

Trouble Is My Business Study Guide

Trouble Is My Business by Raymond Chandler

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Trouble Is My Business: Chapters One and Two

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters One and Two Summary

Anna Halsey is looking for a man who can handle himself. She wants someone to pick up the slack on a job she took on, but is unable to do herself. She asks Philip Marlowe to smear a particular redhead who is a gambler's shill and has her hooks into a rich man's son. Marlowe asks who is involved and is given the name Marty Estel. He almost turns her down, but money has been tight and business slim, so he takes his chair again and tells her he wants two hundred and fifty dollars if he manages to complete the job, and twenty-five dollars per day in expense money besides. Anna isn't thrilled but accepts the terms and asks her girl Gladys to send the client, Mr. Jeeter into her office. Mr. Jeeter and Marlowe verbally spar for a moment, before Jeeter apologizes for his rudeness. Marlowe asks him if he is willing to compensate either Harriet Huntress for 'expenses' or Marty Estel for the fifty thousand dollars worth of notes he holds against Jeeter's adoptive son, but Jeeter flatly refuses, telling Philip that he will pay neither, and that if Marlowe can't handle this, he is a personal friend to the district attorney. He leaves, and Marlowe manages to get twenty dollars of expense money from Anna.

John D. Arbogast has an office east of Ivar on Sunset. Marlowe calls him from a pay phone and makes an appointment to go and talk to him after lunch. Philip goes to suite 212. The door has his name lettered on it, and the word enter, so Philip opens the door. A buzzer sounds until it closes again, but the waiting room is empty. He waits for a moment, but then tries the inner office door to find it unlocked. When he goes inside, he finds Arbogast kneeling down behind the desk, with a large, dark stain spreading beneath him. His fingers are holding down a piece of paper on which it appeared he was trying to write, but nothing legible existed. Arbogast had been shot while Marlowe ate his lunch. Philip backs out of the room, wiping doorknobs on the way, and turning out the lights in the reception area.

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters One and Two Analysis

Anna Halsey is looking for someone who can handle himself to deal with a problem a client of hers named Mr. Jeeter is having with his adopted son. She approaches Philip Marlowe who agrees to do the job which involves smearing the reputation of a girl in order to get her to back off. At first she hires Arbogast, but like her, he is too large in girth to be effective. Marlowe accepts the case, citing his fees which are higher than Anna wants to pay, but with little choice, she agrees. Mr. Jeeter has been waiting for twenty six minutes, and is quick to inform her of this fact. Jeeter is a wealthy man who is



used to getting things his own way. Unaccustomed to being in a position of need, he makes a bad first impression on Marlowe. Philip tries to discern how much room he has to negotiate with Marty Estel for the money owed on markers left by Jeeter's adopted son and the girl who would take advantage of him if she could, but Jeeter is adamant. He refuses to throw money at either situation to make them go away. After he leaves, Philip and Anna agree that he is a most unlikable man. After securing some expense money, Marlowe leaves.

Philip's first step is to talk to John D. Arbogast who was the first to look into this case. He calls from a pay phone and sets up a meeting for after lunch. When Philip arrives, he finds the outer office empty. After knocking on the inner door, and getting no response, Marlowe tries the door and finds it unlocked. He opens it to discover that Arbogast would be little help as the obscenely overweight man is on the floor, kneeling beside the desk, lifeless. He had been shot while Marlowe ate lunch, and died as he tried to write a message. Philip can just wipe down any trace of his visit and leave.



Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Three and Four

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Three and Four Summary

Philip drives to the El Milano and unsuccessfully tries to bribe his way in to see Miss Huntress. Then he walks around front and asks to see her, identifying himself as Marty Estel. He refuses to give his real name and the house man, Mr. Hawkins, invites him to step into his office. It takes only a few minutes, and a ten dollar bill to talk his way in. Huntress gives Marlowe a drink and is unflappable, even when asked what it would take to have her leave Jeeter's junior alone. She tells him fifty grand and Marlowe counters with five hundred, making her laugh. He tells her about Arbogast and it is clear that his involvement and death are news to her. She explains that Jeeter ruined her father and she plans to return the favor even marrying his son if she has to. Marlowe is surprised by her frank response, and even more so when she instructs Jeeter's son who had been hiding himself to 'ruin him.' Marlowe looks back at her and is clubbed without warning, hitting a piece of furniture on the way down.

He wakes up alone sometime later. Somehow, he hasn't knocked over the bottle of Scotch and he takes a swig, taking the leftover bottle home with him. Once back at his apartment house, he heads for the kitchen to get ice and ginger ale. Two men come at him, and when the smaller man lunges at him, he makes his move, dodging and then overtaking him. He manages to get his gun, and when he rights himself, the taller man laughs informing him that the gun has no firing pin because 'Frisky' can't be trusted with a loaded gun. Waxnose continues to inform him that they mean no harm and are merely warning him to leave Jeeter junior alone. Frisky tries to get his gun back and while Waxnose is distracted, Marlowe pulls out his Luger. Tiredly, Waxnose just repeats his message, edging out the door. Marlowe sits down with the remaining Scotch, waking to the phone ninety minutes later. Jeeter senior apologizes for his earlier behavior. Philip tells him that Harriet's price is fifty thousand and when he starts to whine, Marlowe cuts him off, telling him about the men who greeted him. Jeeter insists on sending his car along with George, his driver, so Marlowe showers and changes before going down to where the vehicle and driver already wait. The driver takes him to Bel-Air and just after he turns onto Calvello Drive, a vehicle forces them to stop. Marlowe slides low in the seat, pulling out his Luger, and hears Frisky's voice. He starts to get out when Frisky begins to fire. George shoots Frisky and the other car pulls away even as Frisky is falling to the pavement. Jeeter's house is just across the street, George tells Philip, who suggests they go back to his apartment and start again. A limousine passes them and George bets they don't even call it in.



Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Three and Four Analysis

Philip tries to get in to see Harriet Hunter by slipping the valet a five dollar bill and when that doesn't work, he tries to bluff his way up to her apartment by bribing the desk clerk. When again he fails, he offers the hotel security guard, Mr, Hawkins,(\$10), and finally manages to make his way upstairs. He can see right away why Hawkins' tone changed when he talked to Harriet on the phone. She is a real looker. He tries to reach an amicable agreement with her and even offers her some exit money, but Harriet isn't interested in small change. She makes it clear that Jeeter senior cost her father everything, and now Jeeter junior was her ticket to return the favor. Marlowe tries to warn her, unaware that Jeeter junior had come up behind him. To make matters worse, he seemed to be enjoying the fact that Harriet planned to fleece his father through him. Just when he thinks it can't get worse, she delivers orders to 'ruin him' with which Jeeter junior happily complies.

Philip wakes on the floor, head sticky from where it made contact with the furniture on the way down. He is grateful to see that she had the decency to leave him the remainder of the Scotch, and after a few mouthfuls, he feels as though he can navigate his way out again. He takes the remainder of the booze with him, and leaves through the front lobby where Hawkins seems amused by his condition. Miraculously, he isn't pulled over on the way home, but his brain still isn't functioning. When he smells something odd in his apartment, something he normally would have paid attention to, he does nothing, and the two men waiting for him immediately have the advantage. Seeing them clears some of the fog, and he manages to get the upper hand on the smaller of the two men, disarming him, but the larger man just laughs after he explains that the firing pin on that gun is gone. Apparently, the smaller man he refers to as Frisky can't be trusted with a loaded firearm. Marlowe confirms this by firing at the floor. Then Waxnose, the larger man, tells him that they are simply delivering a message that he should leave Jeeter's son alone. Marlowe feels foolish after they leave and tries to figure out who sent them and why. After drinking more Scotch, he wakes on the chair to the ringing phone. Jeeter senior apologizes to him for his behavior that morning, but is surprised to hear about junior's involvement, and even more surprised that two men accosted Philip at home. He sends George to pick him up, insisting that he can be trusted explicitly. Mr. Jeeter is right, and before George can deliver Marlowe, they are stopped on the street by another vehicle. Frisky tries to rob them, firing his gun at them, until George fires the shot that ends his life. The other car leaves immediately, not even waiting to see if Frisky fell. Marlowe suggests they leave too, but they are right across the street from Jeeter's home, so Philip suggests they return to his place for a drink.



Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Five and Six

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Five and Six Summary

George drives them back to Marlowe's where they drink the remainder of Harriet's Scotch. George is convinced that Frisky and Waxnose intended to rob Jeeter senior. They talk idly until the phone rings again. An English butler puts Jeeter senior on the phone who is furious that they still haven't arrived. Philip recaps the day and finishes by telling Jeeter that if he wants to be the one to make all the decisions, he should find someone else. He asks Jeeter if he's seen any policemen that evening, and confused, he asks why. Marlowe tells him about their encounter with Frisky and Waxnose. Jeeter is losing control, insisting that Philip come to his home immediately, but Marlowe simply tells him that George will explain everything and hangs up. He is barely gone when there is a knock at the door. Two policemen from Central Homicide push their way in and question him about Frisky's shooting. They also ask him about the death of Arbogast and question whether he knows anyone who uses a Cold Woodsman.

Marlowe goes back to talk to Harriet and is met by Hawkins again who strong arms him upstairs. He knocks on Harriet's door and a large man answering to the name of Beef shows him in to where Marty Estel is waiting. Marty questions him, but finding no reason to worry about him, gives him back his luger and leaves him there to wait for Harriet alone. Philip looks around, noticing the leftover tang of cordite, and the fact that the bed has been moved far enough to hold the closet shut. Philip moves the bed and finds Gerald Jeeter, dead in the closet. As Philip absorbs the scene, Hawkins returns and after giving him a drink, they both leave. Marlowe drives home, intending to call Anna Halsey and tell her the case is over, but finds Waxnose in his living room who accuses him of killing Frisky. Marlowe turns the tables by accusing him of killing both Arbogast and Gerald, and for a moment, Waxnose begins to look worried. Waxnose denies killing anyone, but realizes that Philip may not have either, and decides not to kill him. He returns the Luger after emptying it, but Marlowe stops him before he can leave. He manages to hit him hard enough to knock him out, and searches him. Then he cuffs him and ties his ankles, leaving him lying on his back.

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Five and Six Analysis

George and Philip return to Marlowe's where they relax with the rest of Harriet's Scotch. George admits to having been in the service and speculates that his own personal growth might have been impeded by the fact that he liked to take chances. George is convinced that Frisky and Waxnose were sent to scare Jeeter's son, Gerald, who is



usually on his way home at that time. When Jeeter senior calls, he has a temper tantrum over the fact that George and Philip haven't arrived yet. Marlowe doesn't care, and brushes Jeeter off, which is a response Jeeter isn't used to. He tries to insist that Marlowe and George return to the house immediately, but Marlowe just tells him George will explain, and hangs up. George leaves and Philip gets company again soon after. Two detectives show up to investigate the murders of both Frisky and Arbogast, but they have little success with Marlowe, finally leaving as well. Afterward, Philip heads back to the El Milano.

Hawkins once again escorts him none too gently up to Harriet's suite, but curiosity prevents Marlowe from shaking him loose. A man named Beef opens the door and escorts him in to see Marty Estel. Martin isn't interested in anything beyond information, and once he discovers that Marlowe is no threat to him, he tells Beef to return Philip's gun to him. Then he and Beef leave, happy to leave Philip in Harriet's apartment. Philip uses the opportunity to look around. It takes a few minutes, but Philip notices a lingering scent of cordite, and soon discovers the body of Gerald Jeeter. Gerald is in the bedroom closet, his body held in place by the weight of the bed which is pushed up against it. Philip begins to back his way out, smearing his prints on the doorknob of the bedroom as he pulls the door closed. Hawkins comes back to see why Marlowe hasn't left yet, and Marlowe pours him a drink. Though Hawkins at first hesitates, he takes the drink offered him and then ushers Marlowe out without ever seeing Gerald's body. Marlowe drives home, intending to call Anna, but finds Waxnose waiting for him. Waxnose is in a mean frame of mind, convinced that Philip was the one who killed Frisky. He admits that Frisky was his younger brother, and as such is looking for revenge. He never stops smiling, but the smile never reaches his eyes as he screws a home made silencer onto his gun. Marlowe tells him the truth, and asks him why he killed Arbogast, but Waxnose has no idea who that is. Marlowe accuses him of working for Marty Estel, and challenges him to go ahead and kill him as well. Finally, Waxnose stops smiling. Marlowe tells him everything, and Waxnose's confidence wavers. Then he takes the silencer off again, telling Marlowe that it is his lucky day. Waxnose would have left but Marlowe hits him hard enough to knock him out, cuffs his hands, and ties his legs together before he comes to.



Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Seven and Eight

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Seven and Eight Summary

Marlowe rings the bell at the Jeeter mansion. A butler answers and after disappearing briefly, returns to escort Marlowe down what feels like a mile of hallway to a large sun room. On the other side he opens a wide door that Marlowe steps through. George is standing by the door in his uniform, and Harriet sits sipping a drink nearby. Still angry, Jeeter yells at the butler to leave before turning his attention to Marlowe. He rages until Marlowe reveals that he knows where Gerald is. Then he sits quietly while Marlowe lays out the entire affair, beginning with the notes that Marty Estel had on Gerald. He tells them about his visit to Arbogast, finding him shot dead with a .22 caliber pistol. Jeeter looks shocked. Marlowe speculates that Arbogast likely just discovered more than he should have. Next, Marlowe reveals his trip to see Harriet, describing how Gerald had come out of hiding to knock him unconscious. He tells them about coming home to find Waxnose ready and willing to avenge Frisky's death, and then his return to the Milano where Gerald was. George is still wooden faced and Harriet is beginning to look nervous. He describes finding Marty Estel there, and how he found Gerald in the closet, putting the .22 he took from the apartment in Harriet's lap. Then he sums up his suspicions, laying the blame for everything on George who pulls out a Smith and Wesson. Harriet fires without warning, shooting George in the hand, dropping his gun to the floor. They discuss the rest of Marlowe's deductions and Jeeter senior is not taking the news well. The butler opens the door, holding a firearm and Harriet shoots him in the shoulder, telling him to go away. He does. Jeeter looks more and more gray, finally falling to the floor. Marlowe tells Harriet to call the police while he covers the two men.

Marlowe is kept waiting by Sebold and Finlayson for an entire hour. Finlayson pushes some paperwork at him, asking him to sign it which he does and then he is let go. Out on the street he heads for his vehicle, but Marty calls him over and asks him to get in. He asks Marlowe what the police know, and then warns him to stay away from Harriet before dropping him off at home. Waxnose has already been taken away and no one else waits for him this time. The phone rings and Harriet tells him she was checking to be sure he got home okay. He tells her about Marty's warning to leave her alone, and asks her not to call him. The police finally break George, but not completely. Arbogast's murder goes unsolved, Waxnose disappears, and Jeeter senior never fully recovers from the stroke he suffers. Marty calls Philip four times, each time reminding Philip to stay away from Harriet. He sees her a couple of times, but isn't heartbroken when she leaves for New York.

Trouble Is My Business: Chapters Seven and Eight Analysis

The butler who answers the door at the Jeeter mansion does a poor job of imitating an English butler and Marlowe calls him on it, earning a snarling response. He takes Marlowe to Jeeter, who is still seething, and begins barking at Marlowe immediately. He can't believe that Marlowe told Harriet everything, and is angry that his son is missing. George offers to throw Marlowe out, but Jeeter isn't ready to do that yet. Marlowe reveals that he knows where Gerald is, and watches the three faces as closely as he can while he lays out his summations. Jeeter senior appears shell shocked. Marlowe returns Harriets' .22, after revealing that Arbogast was killed with a weapon of that caliber. He reveals the events surrounding his trip to the Milano, and in his summation lays the blame at George's feet. George pulls out a Smith and Wesson and before he can consider using it, Harriet expertly shoots it from his hand. By the time Marlowe is finished, Jeeter is gray. He has a stroke and they leave him to fall to the floor, deciding he deserves the fall. When the butler opens the door with a gun in his hand, Harriet shoots him too, once again showing her prowess with a gun. Finally Philip tells Harriet to call the police.

The police are slow to process Marlowe's information and get his statement printed for his signature. He sits for an hour on his own before they finally return. His day continues to be interrupted when he leaves the station to be hailed by Marty. He wants to know how much the police know, and reveals his feelings for Harriet when he adamantly insists that Marlowe stay away from her, implying it would be in his best physical interest to do so. Marty drops him at home, where for the first time in a while he is actually alone. Harriet calls to make sure he got home okay, and he tells her about Marty's warning. Harriet asks him if he's frightened, and he tells her he isn't, but she should wait for him to call her. She says goodnight and hangs up. Philip goes out with her twice, but the difference in their financial status shows and soon she relocated to New York. Marlowe is glad, even though she never bothers to say goodbye.



Finger Man: Chapters One - Three

Finger Man: Chapters One - Three Summary

Marlowe gets out of the Grand Jury just after four and goes up to Fenweather's office. He asks Philip how well he knows Frank Dorr, who might be a bit upset if Manny Tinnen is indicted for murder. Fenweather warns him to watch his back and by four thirty, Philip is back at his office, the reception area predictably empty. Lou Harger is waiting in his inner office however, and smiling, he asks Philip if he is still working, or planning to hide out. He offers Marlowe the equivalent of cab fare to babysit him at Las Olindas that night. He plans to win big and doesn't want to be roused by Canales' men on the way home. He's hoping that Philip will back him up. Marlowe agrees, but doesn't want to be paid, or paid attention to at the club. Lou agrees, explaining that Canales recently purchased a roulette wheel that used to belong to him, and that he knows well enough to win on. After Lou leaves, Philip listens to the news and discovers that Tinnen was indicted.

By ten o'clock, the band is ready to take a break, and Philip sits at the bar by himself, nursing a tequila. The center roulette table is busy and everyone appears to be standing around it. Marlowe hears a voice asking the customers to wait as Mr. Canales has to personally approve of the limit. He comes out a few moments later and offers to send someone home with her to ensure that she arrives safely with her winnings. She wants to let it all ride on red, and he obliges her. When the wheels stops on twenty seven red, the croupier pushes the two packets of ten thousand each in her direction and Canales walks away without a word.

Lou walks over to Philip and softly admits to having taken Canales for over twenty two thousand, and asks him if he saw any problems with it. Marlowe mentions the lack of manners his lady friend has, and asks Lou what he is driving. Marlowe tells him to drive slowly, letting him get into position, and he leaves. Canales approaches Marlowe to inquire as to why he isn't playing. He accuses Marlowe of being a dick, and Philip corrects him but Canales still doesn't appreciate his presence, telling him not to return. Then he collects his hat and coat from the lobby and steps outside. He sees a man with a gun standing in front of him, and carefully pulls out his own .38. The man in front of him takes a drag of his cigarette and throws it down. Just as Marlowe hears a faint noise behind him, something swishes and he goes down.

Finger Man: Chapters One - Three Analysis

Philip Marlowe finishes testifying with the grand jury and sneaks up to talk to Fenweather before leaving. He knows that if Dorr has an interest in causing trouble, Fenweather's men will be too far behind to do any good, so he asks him not to put anyone on him. Then he heads back for his office, and discovers Lou Harger waiting for him. Lou wants to pay him to watch his back as he plays roulette in Canales club. At



first, Marlowe refuses, but before Lou leaves, he changes his mind. He'll watch, but tells Lou to keep his money. When Lou leaves, Philip hears the indictment come through on the radio and Fenweather calls at the same time to warn him once more to watch himself.

That night, he sits in Las Olindas, sipping Tequila and surreptitiously watching the action at the center roulette wheel. It is obvious that there is some excitement being generated, and the woman Lou is using as a shill can be heard throughout the club. Her demeanor is rough and brash as she loudly insists that they cover her bet and allow her to continue on her hot streak. Canales shows up shortly after that and pulling out his wallet, he lays a packet of bills on the felt and Miss Glenn tells the croupier to let it all ride on red. Beside her, Lou pales as the wheel goes around, but it stops on red and Miss Glenn calmly collects her winnings.

Lou goes over to the bar where Philip sits and asks him whether it all looked on the level before leaving. Canales notices and Marlowe isn't insulted when he approaches him and asks him not to return to his club. He tells Canales that in light of how nicely he took the earlier insult he witnessed, he'll let his current rudeness pass. Marlowe collects his hat and coat, and heads outside. A man with a gun is standing near the street, facing away from Marlowe and he is so concerned with him that he doesn't hear the footfall behind him until it is too late.



Finger Man: Chapters Four and Five

Finger Man: Chapters Four and Five Summary

Marlowe wakes up cold, wet and with a splitting headache. He crosses the street and gets into his car, driving down the main drag to town. A sedan matching Lou's is parked in front of the drugstore and Marlowe reaches into it to confirm it is registered to Lou before going into the drugstore. He buys a bottle of rye and a cup of black coffee, mixing the two liberally together. Casually, he asks the other patron if the car outside is his, and he claims it belongs to his brother. Marlowe offers him a drink, telling him that his brother is an old friend of his. He accepts and before long admits that he made a deal with Lou, trading his cab for his car. He is supposed to go the Hotel Carillon on Towne Boulevard in an hour to exchange the car for his taxi. Philip tells him he probably shouldn't wait any more, and follows him to the Hotel. It takes almost an hour to get there, and cab number 469 is parked across the street. Marlowe gives the driver his card, and lets him leave. He goes into the hotel and has the clerk call Lou's room, but there is no answer, so he sits outside in his car for a few minutes. Finally, he goes back inside to a phone booth and call the Telegram to see if anyone there knows where he might have gone to celebrate his winnings. Then he goes home, continuing to call the hotel at regular intervals until finally going to sleep at three. In the morning, he continues his search, this time looking for the mysterious Miss Glenn, but has no success. He cleans up and heads for the office where he discovers Miss Glenn sitting in the reception area.

She sits quietly in his office, working up her nerve while he waits, reading his mail, and ignoring her presence until she is ready. She quietly tells Philip that Lou once said if she was ever stuck, Marlowe was the man to see, and she was certainly stuck now. Then she finally admits that Lou is dead. Two of Canales' men had come to her apartment and shot him with a small gun that looks a lot like her own. Then her eyes roll up into her head and two seconds later, it hits the desk. He revives her with a shot of rye, and she tells him what happened, explaining that for safe keeping, they had stopped to mail the money to themselves first. She remained with his body until morning so that she could get it back before coming to him. She gives him the envelope, telling him that if he helps her, he can have half. Together, they put the cash in the safe and each take a key. Then he takes her to a hotel where a friend can keep an eye on her while he tries to meet with Canales.

Finger Man: Chapters Four and Five Analysis

When Marlowe wakes, the lack of blood behind his ear tells him the weapon was likely a sap and the mud on the backs of his shoes tell him he was dragged a short ways off the main path. His gun is missing and he looks around but doesn't see anything. His car is still across the street, and he drives into town, spotting Lou's sedan parked outside the drugstore. He drives by, and looks inside, but Lou isn't there. He parks, and after



confirming the registration to the car is indeed Lou's, he goes inside to see what he can find out. It takes only a few minutes for him to learn that Lou had traded his car with the young man in exchange for his taxi for an hour. Lou had given the young man a hundred dollars and asked him to drive to the Carillon Hotel to trade back in an hour. Marlowe has a bad feeling, and tells him he probably shouldn't wait any longer. He follows Lou's sedan to the hotel where they find the cab as promised. The young man is eager to be relieved of responsibility, and Marlowe gives him his card 'just in case.' Philip goes inside and has the clerk ring Lou's room, but there is no answer. He calls a friend at the Telegram in an effort to track him down but again has no success. Finally he goes home and retires for the night, after trying Lou's hotel room one more time without success. In the morning, he tries to track down Miss Glenn instead but has little success either until he goes into his office to find her sitting in reception.

It takes her a while to come up with enough courage to tell Marlowe the truth. Lou is dead, and she doesn't know where else to turn. She remembers Lou telling her that if she were ever in a serious jam, Marlowe would be the man to help. She explains to him how they mailed the money to themselves the night before for safekeeping, and she stayed with his body overnight as she waited for the mail and their money to arrive. She seems distraught, and Marlowe responds, unable to ignore a damsel in distress. He assures her that everything will be fine, taking her to a hotel where he has someone who can keep an eye on her. He introduces her using a false name and tells her to sit tight until he has had a chance to talk to Canales.



Finger Man: Chapters Six - Eight

Finger Man: Chapters Six - Eight Summary

Philip goes to the Hobard Arms to see if a gun was planted under or around Lou's body, but there is no sign of Lou or the gun used to kill him. He goes to a phone booth and calls the Telegram, asking for Von Ballin who tells him that Lou is in the morgue, found in West Cimarron. He calls Miss Glenn next, but the desk clerk says she isn't answering the phone so he sends someone up to check on her. She is nowhere to be found. As Philip comes out of the booth, a gray haired man steps behind him with a gun and tells him to walk to his car. Another man gets into the back and within a couple of blocks relieves Marlowe of his gun, directing him to drive carefully. Philip tries to figure out why someone would move Lou's body.

Within twenty minutes they arrive at a mountain cabin in the foothills. They all get out and head to the house. The gray haired man knocks on an inner door and announces himself as Beasley, adding that he is not alone. The voice directs them to come in, and Philip finds himself face to face with Frank Dorr. He gets them both a drink and announce his displeasure that Marlowe fingered Manny Tinnen. Frank accuses him of killing Lou, and taking the money. He tells him the police have his gun and the money, but he hasn't given the word yet to have a tag put out on him. Philip slowly explains the sequence of events as they occurred, but Dorr has a different agenda. The whole scene is a set up so that he will back off on Manny, but Marlowe tells them he's already talked to the Grand Jury. Dorr tells him he could have a change of heart, but Marlowe knows that wouldn't stop the DA and says so, claiming it would be easier for him to beat a framed up murder charge. Marlowe steps forward and pets the cat on Dorr's desk, and in one motion he picks it up and flings it at Dorr's face. Dorr yelps as a claw opens his face while Marlowe takes the gun from his desk drawer and holds it to Dorr's neck. With little encouragement, Beasley gives Philip back his gun, and Philip manages to leave unscathed.

Marlowe drives to the morgue and talks to the coroner about Lou's body. Then he finds Bernie Ohls, the chief investigator that Fenweather told him to talk to. Ohls seems unimpressed by the facts as Marlowe lays them out, and instead implies that Philip is the criminal. Still treating him partially like a suspect, he suggests that they go and talk to the cab driver, who now is the only witness to clear Marlowe.

Finger Man: Chapters Six - Eight Analysis

Marlowe finds no gun and no body at the Hobard Arms and by asking at the desk, he discovers that there has been no recent excitement surrounding her room, thereby confirming that police have not been here. He learns that Lou's body was found in West Cimarron and when he tries to contact Miss Glenn, he discovers she is gone as well. He

comes out of the phone booth and is immediately taken at gunpoint to see Frank Dorr at his home in the foothills.

Frank makes it clear that Marlowe has been carefully set up. In fact, it's a wonder there isn't already an arrest warrant out for him, and according to Frank, it is simply because he hasn't issued that order yet. Feeling full of himself and in control, his facade slips a little when Marlowe gets up and approaches him. He leans forward and opens a desk drawer where a pistol is evident, and warns Philip to be careful. Philip takes note of the gun as he picks the cat up off the desk and flings it at Dorr's face, enabling him to get to the gun with little opposition. From there, it takes little to retrieve his own gun from Beasley, and back his way out of Dorr's home.

Next, after calming down, Marlowe goes to the morgue to see Lou, and then to Bernie Ohl's office. Bernie has already been contacted by Dorr and is inclined to believe that Philip is a killer. He is less than enthusiastic about the story that Marlowe gives him, countering everything with plausible reasons that Marlowe might just be trying to cover himself. Philip almost walks out on him but finally Bernie decides to verify Marlowe's story by talking to the cab driver who can verify that Lou and Miss Glenn were alive and well when they took his cab.



Finger Man: Chapters Nine - Eleven

Finger Man: Chapters Nine - Eleven Summary

Marlowe and Ohls drive to the Green Top Garage to talk to Tom Sneyd, and get his home address. They hear shots fired before they arrive, and join the fray. Ohls subdues one man immediately, and shot in the arm, he does little to resist. When the second man is dead, Marlowe sees Tom Sneyd on the ground across the street with a light rifle. Ohls recognizes the dead thug, and Marlowe recognizes the other as the man who was standing on the sidewalk with a gun when he left Canales.

They go inside and Tom is told he'll have to make a statement, and is pretty sure his job will be over, but Ohls tells him he isn't so sure. Going outside, Ohls attempts to question the second man, still cuffed to the car, but all he offers is his name, and then insists he doesn't understand English. Since they are on county land, Ohls decides to keep it quiet for a while giving him time to have a private conversation with his prisoner.

When Marlowe gets back to the hotel, there is a message to call F.D. as soon as possible. Frank says he's been thinking about their conversation, and if Marlowe brings him the money, they might be able to work something out. Philip tells Frank that he'll only return the money to Miss Glenn, and Frank tells him he'll try to arrange it. Marlowe drives back to Dorr's where Beasley, Dorr and Miss Glenn wait. Dorr asks for the money and Marlowe admits he didn't bring it, enjoying the advantage. He tells Dorr that the men sent to ruin his alibi failed, and asks who is going to take the fall for Lou's death. Dorr tells him that Manny hung himself in his cell that morning. Marlowe jumps when he sees a shadow outside the window. A shot fires and Beasley falls. Canales enters ready to kill whoever he needs to in order to sort out the elaborate frame being done on him for Lou's murder. As he is talking, Beasley manages to lift himself off the ground enough to shoot Canales, whose finger tightens on the trigger and shoots Frank Dorr, hitting him in the eye. Miss Glenn get up and tells Marlowe that she had no choice - they'd burned her already once, and shows him the burn between her breasts. She insists she didn't know that they were going to kill Lou. Marlowe calls the police while Miss Glenn makes her escape.

Finger Man: Chapters Nine - Eleven Analysis

The dispatcher at the Green Top Garage doesn't even have to look it up, and when questioned, admits that two others asked about it recently. Marlowe realizes that loose ends are being cleaned up, and drives with haste to the address he was given. They hear shots before they even arrive, and join the fray, helping to subdue the two men that threatened Tom.

Tom tells Ohls how the two men had arrived and insinuated that if he told his version of events correctly, he might see some extra cash, but if he didn't, they'd come back to



play with his little girl. The very idea causes Tom to snap, and knowing the road was a cul-de-sac and they would have to come back, he took a position across the road, and began by shooting out the tires of the car as it returned. Ohls decides to take everything to a sub station at Solano.

Frank Dorr leaves a message for Marlowe to call him, and when he does, his presence and the money are requested. Philip goes, but leaves the money behind. As he tries to hash out the next steps with Dorr, Philip sees a shadow outside and ducks as Beasley is hit with a shot fired from outside. Canales enters, and holds a gun to Dorr, telling him he won't put up with the frame being set up for him. He tells Dorr that Pina finally talked to him and told him the whole story. As he is concentrating on Dorr, Canales doesn't see Beasley raise his gun. He shoots, causing Canales trigger finger to jerk, and both Canales and Dorr are dead. Beasley is just clinging to life and Marlowe calls the police. As he does so, Miss Glenn escapes, but Marlowe doesn't care. Fenweather manages to smooth things over for Marlowe, and Pina is picked up. He breaks, implicating four others. Two are arrested and two are killed resisting. The money is turned over to the Public Administrator who allows Marlowe to retain his fee of two hundred and nine dollars and twenty cents for mileage.



Goldfish: Chapters One - Three

Goldfish: Chapters One - Three Summary

Marlowe is just considering leaving for lunch when Kathy Horne comes in. She asks him if he's ever heard of the Leander pearls. He hasn't and she asks if he'd be interested in making a cut of around twenty five grand. Then she tells him a story about two cons, a robbery and a murder. The story begins nineteen years earlier, and Kathy describes the mail car theft that led to Wally Sype's arrest and conviction. Kathy asks Marlowe to go and talk to Peeler who is boarding at her place, and knows the current location of Wally. He promises her that if the tip pans out, she will be entitled to a full third of any money they get.

Marlowe drives to Kathy Horne's house and uses her key to enter the right side of the house when no one answers his knock on the left. He unlocks the connecting door between the suites and heads for the bedroom. The first thing he sees is Peeler's feet, scorched, tied with rope and hanging over the edge of the bed. An iron sits on the desk, still hot. Peeler's eyes are open and his arms are tied with a rope that extends under the bed. Aside from his feet, there isn't a mark on him, and his body is still warm as is the gag in his mouth. Philip carefully wipes off everything he's touched and leaves. Kathy is surprised to see him back so soon. He tells her what he found and admits that her story has more credibility as a result. He suggests that when she goes home, she should just 'discover' him and call the police, leaving out everything else including him.

Philip goes to the Reliance Indemnity Company and talks to the resident manager, Lutin, to confirm the reward (which Lutin tells him is only twenty thousand dollars) and to see if he can get a letter to identify himself to other company branches or to law enforcement if necessary. Lutin refuses, but offers cooperation if the pearls are found. Lutin suggests that perhaps his company will have Marlowe followed, but his attitude changes when Marlowe tells him that the man who had the only lead was killed just that day. Lutin asks only that if Philip find anything, he bring it in through them so that can make use of the publicity. Lutin admits that the reward is actually twenty five grand then, and they shake hands before Marlowe leaves. It is almost five when he gets back to the office. The phone rings and a woman's voice suggests he see Rush Madder the attorney about a man and some feet.

Goldfish: Chapters One - Three Analysis

Kathy Horne goes to see Philip Marlowe about a possible windfall for them both. She tells him a story about the theft of some incredibly expensive pearls that Sol Leander had purchased for his wife almost twenty years previously. The pearls were stolen by Wally Sype and never recovered. A twenty five thousand dollar reward was posted. Kathy tells Philip that her current border, Peeler Mardo, knows the current location of Wally Sype and Wally had once confessed that he'd buried the pearls somewhere in



Idaho. His current interests are confined to raising goldfish. Philip has heard enough to be interested, but is still skeptical. Kathy suggests he go and talk to her tenant Peeler, and see how he feels after he has.

Marlowe takes her key, just in case Peeler won't open his door, and drives to Kathy's house. The area reminds him of the last time he was in the Lake District. He and Bernie Ohls had shot and killed gunman Poke Andrews. When no one answers either door, Philip lets himself into Kathy's suite and then in through the connecting door inside. In the bedroom he sees Peeler's feet first, and his mind tries to catch up with what his eyes are seeing. Peeler is on the bed, his feet tied together, draped over the end and badly scorched. His hands are also tied, and his mouth gagged. The body is still warm, so the person responsible hadn't been gone long. Marlowe wipes down everything he might have touched and leaves the same way he came in. Kathy takes the news stoically. Her fingers tighten their grip on the glass she is holding, and her eyes twitch, but she maintains her composure, asking after a moment what she should do. Marlowe suggests she just 'discover' him when she gets home, and tell the police none of the rest of it. On the brighter side, if there is one, he tells her that her story has more weight now.

Marlowe's next stop is the company that insured the Leander pearls. He talks to Lutin, the resident manager in the offices in the Graas Building, asking him if the reward is legitimate, and basically announcing his intentions. Lutin is interested, but highly skeptical that Marlowe will get anywhere. Marlowe leaves after confirming the twenty five thousand dollars is legitimate, and asking for but not receiving a letter of intent from the company. When he gets back to his office, a woman calls and suggest that he have a conversation with lawyer Rush Madder about a guy and some feet.



Goldfish: Chapters Four - Six

Goldfish: Chapters Four - Six Summary

Marlowe heads for the Quorn Building where Rush Madder keeps his office in room 619. Marlowe asks about stones, and the wren who called him, but Madder acts as though he is confused as Marlowe dials the police station in front of him. Before they answer Madder comes clean, telling Marlowe that his friend Carol Donovan picked up Peeler one night after he was well into the drugs and talking about pearls. He talked about a guy but gave no definitive details. Madder tells Marlowe he can get fifty thousand for the pearls and they can split it fifty fifty if they work together. He's happy to cut Carol out, he adds, pouring them both a drink.

Philip soon understands that there is a reason his drink tastes so bad, and he realizes that Rush switched his own drink out for a harmless one. Philip takes a handkerchief out of his pocket, concealing a sap within. Rush doesn't notice until it is too late, and Marlowe hits him square on the top of his head. A second tap on the jaw knocks him out as Marlowe tries to keep his wits. He barricades the door with a chair and heads back to Rush with handcuffs as Carol steps out of the closet holding a .32 and tells him to lie down. He sat, and then sank down the rest of the way. Carol uses his own sap to ensure he finds his way to unconsciousness. When he wakes up, the office has been hastily searched. He leaves without looking at any of it, and drives home. He calls Kathy after changing and packing a bag. She tells him she is alone, but hasn't been for long. Police have come and gone, as has his girl, she tells him. Grimly, he asks if the name of the town up north was mentioned, and Kathy admits it was. He gets on the night plane headed north, sore headed and with an unquenchable thirst.

Marlowe leaves the Snoqualmie Hotel and begins his search for someone who raises goldfish. He tries to talk to two old men on the beach but they aren't much help. Next, he goes to a bar and asks the bartender if he knows anyone who keeps goldfish. The barman is silent, but a man shooting pool alone comes up to the bar and asks for a coke. The bartender leaves for a bathroom break and the pool player asks how Peeler is. Calling himself Sunset (because he always heads west), he asks if Peeler will stay quiet. Marlowe introduces himself as Dodge Willis from El Paso, and assures his new friend that Peeler won't talk.

Goldfish: Chapters Four - Six Analysis

Madder recognizes Marlowe immediately as he sits down and waits for the door to close before quietly asking first if Madder has any ideas about how they can do some business in stones together and then who the wren was who called him. They dance around the subject for a bit more before Marlowe finally uses the word pearls in conversation and Madder's eyes light up. He tells Marlowe that he can get them each twenty five thousand and pours them a drink.



Marlowe soon realizes that he's made four crucial mistakes. The first was getting involved, the second was staying involved after discovering Peeler, the third was letting Rush know that he knew what was going on, and the fourth and most important was the whiskey which had tasted funny from the start. Before he is completely unconscious, he manages to pull out a sap and hit Rush twice, knocking him unconscious. He is all set to cuff him in the chair when Carol steps out of the closet pointing a gun at him. By then, he is unable to resist, and she uses his own sap to put him out all the way. When he wakes, the office has been searched. He leaves everything, going home to change and pack before calling Kathy to confirm what he already suspects. Carol had been there, acting as 'his girl' and knows the location of Wally Sype. Marlowe gets on the next plane.

Marlowe isn't sure where to begin his search, but figures approaching the locals might be his best bet. He sees some old men on the beach and wanders over but has little success understanding them. He wanders up to the nearest bar instead, and asks about goldfish, making the man extremely nervous. A man playing pool comes up and asks how Peeler is, identifying himself for Marlowe. He calls himself Sunset now, and is worried at first that Peeler might talk, but Marlowe assures him that Peeler will stay 'clammed'.



Goldfish: Chapters Seven - Nine

Goldfish: Chapters Seven - Nine Summary

Sunset accompanies Marlowe back to his room where he asks why Peeler didn't come and Marlowe's answer is cryptic. He asks what the top price is, and isn't pleased to hear it is twenty five grand. When Marlowe asks him outright where the 'old guy' was, he knows he's made a mistake. Peeler had that information, and by association, Marlowe should have had as well so he is forced to admit that Peeler is dead. In one second, Sunset is holding a gun, and presses Marlowe for details. They talk about how the twenty five grand will be split, Sunset telling him that his fifty percent is a given. Marlowe doesn't agree, and tells him three are involved all together providing the competition is held at bay. He describes Rush and Carol and then Sunset tells him that Sype's at Westport. They are about to leave when there is a knock at the door. Marlowe opens it to find see two guns. The girl comes in first, telling him to reach for the ceiling.

Marlowe pretends to trip as Carol and Rush come in. Then Sunset reveals himself. Carol is calm as she tells Rush to slam the door. Marlowe knows she'll use the sound to cover the noise her gun will make, so he reaches out and grabs her ankle, pulling her over. The door slams and her gun goes off but the shot is wild. Sunset pretends to be willing to cut them in, and they all get into a cab to go to Sunset's for a drink and to hash out details. Once in his suite, Sunset's plan is to tie them up and leave them there while he and Marlowe go to see Sype. The plan would have worked, but when they get there Rush faints drawing Sunset's attention from Carol for long enough that she has time to fire. The shot kills Sunset and Marlowe kicks her chair out from under her. At gunpoint, he locks her in the bathroom, and taking Sunset's keys, leaves for Westport.

It takes an hour and twenty minutes to get to Westport, and Marlowe stops for ham and eggs at a roadside cottage run by a couple. She cooks while he supplies Marlowe with an apple brandy. They talk about the repeal and how things have changed, remembering how the boats used to unload the liquor on Fridays. By the time his lunch is ready, Marlowe is also getting directions to the house where 'Wallace' lives - the man his host assures him has a variety of goldfish. Marlowe scopes the place before approaching. Then he introduces himself to a woman in the garden who invites him to go inside to talk to Wallace.

Goldfish: Chapters Seven - Nine Analysis

Sunset is unhappy with the amount of money being offered for the Leander pearls. He reminds Marlowe that he doesn't know him and Marlowe asks why he talked to him at all then. Sunset says it is because he had the 'word.' Marlowe takes a wild guess and admits that yes, he knew the password was Goldfish and the Smoke Shop was the right place to ask. It is a once in a lifetime guess that only happens in dreams, and even then usually doesn't work, but Sunset seems satisfied. Then he mistakenly asks where Sype



is or information that Peeler had. Marlowe comes clean about Peeler and Sunset has his gun out in a flash. Marlowe does some fast talking, mostly describing how Rush and Carol had killed Peeler. Sunset calms down somewhat and they talk about what the split will be. Marlowe tells him there are three people in on it in total, and Sunset says he'll accompany Marlowe to Westport but before they can leave, there is a knock on the door.

Carol and Rush think they have the advantage until Sunset makes himself known from behind the door. Marlowe knows that Carol plans to kill Sunset as soon as she tells Rush to slam the door, so he makes sure that's impossible. Having lost the advantage, Carol and Rush are suddenly only too eager to split the reward four ways to keep everyone happy. Sunset suggests they return to his place and drink to their new partnership, but once they get there, Sunset changes the game. He uses his gun to cover Carol and asks Marlowe to get a rope. His intention is to tie them up and leave them, but when Rush faints, it is enough of a distraction to give Carol the opportunity to shoot Sunset dead. Rush remains unconscious on the floor, and Marlowe manages to kick the chair out from under Carol before she turns the gun on him. He locks her in the bathroom before taking Sunset's keys and leaving for Westport.

Marlowe drives to Westport, but is in no hurry to make contact immediately. He stops at a roadside house for lunch, and talks to the owner who tells him about a man who talks fondly about the days before repeal. He asks Marlowe if he is involved in liquor sales, and Marlowe tells him that it's goldfish he is seeking. The proprietor points him to a man named Wallace and tells him where to find him. Marlowe takes his time. He is reasonably sure that although Rush will wake up and free Carol, but that neither of them know about Westport. As such, there is no danger to him, and he can take it slow. He cruises the neighborhood before finally stopping outside the house. A woman is spraying for aphids in the garden, and after he introduces himself, she invites him to go up and see Wallace.



Goldfish: Chapters Ten - Twelve

Goldfish: Chapters Ten - Twelve Summary

The room is filled with fish tanks containing Japanese Veiltails, X-ray fish, guppies and calico popeyes and more. A tall man stands at a table, scraping white fungus from a small red fish. When Marlowe calls him Sype, he tells Philip that he's been pardoned and just wants to be left alone. He says he's done his time and doesn't have the pearls. Philip reminds him of Peeler Mardo. Sype pulls out a gun just as Marlowe registers the fact that a car is pulling up outside. Knowing Sype is prepared to shoot him, Philip doesn't move, and just watches as three people come in.

Carol urges Mrs. Sype forward at gunpoint as Rush follows. Carol instructs Sype to kick over his gun, and then has Rush cover him while she disarms Marlowe but when she tries, Philip hits her on the jaw. She falls back, her gun goes off and Marlowe feels a burning sensation in his ribs. Mrs. Sype shoots her in the back to ensure she isn't getting up. Madder turns and Sype rushes him. Madder shoots twice and as Sype is falling, he shoots again. Philip shoots Madder in the back of the knee to disable but not kill him, and then cuffs him. He takes the Colt from Mrs. Sype as her husband tries to talk to her. Wally dies. He helps move him to the bedroom, and leaves her to grieve.

Marlowe looks at the four Chinese Moors. Two swim at the surface, and two sit at the bottom of the tank. He hauls them out, one at a time, and discovers a lump under them. A suture can be seen, and Marlowe gets to work with a razor blade. Five minutes later, Philip has the Leander pearls in his hand. He goes downstairs and calls the authorities and a doctor. As Philip sits in a rocker on the porch to wait, Mrs. Sype joins him. She tries to convince Marlowe that the pearls he has are fake. This is just a reminder of what he once had. He asks to be able to keep them for sentimental reasons, but Marlowe isn't fooled. She spits on him as the first vehicle arrives.

Goldfish: Chapters Ten - Twelve Analysis

Marlowe admits that the fish were just a ruse to get him in to see Sype, and the man corrects him, introducing himself as Wallace. Marlowe mentions Peeler and at first, the name means nothing to him. Marlowe tells him the whole story, right down to the part about Peeler's death. He tells 'Wallace' about Sunset dying in Olympia, and about the shyster Rush and the girl who is pushing him on, Carol. Sype drops the act, and tells Marlowe that all he wants is to be left alone. He even tries to convince Marlowe that he was never able to find the pearls once he got out of jail, but Philip has a hard time believing that. When Sype turns his back and then turns around again with a gun in his hand, Philip knows he is serious. He can tell by the look in his eyes that if he so much as twitches, Sype is likely to fire. At the same time, he hears the sound of a vehicle coming to a stop outside.



Carol and Rush, alcohol making him braver than usual, push Mrs. Sype in ahead of them while she gloats about Sunset having had a map on him. She disarms them one at a time and Marlowe tries to distract her for a moment longer as Mrs. Sype works her way to her husband's colt. Marlowe loses his patience and forgets that she is a woman long enough to hit her hard on the jaw. She fires on the way down, hitting Marlowe in the ribs, and at the same time Mrs. Sype fires, hitting Carol in the back as she goes down. Wally tackles Rush who shoots him twice, and then a third time as he is falling. Marlowe grabs his gun and shoots him in the knee, cuffing him afterward. Marlowe hears Sype tell his wife, 'The Moors, Hattie...the Moors' before he dies. She asks Marlowe to help her carry him into the bedroom, not wanting to leave him in a room with the likes of Carol and Rush. He leaves her there with him.

Philip finds Madder where he left him, bleeding but not in danger. About four inches long, the our Chinese Moors swim alone in a tank. He notices two of them sluggishly stay near the bottom, and hauls one out, noting the hard bulge underneath and what looks like a small suture. Opening it carefully, he finds the first of the two pearls. The second is in the other fish at the bottom of the tank. When he's retrieved it, he calls the authorities and sits on the front porch to wait. Hattie joins him, and starts talking about the pearls, spinning a tale about how Wally should have been safe there, and how he never did find the real pearls, having had paste imitations made as a keepsake. She asks if she can keep them to remember him by. Marlowe knows better and refuses. Hattie changes, her demeanor more ugly as she spits on him and goes back into the house. Philip thinks about how Kathy Horne will react when she gets the check for over twelve thousand dollars as the first car pulls up.



Red Wind: Chapters One - Three

Red Wind: Chapters One - Three Summary

Marlowe is having a beer in a new joint that opened across the street from where he lives. Only one other customer is in the place, and he looks to be well on his way to a stupor. The young bartender starts up a conversation, introducing himself as Lew Petrolle. The drunk calls out for another Rye, and against his better judgement, Lew serves it to him. Another customer comes in, well dressed and in a hurry. He asks Lew if a lady has been in, describing her in detail. When he hears she hasn't, he asks for a straight Scotch, quickly. He downs it and turns to leave as the drunk gets up, suddenly cold sober. He says 'So long, Waldo' putting two bullets in him and then backs carefully out of the bar and getting into the car left running at the curb by 'Waldo' moments earlier. Philip asks to use the phone but Lew hasn't had one installed yet. When the police and detectives arrive, Marlowe tells them everything he can. They all go down to the police station and then Marlowe heads home.

Philip gets back to his apartment block at about 9pm. When his elevator arrives at the fourth floor, a tall girl is waiting for it. She looks exactly as 'Waldo' had described her, and Marlowe warns her that she shouldn't go out into the street in those clothes. He tells her police are looking for her, and offers to help her. She is reluctant, and presumes first that Philip is trying to pick her up, and then that he is trying to blackmail her. She doesn't begin to trust him until after she is in his suite, has had a drink, and learned that the man she was supposed to meet was dead. A knock at the door startles her, and Marlowe motions for her to hide in the dressing room. Then he opens the door without grabbing a gun first, which in hindsight is a mistake.

The man at the door is the same man who pretended to be sauced in the bar earlier. His .22 is pointed at Marlowe, who backs into the room slowly. Philip asks him what 'Waldo' did to deserve being shot, and he explains their history of doing a bank job and then the snitch that put him away for four years. He admits it was sheer luck that he happened to see him, and that he chose then to come in. He asks Marlowe what the police have on him, and Philip tells him the truth. He sees the door open behind them, and stares hard at the gunmen to hold his attention. She creeps up behind and without a word she jabs the gun into his ribs. He is startled, and Philip uses the moment to knee him in the groin as hard as he can. When his body drops, Marlowe hits his chin again with as much strength as he can. Then he cuffs him. Marlowe tells her that she just bought him forever. She backs out of the apartment without her hat or jacket, and without saying a word. Marlowe calls the police station and tells Copernik that he has the shooter on the floor in cuffs, giving him the address again. Copernik comes alone and Marlowe manages to spin a yarn they can both live with, leaving the woman out of it entirely. Copernik promises to treat Marlowe right if the story he tells downtown is the right one. Marlowe has no problem with that.



Red Wind: Chapters One - Three Analysis

Marlowe walks to the new bar across from his apartment building for a beer, enjoying the novelty of a new place coupled with a bartender who serves a beer poured to the top of the glass. Having only been open for a couple of weeks, the owner hadn't managed to build up any kind of trade yet, and recognized Marlowe as having been in once before. They introduce themselves, and the young bartender asks Marlowe whether or not he should cut off the drunk at the other end of the bar. Marlowe suggests he doesn't, so when he asks for another Rye, Lew pours him one that is more water than alcohol. The door opens and a man comes in, looking for a particular woman. He seems to be in a great hurry, gulping a quick Scotch before heading for the door. The souse rouses himself and before anyone can appreciate his intentions, he shoots the newcomer dead. Then, looking almost sober, he backs out of the bar and leaves in the stranger's still running vehicle. The police arrive. Marlowe and Lew are required to go to the police station to make statements and then Marlowe finally heads home.

He gets back to his apartment at about 9pm and heading up to his suite, he runs into the woman that the stranger described when he entered the bar. Philip tries to help her out by suggesting that she probably shouldn't go out in the outfit she is wearing. She takes his comment the wrong way, assuming it is a bad pick up line, and Philip assures her that is not the case. He tries to explain that police are looking for her, and offers his assistance, but she doesn't believe him. Then, realizing she has little choice, she follows him to his suite. Marlowe gets them a drink and they are just starting to talk when a knock at the door interrupts. He sends her into the dressing room to hide, and goes to the door. His concern for the woman clouds his judgement, and he answers without picking up a gun first.

He recognizes his mistake when he opens the door to find the 'drunk' from the bar facing him down at gunpoint. He backs Marlowe into the room, looking for evidence of company and finding none that worry him. Philip see the door to the dressing room open a little bit and asks the man why he shot the man who came into the bar. He reveals that they had a history. The man he killed had cost him four years in prison, telling the police about his to save himself. He seems to enjoy Marlowe's discomfort, so he hams it up just a bit to keep the man's attention away from the fact that she is creeping up behind him. He is so startled when she presses the gun into his ribs that Marlowe is able to subdue him the rest of the way while she slips out of the door. Marlowe calls the detective he spoke with earlier, and tells him he has a present for him, cuffed and ready for transport. Detective Copernik comes alone, and Marlowe spins a yarn to explain how he was able to subdue and cuff the man. Copernik is willing to massage the truth a little to make himself look good and to explain the whole incident. He even promises to be a future help to Marlowe should he ever need it. Philip is happy with the outcome.



Red Wind: Chapters Four and Five

Red Wind: Chapters Four and Five Summary

Philip goes with Detective Copernik to the station where a stenographer takes their statement. Photos are taken of Copernik and Marlowe, and it is nearly midnight by the time Phillip returns home. As he fumbles for keys, a voice in the darkness says 'Please' and Philip walks over to where the woman sits in her car. She drives down the block, parking again before asking what happened. Philip tells her that he kept her name out of it all. Grateful, she introduces herself as Mrs. Frank C. Barsaly and tells Philip she returned for her pearls. Lola tells him that she had come to purchase a string of pearls from Joseph Coates (Waldo) that evening. They weren't on him, and she wonders if they are in his apartment. He boldly kisses her and she admits to having been unfaithful to Frank. She tells him about Stan Phillips who bought the pearls for her whom she loved deeply. His death in a plane crash devastated her. She sought comfort elsewhere, revealing the existence of the pearls to Joseph, whom she hired as her chauffeur. He steals them from her and agrees to sell them back to her. Philip agrees to go and search his suite, believing there is time before the police discover who he is. The suite reveals other issues. A body is hanging by a belt, long dead. Philip backtracks, wiping all the surfaces he touched, and returns to Lola unsuccessful. After she leaves Philip is reminded of the Packard key chain he saw in Joseph's suite, and breaks in a second time to get them. The keys fit the car outside.

Philip drives to the address on the registration. The house is small without any car parked out front or in the garage. He rings the bell and the woman who answers obviously expected someone else. She is flustered when Philip announces he is there to return her car and when he tells her the person who was driving it is dead, she attracts the attention of a man inside. He comes out to see what is wrong, and Philip tells him an abbreviated version of the story, leaving Lola out. The man admits that he may not have given Waldo enough credit if he managed to take out his man so easily. Philip wants five hundred dollars to leave them out of the story where police are concerned. The man tells him he sent Leon Valesanos to 'Waldo' to buy back some bills for items Miss Kochenko had purchased on his account and then had delivered to the house. The bills were in his briefcase when 'Waldo' had stolen it. 'Waldo' killed him, but then got himself killed. The only issue is that the man who killed 'Waldo' then took his car which likely contained the things both he and the other man were looking for. When he finally asks the man his name, he is stunned to discover he has been talking to Frank Barsaly himself.

Red Wind: Chapters Four and Five Analysis

The chief sits in, as does Ybarra when Philip goes with Detective Copernik to record their formal statements, although Ybarra and Copernik do not so much as look at each other. Afterward, Philip goes back to his apartment where she is waiting outside in her



car. She drives him down the block and asks what happened, seeming surprised to learn that he kept her out of the whole story. Philip reminds her that she saved his life, and he owes her forever, but can't understand why she came back. She tells him she returned for her pearls and Philip can hardly believe that there is even more to this already complicated story. Philip is a soft touch, and because he truly does owe her his life, he agrees to take a look inside Joseph's apartment. When he does, he gets yet another surprise as he finds the body of a small brown man hanging by his belt. He doesn't find the pearls, and wipes all surfaces he may have touched down before going back to tell her he was unsuccessful. She leaves, and Philip goes over the sequence of events in his mind. He can see the keys that were inside, and breaks in a second time to see if the car they belong to yields anything. The keys fit the Packard outside, just as he suspected.

Philip decides to follow up. He drives to the address on the registration, and knocks on the door. A woman answers, and he tries to explain that he is returning her car. When he mentions that the original driver is dead, her response is loud enough to bring a man out to her rescue. The man asks Philip to repeat himself, and Philip goes through it again. He makes the man an offer that is hard to refuse. For five hundred dollars, he will ensure that they are kept out of the investigation entirely. He learns the identity of the small brown man left dead in Joseph's apartment, and discovers that the couple is also looking for something that 'Waldo' stole. For them, it is a brief case containing receipts charged to him for things she picked up and had delivered to that address. Where this would ordinarily not be an issue, the fact that he is married complicates things. Philip suggests that the information they are both seeking is likely in the car that 'Waldo' left running at the curb and was taken by his killer. Most surprising of all is the last bit of information Philip gleans from the couple - his name. The man identifies himself as Frank Barsaly.



Red Wind: Chapters Six and Seven

Red Wind: Chapters Six and Seven Summary

A man in the lobby gives Philip a barely passing glance as he goes up to find Copernik and Ybarra sitting in his apartment. Copernik tosses Lola's jacket and straw hat onto the card table. He asks where the items came from, and accuses Marlowe of knowing who she was the whole time. Then he reveals that they've discovered the body, and found Waldo's car complete with the string of pearls that Lola is trying to recover. The real surprise is that the pearls are a fake. Philip tells them the whole story, and afterward, Ybarra asks him what he wants. At first Copernik threatens to shoot him instead, but Ybarra steps up and backs him down, taking his gun right out of his hand. They leave Philip the items he asks for, and leave. Philip adds one more thing as Ybarra is leaving. He tells him that if Barsaly's name stays out of the reports, he stands to make five hundred dollars and will happily donate it to the Police Fund.

Philip calls Lola and gives her the news that her pearls were swapped out for fakes using the original clasp. He arranges to meet with her the next day. Then he takes the fakes to a jewelry store and has another fake set made up, exchanging the clasp. The jeweler confirms that the pearls are fake and Philip keeps them aside, giving Lola the phony ones he had made up. She agrees that they aren't her pearls, and he asks her to make the five hundred dollars out to the Policeman's Fund. Before he leaves, she reveals that she and Frank are separating, and Philip expresses his regret, but since they don't run in the same circles, it is unlikely that they will see each other again. He tells her to call if she is ever bothered. Then he drives to the ocean and takes apart the strand of fake pearls and tosses them into the ocean one at a time to the memory of another four-flusher.

Red Wind: Chapters Six and Seven Analysis

Philip can smell police when he finally returns to Berglund apartments. Copernik tells him he is low on liquor, and announces how he has always hated private dicks, but never had the chance he has now. He takes his open right hand and hits Philip across the face. Philip does nothing. They found Lola's jacket and hat, as well as Waldo's car containing the pearls and while Philip is looking down at them, Copernik hits him with a closed fist, and tells him to sit. When Philip learns that the pearls are fake, he tells them the whole story. Ybarra is willing to work with Philip, and all he wants is the hat, jacket and fake pearls, but Copernik suggests they just shoot him instead. Ybarra takes the gun from him, and Philip tells Ybarra about the reward he stands to collect, agreeing to donate it to the Policeman's Fund.

After they leave, Philip calls Lola and makes sure she is okay. He has a fake set of pearls made, not wanting Lola to know that the man she loved so much was nothing more than a four flusher like all the rest. He gives her the fake pearls the next day, and



she confirms that they are not the same ones as she was given. Frank called her to tell her he was leaving her, and while she claims to have little to smile about that day, Philip knows that her life can only improve from here. Since they don't typically run in the same circles, he doubts that he will see her again, but he does tell her that if anyone ever bothers her, she should call him. He has her make out the cheque to the Policeman's Fund, and then leaves. From there, he drives to the beach where he commits the original pearls to the sea, protecting Lola's memory of her one lost love forever.



Characters

Philip Marlowe appears in All Four Stories

Philip Marlowe is a private detective of some reputation. Philip has brown eyes that are warm and flecked with gold. Philip is just over six feet tall and weighs about one hundred and ninety five pounds. He lives in an apartment complex called the Berglund on the fourth floor. Philip is a decent man, who lives by a code that is fair and mostly honest.

Philip is the kind of private detective that will put himself out on a limb or in harm's way to help almost any woman who asks him for aid. He isn't afraid to bill for his services, but sometimes finds himself working for free because circumstances don't lend themselves to billing. Trouble is his business, although he is often so surrounded by it, that he prefers not to use the tag line as much as he once did.

In the course of this novel, Philip is shot, punched, followed, and lied to. He often finds himself doing the job of the police for them, despite their lack of respect for him. He is tough and competent, intelligent and resourceful.

Harriet Huntress appears in Trouble Is My Business

Harriet Huntress is a red-headed woman with what some would refer to as bedroom eyes. She acts as a shill for a gambler and Philip Marlowe has been hired to deal with her. Harriet lives in the nineteen hundred block of North Sycamore in the El Milano.

Harriet's father jumped from his office window after going broke in 1931. Harriet has eyes that are the same kind of blue as a lapis-lazuli. They are wide set and intelligent. She has dusky red hair and her make up is applied with skill. She is just a little too tall to be considered cute and smokes using a three-inch mouth piece.

Harriet and her family were once in the Social Register and Jeeter had ruined them to such a degree that her father committed suicide. Now, with a younger sister in school in the East and she is willing to even marry Jeeter's adopted son

Mr. Gerald Jeeter (Senior) appears in Trouble Is My Business

Mr. Jeeter is a wealthy man who hires Anna Halsey to help him discourage a shill named Harriet Huntress who has managed to get her hooks into his adopted son. He is a tall man with white blond hair. His face is keen and sharp, although his eyes have small pouches under them and his lips are a little on the thick side for the rest of his face. He is well dressed, carrying a thin, platinum octagonal watch, sporting a pink



rosebud in his lapel, and carrying a cane made of ebony with a silver knob on top. His shoes are spats and his age looks to be around sixty.

Mr. Jeeter is used to getting his own way and doesn't appreciate being kept waiting for anyone. He is described by those who work for him as a man so tight his head squeaks when his hat is removed. Jeeter owns an assortment of investment companies.

Anna Halsey appears in Trouble Is My Business

Anna Halsey is approximately two hundred and forty pounds. She is a middle-aged woman who has eyes that are as black as buttons and a soft, ruddy complexion. Anna is a detective, but makes her living in a way that doesn't get her hands dirty. When more is required from her, she farms out the work she requires to those more suited to field work. She smokes cigarettes in a long, black holder.

John D. Arbogast appears in Trouble Is My Business

Arbogast is the expert who was hired by Anna Halsey to authenticate a selection of photostats taken of fifty thousand dollars worth of notes that Mr. Jeeter's son gave to Marty Estel. John is incredibly overweight. Even larger than Anna Halsey, John has a face that resembles a pink basketball. He has gray hair that is cut short and his dark suit is in need of a cleaning. His neck is a series of folds and his small feet are tucked into shiny black shoes.

Marty Estel appears in Trouble Is My Business

Marty is a gambler who works with a red headed shill named Harriet Huntress. While not known for violence, Marty has a reputation for being a bit of a tough guy. Marty is tall, has dark hair and has a dangerous, but suave air about him. Marty holds a five thousand dollar gambling note against Jeeter junior.

Gladys appears in Trouble Is My Business

Gladys is Anna Halsey's receptionist/secretary. She has blond hair, and is a tall woman. She is a looker, and even Marlowe can't help asking if she has a steady guy. The question isn't well received by Anna who promptly informs Philip that she is worth eighteen thousand dollars a year in divorce business, and any interference, even by Marlowe would be cause for cremation.

Gerald Jeeter appears in Trouble Is My Business

Junior is a large, blond man, red faced from too much alcohol. He plays a reasonable game of golf and thinks he is a gift to womankind everywhere. Junior comes into a



substantial amount of money - five million dollars - once he turns twenty eight and his estate comes out of trust. Until then, he lives on an allowance of one thousand dollars a month.

Frisky Lavon appears in Trouble Is My Business

Frisky is a punk who has bristly red hair and bat like ears. His feet are small and he wears dirty white sneakers, looking somewhat like a terrier. His gun looks too big and he smells of menthol. He breathes noisily through his mouth.

Waxnose appears in Trouble Is My Business

Waxnose is a tall man who wears his hat low in the front. His face is wedge shaped and pointed at the end the same way an ace of spades looks at the bottom. His eyes are dark and his nose is unusually white. He carries a Colt Woodsman that has the sight filed off making the barrel look even longer, confident of his ability to shoot accurately. Waxnose allows Frisky to hang around with him, helping to keep him safe by controlling his actions. He never lets Frisky carry a loaded weapon, taking the firing pin out to ensure he doesn't act too impulsively.

George appears in Trouble Is My Business

George is the driver sent by Jeeter senior to pick Philip up after he is surprised in his apartment by Waxnose and Frisky. He is tall, and broad shouldered with wavy, dark brown hair and eyebrows. His teeth are clean and white and his eyes are black and glitter with intelligence. George is college educated, having attended Dartmouth, having paid for his education with three square meals and a uniform. He is an excellent marksman, and describes himself as a man who takes chances.

George smokes, and wears a peaked cap with a Russian tunic and Sam Browne belt.

Detective Lieutenant Finlayson appears in Trouble Is My Business

Detective Finlayson works out of Central Homicide. He is older than Sebold, and looks like the kind of policeman who has failed to advance.

Ben Sebold appears in Trouble Is My Business

Sebold has salt and pepper hair, and is younger and better looking than Finlayson. Together they question Philip Marlowe about the death of Frisky Lavon. Ben is less than patient during this questioning, partially because his wife left him two days earlier.



Fenweather appears in Finger Man

Fenweather is a district attorney who looks the part. He has gray temples - the kind that appeal to women, and his features are chiseled and severe.

Frank Dorr appears in Finger Man

Frank is large in the political scene. He is often referred to as a fixer - the man you would need to see if you had any desire to run girls, gambling, or even just sell honest goods in the city. He is such a large man that he waddles when he walks. He has a fat face and just a fringe of white hair that sticks up in places. He has small, sharp eyes and his hands are small and delicate. He is partial to a large black Persian cat named Toby that he refers to as his only girlfriend.

Bernie Ohls appears in Finger Man

Chief investigator for district attorney Fenweather. Bernie is of medium size, and has white eyebrows. He is a bland man with a deeply cleft and out thrust chin. Bernie smokes small cigars.

Louis N. Harger appears in Finger Man

Lou is a very good looking young man with red, full lips, dark hair and eyebrows. His skin is olive and clear. Lou recently was forced to close his gambling establishment because he was unable to cover the 'tax' money that it cost him to operate in town. Lou has a way to regain some of the money he lost. He discovers that Canales has purchased one of his old roulette wheels - a wheel he knows well, and can beat. His plan is to play, and take Canales for as much as he can, but he needs Marlowe to watch his back. The plan works and he and his lady friend manage to win almost twenty two thousand dollars, but Lou will never be able to spend it. He is found dead, shot once in the chest, the next morning.

Art Shannon appears in Finger Man

Victim of murder that Manny Tinnen is indicted for after Philip Marlowe's testimony to the grand jury. Art was shot full of lead and then pushed out of a car by Manny who cut the ropes on wrists before leaving. Art was a straight shooter who kept the Board in line and without him, the grafters would have a much easier time of things.

Miss Glenn appears in Finger Man

A tall red headed girl, she is not quite described as beautiful, but definitely more than just pretty. She looks to be about thirty years old.



Canales appears in Finger Man

Canales is a slight and pale looking man who has black hair that is straight and lusterless. His forehead is high and bony, and his eyes flat and impenetrable. He has a thin mustache trimmed in two even lines that come down below his mouth by an inch. His overall appearance is a combination of Oriental and Negroid. He walks with economy of motion, and his feet turned outward a fair distance, increase his Negroid appearance.

Tom Sneyd appears in Finger Man

Taxi driver for the Green Top Cab company who traded vehicles for an hour with Lou in exchange for a hundred dollars.

Kathy Horne appears in Goldfish

Kathy is a former policewoman who is now a seedy looking, sad eyed blond. Kathy is a tall woman with china blue eyes who made the mistake of marrying a check bouncer named Johnny, thinking she would be able to reform him. Now, she works at the Mansion House, manning the cigar counter. She has a soft heart.

Sol Leander appears in Goldfish

Sol is a lumberman from the north who purchased a pair of pearls for his wife worth two hundred thousand dollars. They are subsequently stolen from a mail truck and now have a twenty five thousand dollar reward attached to them.

Wally Sype appears in Goldfish

Wally is a thief who was caught after robbing a mail truck and shooting the driver nineteen years earlier. He spent fifteen years in Leavenworth before being offered parole if he would return the goods he stole. He returns everything but the Leander pearls, claiming they were never part of his heist, and the parole board believes him and sets him free. One time, in all the years he was in jail, he drank too much and told his cell mate that he buried the pearls in Idaho. Wally is married to Hattie and now lives in Westport, trying to put the past behind him.

Peeler Mardo appears in Goldfish

Peeler is an ex-con who is rooming at Kathy Horne's house. He talks in his sleep and when Kathy questioned him, he admitted to being an ex-con and to the inside information gleaned from Wally when they shared a cell. He claims to know where Sype



is. Peeler is a small man, standing only five foot four inches in height. He has brown, thin hair and his ears look larger than they should be.

Rush Madder appears in Goldfish

Rush is best described as an ambulance chaser. He's a lawyer who works out of the Quorn Building in room 619. Rush is thick set man, fifty years of age, with an oily complexion and a round, soft chin. He is about five feet nine inches tall and weighs about a hundred and eighty pounds. He has heavy, black eyebrows and a mustache like Charlie Chan - the latter making his face look even fatter than it already was. His hair is thinning on top and he isn't much for bravery. His fingers betray a nicotine habit.

Carol Donovan appears in Goldfish

A friend of Rush Madder's, Carol is the wren that called Marlowe suggesting he go to see Rush about a man and some feet. She had seen Marlowe go into Kathy's house, and come out again. No police had been called afterward. Carol has slate gray eyes that are cold and lighthearted at the same time. She has shiny, long black hair that she wears in a long bob and her face is young, delicate, and hard as a chisel at the same time. Carol is between twenty five and twenty eight years old and weighs about a hundred and twenty pounds.

Lew Petrolle appears in Red Wind

Lew has just opened a bar located right across the street from the Berglund apartments where Marlowe lives. He opens on a shoestring budget of just eight hundred dollars, and is so strapped financially that he doesn't even have a phone yet. Lew is in his early twenties, and looks out of place as a bartender. He is responsible for his age, worrying about his customers when they've obviously had too much. Lew's father used to own a grape ranch in Contra Costa County near Antioch. It is his gift of a thousand dollars that Lew uses to open his new business.

Lew isn't as rattled by the murder in his bar as he could have been. By the time they are ready to leave the police station, he is already seeing the upside, knowing that when word of the murder gets out, people will come into his bar just to get his first hand account of the story.

Detective Lieutenant Copernik appears in Red Wind

Copernik is a large man with a long jaw. He is raw-boned and has the glassy eyes and veined nose of a heavy drinker. He looks as though he might think he is a little tougher than he really is. He has blond, ratty looking hair and wears a felt hat. His face is long, mean, and horse-like. Copernik is interested in both the woman that was described, and in the timing and circumstances surrounding 'Waldo's' death.



Ybarra appears in Red Wind

The second of the first two detectives to arrive, he is short and smooth in appearance. He has black, curly hair and intelligent, soft eyes.

Mrs. Frank C. Barsaly (Lola) appears in Red Wind

Mrs. Barsaly is a tall young woman with wavy brown hair and wide, blue eyes and long eyelashes. She is wearing a straw hat with a wide brim, velvet band and loose bow; a blue dress that could have been described as crepe silk, and a jacket that could be a print bolero jacket. Her voice is soft and light and she smells faintly of sandalwood.

Her husband is a hydroelectric engineer who works all over the world. They live at twelve Fremont Place.

Joseph Coates (aka 'Waldo' Ratigan) appears in Red Wind

Waldo is tall at five foot eleven inches or so with dark, brown eyes. He is slim and to Marlowe his mouth and nose appear to be too thin. He is wearing a dark suit revealing a white handkerchief in his top pocket. Joseph was a chauffeur who lived on the third floor of the same building as Marlowe lived in - the Berglund apartments.

According to the 'drunk' man, Joseph talked to police and caused him four years in Michigan for a bank job they pulled. He was the getaway driver.

Al Tessilore (Drunk from bar) appears in Red Wind

He has bright but shallow eyes, somewhat like a lizard, and his hairline ends right where a hat would normally begin. His voice is hoarse and soft, as though he had been hit in the windpipe at some point in his life. Al pretends to be past his alcoholic limit until Joseph Coates comes into the bar. Then, suddenly sober, Al shoots Joseph dead to repay him for snitching on his about a bank robbery, yielding him four years in a Michigan prison.

Stan Phillips appears in Red Wind

Mrs. Lola Barsaly's lover is a man who was killed in a plane crash after giving Lola fifteen thousand dollars worth of pearls.



Miss Kolchenko appears in Red Wind

Miss Kolchenko is a tall, lean brunette with thick black hair that she wears parted down the middle. Her cheekbones are rouged, and her toenails are gilded. She has a large mouth, red rimmed eyes, and wears miniature temple bells as earrings. She smokes using a long cigarette holder. She is of Russian descent and looks tough.

Frank Barsaly appears in Red Wind

A large, blond, hard-looking man, Frank weighs about two hundred pounds. He has gray eyes that are colorless as ice and a solid voice. His skin is tanned.



Objects/Places

Philip Marlowe Investigations appears in All

Marlowe's office, and business consisting of a reception area that has one old davenport, a couple of chairs on a bit of carpet and a library of old magazines, and an inner, private office with his name lettered on the door. His office has a desk with a swivel chair and a couple of wooden chairs.

El Milano appears in Trouble Is My Business

This is a high class building on the 1900 block of North Sycamore where Harriet Huntress lives. It is Moorish in style with lanterns and date palms in the forecourt, and marble steps, which lead up through a framed arch of dishpan or California mosaic.

Frail appears in Trouble Is My Business

This is the descriptive name Marlowe gives to Mr. Hawkins to describe Miss Huntress.

Calvello Drive appears in Trouble Is My Business

This is the street on which Frisky Lavon is killed and directly across from where Jeeter senior lives.

Central Homicide appears in Trouble Is My Business

This is the office out of which Sebold and Finlayson work.

Las Olindas appears in Finger Man

This is the Canales' place where Lou Harger plans to make a big score by playing a roulette wheel that he knows better than its' new owners do.

1925 Marmon Touring Car appears in Finger Man

This is Philip Marlowe's transportation of choice.

De Cazens Boulevard appears in Finger Man

This is the main drag of Las Olindas.



Hotel Carillon appears in Finger Man

This is the hotel on Towne Boulevard where Lou tells the hack driver to meet him to exchange cars again.

Hobart Arms appears in Finger Man

This is located in the eight-hundred block of South Minter. It is where Miss Glenn lives and where she and Lou were after winning Canales' money.

Lorraine Hotel appears in Finger Man

This is the hotel that Marlowe takes Miss Glenn to in order to keep her safe while he tries to sort things out with Canales.

Green Top Garage appears in Finger Man

This is the cab company on Deviveras that Tom Sneyd works for.

Mansion House Hotel appears in Goldfish

This is where Kathy Horne works.

Leander Pearls appears in Goldfish

These are purchased by Sol Leander for his wife nineteen years previously and stolen by Wally Sype when he robbed the registered mail truck.

Leavenworth appears in Goldfish

This is the prison where Wally Sype spent fifteen years of his sentence for robbing the registered mail truck.

Olympia, Washington appears in Goldfish

This is the location where Wally Sype is supposed to be living.

Gray Lake District appears in Goldfish and Finger Man

This is the region in which Kathy Horne lives and where Philip had recently helped Bernie Ohls shoot gunman Poke Andrews.



Reliance Indemnity Company appears in Goldfish

This company has its offices in the Graas Building. They are the company that offered the reward for the Leander pearls.

Quorn Building appears in Goldfish

This is the building where Rush Madder has his law practice in room 619.

Snoqualmie Hotel appears in Goldfish

Located in Olympia, Washington, the Snoqualmie Hotel is on Capital Way and is Marlowe's first stop in Washington.

Berglund Apartments appears in Red Wind

This is the name of the apartments where both Philip Marlowe lives and Joseph Coates lived in.

Antioch, Contra Costa County appears in Red Wind

This is the area in which Lew's father owned a grape ranch and used the proceeds to stake Lew with a thousand dollars that Lew uses to open his bar.

Lola Barsaly's Pearls appears in Red Wind

A string of forty-one white pearls, the largest of them is a third of an inch in diameter. They are held together with a simple clasp that resembled a two-bladed propeller. One small diamond sits where the boss would be.

Argentina appears in Red Wind

This is where Lola's husband was when she hired Joseph who later steals her string of pearls and offers them back to her for five thousand dollars.

Russian Malachite Jewelry Box appears in Red Wind

This is the location where Lola kept her pearls along with other costume jewelry on her dressing table.

Themes

Lies Have Short Legs

An expression heard often in some generations, 'lies have short legs' implies that by telling a lie, you won't get far. This is exemplified in more than one of the stories that Raymond Chandler assembled for *Trouble Is My Business*. In the first story, named for the book, Philip Marlowe takes on a case for another detective who is physically unable to conquer the demands required of her. Anna Halsey is honest and forthcoming when she tells him that she is looking for a man with good enough looks to pick up a woman with class, and tough enough to take on a power shovel; someone who will be at home on a bar stool and able to carry a good line. Philip Marlowe takes this case and his instructions are to smear a girl. Philip needs to get enough leverage to convince her to quit her current course of action. The woman in question is Harriet Huntress. Philip first tries to discuss the case with the investigator hired by Anna, John D. Arbogast. Arbogast is dead. Philip later discovers that Arbogast likely tried to use information he discovered to engineer a larger cut of the pie, and was eliminated for his efforts. Philip goes on to attempt to get into Harriet's apartment. He tries to bribe the parking attendant, who turns out to be an honest citizen who appreciates his job - strike one. Then he approaches the desk clerk, claiming to be Marty Estel, sure that the name will get him in the door. It doesn't. The clerk knows Marty Estel and immediately calls for the help of a house detective - strike two. Philip tells the house detective that he isn't really Marty - the desk clerk misunderstood. Marty sent him, he says, and offers a bonus for a ride up the elevator. The house detective takes a ten-dollar bribe and delivers him to Harriet's door. Once inside, his lies catch up with him. Harriet is no push over, and the man Philip is being paid to dissuade her from is hiding in the suite. Philip wakes later, alone in the suite but for the body in the bedroom, and with a four star headache.

A better approach for Philip might have been honesty from the start. Perhaps had he called Harriet and invited her to join him for a frank discussion, he might have accomplished the same thing in a public place without the headache or lighter wallet. Lies have a way of bending back to you and finding you out when you least expect them to. With Philip and likely for the sake of expedience, his lies were found out very quickly but even years can pass and the impact of a lie will follow and its use paid for.

The Truth Shall Set You Free

In *Finger Man*, Philip Marlowe finds himself in a very precarious position. He has been set up as the patsy to take the fall for a murder. Lou Harger and Marlowe are already well acquainted when he approaches Philip for help. He's looking for someone to watch his back while he takes advantage of some inside knowledge he has regarding the new roulette wheel purchased for Canales. He has been struggling to meet the demands Frank Dorr has for anyone who wants to operate a business in his area, and Lou believes that he can take a financial shortcut by outsmarting the house. He owned the



roulette wheel prior to its move, and knows its eccentricities well. When Lou is killed later that night, Philip is set up to take the fall for his murder. The woman Philip gambled with, Miss Glenn, and the croupier, Pina, are both in on the crime that has been orchestrated through Frank Dorr. She delivers the money Lou won to Philip, claiming it is for safekeeping, and giving him a story about how Lou was killed and how she was forced to hide with his body until morning.

What sets Philip free is his honesty. He tells the detective investigating the case the entire story, and in the process manages to reveal his alibi for the murder. When he and the assistant district attorney go to have a chat with the cab driver who is his witness and alibi, they find two thugs in the process of trying to end his life (and Philip's alibi). Once they are dealt with, Philip continues to Frank Dorr's mansion after Dorr insists that he bring the money and in return, Philip insists that Miss Glenn be there to receive it. Dorr lives up to his end, but Frank holds back. Instead, he reconstructs the crime, watching their expressions to see who is in on it, and how deep. In his recitation of events, he discovers the chauffeur and his boss are behind the murder, and Canales himself begins the shootout that eliminates all involved excepting Miss Glenn who is revealed to be another victim, forced to participate against her will. Philip could have waited for the police to iron things out and there is no doubt that he would have been vindicated, however, by telling the truth first to police and then to lure out the true perpetrators, he set himself and Miss Glenn free.

Money Isn't Everything

In Goldfish, Marlowe faces a different kind of case. In this story, he is hired to help find a pair of pearls called the Leander pearls. The Leander pearls were originally purchased by Sol Leander for his wife, costing him two hundred thousand dollars. Sol was a lumberman from up north, and sent the pearls by registered mail to his wife. Wally Sype learned about the transfer, and holds up the registered mail truck, killing the postman and stealing the pearls along with other items of value. Wally is caught, but not before he manages to hide the pearls. He is sentenced to Leavenworth. After fifteen long years of hard time, Wally is offered a deal. If he returns the things he stole, they will set him free. Wally agrees, but insists he never had the pearls to begin with, and is convincing enough to acquire his freedom. He finds his way to a small town where he and his wife try to retire in peace.

The pearls and the notoriety surrounding them will not disappear however. The insurance company still has a twenty five thousand dollar reward out for anyone who can find them, and a former cell mate of Wally's claims that Wally admitted to stealing them and hiding them in the desert somewhere. When he tells this story to his landlady one night, she slowly pieces the story together and takes it to Philip, claiming they will split the reward three ways. Before Philip can confirm any of this with her tenant, the tenant is tortured to death. His freedom was lost for the sake of the lure of 'easy' money. Philip is not deterred by the events. He follows the trail, and he is in turn followed to Olympia where Sunset gives Philip the location of Wally Sype and his wife. Trouble follows, and Sunset is killed. Philip manages to get away, and drives to the small town



of Westport to see Wally. He takes his time, assuming that those who have been following could not possibly know of his destination. They find the name of the town in Sunset's belongings and follow, arriving just as Philip is talking to Wally. They find more resistance than they expect. Wally and his wife fight back with Philip. One on each side is killed with Wally losing his life in the confrontation and in his dying breath, reminding his wife where the pearls are hidden. Philip retrieves them, knowing that his sole remaining partner will appreciate her share, but also aware of the many who lost their lives dreaming about a share. The mailman; Peeler, Wally's cellmate; Sunset, his friend; Wally and one of the murderers all die for the sake of pearls stolen nineteen years previously. The cost of the pearls far outweighs the value because money isn't everything. Freedom and life are far more valuable.



Style

Point of View

Trouble Is My Business is a collection of four short stories that are all told in the first-person perspective. The perspective is always given through the eyes of the main character, which is dominant throughout the four stories, Philip Marlowe. Philip is a private detective. Each tale is a case as seen through his eyes. The narration is reliable and consistent throughout and told in the pulp fiction, detective style of magazines that were made popular during the late twenties and early thirties. For the most part, the plots are simple, and the characters represented are surrounded by violence and ruthlessness. The basic plot lines all follow a predictable format in which Marlowe is presented with a seemingly impossible case. Regardless of the situation, the good guys will always win, despite overwhelming odds and often what appears to be insurmountable misfortune. Working side by side with the law, or just within the fringes of it, private detective Philip Marlowe is called upon to right wrongs and help damsels in distress, often at his own peril. Despite the sticky situations he faces, justice prevails, as do the men who serve her, giving the reader a sense that all is right in the world and that normal and honest people are safe.

Setting

Trouble Is My Business is a collection of four short stories that are set in a variety of locations. The first story, titled like the book itself, takes place entirely in California where Philip Marlowe is a private detective. The bulk of Philip's investigations in most of his stories are conducted out of his office in Beverly Hills. In the first story he does spend a small amount of time in Bel-Air, solving the crime in that district. In the second story, *Finger Man*, Philip Marlowe again works out of his Beverly Hills office, trying to unravel a mystery that begins with Lou Harger asking him to watch his back in a casino. When Lou is killed soon after, and Philip is framed for his murder, he must convince the authorities to investigate further. A trip to the Lake District reveals the truth and then Philip is taken to the foothills where the real killer is revealed. In the third story, *Goldfish*, Marlowe is enticed with a story about Leander pearls valued at two hundred thousand dollars. The man who stole them served fifteen years in jail and never reveals their location. Now, in a bid to collect a twenty-five thousand dollar finders fee, Marlowe travels to Olympia, Washington first and after identifying where the pearls were being kept hidden, he drives from there to Westport, which is about an hour and twenty minutes from Olympia.

Language and Meaning

Raymond Chandler wrote *Trouble is My Business* in 1934. It is a collection of four stories that center around the skills and escapades of a private detective named Philip



Marlowe. The stories are told in authentic time period, using phrases that were common then, but have since been updated or changed. These words and phrases include such gems as wren instead of girl; gargle to mean drink; bucket in place of jail; fireflies to describe pearls; shamus instead of private detective; and a prowl car instead of patrol car and more. Since he lived in this time period and wrote his stories then, it was easy for him to maintain an authenticity that might have otherwise been done with less attention to detail. The main character, Philip Marlowe, is consistent throughout a great number of his books, all of which would likely be described as pulp fiction, a genre that he set a standard for. Despite the fact that Raymond Chandler died in 1959, his collection of fiction surrounding the private eye Philip Marlowe ranks highly alongside some of the best in twentieth century literature. His major works will likely be remembered and enjoyed for generations to come.

Structure

Trouble Is My Business by Raymond Chandler is a book that contains four separate stories, all written around his main character of private detective Philip Marlowe. The book begins with the story that it is named for - Trouble Is My Business. It is forty one pages in length and contains eight chapters in total. The second story, called Finger Man is eleven chapters in length and contains thirty eight pages in total. The third story in this collection is called Goldfish, and it is thirty two pages in length and has twelve chapter. The fourth and final story is called Red Wind. It is thirty seven pages in length and contains seven chapters. Each of these stories is a self contained mystery or who done it, although there are some overlapping details beyond the use of the detective as the main character. In Finger Man, for example, Philip Marlowe makes a reference to a particular section of town that he and the assistant district attorney, Bernie Ohls, were involved in a shoot-out in the first story titled Trouble Is My Business. The title of the book is also Marlowe's signature phrase, until of course it gets much more use than even he bargains for. Each of the stories in this novel involve Chandler's iconic private eye and follow a format that he used for years throughout his major works.



Quotes

"I need a guy who can act like a bar lizard and backchat like Fred Allen, only better, and get hit on the head with a beer truck and think some cutie in the leg-line topped him with a breadstick" (Chapter 1, p. 9).

"Old man Jeeter ruined my father - all proper and legitimate, the way that kind of heel ruins people - but he ruined him, and my father committed suicide, and my mother died and I've got a kid sister back East in school and perhaps I'm not too damn particular how I get the money to take care of her" (Chapter 3, p. 19).

"Listen, If you want to call all the plays in this game, you can carry the ball yourself" (Chapter 5, p.. 28).

"So I went over to see Miss Huntress and after a lot of finagling around with this itchy-handed house dick I got to see her and we had a chat, and then Mister Gerald stepped neatly out of hiding and bopped me a nice one on the chin and over I went and hit my head on a chair leg" (Chapter 7, p. 45).

"I know he's a big politico, a fixer you have to see if you want to open a gambling hell or a bawdy house - or if you want to sell honest merchandise to the city" (Chapter 1, p. 51).

"A guy and a jane come up alongside me in the Buick and the guy offers me a hundred bucks to let him wear my cap and drive my hack into town" (Chapter 4, p. 60).

"The only reason you ain't in the tank upstairs is they're not sure but it would be better to knock you off and take a chance" (Chapter 8, p. 76).

"I'm clear now.... regardless of who turns in what fairy tale.... And the lad that were sent to scotch my alibi ran into some trouble" (Chapter 11, p. 87).

"He said he never had the pearls and they must have halfway believed him because they gave him the pardon" (Chapter 1, p.. 91).

"If I knew enough, I wouldn't be here, and if you knew enough, you wouldn't want me here" (Chapter 4, p. 99).

"Burn a guy's feet to make him sing and then walk right into the parlor of one of his pals" (Chapter 8, p. 108).

"There'll always be a couple or three with time enough and money enough and meanness enough to bear down" (Chapter 10, p. 115).

"Better not go out on the street in those clothes" (Chapter 2, p. 127).

"And when your two hundred pounds of beef came back from Argentina and kicked him out - he took the pearls because he knew they were real" (Chapter 4, p. 141).

"I always did hate private dicks, but I never had a chance to twist one like I got tonight" (Chapter 6, p. 150).

Topics for Discussion

Who is Phillip Marlowe's client in *Trouble Is My Business*? What is he hired to do? Why? What misdirection is used in this story and by whom?

How many people are killed in the first of the four stories in this book? Which character is Marlowe accused of killing? How does he manage to avoid arrest? What methods in this period mystify him to some degree? Why does he find them so surprising?

Who is the bad guy in the first story? What is his motivation? How is his involvement unraveled by Marlowe? Who escapes? Why is this escape allowed? What happens to the others involved?

In *Finger Man*, how many people are set up for murder? Who are they? Why is each one set up, and what causes them to be eliminated or no longer useful as a patsy? Who actually commits the murders in this story?

In *Goldfish*, what mystery is presented to Philip and by whom? What item is missing, and how long has it been since last it was last seen? What were the circumstance of the disappearance?

In *Goldfish*, what happens that loosely ties this story with the first one in the book? What specific reference is made that shows some kind of continuity, and between which characters?

In *Red Wind*, where is Frank when Lola becomes involved with Joseph? What information does she share with him? What happens as a result?

What twist surprises Marlowe in *Red Wind*? Where is he at the time? Which characters are involved and how?

What thefts do *Red Wind* and *Goldfish* have in common? What is the difference between these items? Who do they belong to legitimately? What happens to these items in both stories?

What facts are consistent throughout all four stories? What character or characters are consistent throughout all four stories? Which locations are consistent?

What kindness does Philip show Lola, and what must he do in order to make it all work out? Why is he compelled to do this for her? What does he do to ensure that she never knows the truth?

How does Philip manage to get out of trouble with the police in *Red Wind*? What details, if any, does he leave out when he talks to them about his involvement?