

# **The Whole Enchilada Study Guide**

**The Whole Enchilada by Diane Mott Davidon**

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# Contents

<a href="#">The Whole Enchilada Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Prologue, Chapters 1-5.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 6-10.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 11-14.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 15-17.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 18-20.....</a>	<a href="#">31</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 21-23.....</a>	<a href="#">36</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 24-25, Epilogue.....</a>	<a href="#">41</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">46</a>
<a href="#">Symbols and Symbolism.....</a>	<a href="#">53</a>
<a href="#">Settings.....</a>	<a href="#">57</a>
<a href="#">Themes and Motifs.....</a>	<a href="#">59</a>
<a href="#">Styles.....</a>	<a href="#">62</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">64</a>



## Plot Summary

The Whole Enchilada is a 2013 novel by award-winning mystery/suspense novelist Diane Mott Davidson. When local artist Holly Ingleby dies after attending a joint birthday party for her son Drew and Goldy Schulz's son Arch, most people in the small community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado are shocked, but there is one person who isn't: the person who killed her. Goldy Schulz – owner of Goldilocks' Catering and amateur detective – believes from the first that there may be more to her friend Holly's death than meets the eye, and when a popular priest named Father Pete and a woman named Kathie Beliar are attacked (and Kathie is killed) in the church office of St. Luke's Episcopal the very next day, Goldy becomes convinced that Holly was murdered and the two incidents are connected. As Goldy and her friend Marla Korman search for clues both in the present and in the past which they hope will lead them to the killer, Goldy finds herself uncovering a maze of secrets and lies revolving around Holly that she never suspected her friend could have been involved in. As she continues to get closer to the truth, Goldy also discovers that she may also have made herself the killer's next target. The Whole Enchilada is the 17th novel by Diane Mott Davidson featuring her character Goldy Schulz as the narrator, and was preceded in the series by 2011's Crunch Time.

Goldy Schulz is a 38-year-old woman who lives with her son Arch and her second husband Tom – who is an investigator for the Furman Country Sheriff's Department – in the affluent community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado. Goldy operates Goldilocks' Catering with her assistant Julian Teller – sometimes with help from her best friend Marla Korman – and is also an amateur detective. As the novel opens, Goldy and Julian are catering a 17th birthday party for Goldy's son Arch and Drew Ingleby, the son of Goldy's friend Holly Ingleby, who Goldy had met seventeen years earlier on the maternity ward where both Drew and Arch had been born on the same day. Goldy and Holly had remained friends over the years, and for a time had both been members of a support group called Amour Anonymous after their respective divorces. Goldy and Holly had grown apart over the years – although they always remained friends – as Goldy built her business and Holly, an artist, concentrated on creating and selling portrait-collages. Just prior to the party, Goldy learns that Holly had lost her house to foreclosure and has been having financial problems.

The party for Arch and Drew gets underway at 5:00, and among the first to arrive are Father Pete, the priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a fitness instructor at the Aspen Meadows Country Club named Bob Rushwood and his young fiancée Ophelia Unger, and a psychiatrist named Dr. Warren Broome and his new wife Patsie Boatfield. Broome's license to practice had been suspended for six months after he was convicted of sexual misconduct, and he'd only gotten it back a few weeks before the party. When Holly and Drew arrive at the party Goldy sees that Holly is upset, and notices a stout man she thinks she recognizes but cannot place standing in the driveway watching Holly. Holly says that the man is dangerous, and then tells Goldy that she is in a relationship mess. Before she can go into any details the stout man enters the house and a moment later Holly's ex-husband George Ingleby and his wife Lena – who Holly



had purposely not invited – show up. Goldy’s husband Tom throws the three of them out, and soon Holly starts mingling with the other guests. As Holly and Drew are leaving, Holly tells Goldy that they need to get together soon and talk. A moment later Holly collapses on the sidewalk and dies.

Later that evening Goldy and Arch, along with Julian and Father Pete, accompany Drew back to the rented house by the lake where he had lived with his mother so that he can pack his things. There is a large box on the front porch, which Julian carries inside. While the others are upstairs helping Drew, Goldy looks around the living room where she notices Holly’s prized Haviland china, a hand-painted jigsaw puzzle on the desk, and a portrait-collage of Drew. She also finds Holly’s cell phone and sees a text message on it which reads: “Not another cent. Don’t ask, or you’ll regret it.” Goldy steps onto the back deck of the house where she sees an envelope in a planter with “DREW! HERE’S YOUR MONEY!” written on it in large block letters. An instant later the deck collapses, and Goldy plummets into the lake below; Julian manages to pull her out before she drowns. At the hospital, Tom tells her that the support posts beneath the front of the deck had been deliberately removed earlier that day. Although the preliminary indications are that Holly had died of a heart attack, Goldy believes that her friend was murdered and begins her own investigation.

The next day – Saturday – Goldy and Marla pay a visit to Bob Rushwood and his fiancée Ophelia Unger at the country club’s fitness center. Bob tells them that Holly had trained there for a while, but had quit several months earlier. While they are there they also run into Neil Unger, Ophelia’s father, who reminds Goldy that she is catering his daughter’s 21st birthday party that Monday evening. Goldy and Marla next visit Holly’s ex-husband George Ingleby, where they are treated rudely by George’s wife Lena; as they are leaving, Lena blurts out that Holly Ingleby had slept with Dr. Warren Broome. After they return home, Goldy learns that a woman named Kathie Beliar – who has been trying to steal catering jobs from her – is at St. Luke’s Church, where Goldy is scheduled to cater a fundraiser the next evening, talking to Father Pete. Goldy and Marla head to the church to confront her, but find Kathie dead and Father Pete critically wounded in the church office. After Tom arrives and takes their statements, he tells Goldy that a preliminary toxicology screen on Holly had turned up traces of an antibiotic called Loquin – which was pulled from the market after it was found to cause heart failure in patients with certain types of heart conditions – in her bloodstream. He also says that Holly had been in the process of suing her ex-husband George because he’d stopped making child support payments around the time Holly had lost her house. Tom’s people had found a portrait-collage of Warren Broome’s new wife in the box Julian had carried in from the front porch of Holly’s rented house.

When Goldy and Marla return to Goldy’s house, they begin searching through the notes Goldy had taken years before at the Amour Anonymous meetings, and find an entry where Goldy recorded Holly as having said that she’d visited a cardiologist. She texts this to Tom, who later confirms that Holly had suffered from a problem with the S-T interval in her heartbeat, one of the conditions Loquin was known to adversely affect. Goldy realizes that someone at the party had sprinkled Loquin on the chili relleno torta – Holly’s favorite dish – to kill her, and then probably sabotaged the deck to make sure



Holly died even if the Loquin didn't kill her. When Tom gets home he tells Goldy that Father Pete is in a coma, and it appears that a file marked COUNSELING is all that was taken from the church office.

The next day after church Ophelia Unger asks Goldy if she can recommend a good lawyer; Ophelia believes that her mother had left her some money when she died that her father was hiding from her. After introducing her to a lawyer named Brewster Motley, Goldy talks to Audrey Millard, the church secretary, who tells her that Father Pete counseled Holly Ingleby regularly, although she doesn't know the details. Audrey also tells Goldy that she (Audrey) had been a victim of Warren Broome's sexual misconduct, but that she'd never come forward because she'd been afraid of the publicity. She also says that a week before she died, Holly Ingleby had given her a hand-painted jigsaw puzzle of Hunan Province in China, and told her that if anything happened to her she was to give the puzzle to Father Pete. That evening Goldy, Julian, and Marla cater the fundraiser for St. Luke's Church, and at one point during the evening Dr. Warren Broome grabs Goldy and demands to know what Holly had told her about him, but is pulled off of her by one of Tom's deputies. Goldy is restless later that night and stays up after Tom goes to bed. When she opens the back door to let her dog out, a man wearing a mask pulls Goldy outside, gets his arm around her throat, and asks, "Who knows?" and "Where are Holly's notes?" before running away after Julian shouts from inside the house. Tom calls a crime-scene unit in to investigate, but they find no trace of the attacker.

The next day is Monday, and after she and Julian finish prepping the dishes they will be serving at Ophelia Unger's birthday party that evening, Goldy and Marla return to searching through the Amour Anonymous records. Something she reads reminds Goldy that Holly once told her that they had both probably gotten pregnant at the same medical conference eighteen years earlier; although they had both gone to the conference, Holly had spent most of the time hiking in the mountains which is why Goldy hadn't met her there. When Goldy looks the conference up in her records she finds that along with herself, Holly, and their husbands at the time, both Neil Unger and Dr. Warren Broome had been at the conference. Goldy also stumbles upon something in the notes that makes her suspect that George Ingleby was sterile, which means he couldn't be Drew's biological father. Goldy, Marla, and Julian then head to Neil Unger's mansion to cater Ophelia's party. After dinner Ophelia calls her father and her fiancé Bob Rushwood into the kitchen where she, with Brewster Motley at her side, tells Neil that they have discovered that her mother left her a trust fund worth \$30 million when she died, which her father has kept hidden from her; she also knows that Bob has been spying on her for her father since they first met. She breaks her engagement with Rushwood and Motley tells Neil that his firm will be filing charges against him for fraud, after which Ophelia and Motley leave and the party breaks up.

The next day, Marla and Goldy head to Denver. Their first stop is the gift shop at the Catholic church Holly had attended when she'd moved to Denver for a while after her divorce. The woman who runs the gift shop tells them that Holly had fallen deeply in love while she'd lived in Denver, but whoever the man was had dumped her. They then pay a visit to an artist named Andrei Yurbin – the stout man who had followed Holly to



the party – who Goldy remembered having met once at a party she'd gone to with Holly years earlier. While they are in Yurbin's studio Goldy sees swatch of cloth which she recognizes as being the same material she had seen in the portrait-collage of Patsie Boatfield, and realizes that Yurbin and Holly had been partners; Holly had sold the portrait-collages under her name and gathered the materials used to create them while Yurbin had done the actual artwork. Yurbin admits this is true, and says that he'd followed Holly to the party to confront her because he believed that she'd been cheating him, but that he hadn't killed her.

The next day Goldy and Marla, along with Tom, head to Boulder where they talk to Wendy Williams, a hairdresser who had done Holly's hair, who says that the only men she'd ever heard Holly talk about were Neil Unger and Warren Broome. They then head to the conference center where the medical conference Holly and Goldy attended had been held. Something the woman at the center says reminds Goldy of the jigsaw puzzles – one that she gave to Audrey Millard and one that was on the desk at Holly's rented house. Both puzzles had been of China, and Goldy understands that Holly had been leaving a clue about who would have reason to kill her. She, Marla, and Tom go to the rented house, where Goldy finds a swatch of fabric taped to the back of a china plate that matches fabric used in the portrait-collage of Drew on the wall. Goldy finds a flash-drive hidden behind the portrait-collage just as a man wearing a mask and holding a gun enters the living room. Marla pulls off the man's mask, revealing that is Bob Rushwood. Bob shoots Goldy in the ankle before Tom, who had stepped out onto the front porch, rushes back in and shoots Bob in the chest. As he falls to the floor Goldy notices how much he resembles his biological son, Drew Ingleby.

As Goldy recuperates in the hospital Father Pete regains consciousness and the entire story comes out. Holly had met Bob Rushwood at the medical conference eighteen years earlier, where he had fathered her son Drew; she'd gotten back together with him in Denver after her divorce, where he had dumped her after going through the money from her divorce settlement. She later followed him back to Aspen Meadows, where they'd had an on-and-off affair before he'd dumped her again and became engaged to wealthy Ophelia Unger. Holly learned that Bob had been stealing from Pails for Trails, the charity he ran, and that he'd been having a long running affair with Wendy Williams, the Denver hairdresser. Holly had been blackmailing Rushwood and Bob had sprinkled Loquin – which he'd once taken for a sinus infection – on a dish he knew Holly would eat at the party to kill her. He had sabotaged the deck in an attempted to kill Drew, and had stabbed Father Pete because he feared what the priest knew about their relationship; Kathie Beliar had seen him stab Father Pete, so he'd killed her too. Bob survives the surgery to remove the bullet from his chest, but dies of an infection. As she is recuperating in the hospital from her ankle wound, Goldy learns that she is pregnant and nine months later gives birth to a healthy daughter named Grace.



# Prologue, Chapters 1-5

## Summary

The Whole Enchilada is a mystery/suspense novel by bestselling author Diane Mott Davidson. The novel is the 17th in a series by this author narrated by Goldy Schulz, a caterer and amateur detective in the wealthy, upper class community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado. Holly Ingleby collapses and dies after attending a birthday party for her son Drew and Goldy's son Arch, which Goldy had catered. At first it appears that Holly suffered a heart attack, but when the deck at Holly's house collapses almost killing Goldy, and a woman who resembles Goldy is killed – and the popular local priest Father Pete critically injured – in an attack at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, it becomes clear that something strange and deadly is going on in the quiet town of Aspen Meadows. As it becomes obvious that the murder of her friend Holly and the attack at the church are somehow connected, Goldy investigates in her own unique way and soon finds that she herself has become a target. The Whole Enchilada was published in 2013.

### Prologue

Holly Ingleby collapses and dies as she is leaving a 17th birthday party for her son Drew and her friend Goldy Schulz's son Arch, which Goldy organized and catered. Years before Holly, another friend named Marla Korman, and Goldy had been in a support group – Amour Anonymous – together. There are many people who disliked and resented Holly in the small town of Aspen Meadows, Colorado for various reasons, but Goldy and Marla always stuck up for her. Most people in the town are stunned by Holly's death, but not everyone.

### Chapter 1

The day before the party, as Goldy is working on the food she will be serving, she remembers meeting Holly Ingleby on the maternity ward shortly after their sons were born and immediately finding that they had something in common; neither of their doctor husbands had shown up for the births. Goldy had not been surprised that her husband at the time had not been there, but Holly had been genuinely upset about her husband's absence. Arch and Drew had attended the same Sunday school while they were growing up, and when Drew was nine Holly divorced her husband and she – along with Goldy and Goldy's ex-husband's second wife, Marla Korman – had started attending Amour Anonymous meetings. Soon after her divorce, and a large settlement from her ex-husband, Holly had gone back to art school, started creating something that she called portrait-collages, and in a short time had a long list of clients. The women saw each other less frequently over the ensuing years as Goldy built her catering business and Holly concentrated on her art, but they remained friends. In January of that year Holly had suddenly pulled her son Drew out of the exclusive prep school he'd been attending and put him in a far less prestigious Catholic school. During the months prior



to the party for Drew and Arch – who also remained friends – Holly had become withdrawn and Goldy only rarely spoke to her.

The day before the party – which was being held on Friday, June 15th – Goldy and her assistant Julian Teller are working in her kitchen prepping the Mexican food they will be serving, and Julian checks the computer to see what else they have on for that week. He informs Goldy that they are catering an event at Goldy's Church, St. Luke's Episcopal, that Sunday evening, and then another party – this one a surprise 21st birthday affair for a man named Neil Unger's daughter – on Monday night. As Julian is speaking Neil Unger himself rings the doorbell, and a moment later Julian ushers him into the kitchen. After asking Julian to bring his driver a snack, Unger says he is afraid that his daughter Ophelia has found out about the surprise party, and asks Goldy to check her computer to see if it has been hacked. Goldy starts a scan on her computer while Neil wanders around the kitchen and talks about his daughter and her fiancé; a few minutes later Goldy tells him that her computer is clean. Unger leaves the kitchen without another word as Julian comes back in. Julian says Unger is a jerk and Goldy agrees, but also says that he has a big checkbook and a lot of friends, so they need to keep him happy.

## Chapter 2

Goldy's husband Tom, an investigator for the Furman Country Sheriff's Department, is already gone when Goldy awakens the next morning. Soon after Julian – who has a room in their house – joins Goldy in the kitchen, Marla Korman calls to check in; Marla is Goldy's best friend and is holding the party for Arch and Drew at her large new house in the exclusive country club development. Marla says that after she'd gone to bed the night before a man had called and asked for directions to the party, and also asked if Holly Ingleby was going to be there. Marla asked the man his name, but he hung up and there was no number on caller ID. Marla hangs up a moment later, and Goldy and Julian pack the Mexican food they'd prepped the day before into Goldy's catering van and leave for Marla's house. As they are driving past the lake Julian says that Holly lives around there somewhere and when Goldy says that she has a big house in the country club development near Marla, Julian says that Marla told him Holly had lost her house and had taken a rental by the lake. Goldy says that Holly's ex-husband George Ingleby is rich and had been ordered to make support payments after the divorce, but Julian says Marla told him that the bank had foreclosed after Holly hadn't been able to make the payments on the house.

Goldy is distracted as she turns into the country club entrance wondering why Marla hadn't told her about Holly's problems, and barely avoids hitting a beefy man who runs out from behind a bush in front of the van. Julian jumps out after the van stops to see if the man is okay, but he runs off. They continue on to Marla's house and as Julian starts unloading the van Goldy asks Marla why she hadn't mentioned Holly's money problems. Marla says that she hadn't meant to tell Julian – it had just “slipped out” – and that when she'd asked if she could tell Goldy, Holly had said no because she was ashamed. Marla also says that since first telling her Holly had refused to speak about the subject again.





Julian and Goldy unpack the van and set up for the evening's party. The phone rings, and after she hangs up, Marla says that the call was from Holly; she had been with Father Pete – the priest at St. Luke's Episcopal – when a woman named Kathie Beliar had called him. Kathie had apparently started a company called Goldy's Catering the week before, and offered to cater Sunday night's function at the church for half of what Goldilocks' Catering was charging. Goldy isn't sure what is going on, but says she will deal with it later. Just before 5:00 Arch and Tom arrive, and a few moments later the other guests start showing up.

### Chapter 3

Most of the guests – which include Arch and Drew's friends and their parents as well as Father Pete – have arrived by 5:30. Many of the parents have brought food with them, which Tom checks in and has them place on Marla's kitchen counter while Goldy and Julian begin laying out the food they have prepared. As they are working Ophelia Unger and her fiancé Bob Rushwood – a trainer at the country club – arrive; Drew invited them so that Bob could try to sign up some of the teenage guests to work for his charity, Pails for Trails, which is dedicated to making the surrounding mountain trails accessible to the disabled. As Tom is making his pitch in the backyard Holly and Drew Ingleby arrive and ring the doorbell. Goldy answers the door and finds Holly huddled next to the doorway looking down the driveway where a man Goldy thinks might be the beefy man she'd almost hit that morning is standing, looking at them. Holly rushes inside, followed by Drew, and tells Goldy she should have her husband Tom keep his revolver handy, just in case. Goldy asks who the man is, and Holly says that he is crazy but won't say any more about him. Holly slowly pulls herself together, and tells Drew to join his friends in the backyard. Goldy asks if Holly is alright, and Holly says that they need to talk in private.

Chapter 4. Marla joins Holly and Goldy and gets them all a glass of wine. Holly says that she is in a relationship mess and when Marla asks if it has to do with her ex-husband George she says no, and that it doesn't have to do with the man in the driveway either, who she calls a "nutty manipulator." Holly then notices one of the guests – Dr. Warren Broome – standing with his wife Patsie Boatfield in the backyard, and asks what he is doing there; Broome has only recently gotten his license to practice psychiatry back after losing it because he slept with several patients a few years before, and Goldy sees that he is staring at Holly. Marla tells Holly to forget about Broome and tell them about her relationship mess. Holly turns around and sees that the beefy man is inside Marla's house, and is hovering over the kitchen stove. Holly tells Goldy that she needs to get Tom right away.

Tom comes up to the three of them before Goldy even calls to him, and Goldy tells him that there is an uninvited man by the stove. Holly's ex-husband George and his new wife Lena step through the front door at that moment, and Holly shouts that they weren't invited. Tom grabs the beefy man with one hand and George Ingleby with the other and moves them both towards the front door. George Ingleby starts to shout that he should have been invited and can't be excluded from his own son's party while his wife Lena also squeals in protest, but Tom manages gets George and the beefy stranger out the



front door. A moment later Drew Ingleby runs into the kitchen calling for his father, and tells Holly that she should have invited him. To break the tension Goldy announces that it is time to eat, and people form a line and help themselves from the dishes stretched out on Marla's kitchen counter. Soon everyone, including Holly and Drew, recover from the earlier drama and begin to enjoy themselves. A few hours later Holly and Drew are the first to leave. Holly looks a little ill, and tells Goldy that they will get together soon and talk. A moment later, as the rest of the guests are preparing to leave, they all hear Drew Ingleby screaming outside.

## Chapter 5

As everyone streams out of the house, Goldy sees Holly sprawled out in the street with Drew standing over her. Julian reaches her first and keeps everyone away until Tom arrives. Bob Rushwood hurries past, saying he knows CPR, and Goldy tells her son Arch to find Father Pete. Father Pete arrives and goes to Drew, and Goldy hears Drew tell him that they were walking when Holly suddenly started to slow down and collapsed. Father Pete and Drew go to Holly as an ambulance pulls into the street. The paramedics hurry to where Bob Rushwood is still administering CPR, but there is nothing they can do; Holly is dead.

Tom quickly takes charge of the situation and asks Goldy if anyone else has reported feeling ill. When she says they haven't, Tom says that he will need to call social services; Drew is a minor and after the fight Holly and his father had earlier he can't see sending Drew to George Ingleby's house, at least not that night. Goldy says that she'd heard something about Drew traveling to Alaska soon, and when Tom asks him Drew says he is due to leave the next morning to visit Holly's sister and her husband, who live there. A short time later Goldy, Julian, and Arch – along with a police cruiser – follow Father Pete and Drew to the house on the lake Holly had rented. When they arrive the police officer – a black woman named Sergeant Jones – notices a top of the line security panel that seems out of place and asks Drew about it. Drew says that Holly had it installed after a break-in a week ago; nothing had been taken, but his mom's file cabinet had been ransacked. Sergeant Jones has everyone wait on the porch while she checks the house first and as they wait Goldy notices a large flat box on the porch, which Drew says is one of Holly's portrait-collages back from the framer. When Sergeant Jones lets them enter the house, Julian takes the box into the living room. Julian tells Goldy that Drew told him that his mother leased studio space elsewhere and never worked at home. Given Holly's financial problems this doesn't make any sense to Goldy – but neither does anything else at the moment.

## Analysis

The Whole Enchilada is the seventeenth in a series of mystery/suspense novels by Diane Mott Davidson narrated by Goldy Schulz. Although the novel can be read without reading any of the books that came before it, readers will find that throughout the course of the story the narrator refers back to incidents involving some of the characters that occurred in previous novels. While this can be somewhat confusing particularly early on,



the author provides enough background about each of the major characters – as well as a number of the minor characters – when they are first introduced so that the reader is able to tell who is who and what their relationship to Goldy is fairly easily. As the story progresses, not having read any of the previous books will become less and less of an issue, and the reader should have no problem following the plot and enjoying the story.

These first few chapters serve to introduce the novel's main character and narrator, Goldy Schulz, as well as several of the other main characters in the story, and set up the main plot-line. Goldy Schulz is a 38-year-old woman who owns Goldilocks' Catering in Aspen Meadows, Colorado – a well-to-do suburban community about 40 miles outside of Denver. Goldy has a 17-year-old son named Arch from her first marriage (to the abusive Dr. John Richard Korman, who she refers to as the Jerk both because of his initials and because of how he abused her while they were married, including once breaking her thumb with a hammer) and at the start of the novel has been happily married for several years to her second husband Tom Schulz, an investigator with the Furman County Sheriffs Department. Over the years Goldy has built up her catering business to the point where she consistently turns a profit, and finds her evenings and weekends booked catering parties and other social functions more often than not – particularly in the summer months. Over the years, Goldy has also developed into a fairly successful amateur investigator – something that Tom doesn't encourage, but also knows that he is unable to keep her from doing. Although she and Tom have discussed having a baby of their own, as the novel opens Goldy isn't certain that she has the energy to run her business and raise an infant along with her teenage son, and so has put making any decisions off until the end of her hectic summer season.

These chapters also introduce most of the rest of the novel's main characters. Goldy's best friend Marla Korman – who had been married to the Jerk for a few years after Goldy divorced him – is outspoken and can often come across as rude, but over the years has proven herself to be a good friend and sometimes-partner in Goldy's investigations. Julian Teller is Goldy's 20-something vegetarian assistant in the catering business, and several months prior to the start of the story had moved in to the spare bedroom in Goldy and Tom's house. Goldy's husband Tom Schulz, as previous stated, is an investigator with the Furman Country Sheriff's Department, and her 17-year-old son Arch is a typical teenager who is growing up far more rapidly than Goldy would like. All of these characters will be further developed and play important roles throughout the course of the novel.

As the novel opens, Goldy is prepping the Mexican dishes she and Julian will be serving at a party celebrating her son Arch's and her friend Holly Ingleby's son Drew's 17th birthdays. Goldy had first met Holly on the maternity ward where both of their sons had been born on the same day and they quickly became friends. Over the years both of them – along with Marla Korman – had belonged to a support group called Amour Anonymous and had helped one another get through the difficult days following their respective divorces. Holly is tall, blond, and beautiful and had always been the subject of a great deal of gossip in the tightly-knit community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado – much of it very negative. Goldy and Marla defended her when they could, but as the years passed Holly drifted away from her two friends, only rarely getting together with



them and spending most of her time concentrating on her career as an artist, while Goldy had thrown most of her energy into building up her catering business.

Holly's ex-husband, George Ingleby, had inherited a fortune when his father died, and had agreed to a divorce settlement which Goldy believed left Holly and Drew very well off. Goldy is shocked when she learns just before the party that Holly has lost her huge house in the exclusive country club development where Marla lives to foreclosure, and is living in an inexpensive rental house. After Holly and Drew arrive at the party, Holly is upset and wants to talk to Goldy about her financial problems – as well as something she calls a “relationship mess” – but is interrupted first by the arrival of a beefy man that Goldy had almost hit with her van earlier in the day (and who Holly says is dangerous), and then by the arrival of her ex-husband George and his new wife, Lena, who Holly had not invited to the party. Although Goldy tries again to find out what Holly wants to talk about and why she seems so nervous and upset after Tom throws the beefy man and George out, Holly seems to calm down and starts to mingle with the other adults at the party. As she is leaving Holly promises Goldy that they will get together and talk soon, but Holly collapses on the way to her car and dies a few moments later.

While the symptoms Drew noticed as they walked to their car before she collapsed seem to indicate that Holly suffered a heart attack, Tom takes no chances. He has Sergeant Jones – an African-American policewoman – accompany Goldy, Julian, Arch, Father Pete, and Drew back to the house Drew and his mother rented, and stay with them until someone from social services can pick Drew up. Although she is almost in a state of shock herself, Goldy thinks there is something decidedly strange about everything that has happened that evening, and the reader understands that she will be taking an active part in the investigation into her friend's death – whether her husband wants her to or not.

## Discussion Question 1

Why do Goldy and Holly Ingleby (and later Marla Korman) become friends? What was Amour Anonymous, and why was it so important in their lives? What did Holly do for Goldy that helped her through a particularly difficult time, and why do you think it was so important to Goldy?

## Discussion Question 2

Why did Holly drift away from Goldy and Marla over the years? How does Goldy react when she learns that her best friend Marla has known about Holly's financial difficulties for months and not told her? Why do you think she reacts this way? Why do you think Holly expressly forbids Marla to tell Goldy about her financial situation, and refuses accept help from anyone?



## Discussion Question 3

Why does Holly become so upset when her ex-husband George and his new wife Lena show up at the party? How does Drew react when he learns that his father is at the party? Why do both Goldy and Marla feel that Holly should have invited George? Do you agree with Marla and Goldy, or with Holly? Explain your answer.

## Vocabulary

organized, tortillas, anonymous, abyss, inkling, enchiladas, reacquainted, espresso, acidly, bitterly, perpetually, furrows, catering, unavailable, sprinkler, financial, soothingly, methodical, leopard, handsome, scooted, manipulator, bewildered, shivered, forearm, slouched, logical, foster



# Chapters 6-10

## Summary

### Chapter 6

Arch, Julian, and Goldy wait uneasily in the living room while Father Pete, Drew, and Sergeant Jones make arrangements in the kitchen. As they wait, Goldy notices a hand-painted jigsaw puzzle sitting on a desk, and a portrait-collage of Drew hanging on the wall. After a short time Drew and Sergeant Jones – along with Arch – head upstairs so Drew can pack, and Father Pete joins Julian and Goldy. He says that they were able to get in touch with Drew's aunt in Alaska and that she will arrive early tomorrow. Drew already has his ticket, and George Ingleby's notarized consent for the trip; he will spend the night with a foster family, and then leave with his aunt tomorrow morning. Father Pete says that Drew will need some cash to tide him over and Julian – who has money he inherited but never uses – writes a check for \$1,000 and gives it to the priest, then heads upstairs to help Drew pack. Father Pete and Goldy head into the kitchen where Goldy busies herself cleaning out the refrigerator while Father Pete starts wondering aloud if they should hold off on a memorial service until after Drew gets back, particularly since there will have to be an autopsy.

Goldy suggests they go out onto the back deck to talk so that Drew won't hear them. Father Pete tells Goldy that he will join her there after he checks on Drew. As Goldy heads to the deck she sees a cell phone with MOM's written on a piece of tape stuck to the back, and remembers that they hadn't found a cell phone on Holly. After checking the recent calls and finding nothing interesting, Goldy checks text messages and finds only one that says, "Not another cent. Don't ask, or you will regret it," and knows that Tom will want to know about this. She steps out onto the deck and as she walks to the end which hangs out over the lake, Goldy sees an envelope sitting in a planter with: DREW! HERE'S YOUR MONEY printed on it in large block letters. An instant later Goldy hears a loud cracking noise as the deck gives way. After what seems like forever, she plunges into the lake below and her leg jams into something just beneath the surface. She screams, inhales water, and blacks out.

### Chapter 7

Goldy comes to in an ambulance with an IV drip in her arm and excruciating pain in her left leg. The paramedic tells her that Julian had hauled her out of the water and that her husband will meet them at the hospital. A policewoman is waiting at the ER when Goldy arrives, and a doctor examines her leg and lungs, and checks for signs of a concussion. The doctor tells her that her leg will turn black and blue and be very sore, but should be fine in a week or so and that all in all she is very lucky. Tom arrives a short time later and tells her that Sergeant Jones found the envelope addressed to Drew, but there had been no money in it. He also says that they found pieces of the deck floating in the lake, but that all the supports appear to have been removed, which is why it gave way. Tom



says that he thinks either Holly or Drew had been the intended victim, and that they are now treating Holly's death as a homicide. Goldy tells Tom about the break-in at Holly's house the week before, and about the threatening text she'd found on Holly's phone. She then dozes off as the sedative the doctor put in her IV drip takes effect.

It is after midnight when Goldy awakens. Tom is still there and tells her that while she was sleeping his men found Holly's cell in the lake. Drew is with a foster family and will leave for Alaska with his aunt in a few hours. He also tells her that the sheriff's department received an anonymous report that Drew and his mother had a big fight earlier that week, which means that if Holly's death turns out not to have been from natural causes, Drew may have to be considered a suspect. Tom has ordered a full toxicology exam on Holly, but says the ME won't be able to do the autopsy until Tuesday. Goldy tells Tom about the large box Drew said was one of his mother's collages coming back from the framer. Tom tells her that the portrait-collage is of Patsie Boatfield, and that when his men went through the box they found a type-written note at the bottom that said 'twenty-five K,' although they don't know who the note was from.

## Chapter 8

Although the doctor wants to keep Goldy there for observation, she demands that Tom check her out of the hospital and take her home. In the car on the way home, Tom tells her that he sent another deputy over to question Drew at the foster home and that while he seems to be very upset, they still can't rule him out of having something to do with Holly's death. Tom says that he had deputies talk to most of the people who were at the party in the hopes that one of them might have gotten a picture of the beefy stranger on their cell phone, but so far they've had no luck. The only person who wouldn't let the sheriff's department look at his cell was Warren Broome – the psychiatrist who'd just gotten his license back – who said that he had private patient information stored on his phone. Goldy says that the beefy man seemed familiar to her when she first saw him, and suddenly remembers that he was an artist that she'd met with Holly years before, although she can't remember his name. Tom asks Goldy if she knows what Holly had to eat at the party, and Goldy says that she had a glass of wine and one of the vegetarian chili relleno tortas Julian had made because he knew it was one of Holly's favorite dishes. Tom asks if Holly had any enemies besides George Ingleby and Lena, and Goldy remembers that Holly had seemed to be avoiding Warren Broome at the party, but otherwise no one she knows about. Goldy tells Tom that she doesn't know the details of Holly's divorce settlement from George Ingleby, but is certain that she will have it in the notes she kept as secretary of Amour Anonymous and promises to check into it for him.

When they arrive home Goldy goes straight to bed. The business line rings at 6:00 AM and Tom, who is already up and dressed, answers it. When he comes back to the bedroom he tells Goldy that the call was from Doreen Smythe, who had been at the party, and that she'd called to tell Goldy that both she and her husband had terrible nightmares that seemed more like hallucinations during the night and thought their drinks might have been spiked with something. Tom had asked her what she'd eaten at the party and got a list which included chili relleno tortas, and promised to look into it.



He then tells Goldy that he knows she is going to ask people questions on her own no matter what he says, but asks that she not reveal anything she finds out to anyone other than himself and Julian, and maybe Marla. He is also assigning Sergeant Boyd – who Goldy knows well – to stay with her, just in case the sabotaged deck had been intended to harm her.

## Chapter 9

After Tom leaves Goldy makes her way to the kitchen where she finds Julian already starting prep work on the food for the church fundraiser the next evening. Goldy makes an espresso and takes it onto the front porch, where she waves at Sergeant Boyd in his cruiser and then calls Marla. Goldy tells Marla what happened after she and the others arrived at Holly's rented house, and Marla says that she had the worst nightmares she ever remembers having last night. Goldy asks what she'd eaten at the party and Marla lists what she can remember, which includes a chili relleno torta, and then says she will be over ASAP. Marla arrives at Goldy's house 20 minutes later, and Goldy tells her that she needs Marla to take her two places; first to the country club to talk to Bob Rushwood and maybe his fiancée Ophelia Unger, and then to George Ingleby's house to speak with him, Lena, and George's 80-year-old mother Edith. As they are driving, Marla tells Goldy that one of her "gossip sources" told her that Ophelia Unger's father Neil wouldn't pay for her to go to college – that he had only given her money for clothes for over two years. When Goldy asks why, Marla says that she heard Neil is punishing her because of her former fiancé, but doesn't know any more details.

When they arrive at the country club Marla and Goldy, along with Sergeant Boyd, find Bob Rushwood, who is a good ten years older than his fiancée, working with Ophelia on one of the exercise machines. As they walk towards them they are stopped by Neil Unger, who is also working out at the club. Unger offers Goldy his condolences on the death of her friend, and then quickly asks if it will affect her ability to cater Ophelia's party. When Goldy says no, Unger tells her to please be on time and moves off to the locker-room. When they reach Ophelia and Bob, Ophelia nods to them and then puts ear-buds in her ears and begins reading a book called 'Architectural Planning.' Marla asks Bob if Holly had ever worked out at the club with him, and Bob says that she'd worked out there for a while, but he'd never trained her; he knew Holly through Drew, who had volunteered for Pails for Trails the previous summer. Holly hadn't mentioned any history of heart problems when she worked out at the club, and hadn't been conscious when he started CPR on her after she collapsed. As they are walking back to the car, Marla observes that someone who always seems to have her nose in a book – like Ophelia Unger – probably wouldn't willingly forgo college, and Goldy agrees.

## Chapter 10

Goldy, Marla, and Boyd arrive at the Inglebys', and Goldy takes a tray of blueberry muffins she'd defrosted earlier for George's 80-year-old mother Edith with her to the front door, which is opened by a tired-looking, unfriendly maid. They introduce themselves as friends from church who would like to speak to George. The maid leads them into the kitchen, where she calls Dr. Ingleby on an intercom. A moment later Edith





Ingleby enters the kitchen and demands to know what Goldy and Marla are doing there. When Goldy says she brought her muffins, Edith angrily says that Goldy's husband sent her baby away, then bites into one of the muffins and says, "my daily miracle." George Ingleby arrives a moment later looking like he just got out of bed, followed quickly by Lena who asks why they are there so early in the morning, with a police escort. Goldy is only able to say that they were friends of Holly's before Lena shouts at them about not being invited to Drew's party, and then calls Holly a slut.

Boyd steps in between Lena and Goldy and says it is time to go. They start for the door, and George follows them outside. He says that he is still angry about how they'd been treated last night, and then says that he'd loved Holly, and that he loves Drew more than anything. He says he tried to call him when he heard what happened, but only got his voice-mail and then found out that he'd left for Alaska when the police were there a couple of hours ago. Lena walks up next to George and starts hurling abuse at Goldy and Marla, and they turn and walk away. As they reach Marla's car, Lena shouts that a piece of gossip Marla might not know is that Holly had screwed Warren Broome.

## Analysis

As Goldy waits in the living room of Holly and Drew's rented house by the lake, she sees that the room is filled with antique furniture, valuable rugs and paintings, and beautiful Haviland China that Holly had told her years before had been passed down to her by her grandmother. She finds herself wondering why the person who had broken into the house the week before would have ransacked the filing cabinet, but left all of these treasures – including a number of items that would have been very easy to carry – untouched, or why Holly wouldn't have sold some of her more valuable items if she'd been in such desperate financial straits. Additionally, Goldy is concerned about the threatening text message she finds on Holly's phone, which indicates that her friend had been receiving money from someone who was now cutting her off. Goldy also finds herself feeling extremely guilty that she had grown so far apart from a woman who had once been one of her closest friends that she couldn't even make a guess as to what had been going on in Holly's life, which frustrates and saddens her even more.

Although Holly's doctor is away in Hawaii and there is no way to reach him that Friday night/Saturday morning to check on what medical problems she might have had, and the medical examiner will be unable to perform an autopsy on her body until Tuesday, the Furman Country Sheriff's Department starts treating Holly's death as a homicide after the deck at her rented house collapses. All of the posts that had supported the leading edge of the deck over the lake had been sawed off and removed not long before Goldy stepped out onto it, and her weight had been more than enough to send it crashing down into the lake, where she would probably have drowned if she'd been at the house alone. Though it appears that the intended victim was probably Drew – the envelope with his name on it in the planter being meant to lure him to the edge – Tom is not able to rule Drew out as a possible suspect in his mother's death, in part due to a report the sheriff's department had received earlier in the week that Drew and Holly had a serious fight. While Goldy is willing to put it down to the standard kind of fight that



teenagers have with their parents every day, Tom arranges for an Alaska State Trooper to keep an eye on Drew while he's there visiting his aunt and uncle just in case. Tom also assigns an officer – Sergeant Boyd (who is apparently familiar to both Goldy and Marla – and readers of the series – from previous books) because, as unlikely as it seems, there is also a slim chance that Goldy herself had been the intended victim of the sabotaged deck, and possibly even whatever had killed Holly, if it was murder. Knowing that Goldy will be starting her own investigation no matter what he says, Tom wants to make sure she is safe.

Goldy starts that investigation just a few hours after she gets home from the hospital – early Saturday morning. After learning that Marla and the Smythes, a couple who had been at the party the evening before, had both suffered from severe nightmares/hallucinations after going to sleep Goldy, Marla, and Sergeant Boyd go to the country club where they talk to Bob Rushwood. Bob confirms that Holly had once worked out at the country club, but says that he had never trained her personally and that she had quit months earlier and not been back since; he also says that Holly had not been conscious when he reached her the night before, and had not responded at all to CPR. While Goldy doesn't learn anything valuable from Rushwood, she does decide that it might be worthwhile finding out exactly when Holly quit working out at the country club, and why.

Their next stop is George Ingleby's house, and after only a few moments there Goldy realizes that it was a mistake to come. George's mother Edith and his wife Lena both insult Goldy and Marla and accuse them of trying to collect extra money from them for Sunday's church fundraiser, while George blame's Goldy's husband Tom for rushing Drew off to Alaska without even giving him a chance to say goodbye. The only worthwhile piece of information they glean from the visit comes from George's wife Lena, who shouts that Holly had slept with Warren Broome, the psychiatrist who had lost his license for sleeping with patients. Thinking back to how Broome had looked at Holly during the party, and how Holly had avoided him, Goldy knows that this information is something she will also want to look into.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Goldy find herself feeling guilty as she waits in the living room of the rented house, and later as she is cleaning out the refrigerator in the kitchen? Why does Goldy decide to check Holly's cell phone rather than turning it over to the police and letting them handle it? Why does she go out onto the deck, and what leads her out to the edge before the deck collapses?

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Tom tell Goldy as much as he does about the case – which seems to be pretty much all he knows – while she is in the hospital, and later when he is driving her home? Do you think that Goldy's observations are helpful to Tom and, if so, in what



way? Why does Tom assign Sergeant Boyd to stay with Goldy instead of forbidding her to look into Holly's death on her own?

### **Discussion Question 3**

What does Goldy hope to learn by visiting George Ingleby? Is she successful? Why are George Ingleby and his mother Edith so upset with Goldy's husband Tom? Why do you think Lena Ingleby is so abusive to Goldy and Marla? Do you think it was a mistake for Goldy and Marla to go to the Inglebys' house? Explain your answer.

### **Vocabulary**

intricate, maroon, bucolic, mahogany, autopsy, lumbered, adamant, memorial, bourbon, nightmare, paramedic, opiate, unfazed, install, mansion, foreclosure, container, conceding, revolver, insistent, venture, geranium, hallucination, treadmill, hobbled, mysterious, gossip



# Chapters 11-14

## Summary

### Chapter 11

When they arrive back at Goldy's house Julian and Arch are in the kitchen. Julian makes them all omelets for breakfast while Goldy checks her voice-mail and finds a message from Father Pete, asking if Goldy had thought about working with Kathie Beliar – who had called him again – on catering the fundraising dinner at St. Luke's Sunday night. There is also a message from Patsie Boatfield, asking Goldy to call her. Marla, who hears the messages, says that she will deal with Father Pete, and calls him on her cell. A few minutes later Marla announces that everything is taken care of, and then heads down into the basement of the house with Goldy so they can call Patsie in private. Warren Broome answers, and when Goldy tells him that his wife had called her he asks why she would have done that, and then hangs up rudely. Marla says she is going to call a few people who might know something about Broome and Holly having had an affair, and heads back upstairs. Goldy turns her attention to the file cabinets she keeps in the basement, and starts looking through the notes she'd taken at the Amour Anonymous meetings years before to find out what she can about Holly's divorce settlement.

As Goldy is sifting through the notebooks Marla returns and says that all of her gossip sources knew Holly and Warren had an affair, but they all thought it ended years before. Goldy and Marla spend the next half hour going through notebooks but find nothing about Holly's divorce settlement, and decide to try calling Patsie again. Warren answers again, and this time Goldy lies and tells him that Holly Ingleby had given her a message for him, but that she needs to deliver it in person and will tell it to him when she sees him next. After Goldy hangs up they go back to the notebooks and a few minutes later they find what they are looking for; Holly had received a \$250,000 divorce settlement, plus \$224,000 per year for child support. Patsie Boatfield calls back a few minutes later and tells Goldy that she'd had terrible nightmares when she went to bed after the party and then lists what she had eaten, which includes the chili relleno torta. Goldy asks her if Warren knew Holly, and Patsie says that she thinks they had met once at a doctor's conference in Boulder years before, but isn't certain when. Goldy asks Patsie to ask him when the conference was, and Patsie says that she would but Warren has locked himself in the bathroom and is crying.

### Chapter 12

Goldy asks Patsie if Warren is so upset because Holly had been one of his patients in the past, and Patsie says she isn't sure about that but she does know that Holly wasn't the woman who reported Warren for sexual misconduct. Goldy thanks her for the information and hangs up, then goes back to looking through the notebooks for any info she might have noted down about Holly's medical condition. An hour later Goldy and



Marla head back to the kitchen, and Goldy makes them lunch. Arch comes into the kitchen and tells Goldy that he'd just driven past St. Luke's and had seen a van that looked just like hers with GOLDY'S CATERING printed on the side in the parking lot. Goldy knows that it must be Kathie Beliar and decides that she needs to have it out with the woman. She and Marla, with Boyd following in his cruiser, head to St. Luke's.

Goldy calls Father Pete as they drive to the church, but he doesn't answer. When they arrive at St. Luke's Kathie's van is still parked where Arch had seen it. Boyd goes in first and as they walk through the sanctuary they hear what sounds like a groan. Boyd pulls his gun and they make their way to the church office where they find Father Pete and Kathie Beliar both laying in a pool of blood on the floor, surrounded by what appears to be the contents of the open file cabinets behind the office desk. While Marla calls 911, Goldy feels Kathie's wrist for a pulse, but she appears to be dead. Father Pete is barely alive. Both have been stabbed, and Goldy takes off her sweater and presses it against the stab wounds in Father Pete's abdomen to stop the bleeding. An ambulance arrives and the EMTs confirm that Kathie is dead, then rush Father Pete to the hospital. Tom arrives a short time later and questions Marla and Goldy. He has them go through their entire day, starting with their visit to the country club and George Ingleby's house, and ending with the conversations with Warren Broome and Patsie Boatfield. Tom notes down everything they tell him, and then says that since the name on Kathie Beliar's catering van could have easily been mistaken for the name of Goldy's business and most people in town knew that Goldy was catering the fundraiser at the church on Sunday, it is possible that whoever killed Kathie and wounded Father Pete had actually been trying to kill Goldy.

## Chapter 13

Tom has Goldy and Marla go through their morning one more time, and then says his men had found some of Holly's financial records in her desk, but they'd only gone back to the previous December. She'd made six bank deposits of between \$4,000 and \$6,000 during that time, which matched the receipts for the collages she'd delivered. There was no trace of any child support payments, but there were receipts from a lawyer she had hired to sue George Ingleby for back support. A preliminary toxicology screen on Holly's blood had turned up traces of an antibiotic called Loquin, which had been pulled off the market because it caused nightmares and hallucinations in some patients. Tom asks Marla if she has any leftovers from the party at her house and when she says she threw them away, Tom says he will have some men go through her trash. He then says that the threatening text on Holly's phone had come from an untraceable number, and the carton containing the collage on her front porch had been mailed from a shipping store called Clarkson Shipping in Denver, but there was no record of who sent it. Tom sees that Goldy's leg is bothering her and, after promising to call the minute he knows anything about Father Pete's condition, he asks Marla to take her home so she can rest.

At home, Marla and Goldy fill Julian, Arch, and Arch's friend Gus in on what happened at the church. Goldy then goes to her bedroom and quickly falls into a fitful sleep. When she awakens she thinks about the stranger at the party and remembers meeting him at



another party she'd gone to with Holly years before at an art gallery. The man had done collages, like Holly, and his name had been Yurbin. Goldy leaves a message on Tom's cell about the name, then heads down to the kitchen where Marla tells her that Father Pete is in a coma. A woman from the church diocese calls and asks if they are still planning on having the fundraiser the next evening; she has been informed that since it is a crime scene the police will not allow the dinner to be held in the church and that even the morning services will have to be held outside. Goldy says that they can hold the dinner at the small conference center Goldilocks' Catering owns, and that she will email everyone with the change of venue. She then asks Marla, Arch, and Gus to go to the conference center with her and Julian and help get it ready for Sunday night. They drive to the center, with Sergeant Boyd in tow, and while the others get busy setting everything up Goldy's phone starts ringing. The news about Father Pete has spread and a short time later the list of people attending the fundraiser has grown from just over a dozen to 110.

#### Chapter 14

Tom gets home at midnight and tells her that the doctors operated on both of Father Pete's lungs, and he is still in a coma. He then tells her that Kathie Beliar had moved to the area not long ago after a divorce and according to her few friends had sold newspaper ads, then moved to real estate after a friend started doing that, then tried her hand at writing after another friend published a short story, but never sold anything. She tried a few more things, then went back to real estate and set up the rental for Holly Ingleby; she told everyone she knew that Holly was the most beautiful, glamorous person she'd ever met. Then a few weeks ago, according to friends, Kathie had heard about how great the parties Goldy catered were and told her friends that she was going to become a caterer "just like Goldy Schulz." Before they go to bed Tom checks in at his office and tells Goldy that his men located the church secretary Audrey Millard, who fell apart when she heard about Father Pete.

The next morning Julian is already in the kitchen prepping for that night's fundraiser when Goldy and Tom come downstairs. Tom receives a text that says Father Pete is stable, but unconscious. Tom says that he will be stationing Boyd and Sergeant Jones at that evening's dinner, and that everything is to be plated in the kitchen and then brought out to the tables – there are to be no open dishes or buffets that anyone could tamper with. Julian and Goldy decide that they will go with all cold food and set to work. Tom tells Goldy and Julian that Boyd – and his partner Sergeant Armstrong – will again accompany Goldy anywhere she decides to go, including church. Tom leaves for his office, and Goldy and Julian get to work.

An hour later Goldy takes a break and heads back to the basement, where she uses her computer to Google Loquin and finds out that along with hallucinations and nightmares, people with certain heart conditions had suffered heart attacks after taking it. A short time later Tom and Goldy exchange a number of texts during which Tom says that according to the church secretary the only file missing from the church office is one marked COUNSELING. He also relates that the neighbors they talked to said that Drew and Holly had not been fighting, and that he'd called Drew who told him that his mother



had been arguing with someone on the phone. He'd heard her say 'people know', 'there's a record', and 'it's in the notes', but didn't know who she'd been talking to, or about what. The text conversation ends, and Goldy begins to wonder whether there is some connection between the COUNSELING file that was stolen from St. Luke's and whatever the burglar who had ransacked the file cabinet at the house Holly rented had been looking for. She also finds herself wondering if perhaps Holly had been blackmailing someone, and had gone to Father Pete – possibly for counseling to ease her conscious.

## Analysis

Even though it appears that there had been a romantic connection between Warren Broome and Holly Ingleby at some point in the past – possibly only a single encounter at a medical conference eighteen years before – Goldy is surprised by how irritated and upset Warren gets when she returns his wife Patsie Boatfield's telephone call. While she doesn't know Warren and Patsie well, they are both members of St. Luke's who were planning to attend the fundraiser, and his anger towards her over the phone seems to come out of nowhere. Warren is calmer when Goldy calls back a short time later, and she tells him that Holly had given her a message for him so that she will be able to question him privately the next time she sees him. When she finally reaches Patsie, she says that she called to tell Goldy that she'd had horrible nightmares the night before, and says that she'd eaten the chili relleno torta as well as several other dishes. She then tells Goldy that she'd been talking to some friends about having a party catered and a few days later she'd received a call from Kathie Beliar, who said she could cater the affair for half of what Goldy charged. When Arch tells her just a short time later that he'd seen a van with GOLDY'S CATERING on the side parked at St. Luke's, Goldy has had enough and decides to have it out with this stranger who seems intent on stealing her clients.

After Goldy, Marla, and Boyd find Kathie Beliar and Father Pete lying in their own blood on the floor of the church office, Tom informs Goldy that it is possible that she and not Kathie had had been the target of whoever had stabbed them. Over the previous couple of weeks Kathie Beliar had done everything she could to not only steal Goldy's clients, but also to make her van, website, and even herself look like Goldy. Kathie hadn't had many friends in the area, but those Tom and his people had been able to talk to said that she was someone who had spent the last several years chasing one pipe-dream after another in the hopes that she could become someone "special." She had met Holly Ingleby when she'd handled the rental of the house by the lake for her, and had later told her friends that Holly was the most beautiful, talented, and glamorous person she had ever met, and that she would give anything to have her as a friend. Tom's theory is that after she learned that Goldy and Holly were friends, Kathie had begun to make herself over in Goldy's image – changing her hair and dressing like Goldy, starting a catering business even though she knew nothing about cooking, and trying to steal Goldy's clients as a way to become friends with Holly. While Goldy had spent the previous few days feeling angry at Kathie Beliar, when it becomes obvious that she'd had some sort of very serious personality and/or emotional disorders Goldy finds herself



pitying the woman and wishing there had been something she could have done to help her.

Father Pete being wounded has the unexpected consequence of increasing the guest list attending Sunday night's fundraiser dinner from just over a dozen to 110 people, as most of the church's members want to show their support for the very popular priest by raising money for his church. Even though it is no real problem to move the dinner from the church to Goldy's small conference center, Tom insists that all of the food be served directly from the kitchen, that there be no shared or community dishes, and that no volunteers from among the guests be allowed to help serve. The preliminary toxicology report on Holly had shown traces of Loquin – an antibiotic that had been known to cause hallucinations, nightmares and a number of other problems, including heart attacks in people with a history of certain heart conditions – in her bloodstream. Given the number of people who had reported having nightmares, it is reasonable to assume that someone had put the drug into one of the dishes at the party. Tom does not want to run the risk of the same thing happening at the fundraiser, and Goldy and Julian reluctantly agree to do things his way, although it will mean more work for them.

As more information comes to light, including the fact that a lot of people in town seemed to know that Holly had once had an affair with Warren Broome, as well as the fact that for some reason George Ingleby – who appears to love his son deeply – had stopped paying child support and Holly had been in the process of suing him when she'd died, Goldy begins to rethink what she'd always believed about her friend. She finds herself putting the strange things that Drew had heard his mother shouting at someone over the phone a few days before she died – including "it's in the notes," and "there's a record" – together with the threatening text message she had seen on Holly's phone before the deck collapsed, and can't help but think that the two things might be connected. If they are, one possible explanation could be that Holly had been blackmailing someone, which might have been why she'd been killed, and might even have explained the attack on Father Pete and Kathie Beliar, as well as the missing COUNSELING file being taken from the church office. Whatever the truth is, Goldy realizes that she knows much less about who and what Holly Ingleby had really been in the last few months of her life than she thought she did. The only thing Goldy is completely certain of is that she now has far more questions than she has answers.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Goldy lie to Warren Broome and tell him that Holly gave her a message to give to him before she died? What is Warren's reaction to this news? When does Goldy say that she will deliver the message to Warren? Why is Tom angry with Goldy when he learns she did this?





## Discussion Question 2

Discuss Kathie Beliar. Why does Goldy decide to go to St. Luke's to confront her? What was Kathie Beliar's connection to Holly Ingleby? How did Kathie feel about Holly? Why does Tom believe that she started "Goldy's Catering," and changed her hair and the way she dressed to look more like Goldy?

## Discussion Question 3

What does Goldy learn about Holly's finances, both from the notes she'd keep at the Amour Anonymous meetings and from what Tom's men find in Holly's desk? What happens that causes Tom to stop considering Drew Ingleby as a suspect in his mother's death? Why does Goldy begin to suspect that Holly might have been blackmailing someone?

## Vocabulary

forlorn, gaping, investigation, omelet, closemouthed, antiques, insights, scribbled, connected, perplexed, theory, indiscretions, library, reluctantly, rector, retreated, exterior, misinformation, dulled, security, pursed, forlorn, psychology, embargo, buffet, disbelief, porcelain, preying



# Chapters 15-17

## Summary

### Chapter 15

Goldy, Arch, and Gus head to the morning church service with Sergeants Boyd and Armstrong in tow. Volunteers have set chairs out on the lawn while crime scene technicians continue to work inside the church. Marla arrives and sits next to Goldy during the service, which is conducted by a priest Goldy doesn't recognize. After the service ends Goldy sees Audrey Millard, the church secretary, and starts walking towards her, but is stopped by Ophelia Unger who asks to speak with her. Ophelia apologizes for being rude at the club yesterday; she says that Bob had been driving her crazy complaining about being questioned by the cops, and she'd used Goldy's arrival as an excuse to get a break from him. Ophelia says she knows all about the surprise party, and then asks Goldy if she can recommend a good lawyer. She believes that her mother left her money after she died when Ophelia had been nine, but has no way of proving it since her mother's lawyer's practice had dissolved after he had a stroke. She has asked her father about it, and both he and her stepmother have told Ophelia that her mother left her nothing, but Ophelia thinks they are lying to her. Goldy sees Brewster Motley, a lawyer who helped her get out of some trouble once, standing nearby and introduces Ophelia to him, then heads over to talk to Audrey Millard.

Audrey asks if Goldy has any information about Father Pete's condition, but Goldy says she doesn't. Goldy asks who visited Father Pete during the last few days, and Audrey says that along with Kathie Beliar, Holly Ingleby had stopped by Friday afternoon for confession, which she did once a quarter. Before she joined St. Luke's Episcopal after her divorce Holly had attended Our Lady of Perpetual Grace, a Catholic church in Denver, and even though she saw Father Pete regularly she didn't attend Sunday services so she wouldn't run into George, Lena, or Edith Ingleby. Audrey looks around nervously and then tells Goldy that she had been one of the women who'd had an affair with Dr. Warren Broome; the only other person she'd ever told was Father Pete, and she is afraid that is why he was stabbed. After Broome's first victim had come forward and had her picture in all the papers Audrey kept silent, but eventually she'd gone to Father Pete for counseling. Goldy asks if there was anything in the church files about her and Broome, but Audrey says she doesn't know. Audrey starts crying, and Goldy motions for Sergeant Armstrong to come over. Goldy tells Audrey that Armstrong is one of Tom's most trusted associates and ask her to repeat what she'd just said to him, and Audrey almost gratefully agrees.

When Goldy is ready to leave Arch and Gus tell her that they want to hike up to where the Pails for Trails people are working and see about dedicating a trail to Holly Ingleby. Goldy arranges for Sergeant Jones to go with them, and they promise to be back in time for the fundraiser. At home Goldy leaves Tom a message outlining what Audrey said, and then looks Warren Broome up on the internet. She finds that Broome claimed to



have only slept with the woman who had reported him, and no one else had ever come forward. Audrey Millard calls a short time later and says that she forgot to tell Goldy earlier that for years she had asked Holly if she could buy one of the hand-made jigsaw puzzles she used to make, but Holly had always been too busy to make her one. She'd stopped asking a few years before but that Friday when she'd come to see Father Pete, Holly surprised Audrey by giving her a jigsaw puzzle of Asia. Holly had told Audrey to keep the puzzle at her home and not at the church, and then said that if anything happened to her Audrey was to give the puzzle to Father Pete. Goldy asks Audrey to photocopy the puzzle, and Audrey says she will give the photocopy to her at the fundraiser.

## Chapter 16

Marla arrives a short time later and Goldy tells her – along with Boyd, Armstrong, and Julian – about the phone call with Audrey. No one has any idea what significance a jigsaw puzzle map of Asia might have, and Goldy gets to work helping Julian prep food while Marla, Boyd, and Armstrong do what they can to help. As they work, Marla asks when the break-in at Holly's rented house was, and Goldy says June 6 – the same day Holly gave Audrey the puzzle – and they wonder aloud if there is a connection. Goldy also remembers seeing a jigsaw puzzle on the desk in Holly's rented house. Julian suggests that Goldy and Marla take a break, and they head down to the basement and see if there is anything in the notebooks that might help them. Goldy shows Marla a timeline that she had started to make of her relationship with Holly, and then decides to make her own map of Asia and compare it to the puzzle Holly gave Audrey. She finds an Atlas and copies a map of Asia on her copy machine.

Goldy texts Tom what Audrey had told her about the jigsaw puzzle, and adds that there had been a puzzle in Holly's house. Tom texts back that the puzzle in Holly's house had also been of a part of Asia – Hunan Province in China. Marla, who is looking through the Amour Anonymous notebooks, finds an entry that says Holly had seen a cardiologist and had been given a clean bill of health, and Goldy texts the information to Tom. Tom calls back immediately and says that since George Ingleby is a cardiologist he must have known about this and that he'll question him about it. He then says that it appears that Holly's deck was sabotaged the day of the party, during a two hour period when both Holly and Drew were out. After Tom hangs up Holly and Marla go back to the kitchen and just after 4:00 they pack the van and Marla's car and head to the conference center. Tom calls again and tells Goldy that when he'd gone to the Inglebys' house to talk to George, he and Lena had been fighting; when Tom walked in on them Lena shouted, "Wanna have sex?" at Tom, and stormed out. After George calmed down, Tom was able to find out that Holly did have a heart condition – something called a prolonged S-T interval; with that condition, taking enough Loquin would have made her heart stop.

## Chapter 17

Tom arrives at the convention center at 6:00 – as do Gus and Arch, with Sergeant Jones. Tom stations Jones at the front door, while he and Boyd search the entire kitchen



and dining room areas. Gus, Arch, and Marla help Julian and Goldy lay out the cold soup course and drinks as the guests arrive. The priest from that morning says a lengthy prayer for Father Pete, after which Edith Ingleby grabs the microphone from him and says that Father Pete would want everyone to write extra large checks. The church music director gets the microphone away from Edith and says he's brought his keyboard and will be able to play hymns in a few minutes. Arch asks if there is some other music they could play, but Goldy says the people who rent the conference center usually bring their own CDs or a DJ, and she'd forgotten. Tom says that Sergeant Boyd has always wanted try out his stand-up comedy material on an audience, and a moment later Boyd takes the microphone and quickly has the guests laughing loudly. Goldy and Marla serve the first course and Boyd keeps the guests in stitches with his routines. Boyd runs out of material as Goldy and Marla finish serving the main course; as Goldy puts a plate in front of her, Audrey Millard gives her a photocopy of the jigsaw puzzle.

Arch has a CD and a boom-box in his car and he, Goldy, and Boyd head to the parking lot to get it. While they are walking back Goldy sees Warren Broome standing in the entrance and as she passes him Broome grabs Goldy's arm and demands to know what Holly wanted her to tell him. Sergeant Jones immediately gets Broome's hand off Goldy, and Goldy hurries back into the dining room. She has Arch ask Patsie Boatfield to come to the kitchen as Broome argues loudly with Sergeant Jones. Patsie asks Goldy where the information she told her husband she had for him is, and Goldy lies and says the police have it. She then says that Warren had grabbed her at the front door, and Patsie asks her to forgive Warren because he's been under a terrible strain. Warren comes back inside and announces they are leaving, and pulls Patsie along with him. Julian tells Goldy that they need to clear the tables, and when they are finished they serve dessert. After the guests leave Julian packs up the leftovers, and Marla announces that the fundraiser – plus extra checks – brought in \$5,000.

When they get home, Tom tells Goldy that Boyd will be spending the night. Goldy is still keyed up from the fundraiser, and tells Tom that she's going to spend a while going through the notebooks in the basement to unwind, but she'll be up by 11:00. After a few minutes Goldy finds the basement stuffy and hears her dog Jake barking to be let out. She heads upstairs and lets him out into the backyard, which runs along an alley. Jake takes off barking, and Goldy sees that the gate to the alley is open. An instant later someone wearing gloves and a mask pulls Goldy through the door and wraps their arm around her throat. A voice she doesn't recognize whispers "Who knows?", then slams Goldy into the side of the house and asks, "Where are Holly's notes?" An instant later Julian shouts from the kitchen and the attacker disappears down the alley. Julian, Tom, and Boyd help Goldy into the kitchen and she tells them everything that happened. Tom calls for a crime scene unit to investigate, and Goldy finally goes to bed.

## Analysis

The revelation that Holly Ingleby had suffered from a heart condition – specifically a prolonged S-T interval in her heartbeat, which is one of the few heart conditions that the antibiotic Loquin adversely affects – comes as a complete surprise to Goldy. Holly had



been a fitness fanatic who always seemed to be the picture of health and had never been sick a day that Goldy can remember. The fact that Holly did have this heart condition, however, means that there is no longer even the slightest doubt that she was murdered; after learning that the deck at Holly's rental house had been sabotaged on the day of the party, Goldy comes to the conclusion that this had been done to ensure that Holly would still die even if she didn't consume the required dosage of Loquin to cause her death at the party. Her ex-husband George was himself a cardiologist and knew about Holly's diagnosis, but he hadn't been the doctor she'd consulted which meant that there were other people who knew about her condition. While George and Lena had crashed the party Friday night, Goldy does not think either of them made it into the kitchen before Tom ushered them out and so probably couldn't have sprinkled the Loquin over any of the dishes. Although it is still unclear why George had stopped making his support payments, Goldy finds it hard to think of him as a killer.

After listening to Ophelia Unger's suspicions that her mother had left her money that her father was keeping from her for some reason and introducing Ophelia to her attorney friend Brewster Motley (who, it can be assumed, played a significant role in one of the previous novels in the series) Goldy is finally able to talk to Audrey Millard, the church secretary. Audrey tells Goldy that Holly had regularly visited Father Pete to make her confession (which she was not allowed to do in the Catholic church after her divorce) and receive counseling, although Audrey does not know what, if any, notes Father Pete had made during the sessions. Audrey also tells Goldy that she had been sexually victimized by Dr. Warren Broome, who Audrey had been seeing as a patient, but had never come forward with her story because she did not want her name splashed all over the papers. The only person Audrey had told about her sexual relationship with Broome before Goldy had been Father Pete, who she'd gone to for counseling after Broome had lost his license and their relationship came to an end. Again, Audrey doesn't know if Father Pete had kept notes of their sessions, and also doesn't know if Father Pete had ever confronted Warren Broome with what he knew. Later, when Audrey calls Goldy at home and tells her about the jigsaw puzzle of Asia Holly had given to her out of the blue on June 6 – the same day that Holly's rented house was broken into – Goldy remembers seeing a jigsaw puzzle on the desk in Holly's house, but has no idea what, if anything, it could mean.

After she returns home from the church fundraiser – which she thinks was a disaster even though it raised far more money than anticipated – Goldy finds herself thinking of Warren Broome as her chief suspect. Broome had lied to everyone about only having had an affair with one woman he was treating, and according to Lena Ingleby and a number of Marla's gossip sources, had slept with Holly at least once. According to his wife Patsie Boatfield, Broome had been an emotional wreck yesterday, and had grabbed Goldy and tried to force information out of her at the fundraiser. It is obvious that he is under a great deal of stress, and Goldy finds herself wondering if the source of that stress might be that there had been more between Holly and Broome than simply a one night stand. Goldy wonders if perhaps Holly had started blackmailing him shortly after he temporarily lost his license, and he'd killed her to make the blackmail stop. If she had told Father Pete about the affair during one of the counseling sessions and he'd written it down, that could explain what Holly had meant when Drew heard her say



“it’s in the notes,” and might also explain why Father Pete had been stabbed. Unfortunately, it probably wouldn’t explain the piece of paper with “twenty-five K” written on it in the box containing the portrait-collage they had found at Holly’s house. For that, Goldy will need to trace the package to its source, but before she can do that she must get through catering Ophelia Unger’s 21st birthday party.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Ophelia Unger approach Goldy after the church service on Sunday? What does Ophelia suspect her father Neil Unger of doing, and what evidence does she have? What is Goldy’s reaction when Ophelia tells her that her father has only given her money for cloths and won’t pay for her to go to college?

## Discussion Question 2

What does Audrey Millard tell Goldy about why Holly came to see Father Pete regularly and why does Goldy find this important? Why do you think Goldy believes it is important that Audrey tells the police about her affair with Warren Broome? Why does Broome grab Goldy at the fundraiser, and what is Patsie Boatfield’s reaction when Goldy tells her about it? Do you think Goldy handled the situation the right way? Explain your answer.

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Goldy think that the fundraiser was a disaster, even though it raised much more money than expected? Why does Goldy go to the basement when she gets home instead of going to bed right away with Tom? Why does she open the back door to the house, and why is she unable to identify whoever it was that attacked and questioned her in the backyard?

## Vocabulary

stumbled, apologized, flattering, alter, desire, engagement, allowance, fiasco, harshly, counseling, confessions, hangover, bishop, fluttering, helicopter, awful, parish, emphasized, ability, concoction, ginger, prowler, impatiently, suffused, endeavoring, coronary, crumple



# Chapters 18-20

## Summary

### Chapter 18

Goldy awakens early the next morning. A team of crime-scene techs had worked in the backyard and alley through the night and found nothing, and Tom tells her that another team will be there later that morning. Tom says that Father Pete has still not regained consciousness, but it appears he had been able to dig his fingernails into whoever had stabbed him, and Tom has put a rush on the DNA analysis. He then tells Goldy that she isn't to take a step anywhere outside the house unless Boyd is by her side, and leaves for work. Goldy calls Marla – who complains about being awaked at 6:50 AM – and tells her about the attack last night. Marla says she is coming over and hangs up, and Goldy heads down to the kitchen where she finds Julian working on that night's menu for Ophelia Unger's "surprise" 21st birthday party. Julian says that he feels badly that he hadn't come downstairs earlier last night when he'd heard Jake barking, but Goldy tells him not to blame himself and they both get to work. The second crime-scene unit arrives, and Boyd directs them to the back alley. Goldy asks where Arch is, and Julian says that he left early with Sergeant Jones to work on the Pails for Trails project. Marla arrives a few minutes later, and Goldy tells her all the details of the attack on her last night while she works next to Julian. They quickly finish everything that can be done before the party, and Goldy and Marla head down to the basement.

They start looking through the notebooks again to see if there is any record of Holly being in therapy. Goldy reads a note she had made at one of the meetings and remembers having a conversation with Holly in which they'd realized that they might both have become pregnant at the same medical conference in Boulder 18 years before. Goldy remembers attending the three day conference with the Jerk, and also remembers Holly once telling her that the reason they hadn't met at that conference was because she'd gone off hiking while George attended all the seminars. Goldy then remembers something Holly told her about the first time she'd tried cooking for George, and how George hadn't touched his strawberry molded salad at the fundraiser the night before. Goldy goes to the computer and types in "allergy to gelatin" and sees that males with that allergy have a negative reaction to the vaccine for mumps and so aren't given the vaccine. She goes on to read that men who contract mumps will sometimes become sterile. Goldy recalls Edith Ingleby saying "my daily miracle" after complaining about Drew leaving for Alaska, and how Lena had angrily asked Tom if he wanted to have sex when he'd walked in on her and George fighting. Goldy texts Tom and asks him to find out if George Ingleby is sterile. She then locates the notes she'd made at the medical conference 18 years before and finds that Neil Unger had been there, as had Dr. Warren Broome.

### Chapter 19



As she is trying to put together what else Holly and Warren Broome might have had in common, Goldy remembers the photocopy of the jigsaw puzzle Audrey Millard had given her at the fundraiser. Goldy places it next to the map she'd copied from the atlas the day before, but can see no message hidden in it. Julian brings the two of them lunch, and says that they will need to leave for the Ungers' in about an hour. He also says that Arch had a flat tire, but that Bob Rushwood is following him and Sergeant Jones home just in case the spare goes flat. When they finish eating Goldy and Marla go back to the notebooks, looking for anything that might give Goldy a clue about Holly's relationship with Warren Broome. Although they find nothing about Broome, Marla finds an entry in which Goldy noted that Holly once told her that she had been "mercifully lying" to both Drew and George for years, although she doesn't say about what.

Goldy and Marla hear noise coming from upstairs and find Julian making sandwiches for Arch, Sergeant Jones, Boyd, and Bob Rushwood in the kitchen. Bob looks dejected, and finally blurts out that he thinks Ophelia is seeing someone else; he stopped by her house with roses earlier that morning but she wouldn't see him, and there had been another man there. She'd told him over the intercom that she couldn't make the birthday lunch he'd planned, and she would see him that night at the party. As Goldy tries to think of something to say she hears someone pounding on the front door and calling her name. Boyd tells everyone to stay where they are and when Rushwood says he needs to go, Boyd has him leave through the back. Sergeant Jones calls for backup as Boyd goes to the front door, gun drawn, and sees that it is Warren Broome; though the door Broome says that Goldy is tearing his life apart and that his wife thinks he is keeping secrets from her. Goldy says she wants to talk to him, but Jones says no. A few moments later Broome is put into handcuffs, and taken away in a police cruiser. Arch and Sergeant Jones leave for the tire store after Arch says he will be spending the night at Gus' house, and going back to the Pails for Trails site the next morning. Arch and Sergeant Jones leave and Julian and Goldy start packing the food they have prepped into boxes; Marla says that she will help them with the party at the Ungers. Tom calls as they are working and says that he'd left a message for George Ingleby – who'd been in surgery when he'd called – and he'd "lawyered up" as soon as he found out Tom wanted to talk to him. He then tells Goldy to be careful.

## Chapter 20

Neil Unger's house is set alone on a mountainside known in the area simply as "The Peak." Goldy sees Brewster Motley's BMW parked in the driveway, as well as Bob Rushwood leaning on the hood of his Mercedes. Goldy and Marla follow Julian and Boyd around to the service entrance, where a maid lets them into the kitchen. Ophelia Unger, wearing a lime-green gown, steps into the kitchen followed by Brewster Motley. She tells Goldy that she doesn't want to see Bob yet, and when it looks like Ophelia intends to go on Motley suggests that she waits until her father gets there. Julian, Goldy, and Marla spend the next half-hour setting up while Bob Rushwood periodically begs Ophelia to let him in over the intercom. Neil Unger and his wife Francie return home and a moment later Neil begins bellowing for Ophelia. Francie comes into the kitchen and asks what Marla is doing there, and then hears Bob Rushwood pleading over the





intercom again, and goes to let him in. Ophelia and Brewster Motley enter the kitchen, and Ophelia ushers the lawyer out the back door and tells him to wait for her to text him. Bob comes into the kitchen and Ophelia asks if he likes what she's wearing, and then asks him to wait in the library while she talks to her father and stepmother.

The doorbell starts ringing at 6:00, and Marla and Goldy start serving appetizers after the guests shout "Surprise" when Ophelia appears in the living room. Soon Neil is lecturing about conservative politics while Rushwood hovers around Ophelia. After the main course is finished and they are preparing to serve the cake, Ophelia rushes into the kitchen and texts Brewster Motley. He arrives at the kitchen door a few minutes later, and Ophelia asks Goldy to have her father come in the kitchen. Neil, followed by Bob Rushwood, enters the kitchen and asks who Motley is, and Ophelia says that he is her attorney. Motley introduces himself and then says that Ophelia's mother, Athena Unger, had inherited a fortune totaling over \$30 million which she'd left in trust for Ophelia when she died. Neil and a lawyer named Quentin Laird had been co-executors of the trust, but Laird had a stroke ten years before and has suffered from mild dementia ever since, and so had never told Ophelia. When Ophelia turned 18 Neil was supposed to have told her about the trust, but he didn't. Brewster says that after Ophelia contacted him, he'd been able to get the details of the trust from Laird, which stipulated that the money went to Ophelia when she turned 21 provided she completed a college degree. He then shows Neil a college diploma and Ophelia tells him that she had used the shopping money he'd been giving her the last three years to get her bachelor's degree in architecture.

Brewster says that the only thing now that could stand in the way of Ophelia assuming control of her fortune is if she was pregnant, and Bob Rushwood hurriedly says that she is, but Ophelia tells him that she is not and never has been. She tells Rushwood that she'd liked him when they first started dating, but that she'd once heard her stepmother tell him that Ophelia had her own money and the only way Bob would get any of it was if he married her and made her pregnant. After that it was over between them as far as she was concerned, but Ophelia had agreed to marry him and told him she was pregnant to keep her father off her back. Ophelia gives Bob his ring back and tells him that she knows her father had actually paid for it, along with his Mercedes. Brewster Motley hands Neil some papers and says Ophelia now legally controls her inheritance. Neil angrily pokes a finger at Goldy and says that she is responsible for this – he knows she was the one who introduced Motley to Ophelia – and Boyd tells him to calm down. Brewster tells Neil that his firm will be filing a civil suit against him charging him with breach of trust. Brewster and Ophelia leave, and after a moment Neil snarls at Goldy to wrap up the cake or he'll sue her, and goes back to his guests.

## Analysis

During the night Goldy has a dream in which she is blind; Holly is calling to her, and asking her why "can't you see it?" Although it is only a dream, the feeling that there is something she is missing – something right in front of her that she isn't seeing – plagues her through the day as she helps Julian prep for Ophelia Unger's party that



evening. For his part, Julian feels terrible that he hadn't reached Goldy earlier the night before, and also feels very guilty that it appears that the chili relleno torta that he'd made for Holly's party was probably what had killed her after it had been tampered with. Although she does her best to make him understand that not only is none of this his fault but also that if it hadn't been for him she would have drowned after the deck collapsed at Holly's rented house, Julian still feels partially responsible for the injuries Marla has suffered in the last few days, and is very worried about her. Tom is also worried about her; while it is possible that she hadn't been the intended victim of the deck collapse or the stabbing at the church, the attack the previous night made it clear that someone believed she knew something dangerous to them, and had made her a target. Tom firmly orders her not to step out of the house unless Boyd is with her, and reminds her again that it is crucial that she not discuss the case with anyone outside of the sheriff's department except for Julian and Marla.

As she and Marla continue to pour through the notes she made years before at the Amour Anonymous meetings, Goldy remembers a conversation that she'd once had with Holly Ingleby in which they had realized that they'd probably both become pregnant while attending a three day long doctor's seminar about how to set up a medical practice 18 years before with their doctor husbands. The conference center had been in the Flatiron Mountains and while Goldy had been a dutiful wife and attended (and taken notes at) each of the seminars with the Jerk, Holly had left George behind and gone on a hiking trip through the mountains – which was why they hadn't met each other there. After realizing that there is a possibility that George Ingleby is sterile due to an allergy to gelatin which would have prevented him from being given the mumps vaccine – which, in turn, would mean that he could not be Drew's biological father – Goldy fishes out her notes from that medical conference and sees that not only Neil Unger but also Warren Broome had also been there. Although Tom is unable to confirm whether or not George is, indeed, sterile after he “lawyers up,” the possibility that George is not Drew's father means that Holly could have been blackmailing the real father, and that he had killed her. The fact that Warren Broome had been at that conference, and that it seemed very likely that he'd had an affair with Holly, strengthens his position as Goldy's number one suspect.

Although the surprising turn of events at Ophelia Unger's party seems to be unrelated to Holly Ingleby's murder, Goldy is surprised by the number of secrets that are revealed as well as by how devious and dishonest Neil Unger had been. While Goldy had never liked Neil or his politics, he was a very respected leader in the community and the idea that he had been keeping a \$30 million inheritance from his daughter not only shocks her, but also starts her wondering what else he might be capable of. Remembering that he had been a presenter at the doctor's conference in Boulder 18 years ago (he'd been trying to sell medical uniforms, which was part of the business he'd inherited from his father), Goldy wonders if perhaps he is the father of Holly's son Drew and had killed her when she started blackmailing him. When Neil angrily tells Goldy that she is responsible for everything that has happened and that Bob Rushwood had seen her put Ophelia in touch with Brewster Motley, Goldy realizes that the only way Bob could have known about that would be if he'd been spying on Ophelia when she'd attended the service at St. Luke's Sunday morning. Although Goldy can think of no reason why Bob should



have done that, she can't help but think that perhaps Neil had ordered him to follow his daughter, and she wonders what else Bob might have seen that he hadn't told anyone.

## Discussion Question 1

Why did Goldy not meet Holly at the doctor's conference/seminar that they had both attended with their husbands 18 years earlier in Boulder? What special significance did that conference have for both of them? Who else that Goldy knows attended that conference, and why does she think that information could be important in solving Holly's murder?

## Discussion Question 2

What makes Goldy think that George Ingleby might be sterile? Why does Goldy think that finding this out could be important? What does George do when Tom tries to ask him about it? Why do Goldy and Julian both lie to Arch about the marks on Goldy's neck that had been made when she'd been attacked the night before? Do you think they were right to do this? Explain your answer.

## Discussion Question 3

Why has Neil Unger kept the fact that her mother had left Ophelia a trust worth \$30 million from her? Why does Ophelia break off her engagement to Bob Rushwood? Why does Neil Unger blame Goldy for Ophelia finding out about the money her mother had left her? What does Brewster Motley intend to charge George Unger with in court, and why?

## Vocabulary

nightmare, latte, marinated, luxurious, conference, spinach, anniversary, devotion, confirmed, financial, accusation, smitten, clutched, unending, catapulting, intercom, horrendous, handcuffs, clever, advocate, christened, reputedly, surmised, apologized, simpering, briefcase, tragedy



# Chapters 21-23

## Summary

### Chapter 21

After they return home, Marla says she will make some calls when she gets to her house to see what gossip there is about Neil Unger and Ophelia's new-found wealth. Goldy, Julian, and Boyd find Tom in the kitchen and the three of them tell him about what happened at Ophelia's party. Goldy then says that Holly and Neil had known each other, and there was a slight possibility that Neil could have fathered Drew at the medical conference 18 years before. She also reminds Tom that Neil had shown up at the house while she and Julian had been preparing the food for Arch and Drew's party, and might have been able to sprinkle Loquin on the chili relleno torta when Goldy had been checking her computer. Tom reports that the crime-scene techs had found nothing in the backyard or alley, and that Warren Broome had refused to take a DNA test while he was in custody to determine if he was Drew Ingleby's biological father. Tom also says that they had tracked down Yurbin – the stranger at Drew and Arch's party; his first name is Andrei, and he'd been Holly's teacher when she'd gone back to art school after her divorce. According to the art school secretary he left the school six years earlier, and suffered from diabetes. Yurbin had lawyered up when they'd tried to talk to him. Goldy asks for his address and when Tom refuses to give it to her she asks him if she can go and question him – with Boyd, of course – if she can track him down on her own, and Tom reluctantly agrees.

Marla arrives early the next morning and reports that according to her gossip sources Bob Rushwood had been spying on Ophelia Unger for her father since they'd first met; apparently, Neil had promised to set Rushwood up with a chain of fitness centers as soon as he and Ophelia were married. After she makes an extra creamy sugar-free gelato with which she hopes to tempt Andrei Yurbin into talking to her Goldy, Marla, and Boyd head to Denver. Their first stop is Our Lady of Perpetual Grace – Holly's old church – where Goldy speaks to an elderly woman named Nan who runs the church's gift shop. Nan says that she'd known Holly Ingleby quite well and had been shocked by the news of her death. Nan had been angry when the church excommunicated Holly, and she'd let Holly sell the jigsaw puzzles she made in the shop after the excommunication. She says that Holly told her shortly after moving back to Denver that she'd fallen deeply in love with someone, but Nan doesn't know who. All she knows for certain is that eight years before, that man had dumped Holly and broken her heart.

### Chapter 22

Goldy, Marla, and Boyd's next stop is Clarkson Shipping, where the box containing the portrait-collage had been sent from, but the female clerk can find no information about who sent the package. She suggests that they ask Chris, who works next door at the Cathedral Deli, if he knows anything; Chris does errands for people in the



neighborhood, and might have shipped the package for someone when the young woman wasn't on duty. Chris is out on deliveries when they ask to see him, so they order lunch and wait. A short time later Chris – a short, chubby man in his early twenties – stops by their table and Goldy asks if he ever shipped packages for people in the neighborhood. When Chris says that he does, Marla slips several 20-dollar bills into Chris's hand as Goldy says that a large box arrived at the home of a friend of theirs who died which they think might have been sent to her by a man named Andrei Yurbin who lives in the neighborhood, and asks if Chris knows him. Chris says that he delivers Yurbin's groceries to him and takes his monthly packages to Clarkson Shipping; they all go to a woman in Aspen Meadows. Chris says that Yurbin is a hermit who almost never leaves his house, although he did see Yurbin driving his car last Friday morning. Chris also picks up Yurbin's prescriptions at the local pharmacy; Yurbin takes meds for diabetes, although he has a sweet tooth, and last winter had taken antibiotics when he'd had pneumonia. They then ask Chris if he will take them to Yurbin's house, and he agrees.

At Yurbin's house Chris says that he has visitors with him who have brought him sugar-free gelato. Yurbin peeks out the door and recognizes Goldy as the person who'd had him thrown out of the party Friday night. Goldy says that she brought him the gelato as an apology, and he finally lets them inside. He leads them to the kitchen where Goldy puts the gelato on the stove and says that she'd been at a party at an art gallery years before with Holly Ingleby where Yurbin's work had been featured, and asks if he still has shows since he is so talented. Yurbin thanks her for the compliment and shows them his studio area, where they see an unfinished collage that look like the sort of thing Holly made. Goldy notices a piece of blue-striped fabric in a bin which matches fabric she had seen in the portrait-collage that had been in the box on Holly's front porch – the one for Patsie Boatfield – and pulls out the remains of a blue-striped dress she'd seen Patsie wear months earlier. Goldy asks Yurbin if he and Holly had been partners, and suggests the arrangement was that Holly would get the clients and materials needed for a portrait-collage, and Yurbin would actually make the collage. Yurbin admits that Holly paid him two or three thousand dollars to make each collage, but he thought she sold them for much more and so he'd demanded \$25,000 for the last one and put the note asking for "twenty-five K" in the box. He says they'd had a business dispute, but he'd never threatened or harmed Holly. Goldy then asks if Yurbin had an affair with Holly 18 years ago and had fathered her son, Drew. Yurbin gets angry and tells Goldy to take her gelato, get out, and never come back.

## Chapter 23

Goldy leaves Tom a detailed voicemail about the visits to Yurbin and the church gift shop on the way back to Aspen Meadows. When they arrive home, Arch calls and asks if Gus can come over for dinner, and Marla asks if she can stay too. As Goldy sets the table, she says that there are a couple of long-shots she wants to look into and, after checking her schedule, asks if Marla is free tomorrow. When Marla says she is, Goldy calls the Shangri-La Spa, where Holly had treated her to a day of pampering shortly after her divorce, and where she'd regularly gotten her hair done. She gets the name



Holly's hair stylist – Wendy Williams – and finds out that she now works at a salon in Boulder called Mane Street.

Tom arrives home shortly after 5:00 and says there has been no change in Father Pete's condition, then tells Goldy that Yurbin had called the sheriff's department to complain about her. Tom says that he'd found out that Holly had taken a course with Yurbin in design before she'd married George Ingleby, and another course with him in collage eight years ago; he'd quit teaching shortly after that and had presumably gone into partnership with Holly around the time she start selling portrait-collages. Tom says that they have not yet found a credible source that can link Holly romantically or otherwise with Warren Broome, although George Ingleby claims that Holly had flirted with Broome at the medical conference 18 years before and had gone hiking with him. Warren Broome, on the other hand, remembers the flirting but says they hadn't gone hiking, and denies having an affair with her. Tom also says that Broome had come by the house yesterday morning because people are now coming out of the woodwork with accusations of sexual misconduct against him, and he wanted to know what lies Holly had told Goldy about him. Arch and Gus get home, and during dinner Goldy can see that her son is still having a hard time accepting Holly's death. Goldy asks him to tell her what he remembers from when Holly had taught art to his kindergarten class, and Arch reluctantly does so. By the time he is finished, Goldy is crying.

The next morning Tom brings Goldy an espresso while she's still in bed and asks what she will be doing during the day. Goldy says she will be visiting the Flatirons Conference Center to see if they have any records of the medical conference 18 years ago, and then seeing a hairdresser who used to do Holly's hair to see if Holly had ever chatted to her about her romances. Tom tells her that there really isn't anything he can do until he gets the autopsy results or Father Pete wakes up, and says that he will go with Goldy and Marla instead of Boyd, and that Sergeant Jones will go back to the Pails for Trails site with Arch. Goldy heads down to the kitchen and starts breakfast as Tom calls his office. Sergeant Jones arrives at 7:30, and Marla shows up a few minutes later. After they finish breakfast Goldy starts to do the dishes, but Julian says he will do them if Goldy will do him a favor and find out if Ophelia Unger will be willing to go out to him.

## Analysis

When Marla arrives at Goldy's house on Tuesday morning she is full of information about Neil and Ophelia Unger, as well as Bob Rushwood. Ophelia's mother – Athena Unger – had been the only daughter and heir of a Greek shipping tycoon, and had met Neil Unger when the two of them had appeared in an amateur production of a Shakespeare play. One of the provisions of her will had been that if anything happened to Ophelia before she turned 21, Athena's fortune was to go to the Shakespeare Festival at the University of Colorado, which Marla says tells her that she didn't trust her husband. She left Neil \$2 million – which he ran through trying to save his uniform business – but he managed to earn over \$300,000 a year managing the estate, which he didn't want to give up. According to Marla's sources, after Ophelia started seeing Bob Rushwood, Neil had made a deal with Bob; Bob reported Ophelia's movements to



Neil in return for the Mercedes and the promise that Neil would set him up with a chain of fitness centers after he and Ophelia were married. Goldy wonders if perhaps Holly had a fling with Neil at the medical conference 18 years earlier – or even sometime later – during which he had told her the details of Athena’s will, which Holly had later used to blackmail him with after she’d started having financial troubles. Although she realizes this is a long-shot, it makes as much sense as any other scenario she can come up with.

While Goldy, Marla, and Boyd are talking to Andrei Yurbin at his house in Denver, Goldy notices some blue-striped fabric in a bin while they are visiting Yurbin’s studio area. After grabbing the fabric while Yurbin is looking the other way, Goldy recognizes it as the remains of a dress she had seen Patsie Boatfield wear a few months before and remembers seeing it in the portrait-collage for Patsie that was in the box that had been delivered to Holly the day she died. Having already learned that the young man Chris shipped a large flat box to Holly from Yurbin once a month, Goldy realizes that it had actually been Yurbin and not Holly who had created the portrait-collages that she had become so well known for. Holly had rounded up the clients and gathered the things to be used in the collages – which consisted of items from a person’s life that showed who they were – while Yurbin had done the actual artwork, which accounted for why no one knew where Holly’s studio had been. Yurbin believes that the \$2,000 or \$3,000 Holly paid him for each collage had only been a fraction of what she’d sold them for, even though the financial records the sheriff’s department had found at the rented house showed that she’d split the payments right down the middle with him. Yurbin had demanded \$25,000 for the portrait-collage of Patsie Boatfield, had put the note with “twenty-five K” written on it in the box he’d shipped the collage in, and had gone to Aspen Meadows the day of the party to confront Holly. When Goldy suggests that Yurbin and Holly had once had an affair, Yurbin gets angry and throws Goldy and the others out.

After they return home, Goldy learns from Tom that as far as his department can find out the only money Yurbin had coming in was the money he got from Holly. Although Yurbin seems to have had both a motive and the opportunity to kill Holly, if he had done so he would have been cutting off his only source of income and it was doubtful that the artist would have had the money to pay any blackmail, even if Holly had something on him. With George Ingleby still having what appears to be the most obvious motive for killing his ex-wife – the lawsuit over the support payments; Warren Broome possibly having had an affair with Holly either at the medical conference or at some point later on; Neil Unger also having been at the conference and having kept what amounted to criminal secrets regarding his own daughter’s inheritance; and now Andrei Yurbin, Goldy finds that instead of eliminating suspects she seems to be finding more. The only thing that Goldy is absolutely certain of is that Holly Ingleby had been a woman who had far more secrets than anyone ever realized, and that it was probably one of those secrets that had led to her death.



## Discussion Question 1

What does Goldy conclude when she learns that Athena Unger's will stipulated that if anything happened to Ophelia her \$30 million inheritance be given to a Shakespeare Festival? What does Marla learn about the relationship between Bob Rushwood and Neil Unger, and why does Goldy feel this information is important? Why does she consider Neil Unger a suspect in Holly's death?

## Discussion Question 2

What is the most important piece of information Goldy learns from Nan, the woman at the gift shop at the Catholic Church? What makes Andrei Yurbin believe that Holly Ingleby had been cheating him in their business arrangement? What does Goldy learn from Tom that causes her to doubt that Yurbin actually killed Holly?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Goldy find herself feeling more and more frustrated the longer her investigation into Holly's death goes on? Why do you think she doesn't give up, even though her husband Tom has told her repeatedly that she should? Do you think you know who killed Holly Ingleby? If so, who do you think it is, and why do you think they did it?

## Vocabulary

cherished, poisoned, tilted, blackmailing, finagling, sprinkling, diabetic, apoplectic, smackers, narrative, classified, inhaled, steely, fruitless, surveillance, resigned, custard, skylight, resolve, frigid, arrogant, pregnant, caramel, flirtations, biological, swooned, reconstruct, sunlight





# Chapters 24-25, Epilogue

## Summary

### Chapter 24

Goldy, Tom, and Marla's first stop when they reach Boulder is Mane Street, and Tom waits outside while Marla and Goldy enter the salon. Goldy had called ahead and they find Wendy Williams waiting at the reception desk, which has one of Bob Rushwood's Pails for Trails collection buckets on it. Wendy, who is petite and pretty, remembers Goldy from the day of pampering Holly had treated her to years before, and says that she'd continued doing Holly's hair until she died. Marla says that they are putting together a memorial service and when Wendy asks how she can help, Goldy says that they knew Holly had a boyfriend she'd adored when she'd moved back to Denver after her divorce and asks if Wendy knows the man's name. Wendy doesn't, and says as far as she knows there had been only two men Holly'd had a thing for over the years. One had been a big shot named Neil Unger, and the other had been a psychiatrist named Warren something. Wendy says that she needs to get to work and after thanking her for her time Goldy and Marla leave the salon. They tell Tom what they have learned as they head to their next stop.

At the Flatirons Conference Center Goldy, Tom, and Marla ask to see whoever keeps the files on past conferences and are directed to Mrs. Peterson's office. Goldy asks Mrs. Peterson if there are any records of the activities, attendees, and staff – as well as any photographs – from the medical conference 18 years before. When Mrs. Peterson is uncooperative, Tom shows her his police ID and says that the sheriff's department would appreciate any information she can give them. Mrs. Peterson finds the file and says that while there are no photographs, she'd actually worked at the How to Set Up a Medical Practice conference herself. She says that along with the official activities, there were unofficial presentations given by some of the spouses including Holly Ingleby; Holly taught interested attendees how to make two-sided jigsaw puzzles with a turkey on one side and the country of Turkey on the other, for their children. Mrs. Peterson finally hands them copies of the information they asked for – including a list of who had attended the conference and the various activities – after Marla threatens to use her influence to ensure that none of the dozen or so charities she is involved with ever books an event at the Flatirons Conference Center. Mrs. Peterson then asks them to leave.

### Chapter 25

Goldy drives back to Aspen Meadows while Tom looks through the papers Mrs. Peterson had given them. He reads off the list of attendees and presentations, including something called "excursions and classes offered by Boulder Fitness." As she drives Goldy thinks about what Mrs. Peterson had told them, and something suddenly flashes in her mind. She says that they need to go to Holly's rental house immediately; just like



the jigsaw puzzle she'd made of Turkey with the bird on one side and the country on the other, there was a double meaning to the jigsaw puzzle on Holly's desk, and the one she'd given Audrey Millard. Both puzzles had been of Hunan Province in China, and Holly also had a large collection of china at the house. Goldy suspects the clue she is looking for is in or on one of those china dishes, and also wants to take a close look at the portrait-collage of Drew which she had seen hanging on the wall.

They drive to the house Holly had rented, and Tom has Goldy and Marla stay in the van while he checks the house first. After Goldy and Marla enter they go to the cabinet containing the china, where they discover three plates which are not antique Haviland china like the rest of the collection but rather cheap plates decorated with figures of what appear to be a ram, two fish, and an angel. They then look at the portrait-college of Drew, and Goldy sees a pattern in the painted borders surrounding the important items from Drew's life that look like a ram, two fish, and an angel. Returning to the plates, they see that they are actually reproductions of zodiac symbols; the two fish are the symbol for Pisces, which had been Holly's sign; the ram is Aires, Drew's sign; and the angel is actually an interpretation of the symbol for Virgo, which Goldy thinks represents Drew's biological father.

Tom's cell phone rings and he steps outside to get better reception. Marla hears something, but Goldy says that it's the wind and picks up the Aries plate, turns it over, and finds a piece of cloth that matches some cloth in Drew's portrait-collage taped to the back. She tells Marla that they need to open up the portrait-collage, and after taking it down from the wall they remove the back and find a flash-drive tucked into one corner. As Goldy pulls the drive out a man wearing a mask steps out of the kitchen, and points a gun at Goldy. Goldy asks the man who he is, but he puts his fingers to his lips and holds out his hand for the flash-drive. Marla grabs a small statue and throws it, then lunges at the man and tackles him while Goldy tries to grab the gun and instead sends it sailing under a chair. Marla gets on top of the man and pulls off his mask, revealing Bob Rushwood. Rushwood throws Marla off him, and grabs the gun as Tom races back into the room. Bob fires, and Goldy feels searing pain in her ankle. Tom shoots Rushwood in the chest and as he falls to the floor Goldy sees the resemblance between Rushwood and his biological son, Drew Ingleby, for the first time.

## Epilogue

As Goldy is recovering from her bullet wound in the hospital, the truth finally comes out. Bob Rushwood was Drew Ingleby's biological father. On the flash-drive Holly had written that she'd had sex with him when they'd gone on a hike during the medical conference; at the time, Bob had been working at the conference for Boulder Fitness. Holly had never told George or Drew the truth. Holly had gotten back together with Bob when she'd gone to Denver after her divorce and discovered that he was a narcissist who'd always wanted a new woman by his side, but not before he'd gone through most of the settlement she'd received from George, after which he had dumped her. When Father Pete comes out of his coma he says that Bob had been the one who stabbed him and killed Kathie Beliar. Holly had told Father Pete during their counseling sessions that she had tried to put Bob behind her after Denver, but had eventually followed him



back to Aspen Meadows where she'd taken up with him again. Holly discovered that Bob had started sleeping with Wendy Williams, the hair stylist from Boulder, who he'd met through Holly and who had been coloring his hair for years to make him look younger and less like his son Drew. After killing Holly, Bob told Wendy that if anyone from Aspen Meadows came around asking questions, she was to say that Holly had been sleeping with Warren Broome and Neil Unger; she had called Bob to warn him after Goldy, Tom, and Marla left Mane Street Wednesday afternoon.

Bob – who Neil Unger had told about the trust his late wife Athena had set up – became engaged to Ophelia Unger. Holly knew that if Neil Unger found out that Bob was the father of Holly's child – or that he was having an affair with Wendy Williams – he would have ended things between Bob and Ophelia. Holly also discovered that Bob had been stealing from the Pails for Trails charity, and Bob had paid Holly to keep silent. Holly had been convinced that it was Bob who'd broken into her rented house, and had made the jigsaw puzzles and left the rest of the clues to let Father Pete and her friends know the truth if anything were to happen to her. During his investigation Tom discovers that Bob had taken Loquin for a sinus infection, and theorizes that Holly had told him about her heart condition at some point. Bob had killed Holly when she threatened to launch a paternity suit after he decided to stop paying blackmail. Bob had also tried to kill Drew by sabotaging the deck to get rid of all evidence of his affair with Holly. Bob had attacked Father Pete, who he knew counseled Holly, to tie up that loose end and killed Kathie Beliar because she'd seen his face. He had also attacked Goldy in the backyard to find out what she knew and he'd flattened Arch's tire the next afternoon, which gave him an excuse to follow Arch home and find out if he was suspected of attacking Goldy.

Bob survives the surgery to remove the bullet in his chest, but develops an infection and dies a short time later. The doctors do a battery of tests on Goldy while she is recuperating from the gunshot wound to her ankle, and discover that she is pregnant. A memorial service for Holly is held the following Tuesday, and when George Ingleby is told the truth about who Drew's father is he doesn't care and brings Drew to live in the Ingleby mansion. Neil Unger is charged with fraud, and Audrey Millard makes a complaint against Warren Broome for sexual misconduct; Patsie Boatfield filed for divorce as soon as she heard. Andrei Yurbin manages to have a one-man show but it is a flop, and he takes a job as a delivery boy at the same grocery where Chris works. Julian starts dating Ophelia Unger and buys his own place in Aspen Meadows, but continues to work for Goldy. Goldy has her baby – a daughter they name Grace – on March 22nd and a short time later Arch, Julian, Marla, Ophelia, Father Pete, Drew, and Gus join Goldy and Tom in the delivery room. Holding her new baby and seeing her family and friends gathered around her, Goldy realizes that she really has the whole enchilada.

## Analysis

Goldy and Marla, this time with Tom riding shotgun instead of Sergeant Boyd, head to Boulder to pursue what even Goldy has to admit are a couple of long-shots. Although they don't learn anything significant from Wendy Williams, they have slightly better luck



at the Flatirons Conference Center. While there are no new names on the list of attendees they are provided with, and no information about the staff members who worked the conference, what Mrs. Peterson says about Holly Ingleby having taught a class on how to make two-sided jigsaw puzzles shakes something loose in Goldy's brain – the thing that she knew she should be able to see, but hasn't been able to yet. Holly had stopped making her jigsaw puzzles after she had gone into partnership with Andrei Yurbin, and yet less than two weeks before her death she had given one to Audrey Millard with instructions to give it to Father Pete if anything happened to her, and had another on her desk in the rented house – both of Hunan Province in China. The two puzzles don't have a second puzzle on the back, but Goldy figures out that they are pointing to the china – her grandmother's Haviland – which Holly had always been so proud of, and the three of them head to the rented house. It doesn't take long for them to spot the three plates that do not belong with the rest of the china – the plates with the signs of the zodiac on them – and find the clue that leads them to the flash-drive hidden in the portrait-collage of Drew Ingleby. Bob Rushwood – who has been having an affair with Wendy Williams for years and who Wendy had called as soon as Goldy, Marla, and Tom had left Mane Street – tries to take the flash-drive from Goldy and shoots her in the ankle in the process, but Tom shoots him in the chest and the killer of Holly Ingleby is finally revealed.

As she recovers from her wound in the hospital Tom fills Goldy in on the contents of the flash-drive, the results of his investigation, and the statements given by Father Pete after he comes out of his coma, all of which answer any remaining questions quickly and completely. Bob Rushwood, who was Drew's biological father, killed Holly to stop her blackmailing him with what she knew about his affair with Wendy Williams and his stealing from the Pails for Trails charity, as well as to keep her from filing a paternity suit – all of which would have destroyed his chances of marrying Ophelia Unger and sharing her massive fortune. He had tried to kill Father Pete after the priest – who Bob knew had been counseling Holly – made some thinly veiled comments to him about the responsibility of a parent, Kathie Beliar because she'd been unlucky enough to be there and had seen his face, and had been trying to kill Drew when he sabotaged the deck at the rented house. In the end all of the pain and death had been because of one man's greed and insatiable desire for wealth.

The novel does end on an upbeat note, however. Even though George knows that Drew is not his biological father he still loves the boy more than anything else in the world and brings him to live at the Ingleby mansion – in an apartment that will allow him to escape from Lena and Edith when he needs to. Goldy finds that she is pregnant – something that she and Tom have been talking about for months – and nine months later gives birth to a healthy baby girl they name Grace. Goldy is grateful for the tightly knit community of friends and family that she has around her and is excited to embark upon this new chapter in her life, although the reader is left with the feeling that it is only a matter of time before Goldy Schulz finds another mystery to investigate.

After the Epilogue, the author gives the recipes for a number of the dishes that are served both at the parties Goldy caters and at her home. These dishes include Enchilada Suizas, Not-So-Skinny Spinach Dip, Julian's Fudge with Sun-Dried Cherries



and Toasted Pecans, Crunchy Cinnamon Toast, Dad's Bread, Love-Me-Tenderloin Grilled Steaks, Goldy's Chef Salad, Sugar-Free Vanilla Gelato, and Spicy Brownies.

## Discussion Question 1

How is Goldy able to make the connection between the jigsaw puzzles and the china in the cabinet in Holly's rented house? Why did Holly choose to display three plates that were completely unlike any of her other china in the cabinet? Why did Holly hide the flash-drive where she did, and what is the clue that finally leads Goldy to it?

## Discussion Question 2

How does Bob Rushwood know that he will find Goldy, Marla, and Tom at Holly's rented house? Why did Bob Rushwood kill Holly Ingleby and Kathie Beliar, and wound Father Pete? Why did he sabotage the back deck at the rented house? Why did he attack Goldy in the back yard?

## Discussion Question 3

Did you know that Bob Rushwood was the killer before he was revealed in the novel, or was it a surprise to you? Were you satisfied with the clues the author provided throughout the course of the story, or would you have preferred there to have been more? Explain your answer.

## Vocabulary

nursing, geographical, formation, exoskeleton, enforcement, topknot, adored, shuddered, exhaled, privacy, interrogating, grumbled, shattering, unravel, transposed, symbol, melee, encumbrance, paltry, interval, ironically, contractions, contemplating, commandeered, swathed



# Characters

## Goldy (Gertrude) Schulz

Goldy Schulz, the narrator of the novel, is a 38-year-old woman who lives in the affluent community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado with her second husband Tom Schulz – an investigator with the sheriff's department – and Arch Korman, her 17-year-old son from her first marriage to an abusive husband she refers to as the Jerk. Goldy owns Goldilocks' Catering, which she runs with the help of her assistant Julian Teller. Along with being a wife, mother, and a successful business owner Goldy is also an amateur detective who over the years (and the course of the previous 16 novels in this series) has solved a number of murders and other crimes, usually with the help of her best friend Marla. Goldy is bright, compassionate, and devoted to her friends and family, and gets involved in investigating crimes because, as she herself puts it, "... I care about these people. The Jerk ripped my sense of self to shreds. Helping victims, people I know, helps me recover that self." (Chapter 18, page 222)

At the start of the novel Holly Ingleby collapses and dies after leaving a 17th birthday party which Goldy organized and catered for Holly's son Drew and her own son Arch. Goldy met Holly on the maternity ward after their sons Arch and Drew were born on the same day and they remained friends – although they had drifted apart somewhat over the last several years. While at first it appears that Holly died from a heart attack, Goldy begins to suspect that her friend was murdered after she (Goldy) is almost killed when the deck at the house Holly had rented collapses, and later discovers that the deck had been sabotaged. A toxicology report reveals traces of an antibiotic called Loquin in Holly's blood which is known to cause heart failure in people with certain kinds of heart conditions and Goldy discovers that Holly suffered from one of those conditions, which leaves no doubt that her friend was murdered. A short time later, after a woman who looks like Goldy is killed and Father Pete – the popular priest at St. Luke's Episcopal – is wounded in an attack at the church, and Goldy herself is attacked in her own backyard, Goldy realizes that her own life is in danger.

During the course of the novel, along with catering a couple of affairs that do not go exactly as planned, Goldy and her friend Marla dig into Holly Ingleby's past and uncover secrets Holly had been hiding that go back to when her son Drew had been conceived. Realizing that she didn't know Holly as well as she thought she did Goldy is forced to re-examine what she knows – or thinks she knows – about her friend in order to track down her killer. As she follows the few clues she is able to uncover, Goldy finds herself delving into Holly's past while also reliving some painful moments from her own. In the end Goldy is able to track down evidence that leads to Holly's killer, a fitness instructor named Bob Rushwood, being unmasked, but not before Rushwood shoots her in the ankle. As she is in the hospital recovering from her wound, Goldy finds out that she is pregnant and nine months later gives birth to her and Tom's daughter, Grace. Although a new chapter is starting in Goldy's life, the reader suspects that it will not be long before she finds herself with a new mystery to solve.



## Holly Ingleby

Although Holly Ingleby is murdered early in the novel, much of the story involves Goldy discovering the intimate details of Holly's personal life, which makes her one of the book's main characters. Holly is 38 when she is murdered and appears to be a successful artist who specializes in portrait-collages, although Goldy quickly discovers that Holly's finances were a disaster and that she had been broke when she died. Holly had a son named Drew – who'd been born at the same hospital on the same day as Goldy's son Arch, and to whom she was devoted – and had been married to George Ingleby, a millionaire who she'd divorced eight years before the story opens. Holly was an exercise fanatic who kept herself in great shape, although she did suffer from a heart problem which involved the S-T interval of her heartbeat, and had died as the result of ingesting a banned antibiotic called Loquin. Shortly after her death Goldy hears a rumor that Holly had been having an affair with a psychiatrist named Warren Broome and Goldy suspects Broome is responsible for Holly's death, although this turns out not to be the case.

During the course of the story Goldy finds out that Holly kept a number of secrets from everyone – including her friends and family – and that one of these secrets had gotten her killed. Holly had been partners with a Denver artist named Andrei Yurbin, who actually made the portrait-collages that Holly became famous for, and Yurbin had been demanding more money for his work at the time Holly had been killed. Goldy also learns that George Ingleby had not been the father of Holly's son Drew, and that Holly had kept this fact a secret from both George and Drew. After George stopped paying child support for Drew, Holly had started blackmailing Drew's biological father Bob Rushwood, who she'd had a brief affair with 18 years earlier, and had then taken up with again several years later. Bob, who was engaged to an heiress named Ophelia Unger, had murdered Holly to stop the blackmail as well as to keep the fact that he'd been stealing from his charity – Pails for Trails – a secret. Although she had not lived a perfect life, Holly was basically a decent woman who had tried to do her best for herself and her son, and had not deserved to die.

## Marla Korman

Marla Korman is Goldy's best friend, and helps her with her investigation into the death of Holly Ingleby (and, the reader can assume, has helped Goldy with the investigations she conducted in several the previous 16 novels in the series). Marla also often helps Goldy cater events, although she is not an employee of Goldilocks' Catering. Marla had once been married to Goldy's ex-husband the Jerk (Dr. John Richard Korman), and had also been a member with Goldy of a support group for divorced women called Amour Anonymous, where she had become friends with Holly Ingleby, another member of the group. Marla is outspoken, doesn't care what people think of her, and is very wealthy as the result of having inherited a small fortune. She also loves gossip, and has a network of friends who keep her up-to-date on everything that happens in Aspen Meadows.



Marla is devoted to Goldy, and over the years has always been there to help her friend with her business, with her investigations, or to support her in her personal life.

During the course of Goldy's investigation into Holly Ingleby's death, Marla is able to use her 'gossip contacts' to uncover several pieces of information that help steer Goldy in the right direction, including information about Holly's finances and rumors that Holly had been having an affair with Dr. Warren Broome, who is Goldy's main suspect for much of the story. Marla tends to be impatient and bribes several people to get information about Holly during the course of the story. At the end of the novel, when Bob Rushwood confronts them with a gun, Marla bravely tackles Rushwood and pulls the ski-mask he is wearing off his face before Bob is able to throw her aside and shoot Goldy in the ankle. Throughout the novel Marla is always ready to go anywhere Goldy wants to go to investigate Holly's death (although she truly despises Goldy's habit of starting her day before 7:00 AM) and is a loyal and trustworthy friend.

## Tom Schulz

Tom Schulz is Goldy's second – and current – husband, and is an investigator with the Furman Country Colorado Sheriff's Department. Tom is a competent and thorough investigator who likes to do things by the book, but also respects his wife Goldy's instincts and investigative abilities. Tom is in charge of the official investigation into the death of Holly Ingleby and shares whatever information he uncovers about the case with Goldy. While he respects Goldy's abilities and understands that forbidding Goldy to investigate a case will do no good, he also knows that Goldy has a habit of getting herself into dangerous situations and worries about her constantly. As a precaution Tom assigns one of his most trusted men, Sergeant Boyd, to stay with Goldy and accompany her and Marla anywhere they go for the duration of the investigation into Holly's death.

On the final day of Goldy's investigation (Wednesday) Tom finds himself with nothing to do until the autopsy report comes in on Thursday, and takes Sergeant Boyd's place. He accompanies Goldy and Marla first to Boulder, and then to the house Holly had rented where he shoots Bob Rushwood in the chest after Bob attacks Goldy and Marla. Tom is able to use the evidence on the flash-drive Goldy finds at the rental house, as well as statements from Father Pete after he wakes up, to finally tie up the missing pieces of the mystery, and he keeps Goldy updated as she recovers from a gunshot wound to her ankle in the hospital. At the end of the novel Tom is in the delivery room when Goldy gives birth to their daughter, Grace. Throughout the novel Tom is seen as an understanding, compassionate man who loves Goldy and tries to keep her safe in spite of herself.

## Julian Teller

Julian Teller is Goldy's 20-something vegetarian assistant at Goldilocks' Catering, as well as Goldy's friend and confidant. Julian is a talented chef who cares as much about Goldy's business as Goldy does herself, and takes up the slack when Goldy finds





herself busy or needs to head off to follow a lead. Julian works on every event Goldy caters – both doing prep work at Goldy’s house and final cooking duties at the event sites themselves – and creates several of the dishes listed in the recipe section at the end of the book. Julian is living with Goldy, Tom, and Arch in their spare room for most of the novel, and is considered a part of the family by all of them. Although Julian prefers to stay out of Goldy’s investigations for the most part, he does let Goldy and Marla bounce ideas off him as he works in the kitchen, and occasionally provides insights that they had never considered.

Julian inherited a substantial amount of money which he never uses at some point in the past, and gives Drew Ingleby \$1,000 to tide him over after Holly’s murder. He also saves Goldy’s life after the deck at Holly’s rented house collapses by pulling her out of the lake she falls into before she drowns, and interrupts the person who attacks Goldy in her backyard before he can do her any serious harm. At the end of the novel Julian buys his own house in Aspen Meadows and begins dating Ophelia Unger, who had once been engaged to Bob Rushwood.

## **Bob Rushwood**

Bob Rushwood is a 38-year-old personal trainer who works at the Aspen Meadows Country Club and at the start of the novel is engaged to an heiress named Ophelia Unger, the daughter of Neil Unger. Bob is a large, muscular man who wears his hair in dreadlocks (which makes him look younger) and runs a local charity called Pails for Trails, which is dedicated to making the surrounding hiking trails accessible to disabled people. Rushwood is also the biological father of Holly Ingleby’s son Drew; the two had started having an affair at a medical conference 18 years earlier while Holly had still been married to her husband George, and it had continued off and on for several years. Prior to her death, Holly discovered that Bob was stealing thousands of dollars a year from Pails for Trails, as well as sleeping with a Boulder hairstylist named Wendy Williams, and started blackmailing him. At the joint birthday party for Drew Ingleby and Arch Korman, Rushwood had sprinkled an antibiotic called Loquin on Holly’s favorite dish, which he knew would stop her heart, and sabotaged the deck at Holly’s rented house in an attempt to kill Drew. He later critically wounded Father Pete and killed a woman named Kathy Beliar after finding out that Holly had gone to Father Pete for counseling. Rushwood is shot in the chest (after he shoots Goldy in the ankle) by Tom Schulz, and later dies of an infection in the hospital.

## **George Ingleby**

George Ingleby is a multimillionaire, and the ex-husband of Holly Ingleby. Prior to the very end of the novel when Holly’s murder is solved, George also believes that he is the father of Drew, Holly’s son. After their divorce, George got remarried to a shrewish woman named Lena, and the two of them live in a huge mansion with George’s 80-year-old mother Edith. Although George loves Drew and has always done his best to be a good father to him, he cuts off his support payments to Holly at Lena’s insistence after



he discovers that he is sterile; he later tells Tom that he knew this would only be a temporary measure to get Lena off his back, and Holly died before he'd been able to reinstate the payments. Holly had not invited George to Drew and Arch's birthday party which hurt George deeply and this, coupled with a lawsuit for back support Holly filed shortly before she died, made him a suspect in Holly's murder. After Holly's murder is solved, George learns once and for all that he is not Drew's father, but he doesn't care; after Drew returns from his trip to Alaska, George brings him to live with him, and sets him up in an apartment in the Ingleby mansion that will allow him to get away from Lena and Edith when he needs to.

## **Dr. Warren Broome**

Dr. Warren Broome is a psychiatrist who got his license to practice back shortly before the story begins after losing it for six months for sexual misconduct. Broome has recently married Patsie Boatfield, and is rumored to have had an affair with Holly Ingleby. In part because of the rumored affair, and in part because of his erratic – and on two occasions violent – behavior, he is Goldy's main suspect throughout most of the novel. Although Broome is not the killer, it turns out that he lied to both the state board and his new wife when he said that he'd only slept with one patient after a number of other women – including Audrey Millard, the secretary at St. Luke's Episcopal – come forward to make sexual misconduct complaints. As the novel ends it appears that Broome will lose his license again – this time permanently – and Patsie Boatfield divorces him.

## **Arch Korman**

Arch Korman is Goldy's 17-year-old son from her first marriage. Arch was born on the same day and in the same hospital as Drew Ingleby and although they eventually start attending different schools, the two had remained friends over the years. Arch is a sensitive and caring young man who is deeply affected by the death of Holly Ingleby, and he volunteers his time working for Bob Rushwood's Pails for Trails charity where he hopes to be able to have a trail dedicated to Holly. Goldy occasionally presses Arch into service when she is short-handed on a catering job, as is the case when she does the fundraiser for the church. Arch is a good, responsible young man who is very loyal to his friends and his family and who Goldy is very proud of, although she thinks that he is growing up way too fast.

## **Neil Unger**

Neil Unger is a wealthy and important member of the Aspen Meadows community who hires Goldy to throw a 21st birthday party for his daughter Ophelia. At that party Ophelia and a lawyer Goldy had put her in touch with named Brewster Motley reveal that Neil had kept the fact that Ophelia's mother had left her a fortune totaling \$30 million dollars secret so that he could control it and collect the six-figure yearly fee for administering it.



Neil had also been using Ophelia's fiancé Bob Rushwood to keep tabs on her. Neil is a suspect in Holly Ingleby's murder for much of the novel, although he is never high on Goldy's list. At the end of the novel, Brewster Motley's law firm files a complaint against Neil on behalf of his daughter Ophelia, charging him with fraud.

## Ophelia Unger

Ophelia Unger is the daughter Neil Unger. Just prior to her 21st birthday party, Ophelia asks Goldy if she can recommend a good lawyer, and Goldy puts her in touch with Brewster Motley, who she knows from a previous mystery. Ophelia believes that her mother Athena had left her money when she'd died years before that her father had never told her about, and it turns out that she is correct; her mother left her a trust totaling \$30 million dollars. Ophelia had been engaged to Bob Rushwood, but broke the engagement on the night of her party. At the end of the novel, Ophelia starts dating Goldy's assistant, Julian Teller.

## Father Pete

Father Pete is the popular priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church which Goldy, Marla, and several other characters in the novel attend. In the months preceding her death, Father Pete had been counseling Holly Ingleby regularly. Father Pete is stabbed and critically wounded in an attack at the church the day after Holly's death in which a woman named Kathie Beliar is killed and a folder marked COUNSELING is stolen from the church files. Father Pete spends most of the novel in a coma, which he recovers from shortly after Bob Rushwood is revealed as Holly Ingleby's killer, and he confirms that it had also been Bob who'd been responsible for the attack at St. Luke's.

## Drew Ingleby

Drew Ingleby is Holly Ingleby's 17-year-old son, and the biological son of Bob Rushwood. Drew adored his mother and is devastated when she dies, and although Tom briefly (and half heartedly) considers him as a suspect in Holly's death, he is quickly cleared. The day after Holly dies Drew leaves with Holly's sister for Alaska, where he remains for most of the rest of the story. In the end, Drew goes to live with Holly's ex-husband George Ingleby – who had believed he was Drew's father prior to Holly's murder – where Drew is given an apartment of his own in the Ingleby mansion.

## Audrey Millard

Audrey Millard is the secretary at St. Luke's. A shy, pretty woman in her early 40s, Audrey tells Goldy that she had been sexually assaulted by Dr. Warren Broome, but had not come forward to avoid the publicity. She also tells Goldy that shortly before she died, Holly had given her a jigsaw puzzle of China which – along with a second puzzle



Goldy finds at Holly's rented house – provides an important clue in solving her murder. In the end Audrey reports Broome and helps ensure he loses his license for good.

## **Andrei Yurbin**

Andrei Yurbin is a reclusive Denver artist who had been Holly's teacher in art school and who in the months prior to her death had actually created the portrait-collages that had made Holly successful. Yurbin wanted more money for his work from Holly and he confronted her the day of Drew and Arch's party (and had been thrown out of the party by Tom), but was quickly eliminated as a suspect in Holly's murder when it was discovered that the portrait-collages he did for her were his only source of income.

## **Sergeant Boyd**

Sergeant Boyd is a member of the Furman Country Sheriff's Department and is assigned to accompany Goldy (and Marla) wherever they go by Tom after Goldy is almost killed in the deck collapse at Holly's rented house. Boyd is gruff and doesn't say much, but he is willing to lend a hand when he can both with Goldy's investigation and her catering business. At the church fundraiser, Boyd does a stand-up comedy routine – Traffic Stops I Have Known – which keeps the guests laughing for almost an hour.

## **Kathie Beliar**

Kathie Beliar is the woman who is killed during the attack at St. Luke's in which Father Pete is critically wounded. A strange, unbalanced woman who chased one pipe-dream after another, Kathie had rented Holly the house by the lake and did everything she could to become just like Goldy Schulz – including changing her hair and starting a catering business – in the hopes that Holly would someday become her best friend. Bob Rushwood kills Kathie after stabbing Father Pete because she saw his face.

## **Sergeant Jones/Sergeant Armstrong**

Sergeants Jones and Armstrong are members of the Furman Country Sheriff's Department who Tom assigns to help guard Goldy and Arch when it appears they might be targets. Jones is an attractive African-American woman who accompanies Arch (and his friend Gus) wherever they go during the course of Goldy's investigation, including to the Pails for Trails work-site, and the church fundraiser. Sergeant Armstrong is brought in to provide extra security on the day of the fundraiser.



# Symbols and Symbolism

## Goldilocks' Catering

Goldilocks' Catering – “Where Everything is Just Right!” – is the name of the catering business owned by Goldy Schulz. Goldy, along with her assistant Julian Teller, runs the business out of the kitchen in her home, and she also owns a small conference center in town which she makes available for group functions; the fundraiser for St. Luke's Episcopal Church is held there when the church building is closed off as a crime scene after Father Pete is stabbed. Over the years Goldy has used her love of food, her talent as a chef, and her burning desire to be independent after divorcing her abusive first husband years before the novel opens, to lovingly build the business from the ground up. To Goldy, Goldilocks' Catering represents her ability to succeed on her own – which the reader understands is something Goldy never believed was possible when she'd been married to the Jerk – and is a very important part of her life.

## Amour Anonymous

Amour Anonymous is the name of a support group that Goldy, Marla, and Holly had all been a part of after their respective divorces. The group would meet regularly and discuss what was going on in each member's life, and members would also try and help one another get through particularly difficult times. Although Amour Anonymous had broken up years before after most of the members moved away, remarried, or simply lost interest, Goldy had kept the notes she'd made at each meeting as the group's recording secretary in a file cabinet in her basement. Goldy and Marla are able to find several important leads in these notes – including the fact that Holly had suffered from a heart condition, and had attended a doctor's conference in Boulder eighteen years earlier that Goldy had also been at – which helps Goldy eventually discover the identity of Holly's killer.

## Pails for Trails

Pails for Trails is a charity run by Bob Rushwood which is dedicated to making the many hiking trails in the mountains surrounding Aspen Meadows accessible to disabled people. Prior to his mother's death Drew Ingleby had volunteered his time clearing trails for the charity (completely unaware that Rushwood was his biological father), and after Holly is killed Goldy's son Arch and his friend Gus work for the charity in the hopes that they can get one of the trails they clear dedicated to Holly. Several months prior to her death, Holly Ingleby had discovered that Rushwood was stealing thousands of dollars a month from the charity and had used that knowledge – as well as the fact that Bob was Drew's biological father – to blackmail him. Rushwood murders Holly in order to end the blackmail, and keep his secrets safe.



## The Back Deck at Holly's Rented House

After Holly's death, Goldy and several others accompany Drew Ingleby back to the rented house by the lake where he and Holly lived. While the others help Drew pack, Goldy steps out onto the back deck and walks to the end when she sees an envelope marked: "DREW! HERE'S YOUR MONEY!" sitting in a planter. The deck immediately collapses sending Goldy into the lake below, where she would have drowned if Julian hadn't saved her. It is later discovered that the support posts beneath the end of the deck had been removed by Bob Rushwood in an attempt to kill Drew and end the possibility of anyone discovering that he is Drew's biological father. The sabotaged deck represents the first concrete evidence that there is something more to Holly Ingleby's death than a simple heart attack, and kick-starts Goldy's investigation into what turns out to be Holly's murder.

## Loquin

Loquin is an antibiotic that had been pulled off the market after it was discovered that it caused several severe side effects in some patients including terrible nightmares and hallucinations, which a number of the guests at Drew and Arch's 17th birthday party suffer from later that night. Loquin is also known to cause heart attacks in people who have an irregular S-T interval in their heartbeat, a condition that Goldy discovers Holly suffered from, and the toxicology tests show traces of the antibiotic in Holly's blood. Bob Rushwood, who knew about Holly's heart condition, had taken Loquin for a sinus infection shortly before it was pulled off the market. He kept some of the antibiotic after the sinus infection cleared up, and sprinkled enough of the ground-up tablets onto the chili relleno torta he knew Holly would eat at Drew and Arch's party to kill her.

## Portrait-Collages

Holly Ingleby had become quite well-known as an artist in the months prior to her death for her unique portrait-collages. These portrait-collages were fairly large works of art which used photographs, favorite items, and even clothing to tell the story of a person's life in collage form. In the course of her investigation, Goldy discovers that while Holly had sold – and taken credit for creating – these portrait-collages, they had actually been made by a reclusive Denver artist named Andrei Yurbin, with whom she'd been in partnership. When she feared that she might be killed by Bob Rushwood, Holly had hidden a flash-drive which would lead whoever found it to Bob behind the cardboard backing of a portrait-collage she'd had Yurbin make of her son Drew. It is Goldy who discovers the flash-drive at the end of the novel, just before Bob Rushwood shoots her in the ankle.



## Jigsaw Puzzles

Prior to becoming well-known for portrait-collages, Holly had created and sold hand-painted jigsaw puzzles. Although she had given up making these puzzles several years prior to the start of the story, she makes one shortly before her death and gives it to Audrey Millard, the church secretary at St. Luke's, with instructions for Audrey to give it to Father Pete if anything happened to her. Goldy finds another of these puzzles on the desk in the living room of Holly's rented houses after she dies; both puzzles are of Hunan Province in China. After being reminded of a class Holly had taught about how to make two-sided jigsaw puzzles (with the country of Turkey on one side and the bird on the other) Goldy realizes that Holly created the puzzles to lead Father Pete or someone else to her collection of fine china, where she'd hidden a clue to be found in the event of her death pointing to Bob Rushwood as the likely killer.

## Haviland China

One of the things that Holly was able to keep after her financial problems started and she was forced to move to the rented house by the lake after she lost her large house in the country club development was her collection of antique Haviland China, which had been passed down to her by her grandmother. Goldy remembered Holly always referring to the collection as "Grandmother's Haviland," and the collection had been one of her most prized possessions. After she makes the connection between the jigsaw puzzles and the china, Goldy sees that there are three plates displayed in the china cabinet that do not belong there and finds a swatch of fabric taped behind one of these plates that leads her to the flash-drive hidden behind Drew's portrait-collage.

## Cell Phones/Reception

Throughout the course of the novel the main characters use cell phones to keep in contact with one another, and Goldy and Tom use their phones to text information back and forth throughout the course of the book. One of the first clues that Goldy finds is a text message on Holly's cell phone – which turns out to have been sent from an untraceable number – that reads: "Not another cent. Don't ask, or you will regret it." Due to the fact that Aspen Meadows is located at 8,000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by mountains, cell phone reception is intermittent or unavailable in a number of key locations. This less than perfect coverage is why Bob Rushwood is able to attack Goldy and Marla at Holly's rented house and shoot Goldy in the ankle when Tom steps out on the front porch to get a better signal after his office calls him.

## Vans

Goldy uses a brightly painted van with Goldilocks' Catering on the side in her business to deliver food to the sites of the events that she caters. Prior to her being murdered by Bob Rushwood after she sees him stab Father Pete in the church office at St. Luke's,



Kathie Beliar had bought a van that was the same make and model as Goldy's catering van, painted it the same colors, and printed Goldy's Catering (instead of Goldilocks' Catering) on the side. Kathie was an emotionally disturbed person who had bought and painted the van (and also changed her hair and the way she dressed) in an attempt to make herself as much like Goldy Schulz as possible in the hopes that Holly Ingleby – who she thought was the most beautiful and elegant person she'd ever met – would become her best friend. Kathie is at St. Luke's trying to persuade Father Pete to use her new catering business for the church fundraiser instead of Goldilocks' Catering when Bob Rushwood tries to kill the priest, and dies because she is in the wrong place at the wrong time.





# Settings

## Aspen Meadows, Colorado

The vast majority of the action in the novel takes place in the small town of Aspen Meadows, Colorado, where Goldy Schulz lives and operates Goldilocks' Catering. Perched at 8,000 feet above sea level, Aspen Meadows is a tightly knit, affluent community located in the mountains 40 miles west of Denver and less than an hour's drive from Boulder. All of the novel's major characters and most of the minor characters live in Aspen Meadows. Much of the novel takes place in Goldy Schulz's home, which she shares with her husband Tom, her son Arch, and her assistant Julian Teller. Significant scenes take place in Goldy's kitchen while she and Julian (often with Marla helping) are prepping food for the events they cater during the course of the story; the basement, where Goldy keeps the notes she took at the Amour Anonymous meetings she'd gone to with Marla and Holly Ingleby years before; and the backyard, where Goldy is attacked by a stranger who is later revealed to be Bob Rushwood.

Other important scenes in Aspen Meadows take place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where Goldy and Marla (along with Sergeant Boyd) find Kathie Beliar dead and Father Pete critically wounded after an attack that turns out to be committed by Bob Rushwood; Goldy's small conference center, where the fundraiser for St. Luke's is held; Neil Unger's mansion, where Ophelia Unger's 21st birthday party is held; Marla's house, where Drew and Arch's joint 17th birthday party is held and where Holly collapses and dies on the street outside afterwards; and Holly's rented house by the lake, where Goldy is almost killed when the sabotaged deck collapses, she uncovers the evidence that reveals Bob Rushwood as Holly's murderer, and where Bob is shot in the chest by Tom after he shoots Goldy in the ankle.

## Denver, Colorado

Shortly after her divorce from George Ingleby Holly had moved to Denver, about 40 miles east of Aspen Meadows. Goldy, Marla, and Sergeant Boyd travel to Denver on Tuesday where they talk to a woman named Nan in the gift shop of the Catholic church Holly attended while she lived there who tells them that Holly had fallen in love with a man there eight years before who had broken her heart when he dumped her. They also visit a reclusive artist named Andrei Yurbin, who had arrived uninvited at Arch and Drew's party the previous Friday night, and who Goldy had recognized from a party she'd attended with Holly years before. While they are at his house, Goldy discovers that Yurbin had been in partnership with Holly, and had actually been the one who created the portrait-collages that had made Holly well-known.



## Boulder, Colorado

On the final day of her investigation – Wednesday – Goldy, along with Marla and Tom, go to Boulder and talk with a hairdresser at the Mane Street Salon named Wendy Williams who had done Holly Ingleby's hair for years; although they don't realize it at the time, Wendy has been having an affair with Bob Rushwood for years, and calls him as soon as they leave the salon. They also visit the Flatirons Conference Center where Holly, Goldy, and several of the suspects in Holly's murder had attended a medical conference 18 years before – at which both Goldy and Holly had become pregnant with their sons. Something that Mrs. Peterson, the center's director, says about a course Holly had taught on making jigsaw puzzles shakes something loose in Goldy's brain and helps her discover the missing piece at the rented house back in Aspen Meadows that is crucial to finding Holly Ingleby's killer.



# Themes and Motifs

## Friendship

Friendship – and what it means to be a friend – is a theme that runs through the entire novel, and something that the author explores in depth. Even though they had drifted apart over the years as their lives went in different directions, Goldy considers Holly Ingleby to be one of her closest friends and is shocked and saddened to learn how much there was about her friend that she didn't know as she begins looking into Holly's death. Although Marla – and even Julian, who didn't know Holly anywhere near as well as Goldy – knows that Holly had suffered a number of financial setbacks recently which had culminated in her losing her large house in the country club development to foreclosure, Goldy had no clue even as she was planning the joint birthday party for Arch and Drew how dismal Holly's financial situation really was. After Holly is murdered, Goldy finds herself wondering if she might have been able to save her if she'd been a better friend, and this causes her to continue with her investigation even during those periods when it looks as if she is getting nowhere and she feels like giving up. Even though it wasn't completely her fault Goldy realizes that she hadn't been there for her friend during the last few months of her life, and she is determined not to make the same mistake when it comes to finding Holly's killer.

While the author shows the danger of drifting away from friends with Goldy and Holly's relationship in the months before Holly is murdered, she also explores how important friends and friendships are with the two other major friends in Goldy's life, Marla and Julian. Marla has been Goldy's closest friend and confidant for years, and is always available to help Goldy whether it is with an investigation, a catering job, or by being a chauffeur (which she serves as after Goldy injures her leg in the deck collapse). Because she knows that Marla is her friend and would never hurt her, Goldy never questions her motives or her loyalty. Goldy relies on Marla's instincts, insights, and sense of humor throughout the investigation into Holly's death, and would not have been able to figure out the mystery without her help.

While he is technically her employee, Julian Teller is also a close friend that Goldy relies on throughout the novel to take up the slack in the catering business while she is recovering from an injury or investigating Holly's murder, and who is always willing to serve as a sounding board Goldy can bounce her ideas off of when Marla isn't around. Julian cares deeply about Goldy and the rest of her family, and keeps track of Goldy's son Arch for her throughout most of the story as well as preparing most of the meals the family eats, even though this is not his job. Julian is someone that Goldy knows without question will always be there for her, without her having to ask. One of the main reasons that Goldy states at the end of the novel that she finally has "the whole enchilada" is because of the presence of these two close friends in her life.



## Secrets

As Goldy investigates the murder of Holly Ingleby she learns that her friend had been a woman whose life was full of secrets that she had never confided even to her best friends. Although many people who knew her – including Goldy – believed that Holly's life was pretty much an open book, as she delves deeper into Holly's past Goldy slowly learns that almost nothing about her life was as it seemed to be. While Holly took credit and gained a certain amount of local fame for the portrait-collages she sold under her own name, Goldy learns that the artwork had actually been done by a reclusive Denver artist named Yurbin who had once been Holly's teacher. Although after her divorce Holly encouraged the idea among her friends and acquaintances that she had a steady string of relationships with different men, in reality she had fallen in love with Bob Rushwood – who she'd had a brief affair with at a medical conference 18 years earlier – when she found him again in Denver soon after her divorce, and kept this relationship her most closely guarded secret. After learning that her husband George was sterile and that Rushwood was Drew's biological father as a result of their having sex at the medical conference, she keeps that fact a secret from both Drew and George, and then later uses this information – along with other secrets she learns about Bob Rushwood – to blackmail him, which ultimately leads to Holly's death.

Holly is not the only person in the novel who keeps dark, destructive secrets. Dr. Warren Broome – a psychiatrist who had just recently gotten his license to practice back after losing it for six months for sexual misconduct – spends much of the novel acting erratically because, contrary to his claim that he only slept with the one client who'd reported him, he'd actually slept with a number of other women and is afraid this secret will come out; several of these woman come forward at the end of the novel, and Broome loses both his practice and his wife. Neil Unger keeps the fact that his late wife Athena had left his daughter Ophelia a trust worth more than \$30 million dollars a secret in an attempt to cheat her out of the money, and is eventually charged with fraud by Ophelia after she discovers his deception with the help of a lawyer Goldy introduced her to. Bob Rushwood, along with hiding his relationship with Holly and the fact that he is Drew's father, also keeps his affair with Boulder hairdresser Wendy Williams and the fact that he has been stealing thousands of dollars a month from his charity Pails for Trails, secret. Holly discovers these secrets and uses them to blackmail Bob, which is what ultimately causes him to kill her. Throughout the course of her investigation into the death of Holly Ingleby Goldy uncovers one secret after another involving a number of Aspen Meadow's most well-known citizens, and these secrets eventually lead to their downfall and destruction.

## Love

Both the positive and negative aspects of love are shown during the course of the novel. After her divorce from George Ingleby – from whom she had never received the kind of love that she needed – Holly Ingleby moved to Denver, where she reconnected with Bob Rushwood. Holly had a brief affair with Rushwood almost ten years earlier during



which her son Drew was conceived. During that time in Denver Holly had fallen deeply in love with Rushwood and even though she discovered that he was a narcissist who used women when he dumped her after going through all the money from her divorce settlement, Holly had never been able to get over him, and had moved back to Aspen Meadows so that she could be near him. Even after she started blackmailing him, Holly continued to love Bob Rushwood, and he was the man in the “relationship mess” Holly had mentioned to Goldy at the party; her love for Bob and her inability to walk away from him ultimately cost Holly her life. A second example of destructive love is the affair that Audrey Millard had with the psychiatrist Dr. Warren Broome while Audrey had been Broome’s patient. Audrey believed that she loved Broome and that he loved her until the details of his affair with another woman came out after that other woman accused him of sexual misconduct. Audrey had fallen into a deep depression that almost destroyed her until Father Pete had been able to make her see that she was a victim, and by the end of the novel Audrey is strong enough to come forward and tell her own story of Broome’s predatory sexual practices.

Although Goldy’s first marriage had been to an abusive doctor she calls the Jerk who had once broken her thumb with a hammer when he got angry at her, Goldy finds true love and happiness with her second husband, Tom Schulz. While the reader can assume that the details of how they met and fell in love are recounted in an earlier book in the series, it is clear early on in this novel that Goldy loves Tom deeply and that Tom absolutely adores her. Tom is a kind, gentle, and understanding man who worries about Goldy and does everything he can to keep her safe, but also understands that part of what he loves about her is her independence and strength and will never do anything to stifle those qualities. Goldy and Tom are both unique individuals who complement each other’s strengths and help to compensate for one another’s weaknesses, and the reader understands that they belong together.

At the end of the novel, George Ingleby finally learns for certain that Bob Rushwood is really the biological father of Holly’s son Drew, although he and his wife Lena had suspected that he wasn’t Drew’s father for some time after tests confirmed that George is sterile. While George had never really loved Holly, he has always been devoted to his son, and doesn’t care that he is not Drew’s biological father. In George’s eyes Drew is his son, and he loves him more than anything in the world. In the end he brings Drew to the Ingleby mansion to live, and tries to help the boy deal with the death of his mother.



# Styles

## Point of View

The Whole Enchilada is written in the first person and the point of view is that of the narrator, 38-year-old Goldy Schulz; Goldy lives with her husband Tom and her son Arch in the affluent community of Aspen Meadows, Colorado, owns Goldilocks' Catering, and is an amateur detective. All of the information and action in the novel is presented as it is understood or experienced by Goldy, and she is present in every scene in the book. The point of view is reliable insofar as Goldy presents information accurately as she understands it – although what she understands might not always be accurate. Goldy also presents her insights into people and events, as well as her thoughts and feelings about what happens during the course of the story, which helps the reader to connect with Goldy, understand how her mind works, and care about what happens to her. Given the nature of the story and Goldy's importance to the plot, this point of view works well and helps to make the narrative easy to follow.

The novel is written using a combination of descriptive prose and dialogue. The dialogue is presented as conversations between Goldy and the other characters in the novel, and is for the most part fast-paced and informative; there are very few overly long speeches, and the give-and-take is natural sounding and easy to read. The descriptive passages are not overly long, and are usually interspersed with the dialogue which helps to keep the story moving forward at a good, crisp pace. The author also presents several conversations between Goldy and her husband Tom in the form of text messages. The story is told in a linear fashion – although there are several “flashback” scenes as Goldy recounts incidents and experiences from her past – and the reader is kept well aware of the passage of time throughout the course of the novel.

## Language and Meaning

The novel is written for an adult audience, and the language used reflects the overall personality and education level of the narrator Goldy Schulz, who is a college graduate and always interested in learning new things. For the most part, the language used in the dialogue is informal and fits the characters that use it quite well. Each of the major characters, and several of the minor ones, have their own individual “voice” which the author carries on through the narrative, and which helps to make them easy to recognize very quickly; this is particularly important as this book has a very large cast of characters and minimizing the challenge of keeping them straight allows the reader to concentrate on the fairly complicated storyline. For the most part the language used will be easily understandable to readers with a high school education or above.

While, as previously stated, the novel is intended for an adult audience there is virtually no profanity to speak of used in either the dialogue or descriptive prose, and there is no graphic sexual content in the book. There are several violent scenes in the novel but



these are crucial to the storyline, are presented tastefully, and should not be upsetting to even the most sensitive reader. There is very little slang used in the narrative and, with the exception of the names of some of the dishes prepared during the course of the story (for example: chili relleno torta), no non-English words are used. There is some technical information in the book – much of it involving food preparation – but this is presented in clear, easy to understand terms and does not interfere with the story or interrupt the flow of the narrative.

## Structure

The novel is 372 pages long and is divided into 25 numbered, untitled chapters as well as a two page Prologue and 12 page Epilogue; there is also a section following the Epilogue which presents step-by-step instructions (like one would find in a cookbook) on how to make ten of the dishes featured in the novel. The longest chapter is 21 pages, and the shortest chapter is just over six pages in length. The action in the novel – with the exception of the Epilogue – takes place in the present day over the course of six days in the middle of June; the Epilogue covers nine months. Most chapters cover multiple events or conversations, and the reader is kept aware of the passage of time either through conversation or by being informed of the time in the narrative. Some chapters contain unnumbered, untitled sub-chapters while others do not.

The novel contains one main plot-line and several subplots. The main plot-line follows Goldy Schulz and her friend Marla Korman as they investigate – and eventually solve – the murder of Goldy's friend Holly Ingleby after a joint birthday party Goldy had catered for Holly's son Drew and her own son Arch. One of the novel's subplots involves the attempt by Neil Unger to keep the \$30 million trust fund his late wife Athena had left to their daughter Ophelia when she died secret so that he can continue to collect the six-figure fee he is paid for managing the trust. A second subplot involves a woman named Audrey Millard who had been violated by her psychiatrist Dr. Warren Broome – who has just gotten his license to practice back as the story opens – and her decision to come forward and tell her story. The main plot-line and all of the subplots are brought to a conclusion – and the loose ends of the mystery are tied up – at the end of the novel.



## Quotes

Most people were stunned by her death. Most. But not all.

-- Goldy Schulz (Prologue paragraph 8, Page 2)

**Importance:** In the short Prologue Goldy Schulz recounts how her friend Holly Ingleby died just a few moments after leaving a 17th birthday party that she (Goldy) had catered for Holly's son Drew and her own son Arch. Although the initial indications are that Holly died as the result of a heart attack brought on by stressful events that had happened during the party, from the first Goldy believes that there might be something more sinister behind her friend's death.

I thought about Holly, about her financial problems, about a recent break-in at this rental, about haggling for a security system, about the price of real estate, any real estate, in that phenomenally expensive part of Denver: Cherry Hill. I said, "None of this makes sense to me.

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 5 paragraph 4, Page 57)

**Importance:** After Holly's death, Goldy and several other people accompany Drew to the rented house he and Holly had moved to after the bank foreclosed on their large house in the country club development a few months before. While Drew is packing, Goldy's assistant Julian mentions that Drew told him earlier that Holly never worked on her art at home, but rented studio space in the exclusive Cherry Hill section of Denver, 40 miles away. Given what Goldy has recently learned about Holly's money troubles, the idea that she would keep an expensive studio makes no sense to her. It is just the first of many things about Holly's death that will fail to make sense to Goldy.

Tom loved me, no question. He would be worried for me. I was also embarrassingly aware of the look he would give me: 'Can't you even take a kid home without getting into a mess? Or plunging into the lake?

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 7 paragraph 4, Page 69)

**Importance:** After the deck at the house Holly had been renting collapses beneath her and she loses consciousness after plummeting into the lake below, Julian pulls Goldy out of the water before she drowns and she comes to a short time later in the back of an ambulance on her way to the hospital. Goldy insists that the paramedic in the ambulance with her call her husband Tom, an investigator for the Furman Country Sheriff's Department, and tell him what happened. The paramedic makes the call, and tells Goldy that Tom said he would meet her at the hospital. Although she wants to be with her husband, Goldy isn't looking forward to what he might have to say to her.

Meanwhile, like Marla, I wondered about the common courtesy that seemed to be absent here. What was I missing?

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 10 paragraph 3, Page 106)

**Importance:** Goldy and Marla – along with Sergeant Boyd – go to visit Holly's ex-





husband George Ingleby on the morning after Holly's death to see if they can learn anything about why Holly's finances had been in such terrible shape. From the moment they arrive, however, they are insulted and verbally abused first by George's 80-year-old mother Edith, and then by his new wife Lena. George, while not insulting, is non-communicative, and they leave without learning what they came for. However, as they are leaving they learn from Lena that Holly had slept with Warren Broome, a psychiatrist who had lost his license after he was found to be sleeping with his patients, and who Holly had avoided talking to at the party.

Now there's something I'm sorry to tell you." Tom took my hands in his. "Since the van Kathie was driving looked like yours, and since she'd made her appearance like yours, we have to consider that someone was trying to harm, or kill, you.

-- Tom Schulz (Chapter 12 paragraph 2, Page 144)

**Importance:** After learning that Kathie Beliar – a woman who has recently started a catering business and is trying to steal Goldy's customers – is at St. Luke's talking to Father Pete, Goldy decides to confront the woman and find out what's going on. When they arrive, however, Goldy, Marla, and Sergeant Boyd find Kathie stabbed to death and Father Pete critically wounded in the church office. Because Kathie has spent the last few weeks trying to become Goldy in just about every way possible – including changing her hair and dressing like her – Tom can't rule out the idea that whoever had killed her had actually been after Goldy.

Was it possible that there was a connection between Father Pete and Holly that I had not known – specifically, that he had been counseling Holly? Had she told him that she had been blackmailing someone? I wondered.

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 14 paragraph 4, Page 164)

**Importance:** As more information about Holly comes in – including a disturbing phone conversation Drew remembers his mother having with an unknown person just a few days before she died – Goldy finds herself having to rethink what she thought she knew about her friend. Although it seems impossible, she begins to wonder if Holly started blackmailing someone after her ex-husband George had stopped making support payments and her financial problems started, and if she'd gone to Father Pete to help ease her guilty conscience. Although it is a long shot, it is one more thing Goldy thinks she needs to look into.

That's why she died. The antibiotics. Loquin, to be exact. I just got the side effects from the doc we consulted. With a prolonged S-T interval, if she'd been given enough Loquin, her heart would have stopped –

-- Tom Schulz (Chapter 16 paragraph 10, Page 195)

**Importance:** After the toxicology tests show traces of Loquin – an antibiotic that had been pulled from the shelves because of numerous side effects, including nightmares and hallucinations – in Holly's bloodstream, Goldy discovers that Holly had seen a cardiologist while she'd been a member of Amour Anonymous. Tom later finds out from George Ingleby that Holly had one of the few heart conditions that Loquin affected



negatively, and that enough of the antibiotic could cause her heart to stop beating. With this new information, there is no longer any doubt in Goldy's – or anyone else's – mind that Holly Ingleby had been murdered.

When I finally climbed into bed I reflected on the evening; the dinner, the food, the guests. The attack. Except for the money we'd raised for Father Pete's pet project, it had been a catastrophe.

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 17 paragraph 3, Page 212)

**Importance:** Even though they manage to raise \$5,000 – far more than they had expected – the fundraiser dinner is a disaster by Goldy's standards, and she hears several negative comments from guests on their way out, which leave her depressed and irritated. She is restless when she gets home and stays up after Tom goes to bed, and is attacked by a masked stranger in the backyard but is not seriously injured. Although she has uncovered a number of facts that she feels are bringing her closer to finding out who killed Holly, all in all it has been a terrible day and she is glad it is finally over.

Frustration made Tom sound uncharacteristically anxious. "I'm just worried about you, Miss G.

-- Tom Schulz (Chapter 19 paragraph 2, Page 245)

**Importance:** After three days without a solid lead in Holly Ingleby's murder, the additional killing of Kathie Beliar and wounding of Father Pete, and the assault on Goldy in their own backyard after the fundraiser Tom is tired, frustrated, and worried about Goldy's safety. Although Goldy appreciates Tom's concern and loves him for it, she can't fail to keep her catering commitments and stay home – as Tom would like her to – nor will she give up her own investigation into the murder of her friend.

Bob Rushwood could only have seen me introduce Brewster to Ophelia if he'd been watching the meadow below St. Luke's on Sunday morning. Had he been following Ophelia then, spying on her father? ... What else had Bob Rushwood seen that he hadn't told anyone?

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 20 paragraph 4, Page 263)

**Importance:** After Brewster Motley and Ophelia Unger tell Neil Unger that they have discovered that he has been hiding Ophelia's \$30 million inheritance from her, Neil angrily tells Goldy that he knows it was her who'd introduced Motley to his daughter because Bob Rushwood had seen her do it. Goldy knows that the only way Bob could have seen that is if he had been spying on Ophelia secretly, since neither she nor the crime-scene techs that had still been working in St. Luke's Sunday morning had seen him. Goldy finds herself wondering what other secrets Bob Rushwood – as well as Neil Unger – might be keeping.

Dumped her?" said Marla, once we were back in the car. "Who would dump Holly?" "I don't know," I said as I accelerated toward our next stop, Clarkson Shipping. "But at least we have confirmation of one of our theories as to why she moved back to Denver



after the divorce. It wasn't just to go back to art school.

-- Marla Korman/Goldy Schulz (Chapter 21 paragraph 6-7, Page 280)

**Importance:** Goldy, Marla, and Boyd speak with an older woman named Nan who runs the gift shop at the Catholic Church Holly attended while she lived in Denver, and learn that after her divorce Holly had fallen deeply in love with someone. Although Nan doesn't know his name, she does know that Holly had been planning to marry the man, but that he had dumped her eight years ago and that it had broken her heart. The more that Goldy learns about her friend's life, the more she realizes how little she had actually known about Holly Ingleby.

Tom pulled out his gun and fired. He shot Bob Rushwood in the chest. Bob didn't die, but as he writhed on the floor next to where the collage of Drew had fallen in the melee, I saw something I had not expected – the physical resemblance between Drew and his biological father, Bob Rushwood.

-- Goldy Schulz (Chapter 25 paragraph 1, Page 230)

**Importance:** After finally figuring out the significance of the jigsaw puzzles and the fact that they had actually been clues Holly had left before she died about the identity of her killer, Goldy is confronted by Bob Rushwood as she, Marla, and Tom are at Holly's rented house. Goldy realizes Bob is Drew's biological father, and that he not only killed Holly and Kathie Beliar, and wounded Father Pete, but also sabotaged the deck over the lake to kill Drew and attacked Goldy in her backyard. Although Rushwood survives the surgery to remove the bullet, he develops an infection while in the hospital and dies a short time later.

And now I had what I had always wanted – a loving husband, darling children, a tight community: the whole enchilada.

-- Goldy Schulz (Epilogue paragraph 9, Page 342)

**Importance:** Nine months after discovering who killed Holly Ingleby, Goldy gives birth to a healthy baby girl that she and Tom named Grace. As Arch, Julian, Marla, Drew, Ophelia, Arch's friend Gus, and Father Pete come into the delivery room, Goldy is glad that she is surrounded by friends and family and realizes that she has everything she has ever wanted.