

Chapter 16

Jake meets up with the Valentine choir in Mitchell's Plain. Kate Edwards also becomes more involved in the case and in Jake's life.

To consider:

There is a natural distrust of police amongst the choir members. Kate, although also white like Jake, has obviously had no problem being accepted by the choir. We begin to see that investigative journalists can be very useful in digging up information and working with the police.

Questions:

1. Why did some of the choir members not want to talk to Jake?
2. How did some of them feel that justice should be meted out?
3. What surprise about Jimmy's love life did Jake discover?
4. Why is it that Jimmy's mother did not seem to know about this "surprise"?
5. Where had Jake previously met Kate and how had he treated her at that time?

Chapter 17

Jake takes control of the informer situation.

To consider:

Jake shows maturity and strength in how he deals with the informer.

Question:

Why does Jake ask Karen to get hold of Judge Kriegler? What is this need for a warrant all about?

Chapter 18

The Tetwa house is the scene here as the police follow up the lead about a hidden weapon. Jake questions old Ben Tetwa and, briefly, Nkosinati Tetwa.

To consider:

Ben Tetwa seems very honest, old and weary. When Nkosinati is there, there is an obvious tension between Ben and his son, and between Nkosonati and the police.

Questions:

1. Why does Jake first go into the house, rather than straight to the taxi on blocks?
2. What is surprising about Nkosinati's final comment before he leaves?
3. What is surprising about Nomsini having a picture of Jimmy next to her bed?

Chapter 19

The aftermath of the Tetwas arrest is not a happy one. Both Jake and Col. Pienaar feel uneasy about the ease with which the case had apparently been solved. Jake finds that his house has been broken into and a threatening message painted on his wall.

To consider:

Jake had learnt from the Witbooi case and was not being overconfident. What cat, after strangers had trashed its home, would have been as relaxed and purring as Aristotle? Maybe it's on drugs...

Questions:

1. How realistic is it that a gun (murder weapon) is kept in what is well-known to be a taxi's "gun safe"? Would a Tetwa have left it there if it were the murder weapon?
2. Why would other taxi organizations be happy that the Tetwas had been arrested?
3. In terms of how the author had structured the chapter, why was the break-in that more of a surprise to us?

Chapter 20:

This chapter is largely a feedback session at police HQ. The various role players in the crimes have their say. Jake starts to think about tracking down Nomsini as she seems to be missing.

To consider:

Jake, as a victim of crime and threats, seems to be more accepted by his colleagues. Col. Pienaar's complimenting Jake in front of the others is also going to help repair the damage caused by the Witbooi case. Nomsini's disappearance is taking on a slightly sinister note as no-one seems to know where she is.

Questions:

1. What are some of the reasons policemen and women are targeted in their private lives?
2. Why is Shamiel ruled out as a possible suspect in the attack on Jake's house?
3. Why were the Tetwa drivers in a crisis meeting the previous night?
4. In terms of what happened earlier, what is ironic about both Ben and Nkosinati Tetwa being held in the same cell?