

Stephen Coonts' Deep Black Study Guide

Stephen Coonts' Deep Black by Stephen Coonts

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



Contents

Stephen Coonts' Deep Black Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1-10.....	4
Chapter 11-20.....	6
Chapter 21-30.....	8
Chapter 31-40.....	10
Chapter 41-50.....	11
Chapter 51-60.....	13
Chapter 61-70.....	15
Chapter 71-80.....	17
Chapter 81-90.....	19
Chapter 91-100.....	21
Chapter 100-110.....	24
Chapter 111-116.....	26
Characters.....	28
Objects/Places.....	32
Themes.....	34
Style.....	36
Quotes.....	38
Topics for Discussion.....	40



Plot Summary

The book opens with Charles Dean and his partner, Tommy Karr, riding separately on a bus and seeing a beautiful woman being robbed. Both run to help the woman. Tommy catches the thief and returns the purse to the woman. Tommy and Charles decide to have coffee while waiting for their afternoon meeting.

After this, the action of the book begins to explode. The two men work for the National Security Agency in Deep Black, a highly secret covert operations division that uses the most advanced technology in the world. The two men are on their way to a meeting, but before they meet their contact in the park, he is shot in front of them. The only problem is, he wasn't their real contact.

In France, a terrorist named Mussa Duoar is having a technician explain a computer simulation to him. Their network uses hijacked computers to store and pass information. He has plans to detonate a bomb in such a way that it will cause a flood of several countries in Europe. There is also a planned attack on the Eiffel Tower. He is motivated by revenge due to the death of his father in the Algerian independence movement.

The Americans have discovered that a French nuclear warhead is missing - or at least part of it is missing. Where is it? They are trying to find out. At the same time, the NSA is monitoring and tracking the activity on the hijacked computers that are being remotely accessed by the terrorists. The engineers and technicians find data and files on them that allows them to piecemeal the plans for a terrorist attack, but the French don't believe the Americans when they are informed of a possible attack on the Eiffel Tower.

And if this isn't enough action for one novel, there is also the love angle. There is Tommy and Deidre, who met when Karr retrieved her stolen purse in London. She is the daughter of the American Ambassador to England. And there is also Lia and Charlie, two Deep Black agents, who have worked together for years and fall in love.

There is also the technology angle that is almost as exciting as the action of the novel. There is a communications network that allows the Art Room of the NSA to communicate with their agents anywhere in the world, except in the Chunnel. There are also the little gadgets that the agents use like the video fly that send video to the Art Room, which is the place in the NSA that receives all of the data.

Stephen Coonts writes a novel that is full of suspense and intrigue and once the reader begins the book, he will have a hard time putting it down until he finishes the book. Any reader of suspense novels will enjoy Deep Black: Dark Zone.



Chapter 1-10

Chapter 1-10 Summary

The book opens with Charles Dean and his partner, Tommy Karr, riding separately on a bus and seeing a beautiful woman being robbed. Both run to help the woman. Tommy catches the thief and returns the purse to the woman. Tommy and Charles decide to have coffee while waiting for their afternoon meeting.

In Paris, an engineer is explaining the activity on a computer screen to Mussa Duoar. The technician is demonstrating how an explosion causing the collapse of the tunnel under the English Channel will result in a wall of water hitting the shoreline. The water would flood Belgium, The Netherlands, and most of the French coast. This is the terrorist act that they are planning. The technician is demonstrating the simulation on the top floor of a printing building where they have the floor to themselves. The engineer asks to be paid and Mussa kills him.

William Rubens, the head of the NSA Desk Three, checks his email for the daily briefing and then calls Marie Telach for an update on operations. He is watching the Korea situation. On his way to work he stops at the nursing home to see General John Paul Rosenberg, who had been his mentor at NSA.

Lia DeFrancesca is a Deep Black agent on assignment in North Korean, using the cover of a journalist. Her mission is to deliver a business card with the phone number of a dedicated CIA line. She has a minder, or guide, that is assigned to her and showing her around and tells her that someone wants to talk to her and directs her to two soldiers. Her communications, which is built into her belt, is on and keeps her in communications with the Art Room. She thinks it is for a bribe but she is taken to a room where her official papers are requested and handed over. She is punched by one of the guards, just as she thinks that she has the problem solved.

Dean and Karr are waiting to meet their contact, who was late. They hear the sound of gunshot and run to the bridge. The messenger, their contact, is dead. Dean checks the body for whatever he was supposed to deliver but doesn't find anything but a hotel card with a magnetic strip. The police tell them to stay there for questioning. A staffer from the Embassy eventually gets them out and they find out that the woman whose purse they retrieved is the daughter of the American Ambassador. Later that evening they check the hotel room, but there is nothing but a box from a candy shop.

Marie Talach alerts Rubens about the situation concerning Lia. Her communications belt had been removed because it was not close enough to the implant in her skull. They know that she has been struck and that her plane has departed without her. He asks about the situation in London and finds both Karr and Dean are being questioned by the police. They tell Dean, through the communications system, to contact the embassy so they don't waste the day with the police.



They can see from their screen that Lia is moving. They already have a Russian plane on the way. They decide to alert the President and fly by helicopters to the White House. The meeting includes people from CIA and other branches of government. They talk about the little known revolt of French generals in Algeria in the 1960s. They had the Chou weapon, a small warhead with a yield of forty to ninety kilotons. The CIA has found that part of this bomb is missing.

The discussion turns to the possible uses of the plutonium. They think that it is in Algeria or France, since they detected some abnormal radiation readings in Marseilles but not at the ship's next port of call. The group decides to inform the French, since they will need their help.

Mussa is talking to an Arab waiter in a café on the boulevard Saint-Germain. After finishing his coffee, he drives to a meeting with a Yemini. The man shows him a C-4 type explosive.

Lia wakes up and finds she is wearing baggy army cloths. Her belt with her communications system is missing. She staggers out to the terminal and a man directs her to a plane. Another man gives her a bag that contains her clothing.

Chapter 1-10 Analysis

The opening chapters introduce the main characters and set the scene for the action of the novel. Charles and Tommy are in London, killing time before a meeting. Mussa Duoar, a terrorist, is planning to blow up the Channel tunnel and flooding Belgium, The Netherlands, and the French Coastline.

William Rubens, the head of Desk Three, has an obligation to his mentor, General John Paul Rosenberg, who is confined to a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease. The general's daughter is making it difficult for Rubens to fulfill his role as guardian. Rubens believes that Rebecca, the daughter, is motivated by greed.

In North Korea, Lia is having a problem leaving the country. Her cover may be blown. The NSA Art Room is making phone calls and has her location from isotopes within her body. When she regains consciousness, a man gives her a plastic bag with her clothing and she boards a plane.

A meeting in Washington reveals that there is plutonium missing from a French military installation. The group decides to inform the French but to tell them as little as possible.

All of these characters and events are related through the Art Room at the NSA as the reader waits for these unrelated events to come together.



Chapter 11-20

Chapter 11-20 Summary

At the hotel, Dean and Karr bump into a little girl in the elevator and make her cry. A man, Patrick Donohue, recognizes them from the park. They go down the stairs and out into the street. He is being paid by Mussa Duoar to search the room to find some computer disks. He returns to the hotel to make the search of the dead man's room. He finds nothing. Over dinner he tells the woman they will be staying a few more days. He takes them for a walk and kills them both, dropping the gun into the water.

Karr and Dean are at the Waterloo terminus of the Channel tunnel. They search for the surveillance cameras with the aid of the Art Room staff. They both spot two people that they think are monitoring them. They page Gordon Kensworth, the contact who was killed earlier. Dean follows a woman that they had spotted and loses her, but is grabbed by two men. Two more men join them and Karr comes to help. They hear sirens and find the men are police.

Lia's plane lands. She is still sore from the beating and didn't change clothes so she didn't have her communications belt on. An attendant hands her the bag with her clothes and tells her to follow him. She is in Russia now, and the men direct her to a car. During the ride, a frightened Lia wonders what she told the Koreans. The Russians drive her to another plane and put her aboard. After the plane is airborne, a man appears who she recognizes as Ray Fashona, another Desk Three operative, who tells Lia that the Russians were paid to bring her out of North Korea. They are flying to Japan.

Karr and Dean are again questioned by the police, who are preparing charges for the scene at the Waterloo Station. They have connected Dean and Karr to the murder that occurred earlier in the day but are asking questions about Kensworth. Rubens and the Art Room staff are monitoring the situation. Rubens calls the American Ambassador, Aloy Clancy, to have Karr and Dean released. His daughter, Deidre, is returning to Paris the next day and he decides she needs some kind of guard. She wants Karr.

The police are asking Karr and Dean some hard questions, like are they CIA. They are bringing in an MI5 agent and the chief inspector in charge of the murder case is already there. They admit that they work for the US government and tell them they were sent to meet a man. When they heard the name, they walked into the police sting operation. The MI5 man arrives and recognizes Karr, and the men are released to him. But Rubens, through the communications system, picks up some important information. The man had come to England via the Eurostar, through the Chunnel. Wolten, the British intelligence agent, takes Karr and Dean to a cottage outside London and wants to know who Kensworth is. They say they don't know.



Denis LaFoote watches the two men get into a car with official plates. He follows it as it pulls out and then gets lost. He had hired Kensworth as a stand-in since he suspected he was under surveillance. He is wondering who ordered the murder.

Johnny Bib is researching the computers being used by the French terrorists. He knows they switch computers every few months. One computer he looked at predicted ocean waves but it had been wiped. The terrorists were remotely accessing the drives of other people and placing things where the user didn't find on the drive. They find a weather site that is being used to pass messages.

Chapter 11-20 Analysis

Donohue is being paid by Duoar to find the computer disks that he thinks the dead messenger was carrying. He doesn't want any witnesses, so he kills the woman and the child that he used in his cover. Not much information is given about the information contained on the disks, but they are tied somehow to Duoar's terrorist plot.

The police are investigating the death of Kensworth and have an altercation with Karr and Dean at the tube station. Karr and Dean are again brought to the station for questioning. They are asking the men if they work for CIA. A man from MI5 knows Karr and the two are released to him. As the car pulls away, it is followed by Denis LaFoote, the real messenger who hired Kensworth as a stand-in.

Lia is brought out of North Korea by the Russians who were paid by Desk Three. Another operative, Ray Fashona, flies her out of Russia and they head for Japan. She leans of the details from him. After a medical examination, she is on her way to the United States via a navy Orion.

Deidre is returning to Paris the next day and wants to take the tunnel train. Clancy is against it and wants her to travel with a guard. She asks for Karr. This gives Rubens the cover he needs to send Karr and Dean to France. Karr and the NSA are tracking some computers being used by a terrorist network. They don't yet know about Duoar.

NSA technology allows the agency to examine other people's computers. Johnny Bib is working on the information they think are from computers that have been remotely accessed and used by the terrorist in France. They don't yet know who the terrorists are since Duoar accessed from a computer at a printing company. The NSA doesn't know who Duoar is yet or that he has a plan for a terrorist attack.



Chapter 21-30

Chapter 21-30 Summary

The next day, Karr and Dean return to London. Karr is going to escort Deidre to Paris and Dean will be returning to the US. Karr leaves and Dean meets the police inspector from the night before, Chief Inspector Lang. Lang has some information about the murdered man and Dean goes with him, despite the protests of the Art Room. They visit the murdered man's sister and learn he had been hired to go to France and then to London. The man's real name was Gordon Pierce and he had been hired by someone he met at the Golden Goose pub.

Karr, who knows he is being followed, changes Deidre's travel arrangements to flying instead of taking the tunnel train. He knows that he is being followed. LaFoote, who has been following him, decides he will fly to Paris and pick them up there. Karr spots the CIA people at the airport in Paris, picks up the rental car, and takes Deidre to the embassy. LaFoote decides to park and talk with Karr directly. He is worried that he is being followed by whoever shot the messenger. He tells Karr that he sent Gordon Kensworth.

Lia arrives in Baltimore and is driven to NSA headquarters. She goes directly to the medical area for an exam and then to an area restricted for Deep Black debriefing. Rubens tells her to take a few days off. She finishes and delivers her report and goes to Rubens's office. She refuses counseling and time off so he begins to tell her about the Morocco assignment.

Karr and LaFoote go to a little café to talk. Karr wants information about computers that are being hijacked by terrorists, and LaFoote starts to tell him about a chemist named Vefoures who had disappeared. His friends at DST, Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire, knew nothing about it. Karr knows nothing. They had received information about some web addresses and were supposed to receive more. That's what the meeting was set up for. LaFoote tells Karr of his background in intelligence.

LaFoote goes on to tell how his friend received emails with strange domains. A friend checked them out and said they were suspicious. Vefoures had worked on explosives and had developed a process to intensify the effect of explosions. Then he disappeared and La Foote tells Karr that his friend had a one way ticket to New York for the following week.

Dean and Lang go to the Golden Goose pub, order beers, and talk to the bartender. They are looking for information. The women in the bar talk about Rose, the sister they had just visited. She mentions a Frenchman that Gordon dubbed Reynard the Fox. This information goes along with what the NSA had been learning from Karr and the information from LaFoote. The Art Room also tells him that his next assignment is in



Spain. After the men leave the pub, Karr tells Lang that Pierce was hired by an intelligence officer. They don't know who, but he had nothing to do with the murder.

While Karr is sightseeing in Paris with Deidre, he receives an update from the Art Room concerning the chemist Vefoures. He didn't work for the government and the French didn't have any current projects involving explosives.

Mussa Duoar is disguised as a Greek. Every day he wears a different disguise. He had developed a good network through France, Germany, and Africa. He is meeting with Donohue who he wants to do a job in Paris, but Donohue says he doesn't work in France. Duoar offers him a million Euros to kill Jacques Ponclare, the head of DST. Donohue wants double the amount and Duoar says he will think about it.

Lia is on her way to Casablanca with a stopover in Frankfurt. Dean is meeting her there and going on to Oujda to help her replace a bug in the bathroom of a fake Islamic charity.

Karr and LaFoote visit Vefoures farmhouse. Karr notices a wire strung along the bottom of the doorway and pulls LaFoote to safety just as the house explodes. Duoar receives the news of the explosion as he is boarding a plane, and then finds out it wasn't the people who he sent to disarm it after Donohue completed the job in England. He is also told that LaFoote has been seen in the area. LaFoote is who Donohue was supposed to have killed in England since LaFoote was trying to get French and American intelligence interested in Vefoures disappearance. Duoar orders the house thoroughly searched.

Chapter 21-30 Analysis

Dean ignores the protests of the Art Room runner and goes with Lang to talk to the dead man's sister. They learn he had been hired by someone he met at a local pub to travel to France and then return to London. At the pub they learn some information from a woman about a Frenchman named LaFoote. Dean doesn't yet know that this was the man they were supposed to meet in the park or any of the details of the switch.

Karr escorts Deidre to Paris and picks up the man who is following them. It is LaFoote, and they meet in Paris where LaFoote tells Karr that he sent Gordon Kensworth to London. While there, Dean learns that Vefoures did not work for the French government.

Duoar is moving along with his plan to avenge his father's death. He wants Donohue to kill Ponclare, the head of the DST. Donohue wants double the amount and Duoar will think about it. It may be worth it for the revenge that he wants. He learns that LaFoote is still alive and was seen around Vefoures house when it exploded. He had ordered Donohue to kill LaFoote in England and wants the house searched thoroughly. He does not want anything around that can lead to him and his plans for the attack and LaFoote, who doesn't have specified information about Duoar or the attack, does have information about the work on explosives that his friend was doing.



Chapter 31-40

Chapter 31-40 Summary

Johnny Bib is meeting with Rubens, working on the computer sites and waiting for the terrorists to visit the relevant web pages. He can find no patterns and this bothers him.

Lia is at the Islamic charity and is nervous as she walks to the lavatory to replace the microphone. She spills the solvent she was supposed to use to dissolve the glue. Dean is across the street from the building. Dean, worrying about Lia, tells the Art Room that he is going in. They tell him no and that Lia is fine. Lia has problems replacing the bug and disposing of the old one, but she manages. When she opens the door, she finds a guard pointing his gun at her.

Dean enters the building looking for Lia. A guard pulls a gun on him. Just as he is about to turn and fire, the old woman attendant from the bathrooms comes running out screaming. Lia had knocked out the guard and taken his rifle. Lia returns to where Charles is and tells him that she is fine.

Karr and LaFoote are waiting outside the Vefoures' house for the police to leave the scene. The official word from the police was that the explosion was caused by a leaky gas pipe. They look through the rubble for papers. LaFoote tells Karr that Vefoures had a second bank account in Austria. The Art Room tells Karr that two men in a car are approaching. Since they don't have time to get out, they both draw their guns and watch as two men wearing night vision goggles walk in.

Lia and Charles take a taxi to the airport. Charles wants her to leave on the flight while he goes back to the building to look around the office. Lia says she will stay and go with him. They plan their entry into the building.

Chapter 31-40 Analysis

Lia and Charles Dean have some problems replacing the microphone at the Islamic charity building. The female attendant in the lavatory becomes suspicious and alerts a guard who Lia has to overpower in order to escape. Dean, who was supposed to wait outside, went in the building looking for her. They escape safely but at the airport, Charles wants Lia to leave because he wants to go back and look over the office. She says she will go with him.

Karr and LaFoote go through the rubble at Vefoures house looking for papers. Another car arrives with two men, who also want to search the house. There is a lot of attention on Vefoures and his work, which should indicate to the NSA that Vefoures was working on something important for someone. They don't know who yet or what.



Chapter 41-50

Chapter 41-50 Summary

The two men who arrived are talking and the Art Room identifies one as Arab. The men find a strongbox full of money and leave with it. After chipping through a wall, they find three CDs. LaFoote gives one of them to Karr and tells him he will have the other two and the information on the Austrian bank account when he finds Vefoures. Karr discusses the situation with the Art Room while he is away from LaFoote. They think the chemist was paid by a terrorist group to work on explosives and then left the area. Karr also learns that Pontclare's father was in the French Foreign Service and involved with the Algerian uprising.

Karr tries to get more information about Vefoures from LaFoote, like who would he work for. LaFoote says that he wouldn't have anything to do with terrorists. Karr is returning to Paris and wants LaFoote to come with but he has things to do. They decide to meet the next evening at the Gare du Nord.

Lia is helping Dean break into the Islamic charity office. His equipment determines that there are no alarms. They did give money for the training of nurses, but their major function was to pass information. As he is trying to pick the file cabinet lock, people appear in the hallway.

Mussa Duoar is at a warehouse that he owns. He used it in his business of transporting cars from Europe to Africa and the Middle East. He calls Donohue, who still wants twice the amount Duoar offered. Duoar says it is okay if he fixes an error in his earlier assignment.

Charles is hiding under a desk when the light in the room is turned on. Lia uses small grenades as a diversionary tactic to draw the men out of the room. The man who grabbed a phone device of the desk leaves the building and gets into a blue Fiat. Dean follows on a bicycle and finds him and the phone device in a phone booth. He causes enough of a delay for the NSA staff to intercept the call he is going to make. He goes back to meet Lia and they are told to go to Paris.

Johnny Bib and his operator are still watching the suspected computers looking for terrorists sending codes through the network. They use a program called Spider Goblin 3 for this task. They would compare the recent information with past information. They decide to check some other computers that are accessing the site and find French and German car registration numbers. The information came from a hijacked dentist's computer in Marseilles. The call to the site came from Morocco.

Donohue kills LaFoote by suffocating him with a pillow. He takes the money out of LaFoote's wallet and then leaves. Not knowing that anything has happened to LaFoote, Karr is trying to reach him to move their meeting to an earlier time. In the meantime, he



is checking out Pontclare and finds that he has bought an expensive apartment and two country estates on his government salary.

Johnny Bib is finding information on different computers. He finds information on a formula describing the integrity of the Eiffel Tower. They think that the dentist office computer was being used by a car hijacking ring. Rubens puts this together with the information on the CD about the explosives and looks at the possibility of a car full of explosives bringing down the Eiffel Tower.

Chapter 41-50 Analysis

LaFoote wants Karr to find his friend but he won't give him all of the computer disks that they find in the rubble of Vefoures' home. LaFoote gives him one disk and tells him he can have the other two after his friend is found. Karr doesn't insist of taking the disks, even though they might contain important information that could lead to Vefoures or information about the plot.

Dean had to go back to the charity office to poke around, even though that was not part of their assignment. While he is inside trying to pick a lock, people appear in the hallway. The man grabbed a phone device off the desk and left the building, with Dean following.

Duoar earns a good living from a car theft business where he ships the cars from Europe to Africa and the Middle East. He talks to Donohue about the Pontclare job and tells him that he has to fix the error from his London assignment. It is important to Duoar to eliminate LaFoote. LaFoote is a loose end that can give away his plans and he has been causing too much trouble by trying to get the Americans and the British involved in the disappearance of Vefoures. Donohue kills LaFoote by suffocating him with a pillow.

Johnny Bib finally finds something from the web sites they have been watching. A list of French and German registration numbers hijacked from the computer of a dentist in Marseilles with the call to the bulletin board coming from Morocco. They find more information on other computers. Rubens concludes, from the information that they have on the explosives, that there may be an attempt to bring down the Eiffel Tower.



Chapter 51-60

Chapter 51-60 Summary

Karr talks to the CIA officer sitting outside LaFoote's house before he enters. He looks through a window and sees franc notes and papers strewn around the room. He goes in and finds LaFoote's body. He looks for the CDs, in spite of the Art Room telling him to leave because one of LaFoote's relatives is entering the house. He finds an envelop addressed to a priest, takes it, and exits via a window.

There is a meeting in the White House situation room. They are discussing the stolen car ring run by Mussa Duoar. They know his family was involved in the Algerian independence movement. The Eiffel Tower is to France what the World Trade Center was to America. They are debating whether or not to inform the French, and there are questions about the credibility of the information. They feel that Mussa Duoar is the tie in and the one they want. There is nothing that ties him in with the missing warhead. Rubens sends Lia and Charlie Dean to the French library to switch the hard drive of the suspect computer that had been identified by Johnny Bib.

Karr pays a visit to LaFoote's priest and sneaks in to look for any other information that LaFoote may have sent him for safe keeping. He finds nothing.

Charlie and Lia travel to a town on the eastern edge of Paris, where the library is located. On the way, he tells her that he loves her. Since they arrived one half hour before closing time, they think they will just look over the situation, since there are two dozen computers. They identify the computer and then begin the preparations for their break-in to the library after it closes. Dean spills a cup of coffee, which causes the librarian to worry about the safety of the machines. She wants the monitor moved. The phone rings and she goes to answer it. While she is occupied with the phone call, they switch the hard drive, but can't connect all of the wires before the closing bell sounds.

Charlie accompanies the librarian to dinner at a local restaurant while Lia breaks into the library. After the dinner, he meets Lia at the subway. Lia takes the hard drive directly to the airport and meets Charlie at the hotel later that evening. Charlie again tells Lia that he loves her.

Karr finds out that the French didn't believe the information they received through official channels from the Americans. Duoar had been investigated several times but the victims of the car theft were not French, so he always seems to escape arrest. The people at the Paris embassy are divided over the seriousness of the threat.

Duoar's people are moving a blue van. They take the cart from the back of Duoar's pickup truck that has the explosives in it to move to the van. He gives the men a satchel full of money and tells them to divide it. He drives the van outside and presses a detonator device, exploding the building.



Chapter 51-60 Analysis

Karr finds LaFoote's body and a package addressed to a priest. He figures those are the missing computer disks and takes the envelop. He slips out of a window as a man enters the house looking for LaFoote. Karr also checks residence of LaFoote's priest to see if LaFoote sent him anything for safekeeping. He finds nothing in the priest's room.

The possibility of a terrorist attack on the Eiffel Tower is the subject of a meeting in the White House situation room. They discuss the information they have and whether or not to tell the French. They also consider the possibility that the French won't believe them, which turns out to be the case.

Lia and Charlie are sent to the library to switch the hard drive on a computer that Johnny Bib had identified. They manage to create enough diversions to accomplish the switch, but can't reconnect all of the wires before the library closes. Lia breaks into the library after hours and then meets Charlie. She delivers the disk to the airport. Back at the hotel, Charlie tells Lia that he loves her. He doesn't know what happened to her in Korea, but he loves her anyway.

The NSA is working on obtaining information about the computers they have been tracking. They are carrying on their own operation on French soil without the knowledge of the French.



Chapter 61-70

Chapter 61-70 Summary

Mussa Duoar parks the van in the garage of a rented house. He checks the new AOL messenger service he obtained for the situation. There is one message that says yes. This means that the brothers will be ready to proceed the next day.

Karr returns to LaFoote's cottage to search again for information. He waits for the priest to finish mass and then goes to talk to him. The priest gives him an envelop that he had received from LaFoote. The envelop contains Vefoures bank records, which show regular deposits made through wire transfers. There is another account which just as the name P. Karr checks the NSA computers and find the name on the account is Jacques Ponclare.

Donohue has killed a woman living in an apartment near Ponclare's DST office. He returns the next day to set up his rifle.

Telach tells Rubens of the information they have found about Ponclare. They look at the information and wonder if it is really Ponclare who is involved. Rubens decides to send Lia and Charlie to talk to Ponclare personally. He wants them to watch the man's reactions to the information.

The area around the Eiffel Tower is blocked due to the President's arrival in Paris. Lia and Charlie are walking around the Eiffel Tower, looking at the barricades in place for the President's visit. Lia says she would feel better if they just closed the tower. Just then the Art Room tells Charlie they are sending him somewhere and to find a taxi.

Duoar is driving his van to the specified point in the tunnel when he is caught in traffic. The police tell him it is because of the visit of the American president and give him directions to the Eurostar.

The NSA team and Johnny Bib are examining the hard drive that Lia and Charlie took from the French library. The drive had been damaged by a power spike when it was being written. They have found some more data on the impact of an explosion on the Eiffel Tower.

Donohue waits for Ponclare to appear and shoots him in the head, killing him. After the job, he calmly walked out of the room. A block away, Dean recognizes the sound of the gunshot. As Lia and Charlie exit the taxi, they see a man strolling down the street. Dean thinks there is something familiar about the man, but he doesn't know what. Around the corner, men are running toward the fallen Ponclare. Dean tells Lia they have to follow the man. He remembers him from when he went to Kensworth's room in London.

The Art Room tells Karr that Ponclare was killed and that Charlie and Lia are following a man that Charlie recognized from London. He is told to remain in the Eiffel Tower area.



Chapter 61-70 Analysis

Duoar's big event is scheduled for the next day. He receives notification from the brothers that they are ready for the next day. The next day he is caught in traffic as he is driving to the Tunnel. He receives directions from the police so he can get there before the arrival of the American president.

Karr tracks Vefoures accounts and the wire transfers to Jacques Ponclare. Rubens and others analyze the information at NSA headquarters and decide to send Lia and Charlie to talk to Ponclare. They want him to know of the situation and they want to know what his reaction is. Ponclare is shot by Donohue as Lia and Charlie are arriving in the area. Charlie recognizes the man strolling down the street as the man he saw at the hotel when they went to check Kensworth's room. The Art Room communicates this information to Karr.

The NSA people are still trying to track information about the pieces they have. They still have no idea of the magnitude of what is being planned or who Duoar is.



Chapter 71-80

Chapter 71-80 Summary

Mussa Duoar arrives at the Eurostar loading dock. The carts with the explosives must be loaded aboard the train. One of Duoar's men tells him that several other men didn't appear and he doesn't know where they are. So there are now only four men for the operation instead of the seven they had planned on. Two of the men, Muhammad and Kelvin, would handle the passengers when the train decouples.

Donohue arrives at the Eurostar check in area at the Gare du Nord. He wonders why the man, who was Karr, had given him such a strange look. Donohue is taking the train and tube to Heathrow. He already has tickets for three different destinations and a friend from the IRA will meet him and give him a passport.

Rubens and the Art Room staff are paying close attention to the situation in Paris. They are wondering if the Eiffel Tower thing is a decoy for the real plot to assassinate Ponclare, which wouldn't make Deep Black look very good. Rubens tells them to get the passenger list for the Eurostar and to have Charlie and Lia keep following the man (who is Donohue).

Charlie and Lia spot Donohue as he is boarding the Eurostar. The Art Room staff tells Charlie and Lia to buy tickets for the train. Charlie argues about the situation, arguing that they should just pick the man up in London. In the meantime, Donohue entered a restroom and changes his appearance and glues a matching picture over his passport picture.

Duoar and the others load the carts onto the train. Duoar has arranged the situation to look like Ponclare was a traitor, and there is no way that Ponclare could defend himself because he is dead. Duoar finishes loading the carts and boards the train as a passenger, feeling he will gain entrance to Paradise for the act he is going to commit.

The Art Room staff tells Charlie that they have lost Donohue. Charlie looks but can't find the man. He is told by the Art Room staff to stay at the station and let Lia take the train. Charlie won't let Lia go alone after what happened to her in Korea. He joins Lia on the train.

Johnny Bib has figured out the configuration for the explosives. They have six units of thirty-two point seventy three pounds. He has calculations concerning the tensile value of steel, and it would correspond to the sections between the second and third girder structure of the Tower.

Karr is at the Eiffel Tower. He notices painters climbing the structure and wonders why they have no paint cans. He is climbing the steps leading up the Tower. The Art Room staff tells him of the information uncovered by Johnny Bib. Karr tells them about the painters and they both figure they are wearing explosive vests.



Chapter 71-80 Analysis

Duoar's plan is proceeding. He arrives at the Eurostar loading dock with the carts containing the explosives. He learns that they will be short three men because they hadn't shown up. After loading the explosives, he boards the train. It is really Ponclare's father that Duoar wants revenge on, but the man was dead. Duoar feels, however, that his actions will send him to Paradise, where he will be with his own father.

Donohue, who shot Ponclare, is making his departure from the country. He is taking the Tunnel train to England and then going on to Heathrow. He apparently doesn't know of Duoar's plans for the Tunnel.

Johnny Bib is still constructing information from the hard drives. He has determined that there is an optimal number of packages and an optimal weight of each package. He has found information about the tensile value of the steel that corresponds to the second and third girder structure of the Tower. He passes the information on to Rubens. When Karr is informed, he puts it together with the painters who were climbing the tower without any paint cans or equipment. They must be wearing explosive vests.

The pieces of the terrorist plot are being put together by the NSA. They might have figured it out sooner if they had paid more attention to the explosives and Vefoures' work.



Chapter 81-90

Chapter 81-90 Summary

Mussa Duoar is on board the train as it is on its one hour trip to the Channel. He knows that the brothers are at the Eiffel Tower now. Duoar is watching the time and counting the minutes. He had reserved a large number of seats on the train to make it appear that the train would be full so there would be fewer passengers on the train. Duoar helps the attendants move the carts to serve drinks. He recognizes Donohue entering the restroom in the car.

The men at the Tower begin to fire at Karr. Karr tells the Art Room to have the French get the people out of the Tower. The information about shots being fired is conveyed to the President, who is arriving in Paris, and to the French.

Donohue is in the train's restroom, thinking about Duoar being on board. He wonders if Duoar is going to try to kill him. If so, he will kill Duoar and anyone he sends after him.

Karr has fallen while climbing the Eiffel Tower. He is stunned and lays there for a few moments before he is able to move. Helicopters appear and begin shooting at the Tower, and the Art Room tells him to descend and get off of the Tower. He sees two policemen descend from the upper levels of the Tower, but the Art Room tells him the French have no police on the upper levels. One of them fires an anti-air missile at the helicopter.

One of Johnny Bib's assistants comes in with a disk and information that the computer that accessed the library was part of a network of computers at a printing plant. They backed up their computers several times a day on RAID-5 disk arrays. She has copies of some of the backups. There are figures on an explosion simulation. The magnitude of the figures indicates that the structure is modular and is much larger than the Eiffel Tower. Bib recognizes some of the figures as being a wave amplification, like a tsunami. Johnny tells them to quickly gather a team of people.

At the Eiffel Tower, a second helicopter is firing at the terrorists and hitting some of them, while missing Karr. Karr has been injured in his fall. He finds a gun.

Lia is walking around the train, checking the faces, looking for anyone familiar. She figures their target never boarded the train and had escaped from the station. Charlie shouldn't have followed her aboard the train. Even though she was angry at him, she still loves him.

Charlie learns of the attack on the Eiffel Tower from the Art Room. They had tentatively identified Donohue as McCormack from the passenger list, but he isn't in the seat that was assigned to him. Charlie figures that the man has changed his appearance. The train will be entering the Channel soon, and there will be a loss of communications with the Art Room.



Duoar begins to prepare the bombs as the train is entering the Chunnel. He needs to place them on the decoupling device between cars nine and ten, which he does. He then takes his submachine gun and returns to the coach car.

Chapter 81-90 Analysis

Duoar is continuing with his plan on board the train as he nervously watches the clock. He knows that the brothers are in place at the Eiffel Tower. He recognizes Donohue on the train and wonders what he is doing there. He is supposed to be killing Ponclare. Duoar doesn't know that Ponclare is dead already. Donohue recognized Duoar and is surprised to see him on the train, especially in a train porter's uniform. He, like Duoar, recognizes the paranoia they both feel. Duoar places the bombs in position on the decoupling device.

Karr is fired upon by one of the painters. He is waiting for the French to act. A French helicopter finally arrives and begins to fire on the Tower. Two terrorists, disguised as policemen, shoot it down using an anti-air missile. Karr finds a gun and fires at the terrorists but there is not much that he can do. He finally begins the climb down, as other helicopters arrive and shoot at the terrorists.

A member of Johnny Bib's team has found more information on the hard drive. They try to analyze the numbers and determine that they represent an explosion simulation on something that is modular. They recognize some of the figures as being a wave amplification. They know that there are plans to blow up something other than the Eiffel Tower. Bib connects it to the missing warhead and quickly calls together a team of people with various areas of expertise to analyze the situation. They conclude that it is a simulation involving a nuclear device. This information is passed on to Rubens. They reacted quickly once they have all of the pieces. At this time, the attack on the Eiffel Tower is already in progress and they don't know that the two are related.



Chapter 91-100

Chapter 91-100 Summary

Karr and the terrorists fight on the Eiffel Tower. He can see the area where the bombs are being wrapped around the posts. He tries to pull the bomb packages apart as the helicopter approaches.

Charlie is in the train car's bathroom when the bomb explodes. The train has been severed from the decoupler and the part that Charlie is on was still moving forward toward England. Lia is in the other half.

Rubens advises Air Force One that the Chunnel may be the target. The Americans have more information that both the British and French do at this point. Rubens quickly tells them of the other information found that indicates an explosion in the Chunnel that will cause a tsunami wall of water. The plot may involve the missing warhead. Just as the American President is about to put the French President on the line, the Art Room staff receives information about trouble in the Chunnel where there was some kind of power fluctuation. They know that Lia and Charlie are on the train.

Charlie jumps off the moving train and tries to avoid the third rail. In the other section, Lia hears the explosion and then sees a man run through the car, firing a submachine gun. The second section of the train rolls to a stop over where Charlie is lying. He is determined to get Lia out alive.

Karr is still fighting on the Eiffel Tower. He manages to reach the explosives, and frees one of the packages that falls to the ground, exploding. He does the same with another package and then a third and a fourth. He is hanging upside down from a rope ladder, but reaches the fifth and throws that one also. The helicopter is close to him now, and he realizes that someone is shouting to him in French and telling him not to move.

On the Eurostar, Kelvin and Mohammed, Moussa's helpers, are also running through the train, shooting people. Another man, Ahmed, separates the power car from the rest of the train to position it about thirty feet ahead of the train to act as a barrier for anyone that might come through the tunnel. They finish the task and then begin to set up the carts that contain the bomb, with Mussa Duoar supervising. As they try to move one of the carts, it tips over and falls.

Donohue is on the train and has heard the bombs. He doesn't know what is going on, but he knows that Duoar is behind it. The engineer is applying the brakes, and the train is slowing to a halt. Donohue jumped out of his seat. He knows he can't escape the police who will be checking passports and identities. Donohue knocks over a policeman and jumps off the train, even though it is still moving.

Charlie notices that the train begins to move as the power car is attached to it. He jumps on the last car, which is where the mangled coupler is. He enters the train car and



begins to search for Lia. He finds her alive and calling for him. Lia had been grazed by the gunfire of Mussa as he ran through the car firing. They decide to leave the train and find the service tunnel to see if they can find a phone to call for help.

The cart that had tipped over did not explode as Duoar had feared it would. They pull the cart upright and continue to position the others. Once the carts are positioned, Duoar positions the device. One of the passengers moves and groans. Duoar kicks him until he is dead. He turns to the other men and tells them that they are told to kill all of the passengers on the train. He tells them to make sure that all of the passengers are dead.

Deidre, who has been in bed sick, arises, takes a shower, and turns on television. She sees the scenes of the Eiffel Tower. Not comprehending what is happening, she finds the same scene on all of the channels. She sees a man hanging upside down with other men trying to reach him. She recognizes him as Tommy Karr.

The Americans are telling the French president about the possible attack on the Eurostar. The power fluctuation indicates that the attack is already taking place. The French had ignored the American warning about the attack on the Eiffel Tower, and now they are all watching it on television. They go on to tell them that there are two American agents aboard the Eurostar, who are following the man who they suspected killed Ponclare.

As Lia and Charlie are making their way toward the service door, they hear a gunshot. They see shadows moving around in the train. Charlie tells Lia to find the service area and a phone.

Duoar has configured the explosives and is now working on setting the timer. He drops the timer as Ahmed enters the car. Duoar finds the dropped timer and finishes setting the bomb. He doesn't notice that the timing had changed from nine seconds to nine hundred when he dropped it.

Once the timer is set, Ahmed is ready to leave. He thinks that they will be departing in the engine that he detached. Duoar asks if he doesn't want to go to Paradise, wondering how the man could think they were going to escape. Duoar tries to stall him long enough to get the rifle away from him.

Chapter 91-100 Analysis

Karr is trying to fight the terrorists on the Eiffel Tower. He reaches the bomb location and is trying to pull the bomb packs apart. There are men in helicopters around the Tower shooting at the terrorists. He manages to reach the area where the bomb vests are and begins to take them apart and throw them to the ground where they explode. While dangling upside down from a rope ladder, he hears someone tell him in French to stay still and not to move.



Charlie, knowing nothing about Duoar's plan for the Chunnel, is in the train restroom when the bomb explodes and separates the train. He is on the half moving toward England and Lia is on the other half. He jumps off the moving train and is laying on the track when the separated part of the train rolls to a stop over him. His first concern is Lia, and he is determined to rescue her. Since each end of the Eurostar had its own power car, the train over Charlie begins to move. He jumps on the last car and goes into the train to try to find Lia. Lia is all that he is thinking about.

Charlie finds Lia and they decide to get off the train and go to the service tunnel and call for help. As they are making their way there, they hear a gun being fired. Looking back at the train, they see shadows moving around. Charlie sends Lia on to the service tunnel by herself.

Donohue also hear the explosion and realizes that Duoar is behind it. He doesn't know what Duoar's plan is and doesn't care. He has to escape the police somehow, because he will never pass a fingerprint check. He jumps off the train while it is still moving.

Duoar and his men are assembling the carts and the device. Duoar had given the men orders to kill everyone on the train. When he finds a passenger alive, he kills him and sends the men to make sure the rest of the passengers are dead. After the device is set, Ahmed thinks that he and Duoar will be leaving before the bomb explodes. Duoar wonders how he could think that, but has to humor him long enough to take the rifle away from him.

Duoar can only think that his dream of revenge is taking place. He feels that he is being guided by Allah and will achieve Paradise from his action.



Chapter 100-110

Chapter 100-110 Summary

The Eurostar staff do not have any communication with the train. The signal information comes through the tracks, and it indicates that the part of the train was moving, although very slowly. They do not know how to interpret the signals they are receiving. Military response teams have been activated at both the English and French sides of the tunnel. Traffic in the other tube has been halted and the staff evacuated. The military is preparing to enter the tunnel. Rubens says they should have some kind of plan for disabling the bomb.

Charlie is watching the shadows move around the train. The only way in is through the decoupled car. He hears a voice speaking French in the tunnel, and hides under the train. He hears footsteps and sees a flashlight beam. There are two men walking toward the engine. He crawls into the train car.

As Lia reaches the service tunnel entrance, she hears a noise behind her and stops. If she steps into the service area, she will be illuminated by the light and exposed. She is grabbed from behind and thrown to the ground, kicking and fighting.

Charlie examines the boxes that are blocking the aisle. He can't move them, so he climbs over the seats to get around them. When the gunmen return, Charlie attacks one with a metal briefcase. He subdues one of the men and takes his submachine gun and ammunition and kills the man. He begins to look for the other man, and there are several exchanges of gunfire until they run out of ammunition. The terrorist is lying on the floor at the other end of the car and Charlie realizes that he is injured.

Donohue was not prepared for the fight with Lia. They break free of one another and Lia demands to know who he is. They both ascertain that neither of them is the terrorist or the police. She tells him that she thinks the terrorists have departed and that they have to call for help somehow. Donohue swears that he will kill Mussa Duoar.

Duoar and Ahmed are in the engine. Duoar wonders if they could escape and wonders if Allah is offering him a choice. He figures it is the devil offering him the choice and not Allah. Duoar slams the brakes on and wrestles Ahmed for the gun.

Lia reaches the authorities on the emergency phone system and gives them what information that she can. The Art Room cuts in and tells her that there is a nuclear weapon on the train and she will need to defuse it. Johnny Bib tells her to separate the modules from the center. Donohue doesn't want her to go back to the train and wants her to leave the tunnel with him. She tells him that she can't and that she is a professional. She heads back to the train. He decides she might be valuable to him and discretely follows her.



Chapter 100-110 Analysis

The NSA, along with the British and the French, are trying to analyze the situation in the train car. The Eurostar engineers had never seen data like they had received. After the gibberish, there was an all clear signal, and since the train communicated through the tracks, they could tell that part of the train was moving slowly.

Charlie hears the two men moving toward the detached engine and reenters the train car. He finds a metal briefcase to use as a weapon and uses it to hit one of the terrorists. He takes his gun and ammunition and kills the man. He tracks the other man and has a gun battle with him and finally kills him.

Lia is grabbed from behind as she approaches the service area. All she can think of is what happened in Korea. She is fighting and kicking as she is thrown to the ground. They finally break apart and Donohue and Lia stand facing one another. They determine that neither of them is the terrorist or the police, and Lia says they have to call for help somehow. She says that she thinks the terrorists have departed since they separated the engine from the rest of the train. Donohue, who recognized Duoar, swears to kill him. Lia does not recognize Donohue as the man that she and Charlie are looking for. At this point, it is obvious that both Duoar and Donohue can't both walk out of the Tunnel alive. They both can identify the other.

Duoar wonders if Allah is giving him a choice as the engine begins to move. He then decides that it is the devil offering him the choice, and begins to fight Ahmed for the rifle.

Lia reaches the emergency phone in the service tunnel. As she is talking to the Eurostar staff, the Art Room cuts in and tells her that there is a nuclear weapon on the train and that she will have to disarm it. Johnny Bib tells her to separate the modules around the center, where they think the warhead is located.



Chapter 111-116

Chapter 111-116 Summary

Dean is examining the boxes in the middle of the aisle. He can't get them apart. He sees the clock in the center but can't remove it and there is no way that he can communicate with the Art Room from the train. He decides that he better figure out how to defuse the weapon since there are 250 seconds remaining on the timer. He takes a nail file from the purse of a dead woman just as Lia returns and tells him what she found out from the Art Room. Working together, they manage to separate one of the boxes.

Mussa Duoar enters the train and realizes that someone is trying to separate the parts of the bomb. Lia and Charlie are hiding when Duoar enters the car. Donohue walks in and finds Duoar with a machine gun. Duoar begins to fire at Donohue. Charlie, hearing the gunfire, grabs his gun and shoots Duoar. He grabs Lia and tells her to run but she can't. He carries her out of the car, since the bomb is about to go off.

Rubens is pacing, waiting for news from France. The French response team was on their way but would take several minutes to reach the site. The front part of the train had safely reached England.

The explosion occurs in the tunnel. The numbers on the Richter scale indicate that the blast was not strong enough to be nuclear, but it was strong. The Art Room staff tells the President that there was an explosion but it wasn't nuclear.

Lia and Charlie were several hundred feet from the train when the explosion occurred. Water is filling the tunnel and they try to make their way out. They run into a French soldier and are taken to a hospital in Calais. At the hospital, Rubens tells them that the one train tube is flooded with water and the other is undamaged. The first part of the train followed its protocol for decoupling and arrived safely in England. Divers would be sent in the flooded tube to recover the plutonium warhead, if they could find it. The Eiffel Tower attack was a part of the wave of terror that Duoar had planned and was foiled with the help of Karr.

Karr is in a Paris hospital and hears about the tunnel from Deidre. His room is being well guarded and she says she managed to gain entrance by claiming to be his fiancée. When she asks if he has a fiancée, he says that maybe he does now.

Lia and Charlie fly back to the United States in an Air Force VIP jet. Lia is sleeping and again dreams about being attacked in North Korea. She feels that she has gotten past the Korean episode and now has Charlie. Lia, Charlie and Karr are considered heroes for their role in foiling the terrorist attack.



Chapter 111-116 Analysis

Charlie and Lia follow Johnny Bib's instructions and begin to separate the boxes. While they are working on it, they fall into the seat area when Duoar walks in carrying a submachine gun. Donohue walks in and see Duoar with the gun. Duoar begins firing at Donohue and Charlie kills Duoar. Since the bomb is about to detonate, he grabs Lia and carries her from the train.

They are several hundred feet away from the train when the blast occurs. The tunnel is filling with water as they try to reach the service tunnel. They are found by a French soldier and taken to a hospital in Calais. They then fly back to the United States aboard a VIP Air Force jet.

Karr is visited in a Paris hospital by Deidre who managed to gain access to his guarded room by saying she was his finance. When asked if he had one, he says he might have one now.

Charlie, Karr and Lia are considered to be heroes by the French for their role in foiling the terrorist attack.



Characters

Charles Dean

Charles Dean is a Desk Three, or Deep Black, covert agent for the NSA. He is in London with Tommy Karr for a meeting with a contact, who is killed in front of them. Dean and Karr have attracted the attention of the police and are eventually released to a British intelligence agent. Dean finishes his duties on London and meets Lia in Frankfurt. They had been lovers at a previous time and he is concerned over her health. He also meets with Chief Inspector Lang to help discern information concerning the death of Kensworth.

Dean works with Lia on various assignments. He is with her in Morocco where she has to change a microphone in a building housing an Islamic charity. He works with her in Paris to remove a suspected hard drive from a library computer that Johnny Bib says might have some information about the terrorists' codes and plans. He tells Lia several times that he loves her, despite what happened in North Korea. He notices a difference in her since her return from Korea.

Charlie is one the train in the Chunnel with Lia. After an explosion, Lia reaches a service tunnel and finds that there is a nuclear weapon on the train that she and Charlie must disarm, which they do. Charlie wasn't supposed to be on the train, but he wouldn't let Lia go alone. There are several time during the novel where he disobeys orders to make sure that Lia is safe.

Mussa Duoar

Mussa Duoar is planning a terrorist act to avenge his father's death. His father had fought the French during the battle for Algerian independence. He has a plan to detonate a warhead in the Channel tunnel that will cause a wave of water to flood The Netherlands, Belgium, and the French coast. He hires Patrick Donohue to search the dead man's room, looking for computer disks. He had also hired Donohue to kill LaFoote, who was trying to get French and American intelligence involved in the disappearance of Vefoures, who he said was working on explosives. Duoar kills the people that can lead to him. After his workers finish installing the bomb in the van, he gives them a satchel full of money and tells them to divide it among themselves. Then he drives out and detonates the warehouse, killing them all.

He delivers the bomb to the Eurostar dock and is on the train wearing the uniform of a train conductor. He positions smaller detonation devices over the decoupler and severs the train. He gives the orders to his men to kill all of the passengers and sets up the nuclear device and the timer. He is killed by Charles Dean before the weapon detonates.



Lia DeFrancesca

Lia DeFrancesca is an American agent who works for Deep Black. She is on assignment in North Korea, using the cover of a journalist. She had been born in China and then was adopted by an American couple. She is fluent in several different languages. Lia is flown out of North Korea by some hired Russians and flown to Russia and then on to Japan before returning to the United States. Her next assignment is Morocco, and she meets Dean at the airport in Frankfurt. Lia has some problems changing the microphone at the Islamic charity but she manages to do so. She and Charlie then return to Paris where they have to switch a hard drive in a computer that is being hijacked by terrorists.

Lia has changed since she was beaten and abused in North Korea. Charlie notices the difference and tells her several times that he loves her. There are many times during the action that she has to talk to herself and convince herself that she can do whatever it is that she has to do. She and Charlie separate the modules of the bomb on the train so the explosion isn't nuclear.

Tommy Karr

Tommy Karr is an NSA Deep black operative. His real name is Kjartan Magnor-Karr, and he works for the Desk Three covert operations group of NSA. Karr is in London with Charles Dean to meet the contact, Gordon Kensworth, when Kensworth is shot in front of them. Karr had retrieved Ambassador Clancy's daughter's stolen purse, and Deidre requested him as her guard while traveling to Paris. In Paris he meets LaFoote and learns about the chemist Vefoures and his disappearance. LaFoote refuses to give Karr all of the disks until after Vefoures is found; however, Karr find LaFoote dead in his home before they find Vefoures. He finds a package containing the disks and also checks the residence of LaFoote's priest to see if he has any information, but finds nothing.

Karr is at the Eiffel Tower when the terrorist attack begins. He is instrumental in foiling the terrorists. Throughout the book his relationship with Deidre grows and she is with him at the hospital in the end.

Patrick Donohue

Patrick Donohue is hired by Mussa Duoar to search the room of Gordon Kensworth after he is murdered. He is sent to find some computer disks, which he didn't find. After the search, he kills the woman and the child who were part of his cover. Donohue had been hired by Duoar to kill LaFoote and doesn't know that he killed a stand-in instead. Duoar is also trying to hire him to kill Ponclare, the head of DST. Donohue succeeds in killing LaFoote by suffocating him with a pillow in his house.



He uses his IRA contacts to obtain false documents and tries to escape via the Chunnel. He recognizes Duoar on the train, while Duoar is wearing the uniform of a conductor. He is killed by Duoar before the bomb blast.

Denis LaFoote

Denis LaFoote is the real messenger that was supposed to meet Karr and Dean in the park in London. He had hired Kensworth as a stand-in since he felt that he was being watched. He wonders who ordered the murder, and immediately suspects the French intelligence chief, Ponclare. LaFoote is seventy-two years old and hasn't been in England for many years. He had worked in intelligence for many years before retiring. He had a friend, Vefoures, who was a chemist who had disappeared. He was trying to enlist the aid of French and American intelligence, which is why Duoar hired Donohue to have him killed. LaFoote is killed by Donohue, who suffocates him.

Johnny Biberia

Johnny Biberia, known as Johnny Bib, is an NSA mathematician, cryptologist, and analyst. He is using NSA technology to examine hard drives that are being remotely accessed by terrorists. He identifies several computers that are being hijacked by the suspected terrorists and where the calls come from. On this basis of this, Lia and Charlie are sent to switch a hard drive in a library computer east of Paris. Examination of the hard drive reveals information about the plot to detonate a nuclear warhead in the Chunnel. It is his analysis and hard work and his ability to put together a good team that allows the Americans to learn the information about the Chunnel plot.

Alroy Clancy

Alroy Clancy is the American Ambassador to England. He is a widower and the father of Deidre Clancy, who was mugged in the opening pages of the book. Because of the muggings and the travel alerts, he wants Deidre to have an escort when she travels to France.

William Rubens

William Rubens is the head of Desk Three of the NSA. This is the Deep Black group that engages in covert operations. Rubens was a descendant of the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens. He has earned two doctorates. Rubens is kept informed of the actions of his operatives through the Art Room. While he is supervising the operations, he is engaged in a court fight to be appointed as the guardian of his mentor, the General.



Marie Telach

Marie Telach is an NSA employee and supervises the Art Room. This is a communications center that keeps the staff in touch with their operatives around the world.

George Hadash

George Hadash is the national security advisor.

Ray Fashona

Ray Fashona is a Desk Three agent.



Objects/Places

London

London is the capital of England and is the site of the opening of the book.

The Art Room

The Art Room is the high-tech situation room at the NSA in Ft. Meade, Maryland.

Paris

Paris, the capital of France, is where Mussa Duvar is planning an act of terror based on revenge.

North Korea

North Korean is a communist nation bordering mainland China where Lia is detained and abused.

Russia

Russia, a country that borders China, is where Lia is taken from North Korean and put on another plane with a Desk Three agent.

Japan

Japan is where the plane carrying Lia travels to.

Ft. Meade

Ft. Meade, Maryland is the location of the National Security Agency.

Morocco

Morocco is a North African country where Lia and Dean travel to to change a microphone in a fake Islamic charity building.



Washington DC

Washington DC is the site of the location of the White House where the situation room meeting is held.

The Chunnel

The Chunnel is the tunnel that runs underneath the English Channel, connecting England and France.

Eurostar

The Eurostar is the train that runs under the English Channel.



Themes

Revenge

The theme of revenge runs throughout the book and is the basis for the story of the book. Mussa Duoar, an Arab terrorist, had a father who fought in the Algerian independence movement. His father was badly treated by the French and killed. Because of this, Duoar hates the French and is out to avenge his father's death. He is part of a network that is planning a massive terrorist attack on France and some other countries, and their network remotely accesses hijacked computers for their communications and to store data and information on.

One of the men involved in the Algerian battle that killed Duoar's father is the father of Jacques Ponclare, who is head of the French DST, one of the French intelligence agencies. Ponclare wasn't the object of Duoar's hatred—his father was—but his father is dead. Duoar can't reach the father, but he can reach the son, and he hires Donohue to kill Ponclare, which Donohue does on the day the attacks on the Eiffel Tower and the Chunnel are scheduled.

Duoar is motivated by hatred throughout the book. At each step of his plan, as he kills different people or completes some step, he reminds himself of the hatred and of how sweet the revenge will be. He believes he is doing it for Allah and that he will go to Paradise for his act of terror.

Relationships

Relationships are another theme that develops and runs throughout the novel. There are two relationships that the reader watches develop. There is the relationship between Tommy Karr and Deidre Clancy and there is the relationship between Charles Dean and Lia DeFrancesca.

Tommy Karr is a Deep Black operative for NSA. He is in London for a meeting with a contact when he and Charles Dean see a woman being robbed. They jump off the bus and Karr retrieves the woman's stolen purse. The woman is Deidre Clancy, the daughter of the American Ambassador to England. She lives and studies in Paris, and her father decides that she needs a bodyguard to travel back to Paris. She asks for Karr. This assignment is convenient for Deep Black that needs a cover for him to travel to Paris.

After they arrive, she shows him around Paris, and they meet and go out several times throughout the book. At the end of the book, after the foiled attack on the Eiffel Tower in which Karr is injured, she manages to get past the guards to visit him by telling the hospital that she is his finance. She asks if he has one and he says he may have one now.



The other relationship is between Charles Dean and Lia DeFrancesca, both operatives for Deep Black. They have worked several assignments together and have been lovers on and off for several years. Lia is detained and abused and beaten while on assignment in North Korea but refuses to take any kind of break. She and Charlie are assigned to a job in Morocco and Charlie notices a change in her and is very concerned. He becomes more protective and concerned as time goes on, since they work together in France on the terrorist plot.

Many times Charlie disobeys orders because he doesn't want Lia to be alone after what happened in Korea. For the most part, it works out for the best or he wouldn't have been on the Eurostar in the Chunnel when the terrorist attack began. Several times he tells her that he loves her and wants to marry her. At the end of the book, they return to the United States together.

Paranoia

Paranoia is another underlying theme of the book. For the operatives it is an occupational hazard. Charlie is so afraid that something will happen to Lia that he is afraid to let her work alone. He disobeys orders continually to make sure she is okay. There is also the fact that they are always looking for tails and surveillance. Again, part of this is occupational hazard.

The operatives aren't the only people that experience paranoia. There is the extreme paranoia of Duoar, who kills anyone that could possibly lead to him or identify him. The workers at his car plant are an example of this. He could have left the garage and gone on to his terrorist attack without killing them, but he blew up the warehouse with them in it.

Donohue is another one who experiences the paranoia and kills because of it. He kills the woman and the child who he used as cover at the hotel, even though they had worked for him before.

On the train, before the bomb explodes, both Donohue and Duoar comment on their paranoia and both remind themselves that they have to watch out for it and their reactions.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in the third person point of view with the narrator being the author, Stephen Coonts. Even though there is a great deal of dialog in the novel, it is the author who fills in the details for the reader and it is the author who describes the various settings that characters visit or the various gadgets that the characters use. This allows the reader to obtain more information than the first person point of view would.

If the book were written in the first person, the knowledge of the reader would be confined to the knowledge of the storyteller. The reader would have no knowledge of events that occurred outside the purview of the storyteller. In a book of this type, with the action taking place in various spots of the world and all of the technical gadgets that need to be explained, this would severely limit the knowledge of the reader. The use of the third person avoids this problem.

Setting

There are various settings for the action of the novel. The setting for the opening is London, where Deidre is attacked by a purse snatcher, and the contact that Karr and Dean are supposed to meet is killed in the park. At the same time, Lia is on assignment in North Korea where she is beaten and abused. When she is released, she is flown to Russia and then changes planes and flies to Japan, so these countries are also settings for the book.

Lia and Charlie also have an assignment in Morocco. He meets her at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany and they fly on to Morocco where she is to change a microphone in an Islamic charity building.

Most of the action of the novel takes place in France. Paris is where Mussa Duvar lives. He has a successful car theft business where he prepares the bombs for the attack on the Eiffel Tower and the Chunnel. Paris is also where Deidre Clancy lives and goes to school. Much of the action takes place in and around Paris, since this is where LaFoote lives and where the terrorist attack is planned and launched from.

The Washington DC area is another setting for the book. The NSA is located in Ft. Meade, Maryland, which is outside of Washington DC. They also hold a meeting in the White House situation room.

Language and Meaning

The book is written in clear and simple English. It is easy to read and it is fast reading, which is required for a suspense novel. There is very little jargon in the book. There are



some technical terms, as with the computers and the various high tech spy gadgets that are used throughout the book, but the author does a good job of explaining these things so the reader has enough information to know what is happening.

There are some foreign language terms in the book, mostly French, but most of them are defined for the reader so this does not slow the reader down in any way. The language and sentence structure in the book are easy to read and understand and this is what is needed in this kind of book. When the reader is reading an action filled suspense novel of this type, the last thing the reader wants is to be slowed down by difficult language. The language and sentence structure fit the novel and add to the enjoyment of the novel.

Structure

The structure of the novel is simple. There are 116 chapters. The chapters are all short, some only a paragraph or two. Some are several pages in length. This also contributes to the speed of reading the novel. There is no table of contents, and it might have been useful for the reader if there were some maps or illustrations included. This would give the reader a better feel for the geography.

There is some jumping around within chapters, which can be a little irritating to the reader as the author jumps around from character to character instead of just telling all of one event at the same time. This makes the reading choppy, although some may feel that it adds to the drama of the novel.

Quotes

"Delicious horror. And it would come at the climax of his complicated plan for revenge: personal revenge for the death of his father, revenge on the nation that had discriminated against him and his family, and revenge on the race that had devastated his people. God was powerful." Chap. 2, p. 10

"Two of my men were in London to pick up a list of computers used by terrorists operating in France. We didn't tell you because we thought you might tell the French, who would inadvertently tip off the terrorists." Chap. 14, p. 86

"Rubens pulled over one of the two laptops on the table and tapped into the team's dedicated computer. The NSA had used a special program to infiltrate computers used as servers in a network. The program could read what was stored on the disk arrays that fed into the computer and in fact could reveal just about everything on any drives accessible from the local network. The trick was to do it without being noticed, which at times could be complicated." Chap. 20, p. 111

"I think there's a basic misunderstanding here,' said Karr. 'There was a matter of computers. Someone passed along some Web addresses to a third party, who forwarded them to my boss. There were supposed to be some more. A meeting was arranged. Things went off-track. Somebody got shot. I don't know anything about a chemist.'" Chap. 24, p. 141

"He's just paranoid,' said Rockman. 'Theory here is that Vefoures got paid a hunk of money from some terrorists to help them make explosives, then took off for parts unknown. Bought new ID, blah, blah, blah.'" Chap. 41, p. 197

"Telling them about the chemist, however, would make it clear that the Americans were running an operation on French soil. It was one thing for everyone to know that this sort of thing went on and quite another to admit it openly." Chap. 52, p. 244

"The greatest was the murder of his father, but Mussa Duoar did not dwell on that. Nor, surprisingly, did he think about the sneers of the Frenchmen he met every day, the heathens who thought no believer could be their equal. He thought instead of the smirks he had gotten from the Saudis when he had first expressed his desire to prove his faith and earn his place in Paradise." Chap. 61, p. 273

"Mussa had posted a set of Ponclare's bank account documents to the Interior Ministry, along with additional information that would make it appear he had hired Vefoures and had LaFoote killed. A small amount of the explosive had been deposited in a warehouse that the police should have no difficulty finding. Ponclare would appear to have been a traitor, profiting by selling explosives to terrorists; the police should have no trouble linking him to the operation at the Eiffel Tower." Chap. 76, p. 308



"I am not a coward. I am a believer, and a great man. My father was a great man, and I am his son.

'God is great.'" Chap. 81, p. 322

"I devote myself to the one true God,' he said, beginning one last prayer before setting the weapon. He pulled off his watch as he prayed and pried it from its band, then took off the face and the back." Chap. 100, p. 367



Topics for Discussion

Who is Gordon Kenworth and how did he become involved in the meeting that led to his death?

What was the purpose of the meeting with the messenger in London? How did it go wrong and why?

What is the importance of the computer disks?

What is Mussa Duvar's occupation? How does he conduct his business?

How do terrorists hijack computers? What is the purpose? How are they tracked?

How does the death of Ponclare relate to the plot to blow up the Tunnel?

What is the purpose of the Eiffel Tower operation?