everything. What a terrible burden to bear thought Orhan.



When Can We Meet Again? A Short Spell of Happiness

When Can We Meet Again? A Short Spell of Happiness Summary

After making love, Ka and Ipek remained in bed for awhile; then Ka jumped out of bed to look out the window, which caused Ipek to ask what he was doing. Ka recalled moments of joy from his childhood and thought the snow looked beautiful. Ipek asked him about his childhood - had he been happy? Ka became uncomfortable with her questions.

Ka then returned to bed to snuggle with Ipek and talk about an old record he had heard in a shop. Ipek told him that family belongings got sold off when people died; that's where a record like that would come from. Ipek then declared it was time to get up as she was worried about her father, to which Ka agreed that he was also.

Ka was already asking when they could meet again, but all that Ipek could think about was her father. When Ka said he could move to another hotel so she could visit him, she was not pleased. Ka remained silent and uncertain of what to do.

When Can We Meet Again? A Short Spell of Happiness Analysis

Ka started panicking when he and Ipek had finished making love. He abruptly got up, which displeased her. He was mad at himself for disrupting this peaceful and happy moment but felt at peace with the world. He also realized he was no longer the pursuer, as Ipek kept asking him why he got up and was unhappy that he wasn't paying attention to her.

Ipek asked him about his childhood and then about his life in Germany. He was afraid to tell her how unhappy his life was in Frankfurt, afraid she wouldn't agree to go with him. Ka was afraid again that his happiness wasn't real and that he might lose it.

Ka decided that though he was afraid of losing Ipek, he would overcome any obstacles, but he must go slowly so as not to chase her away.



We're Not Stupid, We're Just Poor, The Secret Meeting at the Hotel Asia

We're Not Stupid, We're Just Poor, The Secret Meeting at the Hotel Asia Summary

Turgut Bey insisted on taking an old pair of wool gloves with him to the meeting; these gloves had been knit by his late wife and, though they were full of holes, he considered them a good luck charm. After he and Kadife got out of the carriage, Turgut hesitated about going to the signing, making excuses to delay their arrival, but finally they went to the hotel's back entrance.

When they arrived at the designated room, they were surprised to see how crowded it was. The atmosphere was tense as everyone looked at the new arrivals. Blue and Turgut eyed each other; Fazil was there and stunned to see Kadife; a young Kurdish nationalist who didn't like the wording of the statement was trying to get his message across; two socialists were hoping to ward off police harassment, and a Kurdish granny, whose grandson had disappeared, was here hoping to find out what happened to him.

The meeting rapidly became hard to control, with everyone wanting to talk at once and have his or her voice heard, and at times, it seemed they would never get the statement finished. Some tried to leave, but Blue wouldn't allow it. Some said that because people were poor, people thought you were stupid and didn't have a brain—that our whole nation is stupid because it is poor and backward. When people from here write poetry, it is ethnic, but in the West it is for all humanity.

After much discussion, the document was finally drafted to their liking and everyone lined up to sign it. Kadife talked about baring her head, and Fazil reacted with a statement saying he loved her and would die if she did that. Blue said no one should talk about suicide and the meeting came to an abrupt close.

We're Not Stupid, We're Just Poor, The Secret Meeting at the Hotel Asia Analysis

Kadife and Turgut were the last to arrive at the crowded room in the Hotel Asia. Turgut was afraid and Blue felt like he had walked into a trap, staying but sure that it was a mistake. The real murderer of the director of the Institute of Education was in attendance sitting next to Fazil, although he said that the director had been killed by a government employee. The room was filled with revolutionaries, and some were there to re-establish Turkish culture when their statement was published in the German press.

Fazil later told Ka that he realized that their statement might actually give them recognition in the outside world, which was far beyond his imagination. They all agreed



that they would never be Europeans, no matter what was done to them because they couldn't change their souls. Blue said that Europe was their enemy; Turgut said that people in Turkey changed their minds from one day to the next, based on who was in control - he wanted to let Europe know that there were people in Turkey who believed in democracy and common sense.

Turgut then asked everyone in the room what he would say in a statement in the German press if his words could be heard. They all had very specific views, but nevertheless wanted their voice heard in the European press, which was a bond that brought them together. They agreed that when a Westerner met someone from a poor country, they looked down on them with contempt. But a journalist said not to forsake their religion or who they were. One of them said that it is hard to explain to someone who doesn't understand.



, I have Two Souls Inside My Body, On Love, Insignificance, and Blue's Disappearance

, I have Two Souls Inside My Body, On Love, Insignificance, and Blue's Disappearance Summary

After meeting Fazil, Ka and he went to a teahouse, and Fazil proceeded to tell Ka about the meeting, which Ka then translated into another poem titled "All Humanity and the Stars." Fazil was so appalled that he had said he would commit suicide questioning whether his declaration of love of Kadife was real or imagined. He thought that Necip's soul was what was prompting this. He asked Ka if he believed that could be happening.

Fazil proceeds to tell Ka that he fantasizes about Kadife all the time, and that it was really she that he loved, not Teslime. He said that Necip's death had intensified his feelings for Kadife, at which point he started sobbing. Saffet, the detective, then approached their table and gave Ka Fazil's identity card. Fazil asked for advice on winning Kadife's love, to which Ka responded with the same advice that Ipek had given him - to be himself. The maid Zahide then came in and gave Ka a note from Ipek asking him to meet her and Kadife at the New Life Pastry Shop, so Ka told Fazil he had to leave.

Ka met Kadife and Ipek as arranged and was feeling especially happy after having a raki on an empty stomach, but he was proud to be seen with two beautiful women. Ka told them he had heard all about the meeting from Fazil, but then Ka noticed how agitated they were as they told him that Blue had left the meeting furious and couldn't be found anywhere. They wanted Ka to go looking for him and tell Blue that Kadife is ready to do whatever he asks. Ka agreed although was doubtful he would be successful.

He set out to the two teahouses where they had told him to look for information about Blue. At the first teahouse no one would talk to him so he went on to the next one, which turned out to be the one he and Necip had been, where he had copied some words from a poster on the wall and asked the boy behind the counter where all the boys were, and he was told they are either locked up or in hiding.

He left the second teahouse and realized there was a melancholy to the city, but all he felt was happiness. He felt sure another poem was brewing, but when he stepped into another teahouse, it never materialized.



, I have Two Souls Inside My Body, On Love, Insignificance, and Blue's Disappearance Analysis

As Fazil reported on the meeting and the love he had for Kadife, he also told how he had been in bed early the night before and knew nothing of the events that were taking Necip's life, but during the night he had lain awake feeling that his friend was with him and thought that Necip's soul had come to him then.

He talked about his doubts about God's existence and thoughts of being an atheist that were abhorrent to him. He felt that Necip had planted those thoughts in him. Ka assured him that those thoughts didn't mean he was an atheist, but Fazil felt that thinking only about love and happiness meant he was an atheist.

Ka wrote another poem before his meeting with the two sisters titled "Heaven" that he said was the place where memories are kept. He talked about his childhood, things he'd done with his sister, skipping school, drawings he made and a date with a girl.

Meeting with Ipek and Kadife and doing something for them, especially behind their father's back was a good feeling for him. He wasn't successful in finding Blue, but as he walked along, he envisioned that everything was connected in some way in this mysterious world in which we live.



A Godless Man in Kars, The Fear of Being Shot

A Godless Man in Kars, The Fear of Being Shot Summary

As Ka left the teahouse he ran into Muhtar who embraced him like an old friend, then he and Muhtar retreated to another teahouse across the street. Muhtar seemed upbeat as he told Ka that they would be setting a new date for the elections; that was why he was not arrested. When Ka asked if Muhtar had any news of Blue, he told Ka that Blue used to stay with him when he came to Kars but had not wanted to put the party in jeopardy so didn't stay with him this time.

After asking if Ka was going to send his poems to be published and what Ipek's reaction was to his comment about wanting to remarry, Muhtar pulled out an article that would be in the next day's edition of the Border City Gazette. It was about Ka, saying that he was a Godless man, a poor poet, a suspicious man who fled Turkey many years ago and had made discriminatory remarks to high school students recently. After telling Ka not to wander the streets alone, Muhtar left him alone.

In Ka's youth he had felt it honorable to die for a noble or political cause or for what he had written. But after seeing many friends tortured and killed, he distanced himself from those who put themselves at risk. What bothered him more than anything was thinking that he was just on the verge of happiness and didn't want to die now. He went to the offices of the newspaper asking for the owner Serdar Bey but was told that he was out.

As he trudged through the snowy streets, with thoughts swirling through his head, he came to the doorway to the tailor shop entrance that was the headquarters of Sunay Zaim. Two soldiers guarded the entry, and when Ka told them he wanted to see Sunay, they rudely turned him away. Ka then retreated to another café and wrote another poem called "To Be Shot and Killed." He then returned to the hotel for dinner at Turgut Bey's but was not pleased when he saw the other dinner guest was Serdar Bey.

Ka contained himself and then took out his copy of the paper; whereupon Serdar told him that he didn't believe a word of what was written, that he was forced to write it and not to worry because the readers won't believe it anyway. He promised to rewrite it and not circulate this edition. For the rest of the evening he sat and drank raki and held Ipek's hand, refusing to be more upset. He didn't even ask Ipek to come to his room as he left.



A Godless Man in Kars, The Fear of Being Shot Analysis

Muhtar was in better spirits than Ka would have expected, but Muhtar wasted no time in asking what Ipek's reaction had been to Ka's news that Muhtar wanted to remarry her. Ka told him she wasn't impressed. He told Ka to be careful while walking the streets after he had given him the article that essentially told everyone that Ka didn't believe in God and that he was ashamed of being Turkish. Ka realized long ago that his poetry was more modern than the norm for Turkish poetry, but he had never experienced such harsh criticism or been attacked so personally.

The years he had spent in exile were for the most part for ideals that he no longer believed in, and he thought about all the writers killed recently for their beliefs or those friends who had died for their causes. When he arrived at the newspaper office, he was even more taken aback when the owner's sons told him that their father had written the article himself. His mind was already thinking that he was going to join those other hapless writers who had been killed for attracting the attention of the wrong people.

Ka thought that he never insulted God, even if he wasn't a true believer. He was disturbed that the guards in front of Sunay's house treated him like a peasant and decided that he needed to write things down so people would understand why he was killed. Dinner found Turgut Bey expounding on the meeting and saying he was glad he went and was part of history, although he thought the army was right to keep the dregs of society out of politics. Serdar said that people walking around pretending to be Europeans don't last long in Kars - they are shot and then forgotten.

Serdar agreed to run another edition of the paper, but only after Turgut agreed to pay for it with a dinner out for Serdar and his family. Ka disappeared into his rakis and thought about finding happiness. He wouldn't even mind being unhappy, as long as he could share it with someone living together and keeping the rest of the world at a distance.



Kadife Will Never Agree to It Either, The Mediator

Kadife Will Never Agree to It Either, The Mediator Summary

Ka was finishing a cigarette when there was a knock at his door, and to his astonished delight he found Ipek there and knew they would spend the night together making love. He forgot his fantasies and enjoyed the moment, sleeping from time to time, then making love again. When Ipek told him she was going to go to Germany with him after she talked to her father, Ka was ecstatic.

During the night, there were explosions, and the next morning Ka awoke to the sound of someone knocking on his door. The receptionist came to tell him an officer had come to take him to see Sunay Zaim. When he arrived, Sunay told him that a man tried to blow up his house, but he got the wrong one. Sunay then announced that they had arrested Blue; that he was the person behind the director's assassination and that Blue was an evil person, who had attended a meeting at the Hotel Asia yesterday. Sunay then went on to say that he and Funda were planning another play titled "The Spanish Tragedy" that would be broadcast that evening at the National Theater. They wanted Kadife to be in the play and take off her head scarf as part of the play.

Sunay told Ka that he was the one that could convince both Blue and Kadife that Kadife should take her head scarf off, but Ka is reluctant as he doesn't want to get involved. Sunay told Ka that if he didn't act as mediator, he would probably be killed anyway because of the article in the paper. Ka found out that the original version that he had read was what was distributed that morning. Ka finally agrees to be mediator if Sunay will protect him, to which Sunay agrees.

Ka returns to the hotel when he first encounters Ipek and tells her of his meeting with Sunay and then meets with Kadife in his room. Kadife is told about the capture of Blue, the proposal from Sunay about her part in his play and the baring of her head, which she immediately refuses. Kadife agrees to do the part, but only if Blue is released before the play; she then asks Ka to give Blue a lighter and pack of cigarettes from her.

Ka embraced Kadife without kissing her just as a knock on the door produced Ipek, who was holding her sister as Ka left immediately.

Kadife Will Never Agree to It Either, The Mediator Analysis

As Ka stood by the window he was feeling peaceful, deciding that part of his feeling was of superiority that he was from Istanbul and Frankfurt, instead of Kars. When Ipek came



to his room without his imploring, it was a wonderful surprise to know she would spend the whole night with him and for once he forgot his pornographic fantasies and concentrated on the beautiful woman who would spend the night with him, and he was happier than he had ever been.

When Sunay announced the capture of Blue, Ka tried to hide his glee. When Sunay tells Ka why he had asked him there, he didn't want any part of being involved because he was afraid that the students would think he had induced Kadife to bare her head and would track him down wherever he went and kill him. Sunay told him he admired him for saying he was scared—that Ka was a coward and the only ones that survive are the cowards, but cowards always hope that one day they will have courage.

Ka said he was happy now and didn't want to spoil it, but Sunay told him his happiness was not destined to last long. Ka said he didn't want to get killed just for being a hero, but after seeing the newspaper, he agreed to be a mediator, but only if Sunay promised his protection.

Convincing Kadife to bare her head was not easy, but he told her that life was not about principles, it's about happiness. People in rich countries could afford to have beliefs and high ideals, but in a brutal country such as Turkey life is cheap. Kadife accused him of hating Blue, not understanding him, but Ka assured her that although Blue frightened him, he was an intelligent man. In the end, she decided to trust Ka with the role of mediator.



I'm Not an Agent for Anyone, Ka with Blue in His Cell

I'm Not an Agent for Anyone, Ka with Blue in His Cell Summary

Ka was taken to a military compound in the middle of the city, where Blue was being held in a cell in an old stone building. Before he was taken to Blue, a microphone was taped to his chest, and he was ordered to get a confession from Blue. Ka was surprised to find that the room housing Blue was warmed by a heater, and it was clean with a bed and table where they seated themselves in the two chairs. Blue confirmed what Ka had observed, that he had not been tortured.

Ka said he was there to arrange his release and told Blue about Sunay's proposal to have Kadife partake in his play; that Kadife had agreed only if Blue was released beforehand. Blue rejected the proposal saying Sunay would never honor his part of the bargain. He then read a statement he had prepared titled "My Execution," talking about his exploits during his career. Blue told Ka that he was not impartial and that he thought he was better than everyone else.

Blue wanted to know why Ka would do so much to help him, and Ka responded that it was to preserve his own happiness because he is in love. Blue then asked what guarantee there was that they will keep their word. He told Blue to write a letter to Kadife stating he agreed with the terms, but she should wait to play her part until she knew he was released. Next Ka asked Blue to write to Ka saying he agreed to the plan, and Blue asked the same of him.

Ka told Blue that before he came to Kars, he hadn't written any poems in a long time, but Blue told him that Ka based his love on romantic Western novels. He told him that Ka didn't belong to this country any more.

I'm Not an Agent for Anyone, Ka with Blue in His Cell Analysis

Two MIT agents taped Ka with the microphone that they assumed was to be used to get a confession out of Blue. The room was more comfortable than Ka anticipated. When Blue asked why he was the mediator, he told Blue that he wanted to get out of the city in one piece and the only person who could do that now was Sunay.

After Blue rejected his proposal outright, Ka started talking about how Blue would regret making a decision based on his ideals; that Blue didn't have to die. They discussed the differences between Europe and the West and the Islamic beliefs with Blue saying that



Europeans believe that a true Westerner is an individual, and there aren't any individuals in Turkey, but Blue said he is going to be an individual for Turkey.

Blue is surprised that Ka would share his happiness with someone about to die and decides that perhaps Ka is a gift from God after all. After exchanging the letters—one from Blue to Ka, from Blue to Kadife, and from Ka to Blue—they turn the microphone back on that had been turned off for the discussion about the letters.

Ka tells Blue that Ipek is his one chance for happiness; to find another world to live in and forget the poor and miserable. Blue told him not only wasn't he a Turk any more, but he doesn't belong here. If he wanted to belong, he should try to be like everyone else—then he could believe in God. Blue then told him to be careful and not let anyone kill him.



You're Not Really Going to Die, Sir, Are You? Bargaining in Which Life Vies With Theater, and Art With Politics

You're Not Really Going to Die, Sir, Are You? Bargaining in Which Life Vies With Theater, and Art With Politics Summary

Ka returned to the hotel and saw Ipek, but she was busy in the kitchen so he only told her that things were going well for them and for Kadife. He went up to his room and Ipek said she would join him there shortly. In his room while waiting, he agonized again about whether she loved him or was going to come. When she arrived, she immediately said she had talked to her father and told him she was going to Germany with him.

Ka has difficulty showing the enthusiasm that he should feel when Ipek tells him this news, but Ipek assures him she loves him and all will be well. After Ipek left, her sister, Kadife, came to hear what had transpired with Blue. Ka assured her that Blue was well, hadn't been tortured, but that Ka had had difficulty in persuading Blue about the plan. Ka then asked Kadife to write out a statement of the plan so Ka could give it to Sunay.

Ka returned to Sunay to tell him about the plan. Sunay was with Colonel Osman Nuri Colak, his co-conspirator in the coup. Ka explained that this was the best he could do - that Blue was willing to die and become a martyr for his fellow Islamists. Both the colonel and Sunay agreed to the terms saying they wanted to ensure that everyone in the city saw the play.

Ka was then astonished to have Serdar Bey come in and was forced to be civil to him, although his first impulse was to punch him in the nose. As they sat down for a meal, Sunay told Serdar that he must publish a positive article about Ka. He then told him the next article was about the famous actor Sunay Zaim being killed onstage. Sunay dictated the whole article to Serdar telling him to get it ready for the next day. Sunay released Blue, who he was picked up in a truck driven by a friend, then whisked away in a horse-drawn wagon to a safe house. Fazil then told Kadife that Blue had reached the safe house, and she joyfully went to report this news to Ka and Ipek, who had been together in his room for the last hour.



You're Not Really Going to Die, Sir, Are You? Bargaining in Which Life Vies With Theater, and Art With Politics Analysis

Ka's first impression of Ipek's declaration that she was coming to Germany was of disappointment because he had been dwelling on his uncertainties instead of on the positives. Ipek thinks that a woman must have hurt him badly in the past. He went on to lie to Kadife, twisting around the things Blue had said, then twisting them back again; one lie upon another. He declared that in the end, they would all be happy.

When he talked to Sunay and the Colonel and said that both Kadife and Ka wanted Blue released before Kadife would play her part in the play; Sunay and the Colonel wanted to know how they could trust them, but Ka said they felt the same way. And so, Blue is released.

The encounter with Serdar Bey showed that the man was nothing more than a puppet for those in control, printing whatever was asked of him, with no idea or care about the truth. Sunay declared that he was pushing the truths of art as far as they could go. The MIT agents felt that Sunay's artistic lunacies were well-known, but they always tried to keep them in check.

Blue was released and taken to his hideout, and Kadife was told this by Fazil, who came to the hotel to tell her himself. As usual, she hardly noticed him, but went happily upstairs to tell her sister and Ka the good news.



The Only Script We Have This Evening Is Kadife's Hair, Preparations For The Play To End All Plays

The Only Script We Have This Evening Is Kadife's Hair, Preparations For The Play To End All Plays Summary

When Ka returned to the hotel from seeing Sunay, he wrote a poem titled "Dog," which portrayed his vacillation between love and loss. He had not left word for Ipek that he had returned so was happily surprised when she knocked on his door only a few minutes later. Ka told Ipek that Blue was to be released soon, and they embraced but did not make love. They discussed getting married in Istanbul and then what their life would be like in Germany with Kadife and Turgut visiting them. Ipek had already started packing the items that she wanted to take with her - clothing, jewelry and household items.

When Orhan visited Kars after Ka's death four years later, Ipek was wearing the jade necklace she had talked about with Ka. Orhan found her even more beautiful than he had anticipated and found himself falling in love with her himself. He began to think how wonderful it would be to enjoy her love.

The weather bureau had finally announced that the roads were likely to reopen that evening, meaning the theater coup would be over. Most people were planning to stay home and watch the play on television rather than attend the event. Funda Eser came to the Snow Palace Hotel to talk to Kadife about the evening's performance. She found the sisters together and poured cognac to loosen them up - finding Ipek to be happy and Kadife angry and courageous. Funda then charmed Turgut Bey to ensure he wouldn't try to prevent Kadife from performing.

Fazil came to the hotel and told Ka that Blue wanted to see him one more time, that he had changed his mind about something. Ipek tried to prevent Ka from going, but Ka reluctantly agreed to go and so once again found himself in the horse-drawn wagon with the tarpaulin covering him. When Ka reached the apartment where Blue was hiding, he was surprised to see Kadife's friend, Hande, open the door for him. Hande told Ka that she was happy to be here sharing a cause with Blue.

Blue then told him that he didn't want Kadife to go through with baring her head in the play that evening—that she only did it to free Blue; it was not her own decision. Blue then gave him a letter to give to Kadife. Blue then told him to leave.



The Only Script We Have This Evening Is Kadife's Hair, Preparations For The Play To End All Plays Analysis

When Ka wrote his poem about dogs, his message was that love equates to pain. As a child he had been harassed by dogs and was afraid of them. He thought that the fear was his punishment for being happy as a child. That's why his happiness with Ipek was always overshadowed by his fear that it would be taken away. In spite of this, Ka still had a glimmer of hope that all could end well, if they could just get out of this city.

Meanwhile the Kars television station ran ads continuously all day announcing that Kadife would bare her head that evening. The audience was also assured that there would be no further violence as there had been a few days before. Funda Eser was easily able to win over any doubts that Kadife had about the play and ensure her father that she was doing the right thing because he was concerned her actions would incite the religious high school students.

Ka tried to resist the message that Blue wanted to see him one more time, especially when Ipek was urging him not to go, to stay inside until they could leave together for Germany. Perhaps it was his perverse fear of being happy that made him go, even though he knew that his luck had changed. This meeting would forever change his life, although he would still have options left. Ka would later look back and wonder what would have happened if he hadn't gone to see Blue again.

Blue told Ka that Ka came because he is so mixed up and full of sorrow. Ka told Blue that he couldn't predict what Kadife's decision would be as she had made up her mind to bare her head and was already rehearsing. Blue reminded Ka that he was just as responsible for Kadife baring her head because he had been involved with this from the beginning. Blue told Ka that he would always be groveling and imitating others no matter where he lived.



I Didn't Bring You Here to Upset You, An Enforced Visit

I Didn't Bring You Here to Upset You, An Enforced Visit Summary

Hande then told Ka to give Kadife the message that she would always be with her no matter what she did. Ka left and immediately sat down and wrote his eighteenth poem he named "Jealousy," about the balance between love and hate. Ka was uncertain where he was but soon found a street he knew when a car pulled up and told him they were the police and would take him back to the hotel. Before he could respond, he was shoved into the car and punched in the head.

They took him to another old house and a terrified Ka realized that he was in the hands of Z Demirkol, who asked him why Blue had been released. They wanted to know where Blue was now, and Ka denied knowing anything about his whereabouts—that Ka had been taking a walk when they picked him up. They continued questioning him and beat him but did not torture him - at least not physically.

To Ka's dismay, Z proceeded to tell him that Ipek had been the mistress of Blue for four years, starting when she was still married to Muhtar, continuing even after he started seeing Kadife, so he was seeing both at the same time; Ipek has even talked to Blue in the past few days.

I Didn't Bring You Here to Upset You, An Enforced Visit Analysis

Ka's poem "Jealousy" refers to some childhood incidents where Ka had conflicted feelings about the people involved; both contempt as well as adoration, and he continued to have difficulty resolving the differences with those people. When Ka is picked up by Z Demirkol and his fellow thugs, they immediately tell him he is protecting an Islamic terrorist who wouldn't hesitate to do away with him.

Ka's stoicism during the beating stems from his belief that he needed to suffer in order to be worthy of taking Ipek with him. He didn't believe they would seriously hurt him, as he was an elitist from Istanbul, and he felt Ipek would show more affection for him if he were hurt. He thought the beating would absolve his guilt and show that he could withstand the beating without divulging what they wanted to know.

Ka would forever replay the terrible words that Z Demirkol told him about Ipek and Blue and Ipek's undying love for this man that Ka despised. Z then removed his handcuffs so that Ka could wash his tears of despair away;

Z then said they would take him back to his hotel.



The Joy of Crying Together, Ka and Ipek Meet At The Hotel

The Joy of Crying Together, Ka and Ipek Meet At The Hotel Summary

Ka chose to walk. With eyes streaming with tears, he stumbled along, running into people he had met on the bus, at the sheikh's apartment and others, until, reaching his hotel, he snuck up to his room. Within minutes Ipek was at the door and Ka told her that he knew about her affair with Blue; that Z and his men had told him.

Ipek told him all about how she became involved with Blue: her unhappy marriage and Blue giving her attention; how when Kadife came to live there Kadife became involved with Blue as well and how Ipek welcomed his involvement with Kadife so she could break off her affair. Ipek denied that she had spoken to Blue in the last few days and that she was going to go with Ka, and they would be happy. They argued back and forth and finally they fell asleep on the bed.

When they awoke, Ipek wanted to show him the things she had packed, so they went to her room where she tried on some of things she would take with her. They then joined Turgut to watch television when Turgut decided that something bad was about to happen and wanted Ka to go to Kadife and ask her not to perform. Ipek urged him to go, which confused Ka, as she had not wanted him to leave to go see Blue previously.

Ka was afraid that while he went to the theater, Ipek would go to Blue, but Ipek told him Kadife would be waiting for him. Ka then insisted on locking Ipek in his room to ensure she didn't leave, to which she agreed. Ka's last vision of her was as he looked up at the room as he left the hotel and saw her in the window wearing the black evening dress that she had tried on for him.

The Joy of Crying Together, Ka and Ipek Meet At The Hotel Analysis

Ka was devastated by the disclosures that Z Demirkol had made about Ipek and Blue. When confronted, Ipek starting crying with him and told her story. Although she kept assuring him that they were going to Frankfurt together, Ka continued to have doubts, and jealousy was overwhelming him. When Ka asked Ipek how much she had loved Blue, she told him she had loved him more than any other man—that he was a caring and sensitive man, who would never kill anyone.

Even after they had slept and then looked at the items she would take with her, Ka continued to be certain that something terrible was about to occur. Ipek urged him to go talk to Kadife, saying that if Kadife was in distress, they could never leave. She finally

convinced Ka he should go, and he told her he wasn't afraid anymore, although that was not the truth. His last words to her were that he was so afraid that he wouldn't see her again. He was right - he never saw Ipek again.



It Must Be Hard Being a Double Agent, The First Half of the Chapter

It Must Be Hard Being a Double Agent, The First Half of the Chapter Summary

As he walked through the thawing streets, he held the key to his room in his pocket. His arrival at the theater found Funda and Kadife still rehearsing, and Sunay joined him saying that Kadife had a lot of talent. Ka talked to Kadife and told her that her father had concerns about her performing and baring her head—her father was afraid that the high school boys would become violent.

Ka told Kadife that Blue had been released, that he didn't want her to bare her head either, and he gave her the letter Blue had written her. He then told her that he knew of Ipek and Blue's relationship. Kadife read the letter and listened to Ka but told him she still planned to do what she had set out to do, to take off her head scarf.

Ka embraced Kadife and watched them rehearse for awhile, then wrote another poem before finally leaving. He had thought the poem would make him feel better, but all he felt was a crushing pain - the poem's title was "The Place Where the World Ends."

It Must Be Hard Being a Double Agent, The First Half of the Chapter Analysis

As Ka watched them rehearse the play, he understood why Blue had left Ipek for Kadife. After Kadife read Blue's letter, Ka noticed that first she was smiling; then she was crying angry tears. He couldn't understand what it was about Blue that attracted all the women.

But Ka didn't think he could trust his instincts any longer because he was consumed with remorse and jealousy, causing destructive pain. As he looked ahead to his future in Germany with Ipek, he didn't think they could get past the pain—even writing the poem didn't help ease it.



Everyone Has His Own Snowflake, The Missing Green Notebook

Everyone Has His Own Snowflake, The Missing Green Notebook Summary

Orhan Bey found that the poem written at the theater that last evening was Ka's last poem of the nineteen he wrote but the one he recited onstage was never written down, and Ka had asked Ipek to get it from the Border City Television archives for him. Of course, this was in a letter that he had never sent to Ipek.

Ka's research into snowflakes indicated that they are like people; inspired by Bacon's tree of knowledge, they are broken down into classifications, such as Imagination, Memory and Reason that were inscribed on his diagram of a snowflake. Ka felt that everyone has his own snowflake, each with its own characteristics unique to that person.

When Orhan retraced Ka's steps during his last few days in Germany, he attended the same poetry readings and met some of the people that had attended. Their descriptions of Ka were of a nervous pasty-faced man with unkempt hair, who never removed his dark overcoat. Some recalled some of his poems and that he had recently completed a book that was meant for people who remembered the small villages they had left behind; one man, in particular, said Ka had been reading from his green notebook.

Orhan was scheduled to meet with Ipek, who had said she would meet with him to discuss Ka, but only because he was Ka's close friend; however, she said she would be very upset if Orhan didn't accept her story.

Everyone Has His Own Snowflake, The Missing Green Notebook Analysis

Ka believed he was a medium for the poems that came to him in Kars and that each had a hidden symmetry. He needed to understand what they meant so he could put his book together - his analogy of a snowflake being like a person enabled him to place each of his poems on the snowflake. Ka never wrote another poem once he left Kars.

Orhan interviewed the two women who had know Ka before he went to Kars: one never knew he was a poet; said he was a discontented, argumentative man that was offended at everything; the other one said he was looking for a mother; a lonesome man who would be impossible with whom to live.

Orhan said there had always been a barrier between Orhan and Ka because Orhan didn't really understand poetry or the melancholy that is its wellspring. He was appalled

to see how his friend had lived. Orhan felt that you could get over a lover but only if you are free from the ghost of that person. Unfortunately Ka never was.



I'm Going to Pack My Suitcase, From Ipek's Point of View

I'm Going to Pack My Suitcase, From Ipek's Point of View Summary

Ipek had still been hopeful when Ka left that she could learn to love Ka and start a new life together. She was concentrating on packing so she didn't get angry, but the longer that Ka did not return, the angrier she became. She called a boy from the window to tell the desk clerk that she was locked in her room. Within minutes, her father had let her out; she told him she was worried about Ka and that they should go to the theater.

When they arrived, there was a family atmosphere to the half-filled theater, and Turgut told a soldier that he wanted to see his daughter. Ipek asked Kadife about Ka, but was told he had left some time ago and should have been back already. Ipek asked if Ka had told her that Blue didn't want her to perform, and Kadife said yes but she was angry with Blue. When it was clear that Kadife would not change her mind, Turgut and Ipek returned home.

Ipek was packing her suitcase when an official came to the door with an envelope from Ka telling her that he was at police headquarters for his protection, but the officers would pick her up and take her to meet him at the train that was leaving that evening. She told her father she would go—that she thought she could be happy with him. Later when the doorbell rang, she thought it was the man who would take her to the train, but it was Fazil at the door.

Fazil blurted out that both Blue and Hande had been killed; that the two had been in hiding together and that someone had tipped off the police about Blue's whereabouts. At first Ipek was stunned, then she calmly went up to Ka's room and picked up his suitcase and took it to the officer and told him she was not leaving—to take the bag to Ka. After watching the first act of the play, Ipek told her father she wanted to go to the theater so she could tell Kadife something.

I'm Going to Pack My Suitcase, From Ipek's Point of View Analysis

When Ka had not returned after forty-five minutes, Ipek became agitated and then angry, both at herself and at Ka for putting her in this position. Although she told her father she was worried about Ka, she was really worried about Blue. Kadife was angry with Blue and tired of their arguments and the uncertainties of their romance. Ipek was glad that she had Ka to make her forget about Blue. Kadife urged Ipek to go to Germany with Ka and forget about Blue.



When Ipek and her father returned home, Ka packed and tried not to think about where Ka might be. When she received the letter from him, she thought her happiness was ensured, and yet she unaccountably started crying and didn't know why, trying to convince herself it was because she was leaving her father and sister behind. She finished packing and then spent her last moments with her father watching television, secure in her decision to leave.

After Fazil's news, Ipek remembered what she was wearing the day she had met Blue.



The Main Reason Women Commit Suicide Is to Save Their Pride, The Final Act

The Main Reason Women Commit Suicide Is to Save Their Pride, The Final Act Summary

It went unnoticed in Kars that late in the day Sunay changed the title of the play from The Spanish Tragedy to The Tragedy in Kars. Most didn't understand what the play was all about anyway. Sunay's performance was passionate but mostly improvised so it was difficult to know what was really happening as he held everyone spellbound with speeches from his previous parts throughout his career. Sunay had the eyes of the whole city on him for this performance.

On their way to the theater, Turgut and Ipek heard the train whistle, but Ipek's only comment was that the roads would be reopened soon. Ipek couldn't recall when asked if she was thinking of Ka or Blue as the train sped away. As they passed the newspaper office, they saw the headlines for the next day's issue saying that there was a death onstage.

Kadife was the one puzzling part of the play. Her role was unclear to everyone, except she was supposed to bare her head, and she also talked of committing suicide. There was banter back and forth between Sunay and Kadife about why she would want to commit suicide and that she should shoot Sunay before she kills herself. Ipek and Turgut go backstage and tell Kadife about the headlines, warning her not to shoot the gun.

Ipek then tells Kadife that Blue and Hande have been killed and that she believes Ka is responsible. Kadife, upset though she is, tells her that she is going to continue with her plan to finish the play. Back onstage, Sunay shows the audience his empty gun twice before Ipek takes the final step of taking her head scarf off to display her beautiful hair with the whole city of Kars watching her. She impatiently asks for the gun from Sunay and pulls the trigger, over and over again. At first, everyone thought it was still just blanks, but then Kadife exclaims that she has killed him. And the curtains are pulled closed.

The Main Reason Women Commit Suicide Is to Save Their Pride, The Final Act Analysis

When Ka saw the army truck return without Ipek and only his suitcase, he tried in vain to get them to let him see her or talk to her, but they forcibly put him on the train. Ipek



told Orhan she felt heartbreak but knew there was no chance of loving Ka again - that her anger far outweighed her regret at not going with him.

Ipek tells Kadife that Ka knew where Blue was hiding and betrayed him because of his jealousy. She said she didn't think she could ever get past wondering if it was Ka that betrayed Blue and knowing she could never love him now. As they cried together, Ipek realized that the terrible love triangle was over, but she could see that Kadife's pain was deeper than hers, and she secretly was glad and then felt guilty for thinking those selfish thoughts.

As Kadife shot Sunay, most people thought it was just an act, until they saw that Sunay didn't get up and saw his bloody face. A religious student shouted that Kadife had done well.



No One Here Like Ka These Days, Four Years Later, In Kars

No One Here Like Ka These Days, Four Years Later, In Kars Summary

After the curtain closed, Kadife was taken ostensibly for her own safety to the same cell that Blue had occupied only that morning, but it would be three days before Turgut and Ipek were able to see her. A full inquiry was launched regarding the theatrical coup and its strange ending. The military prosecutor determined that although Kadife had not killed Sunay for political reasons, they found her guilty of negligent homicide and sentenced her to just over three years, but she was released after twenty months.

Turgut and Ipek visited Kadife every week, and her incarceration was treated as though she was in a boarding school. Fazil joined them for a visit and became a regular visitor, marrying Kadife two months after her release. When Orhan came to Kars and interviewed everyone, Fazil was then working at the television station and told him he would find the tape for the night of the first live broadcast when Ka had read his poem.

Orhan walked the streets of Kars, meeting the same people he had talked to, and he found some people who thought Ka was a good man. When he talked to Ipek again, she told him it was hard to remember what was so charming about Ka, but she would try to help him with his book if she could. Orhan told her that Ka had been crushed when he returned to Germany from Kars; he drank heavily and walked the streets always looking for her in every woman he saw. Until he died, he reminisced about their happy days together; he never was with another woman and felt like he had become a ghost of himself.

At the studio, Fazil showed him the tapes from the first two live broadcasts in Kars, which Orhan viewed and managed to get most of the poem transcribed that Ka had read at the first broadcast; in the second recorded play, he tried to see if the gun was indeed loaded or not. Fazil then took him to the old dormitory that was empty now, where he and Necip had been together as students. When he showed him the beds where they had slept, Orhan was able to look at the scene outside and envision what had precipitated Necip's story and Ka's poem, "The Place Where God Does Not Exist." Upon returning to the hotel, Orhan gave Fazil the copies of the letters that Necip had written to Kadife so long ago.

Dinner with Ipek's family was an experience Orhan wouldn't forget - Ipek was so beautiful, he understood his friend Ka's obsession; Kadife was mature and self-assured. But no one mentioned Ka until Orhan asked to see his room, which Ipek showed him. The next day he walked the streets of Kars and talked to Muhtar, Serdar Bey and Fazil once again.



When Orhan and Fazil reached the train station, Muhtar was waiting for them. Soon Serdar Bey came, then Turgut Bey and Kadife came - all brought him gifts so that as he boarded the train, his arms were full, and he had difficulty getting on the train as it pulled away from the station.

No One Here Like Ka These Days, Four Years Later, In Kars Analysis

The events that occurred onstage that evening were thought to be part of the play until the citizens read the newspaper the next day and found that Sunay had indeed been killed. The inquiries lasted awhile, but Kadife, although jailed for her part, was not really held accountable by most people, although it was determined that the gun had to have been loaded between the time Sunay showed the empty chamber to the audience and Kadife fired it. Sunay had planned the whole thing; he had written the article for the paper and colluded with all those around him.

The court held Ka responsible also and issued a summons to appear in court, to which he never responded. Ipek told Orhan that if Ka loved her so much, he could have visited her—that Blue had not let an arrest warrant stop him from seeing her. But she said that Ka was afraid to come because he knew he was guilty. Ipek told Orhan that she knew that it was Ka that had turned in Blue; she didn't need proof because she felt it in her heart.

Orhan learned in his interviews with people that the director's killer had been found to be from another town. The killer had been invited to Kars by Blue. Funda Eser suffered a mental breakdown after her husband's death and was briefly in a hospital in Ankara but now played a witch on a children's television program and talked about her husband's work-related incident instead of admitting his complicity in his own death.

Kadife and Fazil lived in their own home with their six-month old son, and Fazil worked several jobs so he was not so dependent on his father-in-law Turgut Bey. Fazil said that Ka had been a good person, just as Orhan was, but he committed an unforgivable evil that overshadowed everything else. Saffet the detective told him that Ka was a good man, who cared about people, but Ka was introverted, with his mind still in Germany; nobody liked Ka now. The detective told him that some Islamists came looking for Blue's grave and had gone to Berlin and were following in Blue's footsteps; it was probable they were the ones who had killed Ka.

When Orhan was shown Ka's room, where he had been the happiest, he made the mistake of making a pass at Ipek. Her response was that she had tried to love Muhtar; she had loved Blue with all her heart, and she had tried to love Ka, but none of them worked out so she had resolved she was never going to love again. She then told him she was busy and couldn't see him again.

Just before he boarded the train, Kadife told him that Ipek had sent her good wishes to him and his daughter. As the train pulled away, Orhan watched the city of Kars through a blur of tears.



Characters

Ka (Kerim Alakusoglu) Bey

Ka is the main character of the novel, the one who is the thread that binds the story together. Ka is an exiled poet, who grew up in Istanbul and who as a young man in college wrote something that was against the state. He, therefore, had spent the last eight years in Frankfurt, Germany in the Turkish community. After hearing that an acquaintance from college was divorced, Ka travels to Kars hoping to fulfill his lifelong dream of finding a wife.

Ka believes that his dreams are about to come true when he finds that Ipek is everything and more than he remembered about her. He sets out to win her affections but is constantly tormented by his insecurities from childhood memories that have kept him from being happy all his life. Ka plays the mediator in this story, but he is always trying to please everyone. He is constantly battling with a conscious that keeps him from believing in himself and won't allow him to enjoy the moment.

In the end, Ka's insecurities catch up with him. He has outwitted himself and his jealousy has overtaken everything else so he destroyed the one thing he wanted more than anything - his own happiness.

Ipek

Ipek is the beautiful woman with whom Ka is in love. Ipek had grown up in Istanbul, and Ka had known her in college, but she had married Muhtar Bey. She is the daughter of the owner of the Snow Palace Hotel, Turgut Bey. Her marriage to Muhtar was unhappy, and she had a passionate affair with the Islamist named Blue that lasted four years. She is a liberated woman, who did not wear a traditional head scarf.

Ipek was living with her father and sister in the hotel, and she helped her father to run the hotel. Ipek is initially hesitant about her feelings for Ka, as she didn't know him well, but Ka persuaded Ipek that love could happen overnight. She was planning to leave Kars and return to Germany with Ka.

Kadife

Kadife was Ipek's sister, who had been a model in Istanbul but had turned religious when she came to live in Kars with her father and sister. She was not as beautiful as her sister; she was the current mistress to Ipek's former lover, Blue.

Kadife plays a part in the final play put on by the theatrical group led by Sunay Zaim. Her role called for her to bare her head and show her lovely hair and then to use Sunay's gun to shoot him. Supposedly, the gun was loaded, but Sunay died from four



gunshot wounds so Kadife was convicted of negligent homicide and spent almost two years in jail. When she got out of jail, she married a former religious high school student, Fazil, who was four years younger than she, but they were happily married with a child.

Blue

Blue is a volatile and charismatic Islamic revolutionary from Turkey, who had also spent some exiled years in Germany, but didn't meet Ka until they were both in Kars. Blue had been coming to Kars for some years and was Ipek's lover and Kadife's lover - for a period of time both at the same time.

He was used his religious ideals to explain why there were so many problems in his country and belittled Ka for being an atheist. He ended betraying Kadife with her best friend, Hande, taking her as a lover; both of them ended up dying together when Ka betrayed their whereabouts.

Turgut Bey

Turgut Bey was the father of Ipek and Kadife but also an ex-Communist, who had spent time in jail for his beliefs and was terrified of returning. He disapproved of Kadife's liaison with Blue and didn't believe in their cause but admired them for taking a stand against the state.

He joined with Blue and his daughter Kadife and other radicals to draft a statement that he hoped Ka would take to the German press to show the plight of their city and the oppression of the police and state. Ka never took their statement to the press.

Necip

Necip is the first religious high school boy that approaches Ka trying to understand why he is in Kars and why he is interviewing the families of the girls who had committed suicide. In their minds of the religious high school boys, the girls who killed themselves were disbelievers because God didn't permit suicide. Necip talked to Ka extensively about the meaning of God and Ka's beliefs.

Necip also showed Ka a book he had started and wanted Ka's help with in getting it published. Necip was secretly in love with Kadife, although he didn't know her at all. Necip was killed the night of the coup when he stood in the back of the theater trying to get people to stop shooting. Ka was devastated by his death.



Fazil

Fazil was Necip's best friend and soul mate. They shared everything together, including a secret love for Kadife. Necip was more of a radical, where Fazil was a quiet person, who loved his books and didn't like violence. After Necip died, Fazil became Ka's friend.

Fazil is the one who took Ka to see Blue and the one who came to tell Ipek that Blue and Hande were dead. He persevered in his pursuit of getting Kadife's attention and visited her in jail and ended up marrying her. He told Orhan that Ka was essentially a good man, but he had done something that was unforgivable in betraying Blue.

Sunay Zaim

Sunay was an actor who had been performing for over twenty years in every city or town in Turkey. He was married to Funda Eser, and together they traveled everywhere performing for whomever would allow them a place to stay and entertain.

Sunay had been on the verge of huge success when he thought he was going to play the role of Ataturk, but he made some vital mistakes in trying to promote that role so his career went down the drain. Upon arriving in Kars, he ran into an old friend, who said he happened to be in charge of the army because everyone else was gone, and a snowstorm engulfed the city so no one could enter and exit.

Sunay took this as his opportunity to play the role of a lifetime and set up the coup, along with a group of misfit mercenaries. When the snow had let up and the roads were about to open, Sunay knew his time was up, so he came up with an exit that everyone would remember - his murder on stage acting out his final role.

Funda Eser

Funda was Sunay's wife who had been with him for over twenty years acting out parodies of commercials and vignettes that changed little from town to town. She was a sometime belly dancer that hooked up with Sunay, and together they had a magic touch for bringing entertainment to the masses.

She was in on Sunay's final role. Her role was to be hysterical and have a breakdown afterwards so she wouldn't be charged. She went on to do what she had always done, act.

Orhan Bey

Orhan was a childhood friend of Ka's. Ka's family asked Orhan to go to Germany for them and bring back Ka's belongings. Orhan went also because Ka had told him just



before he died that he had finished a book of poetry and would send him a copy when he sent it to the publisher.

Orhan became enmeshed in Ka's story when he saw the miserable way that Ka had lived the last four years and the lonely existence he led right up to his murder. Orhan became obsessed with learning the meaning of Ka's retreat from the world and his death. By interviewing Ka's acquaintances in Germany, Orhan found that Ka only had one friend there.

When Orhan went to Kars, he was saddened to see that no one even liked Ka there because of betraying blue before he left. Orhan was astounded when he met Ipek and was just as overcome with her beauty as Ka had been - even to the point of thinking of being with her himself. Orhan decided he owed his friend a story about his visit to Kars, even though he hadn't understood Ka very well and probably never would, he attempted to honor Ka with a story of a great love that transcended him.



Objects/Places

Kars

Kars is the city in Turkey where the story takes place.

Snow Palace Hotel

The Snow Palace Hotel is where Ka stayed while in Kars and where Ipek and her father and sister lived. This is where the only passion that Ka will ever know takes place.

National Theater

The National Theater is where the two plays were enacted while Ka is in Kars. This is where he read his poem and where Sunay Zaim and Necip died.

Istanbul

Istanbul is where Ka and Ipek and Orhan grew up.

Frankfurt, Germany

This is where Ka lived in exile for eight years before going to Kars and for four more years after his return.

Television Station

The Kars Television Station played its first live broadcast the night of the coup at the National Theatre.

New Life Pastry Shop

The café where Ka and Ipek met for the first time and where the murder of the director of education takes place.

Border City Gazette

The small newspaper of Kars that was owned and run by Sedar Bey, who often wrote about events before they happened.



Encyclopedia For Life

The book that Ka loved as a child, where he found a description of a snowflake and perhaps where he learned his beliefs of the world as he knew it.

Police Headquarters

The place where Ka went when he was questioned and to look at prisoners to see if he recognized anyone.



Themes

Love, Pain and Happiness

The main theme of the book is about love. It tells about Ka's love for his mother and his family. When he was growing up, Ka loved to read the Encyclopedia of Life and many other books in the library. He loved Western culture, films and literature. He dreamed of being in love and making love and being loved in return.

Ka equated love with beauty. Ipek was beautiful; therefore, he should love her. He thought the snow was beautiful and loved the snow.

Ka felt that you couldn't have love without pain. He was therefore always waiting for the other shoe to drop. How can you be in love if you don't have uncertainty and the pain associated with it? His jealousy of Blue is his undoing, and he can't forget it.

Ka thought happiness was the answer to his dreams, but he didn't know how to just be in love and be happy. If Ipek goes to Germany, then he would be happy. Even in the moment of his bliss, he was worrying about why, or if, it wouldn't work and looking for the reasons that would stop him from being happy.

Religion

God played a big part in this book—whether someone believed or didn't believe, and if they didn't believe, what would happen to them. The sheikh, Blue and the religious students were ardent believers, who distrusted anyone else who was not of their religion. The Islamists and the high school boys were religious fanatics who believed only one way was the correct way to live - that of the Koran. They thought that anyone who didn't abide by their beliefs was an atheist.

The big issue about the girls who had committed suicide was all about whether they would remove their head scarves to attend school. If they removed them, they didn't believe in God. The state was insisting that to attend to school, they must remove them so it was a constant battle about what to do, and their families weren't always supportive.

Another reason for the girls' actions were when they were married off to someone they didn't love, who then beat them so they committed suicide.

Religion had played a hand in the politics of this country for centuries and was ingrained in the everyday life and culture.



Appearance and Reality

What appeared on the surface was not always the reality in Snow. On the surface, Ka appeared to be a successful poet and was presented that way to everyone he met when he arrived in Kars. And yet, the reality was he had not written a poem in years, until he came to Kars for those few days; it appeared that he didn't write any more after he left again.

Ka made up stories about his life that were untrue - that he was happy and successful in Frankfurt, when the reality was that he lived like a pauper. He had a coat that everyone envied, but wore the same threadbare clothing he had worn for years under it.

Ipek was a beautiful woman, who had an unhappy marriage because her husband Muhtar didn't understand her, but the reality is that she had an affair with Blue that continued even when her sister Kadife started seeing Blue. She was still in contact with Blue until his death, unbeknown to Ka.

Sunay, the actor, was a has-been that had one big opportunity to play the role of a lifetime, but he had sabotaged that years ago and had since played one night stands in small towns around the country - wherever he could get work. His opportunity comes in the form of a coup, but when he realizes that it can't last once the roads reopen, he takes the easy way out with a grand finale to his play - dying on stage as a hero.

Everyone in the story has hidden agendas that don't reflect who they show to the real world.

Style

Point of View

Snow's point of view is third person. This third person doesn't show himself until later in the story, but bits and pieces tell you that there is another person there. All the emotions of the characters are shown throughout so you feel the pain that the main character is going through, although much of it is because of a lack of emotional maturity on the part of the main character, Ka.

There are lots of descriptive sections that explain the motivations for the various characters and the reasons for the main character's reactions to events. Most of the novel is through the eyes of Ka with a few sections led by Ka's childhood friend, Orhan, and ending with Orhan's analysis of Ka's last years after he left Kars and the events leading to his death.

Setting

The setting for this novel is a small city in northern Turkey that is backward and poor for many reasons - the various conquerors that have come through there, the remoteness of the region, and the military and religious factions, who have ruled for much of its history. A blinding snowstorm cuts the city off virtually from the world, giving the impetus to a string of events that unfold with little interference from the residents, who are used to coups of one kind or another.

Ka finds himself in a city where he immediately feels superior, having having been brought up in Istanbul in a middle-class household. The shabby homes, the outdated wares in the windows of shops and the backward ways of living astound him. One of the main modes of transportation is horse-drawn carriage, and although there are trucks and cars there, the common people don't own them or drive one.

The main attraction are the teahouses and cafes, where unemployed men and students sit around and drink tea or raki all day, then go home and beat their wives. Everything stops at four o'clock when practically the whole city watches a Mexican soap opera called Marianna. The main topics of conversation are the weather and religion.

Ka's only objective once he has fallen in love with Ipek is to take her out of Kars and return with her to Frankfurt. He feels strongly that life could never be good in Kars and doesn't feel comfortable. People look down on him as an outsider; an intellectual from Europe, who doesn't understand them or their ways.



Language and Meaning

The language of Snow is descriptive with sentences that are easy to comprehend. The heavy emphasis of description gives the reader a good understanding of the characters but also the way of life in a country that would otherwise probably be very different for most readers.

The culture of people and their religious beliefs is understandable in the way the writer has described them. Some of the passages that described some character's past events, such as Sunay Zaim, tended to be more prolific—sometimes repetitive than was necessary and at times took away from the story by getting way off track.

Overall, the language is fitting and takes you into the city of Kars so the reader can really feel like a voyeur at the events taking place there.

Structure

This novel has forty-four chapters with some overly-long chapters that the reader wanted to skip over as it went into too much detail about things that were not important to the story. The titles and subtitles of the chapters told you in advance where the reader was going next. The plot is about a man trying desperately for one last attempt at what he calls happiness.

The man is a poet, who has been trying his whole life to fit in and thinks he has found his chance for love when he meets the woman of his dreams. His inability to love without feeling guilt leads him down a path of no return that ends his chance at the happiness he seeks.

The pace is good, although some chapters became bogged down in detail that aren't necessary and do not add to the storyline. There are some flash-backs that, at first, are alarming but then fit into the final chapters. The novel is easy to read and entertaining for the most part.



Quotes

"The idea of a solitary westernized individual whose faith in God is private is very threatening to you. An atheist who belongs to a community is far easier for you to trust than a solitary man who believes in God." Chap. 7, Political Islamist Is Only a Name That Westerners and Seculars Give Us, p. 61

"I haven't come to Kars for political reasons,' said Blue. 'I came perhaps, to stop this suicide epidemic.'" Chap. 8, Suicide Is A Terrible Sin, p. 76

"It's snow,' said her father. 'If nothing else, it is an accurate description of our weather here. This counts as real news.'" Chap. 13, I'm Not Going to Discuss My Faith with an Atheist, p. 110

"I really wouldn't want to do anything to disrupt your happiness,' said Hande, setting everyone in the room on edge, 'but I came here tonight to meet you. I haven't read any of your books, but it's enough for me that you're a poet and have been to places like Germany. Do you mind if I ask whether you've written any poems lately?'" Chap. 14, How Do You Write Poems? p. 121

"Ka doesn't believe in anything,' said Ipek. Chap. 27, Be Strong, My Girl; Help Is On the Way From Kars, p. 242

"All my life I've felt as lost and lonely as a wounded animal. Perhaps if I hadn't embraced you with such violence, I wouldn't have angered you so much, and I might not have undone the work of twelve years, ending up exactly where I started." Chap. 29, It's Not Just You I've Lost, p. 259

"People don't know when they're happy, at least not at the moment. I decided years later that I'd been happy as a child, but the truth is, I wasn't. On the other hand, I was not unhappy in the way I was during the years that followed. I just wasn't interested in happiness at first." Chap. 30, When Can We Meet Again? Pg. 263

"It was as if we were all brothers suddenly, as if we were closer to one another than we'd ever been before." Chap. 31, We're Not Stupid, We're Just Poor, p. 274

"Not only were you brought up to look down on your own traditions, you also think you live on a higher plane than ordinary people. According to your kind, the road to a good moral life is not through God or religion, or through taking part in the life of the common people - no it's just a matter of imitating the West." Chap. 35, I'm Not an Agent for Anyone, p. 324

"And know this: People who seek only happiness never find it." Chap. 37, The Only Script We Have This Evening Is Kadife's Hair, pg. 350



"Whatever you do, don't cross swords with Sunay,' said Ipek. 'Don't forget that he's a Jacobin hero who's just been endowed with special powers.'" Chap. 42, I'm Going to Pack My Suitcase, p. 383

"Is this your way of admitting you've failed at this thing you've set out to accomplish, or is it simply that you're old and tired now and looking for a way to go out in style?' said Kadife." Chap. 43, The Main Reason Women Commit Suicide Is to Save Their Pride, p. 401

"Please don't take offense, I can tell you're a good person. But your friend was a good person too; maybe he even wanted to love us, but in the end he committed the greatest evil of all." Chap. 44, No One Here Likes Ka These Days, p. 410



Topics for Discussion

Discuss happiness. What is happiness? Why couldn't Ka accept happiness when he found it? What could he have done differently?

Discuss religious beliefs. What role do they play in governments? What role do they play culturally? What is an atheist?

Discuss snowflakes. Does everyone have their own snowflake? How does the symmetry of the snowflake relate to a person?

Discuss how Ka could fall in love so easily after being without it most of his life. Was he really in love? Was Ipek in love with him? If not, then why was she going to Germany with him?

Discuss the issue of the removal of head scarves. What did that have to do with the story? Were the suicides part of the story or a subtopic that really didn't have anything to do with the story?

Discuss how the story would differ if written from the point of view of Ipek. What do you think she really thought of Ka?

Discuss how the story would be if written from the students' or Blue's point of view. How would the story change? Would there be a love story? Blue had lots of lovers and wives, but did he really love them?