

Strangers on a Train Study Guide

Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith

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Plot Summary

The novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith is as much mystery fiction as it is a psychological thriller. Guy Haines, a successful architect, is heading to his hometown in Texas from New York, where he hopes to finally settle an ongoing three-year divorce with his wife, Miriam. Miriam, who has cheated on Guy, is pregnant by another man, so Guy hopes she is finally serious about proceeding with the divorce. On the train ride to Texas, Guy meets Charles Bruno, scion of a wealthy Long Island family, who is on his way to vacation with his mother. Bruno immediately takes a liking to Guy and begins conversing with him. They talk about their lives. Bruno asks Guy if Guy has ever considered killing anyone and says that he would be happy to swap murders -Miriam for Bruno's hated father. Guy rejects Bruno's offers.

Bruno then takes things into his own hands by tracking down and murdering Miriam while Guy is in Mexico with his fiancée, Anne. Bruno then begins calling, writing, and visiting Guy, telling Guy that he is responsible for Guy's freedom and that Guy now owes him. After sending malicious letters to business associates and to Anne, Bruno finally convinces Guy to kill Bruno's father. An investigation ensues. Guy is plagued with nightmares and guilt and Bruno begins experiencing the same paranoid psychosis. Bruno's heavy drinking doesn't help, either. Things only get worse when Gerard, the detective in charge of the investigation, begins finding links between Bruno and Guy, from the train ride to phone calls and the murder of Miriam and Bruno's father within a few months. Guy, meanwhile, gets married and begins to have even more success with his architectural work.

During a sailing event, Bruno can't handle anything anymore, and commits suicide by drowning himself. This is too much for Guy, who decides to confess his crimes. He flies down to Texas to talk to Owen, Miriam's lover, to confess everything. Gerard follows Guy and overhears him. Guy then promptly turns himself over to Gerard.



Chapters 1-5

Chapters 1-5 Summary

In Chapter 1, Guy Haines is on a train from New York to see his wife, Miriam, in Metcalf, Texas. Miriam has become pregnant by her lover, which gives Guy hope that she wants to move ahead with the divorce. Guy, a successful architect, is looking forward to a job in Florida, and to being able to begin planning his life with Anne, his own lover. It has been more than a year since Guy has been waiting for a divorce. A blonde man sits down opposite Guy, who introduces himself as Charles Anthony Bruno from Long Island. As the train passes into Texas, the two men begin talking. Bruno reveals he will be heading to Sante Fe for a vacation, and his mother will be joining him in a few days. Bruno, who is twenty-five, is from a wealthy Great Neck family on the Island, laments that his father won't allow his income to begin, because his father thinks he is lazy and won't work. Bruno is a college dropout and doesn't want to work.

Bruno also laments that his father is uncaring, except toward money. He reflects that his mother has only stayed with his father for the money. Bruno says he'd like to murder his father sometimes. Guy is twenty-nine, and admits he has been separated for three years because he and his wife were incompatible. Bruno questions Guy about what he means, and Guy reveals that the incompatibility was brought on by his wife's infidelity.

In Chapter 2, Guy considers Bruno something of a delayed adult, and Bruno confesses that his father's first wife ran around on him. Bruno's hatred for women is uncompromising, Guy discovers. Bruno also explains he has some good ideas for perfect murders. Bruno gets Guy to admit that he's considered killing someone before, and Bruno insists that anyone can commit a murder. He then changes the subject to tell Guy that he likes him because he is a decent guy. Bruno invites Guy down to Florida for a vacation, but Guy declines. Guy explains he designed the new Palmyra Club in Palm Beach, and draws a sketch of it in Bruno's address book. Bruno then begins asking about Miriam once more, asking if Guy had ever considered murdering her. Guy explains that he never had thought of it. Bruno continues talking about murdering his father, and murdering Miriam. He asks Guy to wake him up the next morning, which Guy does not do.

Chapter 3 - Miriam sets the meeting place for her and Guy as the high school between their old houses. They sit on a bench. Miriam explains she was hoping to finalize their divorce, but her lover, Owen, is still married. Miriam wants to go away with Guy to Florida until the birth, and the thought of it disgusts Guy. Guy refuses; Miriam insists she'll come anyway. Guy doesn't love her anymore, but he pities her. Guy says he doesn't have to take the Florida job, but Miriam thinks he will.

Chapter 4 - Guy goes home to see his mother and explains the situation to her. He also tells her he'll be meeting Anne in Mexico, and the thought makes him happy, which also makes his mother happy.



Chapter 5 - Guy sends Anne a telegram in Mexico, letting her know he'd be down to see her shortly. He resolves in his mind that he doesn't have to take the Palmyra job, even if it is a long time before such another large job comes along. Guy believes that he'll be happy with Anne, and can endure anything because of her. Guy also writes to Clarence Brillhart, manager of the Palmyra Club, to deny being able to take the job.

Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith is both mystery fiction as it is a psychological thriller. Written in 1950 during an era of cultural conservatism and general understanding (i.e., bad guys look bad and good guys look good), the novel challenged these general understandings.

Highsmith introduces the two main characters of the novel -what appears to be the protagonist, Guy Haines, and what appears to be an antagonist, Charles Bruno. Guy Haines at first conforms to cultural understandings of goodness. He is clean cut and handsome, well-mannered and genteel, and dresses well. He has successful work as an architect in New York, a very admired profession. His divorce is not his fault, having been the wronged party. Bruno is presented as something of an anathema: his clothes are slightly disheveled, he drinks heavily, and his physical and emotional appearances are shaky, at best. Guy's initial rejections of the idea of murder further conform to the then-public's understandings of goodness.

Guy's plans for a quick and painless divorce, however, are complicated by Miriam's pregnancy. The divorce -which Guy has been desiring for three years -will now take longer. The reader sympathizes with the wronged Guy, hoping that he will indeed find a way out of his predicament. Rather than playing Miriam's game any longer, he decides to reject an architectural job in Florida, because he no longer wishes to have to deal with Miriam. The reader is convinced that it is a very difficult decision to make, for it impedes Guy's career -but it is also the appropriate thing to do as well. This further cements Guy's character as upright. Indeed, Guy's jettisoning of Bruno further bolsters Guy's character in the reader's mind.

Indeed, Guy looks ahead to happy life with Anne, whom he will head down to Mexico to visit. From all appearances, Guy's future may be difficult, but it will be possible once things with Miriam are settled.



Chapters 6-10

Chapters 6-10 Summary

In Chapter 6, Bruno is upset that Guy left without letting him know, and believes Guy is a good friend and connection to have. Bruno is unhappy with his hotel room, and decides to call his mother to see how she is doing.

In Chapter 7, Bruno writes a letter to Guy, using the address in the book Guy leaves behind. Bruno again speaks of murder in the letter. Guy almost writes him back, but then decides to go and see a movie with his mother.

In Chapter 8, during a family gathering with his uncle, aunt, mother, and cousins at night, Guy gets a phone call from Bruno. Bruno asks about the divorce, and figures out pretty quickly why Guy hasn't taken the Palmyra job. Bruno again hints at murder, and Guy ends the conversation.

In Chapter 9, Guy meets up with Anne in Acapulco, Mexico, where they go for long walks. Guy relates his frustrations over Miriam to Anne, who listens with an impatient ear. Guy tells Anne it isn't fair, and Anne tells Guy he needs to grow up and deal with things. An argument is averted, and they spend the afternoon with each other, and with Anne's mother, Mrs. Faulkner. A telegram arrives for Guy, which Anne reads to him. Miriam has suffered a miscarriage, and asks that he come home. Guy replies with a telegram that he will move ahead for the divorce with or without her, and he writes another telegram to Brillhart to take the Palmyra job once more.

In Chapter 10, Bruno's mother arrives in Santa Fe and they make plans to meet up again in California. Bruno also asks his mother to get another thousand dollars for him from his father. He has also talked his mother into purchasing a tie rack for his father, which his father would probably hate. The thought pleases Bruno.

Chapters 6-10 Analysis

Bruno, whose mental, emotional, and personal maturity has seemingly been delayed (something like an overgrown child, an observation of delayed adolescence made by Guy), is upset that Guy has left without saying goodbye. Having found a book that Guy has left behind, Bruno uses the contact information to get in touch with Guy through a letter. Guy at first doesn't even bother writing Bruno back, for he considers Bruno to be inconsequential in his life. Yet, the reader knows that the author's decision to devote narration to Bruno means that Bruno will become very consequential in Guy's life some way or another.

Indeed, Bruno's sadistic tendencies don't extend only as far as plotting murders, but also to doing whatever he can to make his father angry or unhappy. Bruno makes sure his father receives a tie rack that Bruno knows he will hate, which gives Bruno perverse

satisfaction. Bruno strikes the reader as the sort of child who would have tortured small animals and insects in his youth.

Meanwhile, things appear to get better for Guy. While in Mexico with his love, Anne, Guy receives information in the form of a telegram that Miriam has had a miscarriage. He now is conscientiously-free to begin divorce proceedings with or without Miriam. In all ways, Guy is the gentleman consistent with cultural and societal expectations in 1950. The distance between the characters of Guy and Bruno at this point in the novel couldn't be greater.



Chapters 11-15

Chapters 11-15 Summary

In Chapter 11, Bruno wakes up in an alley, having passed out drunk the night before. He thinks about Miriam having a baby, which makes him think about all of his father's mistresses, which angers him. Bruno takes the train to Metcalf, Texas, and looks up the Haineses. He finds no Miriam Haines, so he looks up Joyces, and jots down their addresses.

In Chapter 12, Bruno heads to 1235 Magnolia Street, and stakes out the address, standing across the street. Bruno hails a taxi to follow another car with Miriam, another girl, and two men. They get ice cream at an amusement park, and Bruno watches Miriam's body. She doesn't look pregnant, so Bruno assumes she has either had a miscarriage, has lied about being pregnant, or has had an abortion. Either way, Bruno trusts Guy, and thinks Miriam is lying to him no matter what the truth is. Bruno follows Miriam and her friends around, drinking from his flask as he does. They take out boats, and Bruno follows them to an island. Once Miriam is alone, Bruno strikes. He strangles her and then retreats as her friends come looking for her. Voices ring out for help, and Bruno heads to leave the park, feeling exhilarated and fearful at the same time.

In Chapter 13, Guy shows Anne an old family album, so she can see pictures of his family, and of him growing up. They are also designing their future house on hotel stationery. The phone rings. It is Guy's mother, who informs Guy that Miriam has been murdered. Guy at once begins to pack to head home, thanking that maybe Bruno is the murderer.

In Chapter 14, Guy returns to Texas where he is interrogated by the police, who ask him why he was in Mexico, just how badly he wanted a divorce, and so on. Guy is then released to return home where he speaks with his mother. The newspaper reveals the investigation is heating up. Guy finds in his room the returned book from Bruno, and a taxicab company card with the words "Nice town Metcalf" written on the back. Anne calls to let Guy know she and her family have mailed affidavits, attesting to his presence in Mexico.

In Chapter 15, a coroner's inquest commences, during which time Guy's lawyer is able to prove that Guy had nothing to do with the murder, though Owen and Mrs. Joyce believe he does. The coroner announces that the verdict will be attributed to "Person or Persons Unknown." The next day, Guy receives a telegram from Bruno, saying "Good wishes from the Golden West", which Guy tears to shreds.

Chapters 11-15 Analysis

The distance between the characters of Bruno and Guy is further exemplified by their life trajectories. Bruno is still drinking like a college student, waking up in alleyways,



while Guy is preparing for an expansion of his career, a marriage, and a bright new chapter in his life. Yet, Bruno is determined to close that distance in both the physical and literal sense. Bruno books passage to go to Metcalf, and looks up Miriam in the phone book. This is ominous to the reader, for the reader is aware of the sadistic nature of Bruno. He is simply not just a shady character on a train, but he has evil intentions. These intentions are confirmed when Bruno stalks Miriam down and strangles her.

The intense hatred that Bruno has for Miriam -someone he has never met, but only heard about secondhand -shines through in the personal way in which he kills her. This evil present beneath the surface of Bruno's character is in plain sight, meaning that continued contact with Bruno can only have negative influences on Guy's life.

That Bruno has injected himself into Guy's life becomes readily apparent to Guy. Hearing that Miriam has been murdered prompts Guy to return home immediately, where he faces an inquest from which he is quickly cleared of any charges of wrongdoing. Bruno continues to pester Guy with letters and telegrams. Guy wants nothing to do with Bruno or his telegrams, believing to the mildest extent that maybe Bruno really has had something to do with Miriam's murder. Guy hopes that this is not the case; but he secretly worries that it could indeed be true.



Chapters 16-20

Chapters 16-20 Summary

In Chapter 16, Guy goes on to convince himself that Bruno was not responsible for the murder, and Guy heads to Florida. The summer passes by, and Guy and Anne write to one another. One evening in August, a letter arrives for Guy from Bruno. The letter congratulates Guy on the Palmyra clubhouse and Bruno tells Guy he is being careful. In that instant, Guy knows that Bruno is responsible for his new-found freedom. Bruno also relates that Guy's mother had refused to forward his address. Guy's mother tells him that a man named "Phil" has been calling the house, and she wonders if she should pass it on to the police. But Guy lies and says "Phil" is Phil Johnson, someone he knows from Chicago.

In Chapter 17, Bruno's mother finds Bruno's news clippings about Guy, and Bruno explains Guy is a friend he met on the train from New York. Bruno goes over in his mind how much he desperately needs to see Guy because he wants his father dead. A letter arrives that night from Guy. Guy says he has no idea what Bruno's letter means, and asks him to please stop calling and writing him. Bruno is incensed, and feels betrayed.

In Chapter 18, Guy's conscience is already beginning to wear him away, because the freedom he knows he now enjoys has been purchased by Bruno. In December, Bruno tries calling, but Guy hangs up on him. He tries calling several more times, but Guy refuses to speak with him. At last, Bruno appears while Guy and Anne are out walking, and Guy says hello to Bruno and moves on. When Anne asks who Bruno is, Guy explains that Bruno is a drunk who came around looking for work the week before.

In Chapter 19, depressed and unhappy, Bruno takes to more drinking and goes to Haiti for a vacation. During the trip, Bruno continues plotting possibilities for his father's murder. He is also enraged with Guy, thinking that Guy has used him to take out one girl so he could be with another.

In Chapter 20, Bruno continues to seek Guy out. Guy tells Bruno it will be their last meeting, and he will turn Bruno over to the police. Bruno insists he is clean, and that the police will have more on Guy. Guy knows that Bruno is right, and that Bruno would kill him, too. Bruno insists Guy needs to pay up, by killing Bruno's father. Bruno says if Guy doesn't, he'll put the police on Bruno. Guy calls Bruno insane, and Bruno insists he is no more insane than Guy. Guy then leaves.

Chapters 16-20 Analysis

Although Guy attempts to convince himself that Bruno has had nothing to do with the murder, he can't quite do so. Here, the first crack in his character appears. He could go to the police immediately to explain that Bruno may have had something to do with Miriam's murder, but Guy doesn't know for sure. Yet, when he does discover this is the



case, he allows himself to be cowed by Bruno, who insists Guy actually was in on the murder. Guy also begins lying about Bruno's calls, showing even more cracks in Guy's character. Yet, these are small issues for the reader at first, who still seems to side with Guy, and to recognize Guy as a morally righteous individual, conforming to cultural expectations.

The reader is aware that even moral characters may have less-than-scrupulous pasts, or will have moral struggles, but based on cultural convention, the morally-just individual will remain morally-just. Indeed, Guy's declarations that his and Bruno's chapter 20 meeting will be their last meeting ever, resolves in the reader's mind that Guy is committed to the morally-righteous path. Guy's declaration as well, that Bruno is insane, isn't far off the mark, but Bruno's comment that he is no more insane than Guy unnerves the reader.

Further evidence is given to support Guy's moral superiority, as his conscience is plagued by not just what Bruno has done, but the kind of person Bruno is himself. Yet, this is dichotomous, because Guy lies to his future wife about the identity of Bruno. Guy has so far demonstrated to the reader that anyone can tell a lie, and it resonates with the reader who remembers that Bruno has declared that anyone can commit a murder.



Chapters 21-25

Chapters 21-25 Summary

In Chapter 21, on an almost daily basis, Bruno waits for Guy outside Guy's office. Soon, Bruno begins mailing Guy drawings of Bruno's home and property and diagrams of the murder that Guy should carry out. The twenty-first letter directly mentions Anne, asking Guy whether or not Anne should know more about Miriam's murder. Next, Guy receives a gun from Bruno -a Luger. He decides to keep it in his underwear drawer until he decides what to do with it. The letters are at first annoying, and then relentless, and Guy feels as though they are eating away at his resolve. Guy burns the letters, and prepares to head out onto Long Island with Anne to go walking and be together, and then drive up to Alton the following day to see their new house.

They spend the day together near Anne's Long Island house, and then Guy decides to go for a walk on his own, during which time he runs into Bruno. Guy continues to oppose murdering Bruno's father, and Bruno begins threatening to tell Anne about the murder. Guy asks Anne what she would think of if someone accused him of Miriam's murder. Anne replies that she would wonder why Guy expected it, and if he expects it, to which Guy explains that he doesn't. Anne soon after receives a letter from Bruno, implicating Guy. Anne is at once defensive of Guy, asking him if he knows who sent the letter. Bruno then writes Guy with more plans, and promises more letters to Anne if Guy doesn't comply.

In Chapter 22, Guy becomes sleepless. Bruno calls him up, asking him if he is ready. Guy hangs up. The next morning, the Shaw Realty Company calls to relate a letter it received, implicating Guy in Miriam's murder. Because of the circumstances, the company goes with another architect for the job Guy was hoping to get. Bruno sends Guy a gift -an alligator wallet with gold corners and his initials on the inside. Guy doesn't want to throw it away because it is a nice gift.

In Chapter 23, Guy spends the night alone, drunk and unhappy. That night, Bruno breaks in to try to persuade Guy to murder his father. Bruno asks if Guy still has the gun, and Guy says he does, and he finally consents to killing his father. Bruno has brought him women's gloves and a train ticket for Great Neck. Guy heads out to Great Neck, following Bruno's plan word for word. He prepares to kill Bruno's sleeping father, but the gun doesn't fire at first. Finally, it does. Guy takes off running, to have the butler discover him and shout after him. Police sirens sound in the distance, and Guy keeps running. Somewhere in the woods, he falls and knocks himself unconscious, and loses one of the gloves. When he comes to, he cannot find the other glove, and wakes up at dawn.

In Chapter 24, Guy does his best to hide his facial injuries from running through the woods and passing out. The newspapers carry the story of Samuel Bruno's murder. Guy pays particular attention to the flight of the suspect. The suspect was described as more



than six feet tall, and Guys is 5'9. The suspect was supposed to have gone off in the opposite direction than where Guy headed. The murder was believed to have been an inside job. Despite the appearances of safety, Guy is still concerned. Anne comes to visit, and notices his face and the bandage on his head. Guy blames it on a fight with someone he didn't know, and Anne says she doesn't believe him. Anne explains she wants to help him. Guy explains it was because of stress from work, and he detects a hint of forgiveness in her voice for fighting in a bar.

Chapter 25 - Detective Arthur Gerard, a friend of Bruno's father, questions Bruno about the murder, to which Bruno feigns anger. Bruno knows, in his mind, that the death of his father was another perfect murder. Gerard is questioning Bruno about where he was the night of the murder. Bruno cannot be precisely sure. Gerard says not to worry, that memory comes and goes. Bruno leaves, and suddenly thinks about Guy, What he and Guy have done together is incredible, Bruno thinks, and he even wants to give Guy money if Guy will take it.

Chapters 21-25 Analysis

Bruno, feeling betrayed, continues to inject himself in Guy's life. Bruno is everywhere Guy is, from personal visits, to threatening letters, to telegrams, to phone calls. Bruno becomes something of a stalker, even delivering gifts to Guy. This also presents a subtle homosexual or ersatz-homosexuality on the part of Bruno, who doesn't appear to have ever had a relationship with a female, but is obsessed with preserving his platonic relationship with Guy. Indeed, the homosexual subtext between the two is further defined by Guy's unwillingness to throw away the alligator billfold Bruno purchases for him.

At long last, Bruno's advances on Guy break apart Guy's will to resist Bruno and murdering Bruno's father. In many ways, this can also be viewed along sexual lines, as a boy's advances to a girl finally breaking apart her resistance, for example. And Guy, despite being forced into something he doesn't want to do, nevertheless defies the cultural construct of appearances determining what is good and what is evil. Yet, Guy clearly doesn't have the mind or stomach for crime, as he leaves behind critical evidence, and the impact on Guy's confidence and conscience is immediate. He fears not just being caught, but the ramifications of the murder.

Bruno, however, is ecstatic. He is overjoyed at the death of his father, which further adds evidence to his character's evil nature. Bruno, meanwhile, meets with the detective Gerard, who doesn't seem to have any real thoughts about the murder yet.



Chapters 26-30

Chapters 26-30 Summary

In Chapter 26, Bruno is happy that his father is dead. He also wants things to quiet down, so the money can begin rolling in. Bruno decides to throw a few "suspicious" people from his address book for Gerard to check out. Gerard reveals that some ladies gloves and an overcoat were found in the woods, meaning the suspected murderer took a different route than originally thought. It also reveals that the murder had been perfectly planned, from entering to leaving. Gerard goes on to speak to Elsie, Bruno's mother. He explains to Elsie that maybe Bruno knows something about the murder, because he can't recall everything he did that night, and some of his acquaintances are less than scrupulous.

In Chapter 27, Bruno confronts his mother, yelling at her, telling her that Gerard suspects him. His mother patiently replies that Bruno is making too much out of things. Bruno knows he is not, however, and he is beginning to lose sleep.

In Chapter 28, a lot of time has passed. Guy has redone his apartment, had his shelves painted, cleaned his kitchenette to sparkling, all because he can barely sleep at night. He figures cleaning is more productive than walking the city. The newspapers stopped talking about the murder six weeks before. The only thing that Guy has not disposed of has been the Luger, which is still in his drawer. Guy also resolves that if Bruno contacts him again, he will kill Bruno, too. Guy has also come to accept that God, as the ultimate judge, will deal out some sort of punishment for him in the next life, because he had forsaken God during the murder. Guy feels dirty, and feels as though he can never hug his mother again. He also begins to have nightmares.

In Chapter 29, while driving with the Faulkners, Guy almost hits a boy on a bicycle. He wonders if he had intended to do it. Anne's parents had been mostly responsible for furnishing the house.

In Chapter 30, as the wedding approaches, Guy gets a job working on a hospital, for which he refuses pay. Guy considers another job, and Anne questions why he wants to be a martyr. She questions whether or not Guy still wants to be married, or wants to delay the wedding, but the arrival of Anne's father interrupts the conversation.

Chapters 26-30 Analysis

Bruno is still celebrating his father's death, and can't wait for everything to settle down. Yet, he did not foresee Gerard's dogged investigation. Gerard has revealed to Bruno that much more about the murder has been uncovered, from the items left behind to the path taken by the murderer. The planning of the murder impresses Gerard, who thinks it may have been an inside job. Bruno begins panicking slightly, going to his mother to tell her that Gerard is after him, a thought which she dismisses.



Time passes by, and things appear to return to normal for Guy. But his conscience continues to plague him, especially with respect to God and judgment. Guy knows that he will have to pay for his crime one day, and the thought severely troubles him. He turns his nervous energy on his apartment, repainting and cleaning it until it is spotless.

As if to compensate as well for the heinous murder, Guy refuses pay for a hospital job, perhaps figuring that work done for free to save lives may outweigh one murder. Anne questions his motives, but Guy doesn't betray his true reasons. One lie after another continues to back Guy into a corner, leaving the reader to wonder what will happen to him. The reader is morally confused about Guy. Though he has been forced into a murder, he can still be seen as a good man -except for the murder, which threatens to outweigh all other considerations.



Chapters 31-35

Chapters 31-35 Summary

In Chapter 31, Guy's old friend, Robert Treacher from Chicago, comes for the wedding. So does Peter Wriggs from New Orleans. And so does Bruno. Guy tells Bruno to get out, but Bruno wants a truce, and wants to meet the bride. Bruno tells Anne he is a friend of her cousin, Teddy, a lie which Guy affirms.

In Chapter 32, Guy takes on work at Horton, Horton, and Keese, Architects. Bruno has found out about a housewarming party that Guy and Anne are hosting, and invites himself with Anne's permission. Anne sees that Guy minds Bruno's coming. Bruno tells Anne he and Guy are old friends. Guy tells Bruno to get out, and the next time he sees Bruno, he'll kill him. But Bruno passes out drunk, and Anne has him taken to the guest room. It is related to the reader by the narrator that after the wedding, Guy asked Teddy about Bruno. Not only did Teddy deny inviting him, but Teddy didn't like Bruno.

In Chapter 33, Guy's first design for a department store at Horton, Horton, and Keese is accepted and praised. Bruno sends flowers in thanks for putting him up in the guest room. Guy is panicked. The police are investigating Bruno's friends, and now dozens of people know that Guy and Bruno know each other. Guy begins to question whether he, himself, is slightly mentally deranged. Guy and Bruno agree to a meeting over drinks. Bruno asks about Guy's life, and Guy reveals he is very happy with Anne. Bruno admits to never being in love himself.

In Chapter 34, Gerard questions Bruno about his relationship with Mrs. Guy Haines, to which Bruno replies he is the acquaintance of her husband, who was at one time an architect the family considered for a project. Gerard also begins going through Bruno's other friends.

In Chapter 35, Guy returns from a cruise. Being away has given him a sense of peace. Gerard comes over to question Guy. He tells Anne he has no idea why. Gerard questions Guy's relationship with Bruno. Guy says he does not know Bruno very well, and says they met at the Parker Art Institute. Anne also says that she had no idea Samuel Bruno had been murdered, and she confesses to inviting him to the housewarming party, though not the wedding. Gerard leaves a short time later.

Chapters 31-35 Analysis

Guy's side work with Horton, Horton, and Keese, Architects, brings him more success. Guy's public, professional life is soaring. He is achieving notoriety in the cultural, art, and architectural world. Guy's personal, private life, however, is crumbling. Bruno continues showing up at the most inopportune times, from Guy's wedding to Guy's housewarming party. Bruno's insistence at appearing in Guy's life also catches the attention of Gerard, who is combing through all of Bruno's friends.



Guy has a chance to go away for a cruise with Anne, and he is very happy to be away. When he returns, Guy realizes just how much being away from everything meant to him. It is a metaphorical presentation of the calm before the storm. The cruise may also be seen in a metaphorical sense, as the idea that past sins come back to haunt the sinner. Guy, who has tried to get away, is slowly being dragged back toward his crime, just as the cruise ship returns him to port.

Anne's initial ignorance of the Bruno murder and her presence in Mexico with Guy, at first throws Gerard off. Anne corroborates everything her husband says, and this comforts Guy, but not enough. He is still very worried about the way things are progressing. Before Guy left, the investigation had died down. Now the investigation is heating up, and Guy is becoming a central player.



Chapters 36-40

Chapters 36-40 Summary

In Chapter 36, Bruno calls Guy from a phone booth. Bruno is drunker than ever before, and says to Guy that he told Gerard he and Guy met at the Art Institute. Bruno then comes to Guy's house late that night. If Guy doesn't let Bruno stay the night, Bruno insists he will tell Anne. When Bruno sobers up, he tells Guy that Gerard is onto Bruno's friend, Matt Levine, who is responsible for other murders. Matt doesn't have an alibi for the night of the murder. Guy doesn't want Matt taking the fall. He wants to know why Bruno keeps coming around. Bruno says he likes Guy, and his life fascinates him. Bruno also reminds Guy that he has a lot on Guy, and if Bruno was an enemy, Guy would crack up quickly.

In Chapter 37, Anne begins questioning Guy's friendship with Bruno. Guy dismisses him as an acquaintance, not much more. Guy also dumps the Luger while he and Anne are out sailing. She asks him what he dropped, but Guy doesn't have an answer.

In Chapter 38, Bruno and his mother are preparing for a European trip. Bruno begins experiencing severe stomach pains, and his hands tense up. His mother races to get the doctor, and to get Bruno a drink. A doctor arrives and gives Bruno a shot, which relaxes him. Bruno's heavy drinking has finally caught up with him. It is destroying his nervous system.

In Chapter 39, Bruno is having nightmares about Gerard hunting down both himself and Guy. Gerard comes back to question Bruno more about Guy Haines. Gerard wants to know why Bruno called Guy so many times the previous summer, before and after Miriam was murdered. Bruno insists it was to return Guy's book.

In Chapter 40, Guy's life is going well. He feels happy. But then Bruno calls with information about the book and the phone calls the previous summer. Bruno explains he told Gerard that he called Guy before he actually met him. Guy does his best to remember the fabrication. Guy's old friend Bob Treacher has also been assigned to an advisory committee of engineers in Canada for a new dam in Alberta, Canada, and wants to hire Guy to build a bridge there.

Chapters 36-40 Analysis

Guy's personal life continues to fall apart, and Bruno is beset by his drinking, nightmares, and paranoia. Guy himself is having severe difficulties accounting for his friendship with Bruno, which he at first described as merely an acquaintance relationship. Guy's continued lying to Anne, to those around him, and to himself, are only continuing to add to his problems. Guy has now been caught up in a police investigation.

This is further complicated by the fact that Gerard has discovered phone records between Guy and Bruno, and the book that Guy forgot on the train. Gerard's suspicion of Guy and Bruno is continuing to increase.

This occurs just as Guy is given an important national job in Canada to work on a bridge. His professional life and personal life are heading in opposite directions. Between the murder, Guy's lying, and his duplicitous activities, the distance between the characters of Bruno and Guy has dissolved. Both are, in the eye of the reader, just as guilty as the other, each for different reasons. Bruno is simply psychologically damaged and evil, and Guy, who has been forced into murder, still was the ultimate arbiter of such an action, and as such, has had numerous choices to turn himself and Bruno in. Guy has also had no shortage of chances to turn Bruno in prior to the second murder; Guy has also resorted to a web of lies and scheming activities to save himself.



Chapters 41-45

Chapters 41-45 Summary

In Chapter 41, Bruno meets with Gerard again, who says he has stumbled into another unsolved murder case because of Guy Haines -that of Miriam. Gerard questions Bruno about it, who says Guy's character is excellent. Gerard then calls Guy into the room too, and both men sit across from Gerard. Gerard questions them about both murders, how Bruno came to have Guy's book, and Guy admits to them having met on the train. Bruno later tells Guy that Gerard isn't actually looking for them, but for other people.

In Chapter 42, Gerard questions Anne about the relationship between Guy and Bruno. Anne says she can't imagine Guy even listening to the sort of nonsense Bruno may have spouted about killing his father. Anne defends her husband's character passionately. In her mind, his nervousness in March and the bar fight must have been to stop Bruno from doing anything stupid. When Gerard leaves and Guy gets home, she asks him about what really happened. Guy replies that he did meet Bruno in June on the train, that Bruno did wish his father was dead, but gave no clues about murder. Guy says he hasn't told the police that much because he doesn't think it is their business to get involved in an investigation, and because innocent people have gone to jail on reports like the one Guy could give Gerard. Anne tells Guy she thinks he is right. Alone to himself, Guy wonders if he has enjoyed his crime to some degree.

In Chapter 43, District Attorney Phil Howland tells Gerard to lay off Bruno, because nothing concrete can be found. Gerard suspects that a single-track mind isn't to blame, but a double-track mind is. Gerard believes Bruno killed Guy's wife, for the murder happened ten days after they met. Gerard also reveals that Bruno has a penchant for planning crimes; and he believes Guy murdered Bruno's father. Gerard has statements from ticket attendants and taxicab drivers, attesting to Bruno's presence in Metcalf, Texas. What is more, Gerard believes Guy was forced into the murder by Bruno, but no one will ever know unless Guy confesses. Gerard is going to pretend to take a vacation while the final clues are gathered.

In Chapter 44, Bruno goes to visit Anne while Guy is in Canada. Bruno believes he and Guy have beaten Gerard. Anne realizes she has a lot to ask Guy about, such as Bruno's hostility to Miriam, when he has never met her. Bruno explains Guy is like a brother to him. Anne realizes she hates Bruno, and doesn't understand why Guy can tolerate him. She asks why Guy's face is scarred, and Bruno denies fighting with him.

Guy then returns home for a three-day visit. Guy is worried that Bruno would have tried to harm Anne, but he hasn't. Anne wants to know more about what is going on between them. Anne knows Bruno is responsible for the letter to her. Anne also reveals she is pregnant.



In Chapter 45, Guy has been notified by the police that the investigations are over. Bob Treacher has come to visit. Guy is very happy with how things appear to be going. Anne invites Bruno out sailing with her, Guy, and Bob. Guy knows she wants the chance to see them together again. Helen Heyburn also accompanies the sailing outing. Bruno invites everyone to his party that night. Bruno tells Guy to tell everyone he is his closest friend. This makes Anne uncomfortable. Guy says yes. After a drunken rant, Bruno falls in the water and drowns. Guy tries to save him, but everyone says they saw Bruno drown.

Chapters 41-45 Analysis

Guy's lies are catching up to him, one by one. He is forced to lie even more in order to avert Anne's attention from his past injuries and his knowing Bruno. But just as the case against Bruno and Guy appears to have gone cold. Gerard unleashes impressive deductive work, putting two and two together -but purely in speculation. He needs either a confession, or clear evidence implicating both Guy and Bruno in the murders of Miriam and Samuel Bruno.

Bruno and Guy, whom learn falsely the investigation is officially over, begin to relax and step outside of themselves. But the paranoia, guilt and alcohol in Bruno continue to build. While he excuses his relationship with Guy as something along the lines of being brothers, the reader is not totally convinced. The reader understands that Bruno is not a normal person, and that his character is destructive by nature. Between Bruno's deteriorating physical and mental conditions, and his unhappiness despite the death of his father, Bruno opts to commit suicide.

Bruno's suicide will have serious implications for Guy. With Bruno gone, the most likely conclusion is that Guy will have some sort of peace, whether or not justice has been done. But this does not turn out to be the case.



Chapters 46-47

Chapters 46-47 Summary

In Chapter 46, Guy gets up early the next morning and writes down everything that has happened, from meeting Bruno to the murders. He seals the admission in an envelope for Anne. Writing the confession makes Guy think of Owen Markman, and wonders if he has denied Owen some happiness. Guy decides not to tell Anne everything yet, but decides to go and tell Owen first.

In Chapter 47, Gerard has returned from Iowa to go over the details of Bruno's death. This worries Guy, who doesn't want Gerard to follow him down to Houston to see Owen. Guy tells Owen about Bruno murdering Miriam, and feels it is his fault for not betraying Bruno. Owen himself confesses he didn't actually want to marry Miriam. Guy goes on to confess the entire scheme, the entire crime. Owen is unmoved. Gerard appears a moment later to arrest Guy, and Guy gives himself up.

Chapters 46-47 Analysis

The moral nature of Guy shines through everything else. Spurred on by Bruno's suicide, Guy resolves in his mind that it is time to confess to everyone what happened, and what he has done. Guy decides that he must first confess to Miriam's lover, wondering if he has somehow denied him some form of happiness with Miriam's death. Yet, Gerard overhears the confession, Guy turns himself over, and justice is done. Guy, who was once the culturally-accepted construct of a good guy, has become the consummate villain plagued by a moral conscience.



Characters

Guy Haines

Guy Haines is one of the two main characters in Patricia Highsmith's novel "Strangers on a Train." Guy is 29, a successful architect, handsome, and every bit the gentleman. A native of Texas, he is on his way to his hometown from New York in order to see his wife, Miriam, to push for a divorce after three years of waiting. Miriam, who caused the separation by having an affair, seems ready to proceed with the divorce. On the way to Texas, a man named Bruno introduces himself to Guy, whose life is forever changed by the chance encounter. Bruno is a scion of a wealthy Long Island family, who hates his father. The two men talk about their lives, and Bruno admits to liking Guy, thinking he is a good man. He also asks Guy if Guy has ever considered murdering anyone, to which Guy responds he has not. Bruno offers to exchange murders -Bruno's father for Guy's wife- but Guy says no and distances himself from Bruno.

Guy meets Miriam, who refuses Guy a divorce. She is pregnant by her married lover, Owen, and she wants to remain married to Guy to maintain her own image, threatening to follow him to Florida for his next architectural job to do so. Guy refuses, cancels the Florida job, and goes to Mexico to spend time with his own girlfriend, Anne, whom he wants to marry. While he is there, Bruno takes it on himself to kill Miriam. He lets Guy know what he has done and Guy is horrified. Bruno begins stalking Guy, threatening him, writing him letters, telegrams, and calling him, until Guy finally consents to killing Bruno's father.

Guy is wracked with guilt, but continues on with his life following the murder. His architectural career skyrockets, but his personal life becomes besieged by lies, duplicitous actions, and Bruno's continued visits. At the same time, an investigation is launched into Bruno's father's murder, which finds a connection between Guy and Bruno. Bruno later commits suicide, which finally prompts Guy to confess his crimes. He turns himself over to the police shortly thereafter.

Charles Anthony Bruno

Charles Anthony Bruno is the 25 year-old antagonist in Patricia Highsmith's novel, "Strangers on a Train". Bruno is described as being slightly disheveled, and a delayed adolescent. He is indeed an overgrown child who takes to drinking and refuses to work. He is the scion of a wealthy Long Island family, and Bruno hates the family's patriarch, his father. Bruno is a mentally-deranged character, plotting murders in his spare time, and his father being the subject of the murders.

Bruno meets Guy Haines on a train headed to the American Southwest. Bruno takes an immediate liking to Guy, later describing his admiration as brotherly. He asks Guy if Guy has ever considered murder before, and Guy says no. Both men talk about their lives,



and Bruno decides to ask Guy if he'd be willing to swap murders -Bruno's father for Guy's wife, but Guy refuses. Bruno therefore takes matters into his own hands by killing Guy's wife. When Guy tries to distance himself from Bruno, Bruno becomes enraged, feeling betrayed.

Bruno begins stalking Guy, sending him notes, letters, telegrams, and pays Guy personal visits. Bruno is desperate to have his father out of his life. At last, Bruno breaks down Guy's barriers, and gives Guy a detailed plan for killing his father. The murder goes on. An investigation is launched by the Bruno family friend, detective Gerard. Gerard believes the murder was an inside job, and so targets Bruno and his associations. This leads Gerard to researching Guy.

Bruno's alcoholism and paranoia mount along with his mental derangement. Bruno ultimately commits suicide by drowning himself.

Miriam Joyce

Miriam Joyce is the selfish, and overly sexual wife of Guy Haines. Married when she was eighteen, Miriam cheats on Guy, causing a separation, which Guy wants to become a divorce. But Miriam becomes pregnant by her married lover, and uses this to appeal to Guy's conscience. She wants to remain married until she gives birth, and threatens to follow Guy to Florida for his next job. But Guy refuses. Miriam later has a miscarriage, and is murdered by Bruno.

Anne Faulkner

Anne Faulkner is the love interest of, and later wife of Guy Haines. She is supportive, beautiful, sweet, and caring, and devoutly loyal to her husband. Although she has questions about Guy's relationship with Bruno, and inconsistencies in Guy's life, she accepts his explanations at face value, because she trusts him.

Samuel Bruno

Samuel Bruno is the patriarch of the wealthy Bruno family on Long Island. He is overbearing, commandeering, and cheats on his wife regularly. He is also the source of his son's hatred, and is later murdered by Guy at his son's behest.

Guy's Mother

Guy's mother is a resident of Metcalf, Texas. She is a sweet, kind, and caring woman, who always supports her son, Guy.



Arthur Gerard

Arthur Gerard is a friend of the Bruno family, and the detective who leads the investigation into Samuel Bruno's death. Early on, he targets Charles Bruno because he knows Bruno is a strange person who plots murders for fun, and because the murder was an inside job. Gerard's investigation leads him to find a connection between Guy and Charles Bruno, and finds the murders of Guy's wife and Bruno's father are only a few months apart. The investigation ultimately helps lead to Bruno's suicide. Gerard follows Guy to Texas, where Guy confesses his crime to Miriam's lover. Gerard interrupts, during which time Guy surrenders himself.

Bob Treacher

Bob Treacher is an old friend of Guy who is appointed to an Alberta Dam advisory board. Bob gives Guy a well-paying job working on a bridge on the same project.

Peter Wriggs

Peter Wriggs is Guy's friend from New Orleans. Peter attends Guy's wedding to Anne.

Matt Levine

Matt Levine is a known murderer and a friend of Bruno. Matt is originally suspected for the murder of Samuel Bruno, but later dismissed.



Objects/Places

The Train

The train from New York to Texas is where Bruno and Guy first meet. It is also where Bruno first suggests the idea of murder, and swapping murders, which Guy patently rejects.

Metcalf, Texas

Metcalf, Texas, is Guy's hometown. It is where his mother lives and where Miriam lives. It is also where Bruno murders Miriam.

New York City

New York City is where Guy lives and works as an architect and where Bruno stalks Guy.

Long Island

Long Island, New York, is where both the Bruno and Faulkner families live. It is where Anne and Guy visit and have dates and it is where Guy murders Bruno's father.

Acapulco, Mexico

Acapulco, Mexico, is where the Faulkners visit during the summer. It is where Guy and Anne spend several days in each other's company.

Alton

Alton, New York, is the town where the house Guy and Anne design is built.

Phone Records

Phone records are what Gerard uses to establish a connection between Guy and Bruno before and after the murder of Miriam Joyce.



Writing Paper

Writing paper is what Guy uses to draft his confession, sealing the papers in an envelope for Anne.

Guy's Book

Guy's book, left behind on the train, is what Bruno uses to contact Guy. It also helps to establish a connection between them during the investigation conducted by Gerard.

Statements

Statements are gathered by Gerard and his assistants, to attest to Guy and Bruno's conversation on the train, and Bruno's presence in Metcalf.



Themes

Human Nature

The natural state of man has been the subject of philosophers and thinkers for centuries. While some believe the natural state of man is peace, others believe it is war and violence. Patricia Highsmith's novel "Strangers on a Train" has commentary to add to the debate on human nature.

The character of Bruno, which is comprised of base desires and instincts, is presented as evil, and lends evidence to the argument that the natural state of man is violent in composition. Bruno attempts to convince Guy that anyone can commit a murder, that no man is incapable of it. The reader can glean from Bruno that stability and society are only constructs. Bruno's own heartless act of murdering Miriam, and having no remorse about the act, lends more evidence to the violent nature of man.

Yet, Bruno's character contrasts with Guy's character. Guy's character seems to dismantle the notion that living peacefully is merely a social construct. While any man may kill another, it does not appear to be a truly natural act, for Guy has serious emotional distress following his act of murder. Beyond having to face God for his crimes, Guy cannot reconcile the thoughts and fears of his inner self with the murder. Besides morality, something intrinsically and physiologically does not sit well with Guy, though he cannot put a name to it. He even wonders if maybe he liked the act of murder at all, but cannot even wrap his mind around that completely.

False Appearances

Much is made of false appearances in the novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith. Written in the culturally-conservative era of the 1950s, the novel existed in a time when good and evil were clearly visible. In other words, a good guy could be identified by looking good, and a bad guy could be clearly identified by appearing bad. Thus Highsmith presents the dual characters of Guy Haines and Charles Bruno, as physically opposite as they are morally polar.

Guy is handsome, clean-cut, dresses well, and has genteel manners. He is polite and kind, and all evidence early in the novel -his frustrated patience at the delay of the divorce to refusing to sink down to Miriam's scheming level to rejecting outright Bruno's antagonisms toward murder -cement in the reader's mind that Guy is good. Bruno, meanwhile, is presented as an overgrown child, mentally and emotionally unstable, a disheveled dresser, a heavy drinker, and far too open to talk about things like murder publicly -a case-in-point villain, though perhaps a slightly sophisticated villain.

By the end of the novel, Bruno's characterization has panned out to expectations. But Guy's character has not done so. From being a morally upstanding man with a clear-



conscience, Guy has become a liar and a murderer. Indeed, Guy's assertion later in the novel that "a murderer looks like anyone" is manifestly true.

Homosexual/Sexual Subtext

Patricia Highsmith's novel "Strangers on a Train", beyond its chilling psychological implications that anyone can be a murderer, also harbors a clever homosexual and sexual subtext in terms of thematic elements. This homosexual/sexual thematic element is presented in the characters of Bruno and Guy, and the relationship between them.

While Bruno explains to Anne that he views Guy as a brother, the reader is able to pick up on subtle homosexual intimations throughout the novel. Bruno frequently speaks of his liking Guy. After Guy rejects Bruno's murder of Miriam, Bruno -like the unrequited lover rejected following a display of love -Bruno feels betrayed. He then begins, in typical stalker fashion, to send letters, notes, telegrams, make phone calls, and pays personal visits to Guy. He even goes so far as to buy Guy expensive gifts, such as an alligator billfold, which Guy keeps. They have numerous secretive meetings, and carry on a warped friendship with Guy lies continually about as if he is having an affair.

A sexual subtext can also be gleaned from the novel "Strangers on a Train." In a traditional romance, a boy chases a girl to win her heart, having to break through her defenses to win her heart and her hand, and in less than scrupulous circumstances, only sex. In "Strangers on a Train," Bruno must break through Guy's moral defenses in order to convince Guy to commit a murder, an unscrupulous act.

Style

Point of View

Patricia Highsmith tells her novel "Strangers on a Train" in the omniscient third-person narration. This is done to convey a solid story line despite having two diverse main characters and a rapidly evolving plot. Bruno and Guy speak in vastly different ways, and approach the world in vastly different ways. This affects their thoughts and their methods of speech, and rather than jumping back and forth between two alternating patterns of speech, the reader is blessed with a continual narrative voice that draws together both characters for the benefit of the reader.

Setting

The majority of the setting of the novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith is that of Long Island, New York. Following World War II, Long Island was a model for modern suburban communities (such as Levittown), and the idea of "normalcy," which the working and middle classes aspired to. Thus it is a deceptive setting for a murder and metaphorical in its description of the deceptive nature of people.

Language and Meaning

Patricia Highsmith tells her novel "Strangers on a Train" in educated and straightforward language. Education among adult individuals in the 1950s was invariably better than the modern era and so more advanced words populate the novel. This confirms and reinforces the plot and setting of the novel, by making the events of the novel believable.

Structure

Patricia Highsmith divides her novel "Strangers on a Train" into consecutive chapters arranged chronologically. Most chapters are told with narration focusing around Guy; some are told focusing around Bruno; and one is focused primarily around Detective Gerard's efforts. This simple method of advancing a story, from chapter to chapter, helps give the novel readability, and the reader an urgency to read a fast-paced and rapidly evolving plot.

Quotes

"They show all kinds of people can murder" (Chapter 2, p. 30).

"Death was only one more adventure untried" (Chapter 11, p. 68).

"If he knew Bruno had done it, why didn't he turn him in? What did he feel about Bruno besides hatred and disgust? Was he afraid? Guy didn't clearly know" (Chapter 16, p. 102).

"On shipboard, he detailed two or three key plans for the murder of his father, of which any other plans laid on the estate would be mere variations" (Chapter 19, p. 117).

"'At times like this,' she said quietly, 'you make me feel we're complete strangers'" (Chapter 21, p. 133).

"He believed he could not have done his work without a belief in God. And where had been his belief when he murdered? He had forsaken God, not God him" (Chapter 28, p.178-179).

"He twisted away abruptly. 'No. No, that's not it at all!' He said it so honestly, yet it sounded so like a lie" (Chapter 30, p. 188).

"Bruno would not in a million years betray him, he knew. But if everything were as ambiguous as he believed, could he really be sure" (Chapter 34, p. 209).

"He found himself wondering, therefore, from time to time, if he might have enjoyed his crime in some way, derived some primal satisfaction from it -how else could one really explain in mankind the continued toleration of wars, the perennial enthusiasm for wars when they came, if not for some primal pleasure in killing? -and because the capacity to wonder came so often, he accepted it as true that he had" (Chapter 42, p. 242).

"A murderer looks like anybody" (Chapter 47, p. 274).



Topics for Discussion

Describe the 1950s cultural construct of good versus evil. What does good and evil look like? Why is this important given the plot of the novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith? Do either Guy or Bruno conform to cultural expectations of what good and evil was? Do they conform to modern-day assumptions about good and evil? Why or why not?

Bruno's declaration that anyone can commit a murder in the novel "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith is important not only in the novel, but for society. Bruno directs this comment at Guy. Why did Guy not take Bruno seriously at first? Did Guy ever take Bruno seriously? Why did Guy commit a murder? Does this prove that anyone can commit a murder? Why or why not?

It has been posited that the natural state of man is war and violence, and that cultural constructs prevent man from engaging in his natural state. Would Guy agree or disagree with this statement? Would Bruno agree or disagree with this statement? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not? Use evidence from the novel to support your claim.

Discuss the analysis in which a homosexual/sexual subtext can be viewed in the murders and the relationship between Guy and Bruno. Is this an accurate analysis? Why or why not? Provide evidence to support your claim.

Discuss the characters of Bruno and Guy. Is Bruno's character truly evil? Why or why not? Provide evidence to support your conclusion. Is Guy's character truly good, despite having committed murder? Why or why not? Provide evidence to support your conclusion.