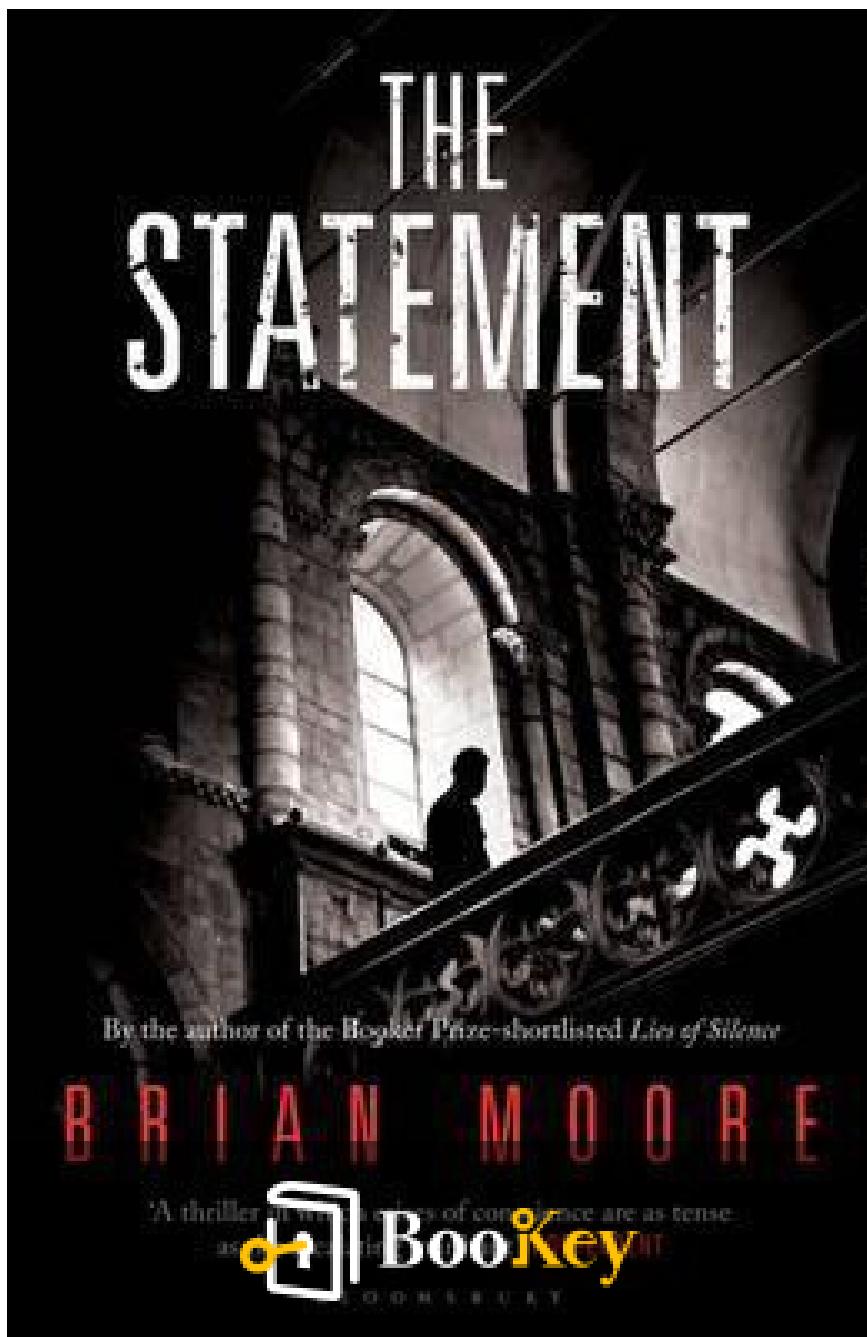


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Brian Moore



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Statement Summary

Faith and Identity in a Divided World.

Written by Books1

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About the book

In "Statement," Brian Moore weaves a gripping tale of moral complexity and the indelible scars left by personal and political turmoil. Set against the backdrop of a volatile Northern Ireland, the narrative follows a woman's journey as she grapples with her tumultuous past and the choices that define her identity. As she confronts love, betrayal, and the haunting repercussions of violence, Moore invites readers to explore the profound impact of memory and the search for redemption in a world where truths are often obscured. This thought-provoking exploration of conscience and consequence will captivate anyone who dares to question the price of forgiveness and the search for meaning amid chaos.

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About the author

Brian Moore was a prolific Irish-Canadian novelist and screenwriter, celebrated for his ability to weave intricate narratives that explore themes of identity, exile, and moral complexity. Born in Belfast in 1921, he witnessed the tumultuous events of World War II and the sectarian violence of Northern Ireland, experiences that profoundly influenced his literary voice. Over his career, Moore authored over a dozen novels, many of which garnered critical acclaim and were shortlisted for prestigious awards, including the Booker Prize. His works often delve into the struggles of characters caught between cultures and faiths, reflecting his own journey as an emigrant. Throughout his life, Moore's keen insights into the human condition and his deft prose solidified his status as a significant figure in contemporary literature.

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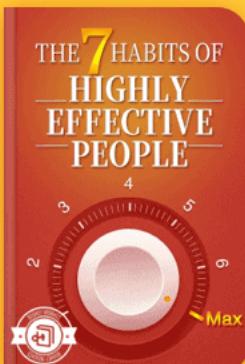
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Chapter 1 Summary: 1

The story revolves around R, a character trailing an elderly man he suspects to be Pierre Brossard, a former officer implicated in wartime atrocities. For four days, R has closely observed the man at the Bar Montana in Salon de Provence, noting his mundane routines, which act as a mask over the deeper activities of his past. The elderly man, while seemingly innocuous, is layered with the complexities of his past, intertwined with war crimes and the Catholic Church's involvement in hiding him.

On May 2nd, R's perseverance pays off as he watches Brossard receive a letter allegedly linked to a significant amount of money—15,000 francs—leading R to confirm the man's identity. Realizing that Brossard's past has come back to haunt him, R decides to take more direct action. As Brossard leaves the café, R's apprehension peaks due to the possibility that Brossard may evade him.

R's meticulous follow-up culminates in a tense encounter that leads to violence. Brossard, upon discovering R's intentions, retaliates violently, leading to R's death in the ravine. Here, the dynamics of power shift; rather than a mere chase of hunter and prey, it transforms into a deadly confrontation, as Brossard disposes of R's body, revealing the chilling lengths to which he will go to safeguard his identity and freedom.

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The narrative then shifts to Brossard's thoughts as he processes his actions, contemplating his long-held beliefs about sin, repentance, and God's forgiveness. He wrestles with guilt over his past actions, questioning the morality of his decisions, especially given the imminent possibility of vengeance from those he has wronged.

As the story further unfolds, there are glimpses of churchman figures like Father Jérôme and Dom André, who juxtapose the clandestine support Brossard has received over the years against the backdrop of a new movement to unearth the truth of his past. These religious figures grapple with their roles as protectors and confessors, caught in a web of moral ambiguity surrounding Brossard's actions during the war.

The tension builds as Valentin, tasked with discovering Brossard's whereabouts, navigates through political corridors, church connections, and police investigations, trying to unravel the layers of complicity that shield Brossard from justice. Meanwhile, the narrative also exposes the prejudices underlying the actions of both the hunters and the hunted.

Conflict between the modern-day quest for justice and the ghosts of the past sustains the tension throughout, as laxity in dealing with past sins exposes the fragility of the present. Ultimately, the characters are enmeshed in a labyrinth of ethical dilemmas, questioning notions of vengeance, justice, and faith, while navigating the shadows of history that linger long after the

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battles are fought.

The intertwining fates of R, Brossard, and the church figures paint a vivid picture of a society grappling with the consequences of a violent past, demonstrating how memory, morality, and the quest for redemption echo through generations.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The haunting nature of one's past actions can shape the present and future.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine facing the shadows of your past choices every day, as they layer your current reality with complexity. The story of Pierre Brossard serves as a stark reminder that actions taken in moments of turmoil can reverberate through time, influencing your life and decisions long after the events have passed. This realization can inspire you to seek redemption and confront your own past, encouraging personal growth as you strive to overcome regrets and transform them into lessons. In recognizing that emotions such as guilt, shame, and the desire for forgiveness can weigh heavily on the human soul, you are urged to address your history with honesty and to embrace the possibility of change, finding strength in the pursuit of accountability and healing.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2

Chapter 2 Summary:

In the foggy ambiance of a Parisian café at Place de l'Alma, the protagonist T awaits a contact for an important clandestine meeting. T reflects on the security measures around him, feeling frustrated by the secrecy of the operations and the manner in which he is treated. He recognizes his contact, a man in his fifties who exudes a bourgeois air, as he enters the café carrying *The Times* newspaper. Their exchange revolves around T's upcoming mission, where he is instructed to memorize an address leading to a rendezvous that might inform his assigned task in the future.

The contact, slightly patronizing, confirms that a passport would be prepared, conveying the gravity of T's upcoming actions. T, tasked with an assassination, feels a mix of anxiety and resentment as the gravity of killing someone becomes real. Thoughts of his mentor, Pochon, an ex-police inspector with a tough demeanor, reverberate in his mind as he recalls the mentor's warnings about obedience in their dangerous milieu. After their meeting, T visits Janine, a girl he has been seeing, offering her a façade of normality—presenting himself as a disillusioned medical student living off parental support.

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Later, he reflects on Janine's comments about her family's wealth in couture and the life choices they both face. He spends idle time watching an action-packed American film before heading to the address provided by the contact. The shift to the real mission begins as T arrives at the old building behind a church at Rue St Thomas d'Aquin, where he meets a mysterious old man who equips him with a new identity and the imperative to complete his task without delay. This crucial meeting reveals that T is not the first to attempt this mission; a previous operative was killed, deepening T's trepidation about the mission ahead.

The old man stresses the need for T to act promptly, warning him about the previous assassin's failure. T's world begins to collapse around him as he grapples with personal identity and the weight of impending decisions in the dark shadows of his mission.

Chapter 20 Summary:

Judge Livi meets Colonel Roux, who reveals the complexity of a case involving Pierre Brossard, a war criminal connected to past atrocities. Roux needs a search warrant for a religious establishment due to his suspicions about Brossard's protection by the Church and high-ranking officials. He

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shares unsettling insights about a recent murder involving an assassin believed to be connected to Brossard. These findings complicate their investigation as Roux links Brossard's activities with a right-wing organization financing him.

Judge Livi uncovers historical corruption surrounding Brossard, revealing that he had previously worked as an informant for the police. The two discuss the implications of their findings and the need for secrecy to navigate the potential fractures within their own agencies. As rumors swirl, Livi prepares to facilitate Roux's request for a covert search warrant, affirming that the stakes are rising as they close in on their elusive target.

Chapter 21 Summary:

T, now hiding in a hotel outside Aix, grows increasingly anxious about losing track of Brossard, his elusive target. He waits for updates from Pochon, his contact, and recalls a promise to phone Janine. When he finally contacts her, it is revealed that his father has supposedly passed away, a lie he tells to maintain his cover. T learns from Janine about an ominous horoscope predicting danger ahead, which amplifies his inner turmoil but also demonstrates the escalating stakes of his mission and the isolation he

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feels as the clock ticks down.

As he muses over his horoscope, T thinks of the upcoming day, May 9th, when he is expected to act on his orders. Despite the trepidation, he must prepare himself for the mission. He senses that he will face substantial dangers, underscored by his history and family past as he embarks on a path filled with moral ambiguity and dire consequences.

Chapter 22 Summary:

Brossard, now increasingly isolated, reflects on a life of careful evasion and existential dread. He is consumed by the ghosts of his past decisions, particularly in relation to his estranged relationship with Nicole, and his desperate need for sanctuary. The narrative shifts to show Brossard initiating a plan to evade authorities while wrestling with his conscience. His interactions with those around him reveal a mix of nostalgia for a normal life and a biting reminder of the life he has chosen.

His encounters with monastic surroundings contrast sharply with his inner turmoil as he acknowledges the danger he faces. Brossard's struggle for redemption in a world filled with betrayal and complicity in violence leads

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him to make choices that he hopes will allow him to escape the long-awaited judgment awaiting him.

Chapter 23 Summary:

T's journey leads him to Villefranche, where he grapples with the overwhelming presence of danger looming over his mission. He suffers through a lack of accommodation, reflecting the precariousness of his position. Once settled, he lays plans for watching Brossard, determining where to make his strike. The day progresses with T contemplating the horoscope warnings, struggling with the duality of action and inaction as he prepares for his confrontation.

He wrestles with the chilling advice he's been given: to make his move quickly, knowing that every moment he hesitates might cost him his opportunity—and his life. As he waits and watches, the tension mounts; he knows the complexities of their past bear down heavily on the mission ahead, as fate takes its unpredictable turn.

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Chapter 24 Summary:

News of T's activity is not limited to him alone; Colonel Roux's mission intensifies as he gathers his best men in pursuit of Brossard. This series of developments indicates the intricate web of law enforcement, protection, and betrayal encompassing the church and state. Roux makes plans to conduct a covert search at the priory where Brossard is believed to be hiding.

The sense of urgency and secrecy is palpable, with Roux determined to uncover any corruption enabling Brossard's evasion of justice. His past ties to Brossard and a labyrinth of conspiracies threaten to complicate the operation further, necessitating careful navigation through bureaucratic waters.

Chapter 25 Summary:

Tension rises as Roux, joined by his team, confronts the potential for violence and upheaval in the search for Brossard. The church grounds are examined with a fine-tooth comb, revealing the implications of Brossard's past activities and connections. As they explore the premises, the weight of

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history presses heavily upon Roux and his team, compelled by the ghosts of the past to find justice.

With Brossard's belongings uncovered, the evidence paints a darker picture of protection and complicity within the church's walls. Roux and his team begin to piece together the fragments of a larger puzzle involving Brossard's past crimes and the reasons for his ongoing evasion from justice.

Chapter 26 Summary:

Tension escalates following the discovery of Brossard's connections to criminal activities. As recent events unfold, it becomes clear that the pursuit of justice is fraught with challenges. Roux grapples with the implications of having uncovered the dangerous web of relationships shielding Brossard from the ramifications of his past.

The rise in violence signals that their investigation is attracting higher scrutiny. Roux realizes that the clock is ticking—not just on finding Brossard but also on solving a deeper conspiracy that threatens to undermine the stability of institutions. The need for a swift resolution becomes increasingly clear, urging Roux and his colleagues to hold the line against

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time and complicity to secure justice.

Chapter 27 Summary:

Vionnet, now at the vineyard, receives urgent news that propels him back into the frenetic world of police affairs. As he moves through the day's events, it becomes unsparingly clear that shadows from the past are not as far behind as he hoped. Listening in on a conversation regarding Brossard's operations sparks a realization of the interconnectedness of past debts and present threats.

With the emergence of new evidence regarding Brossard and the deadly assassin, Dumesnil's analysis of the situation reveals layers of conspiracy and betrayal. The rush to obtain the truth amplifies as the police must navigate treacherous waters in pursuit of Brossard, whose long-anticipated judgment hangs precariously in the balance.

Chapter 28 Summary:

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Brossard finds a safe haven among sympathetic clergy, yet the ideology that once fortified his identity begins to crumble under scrutiny. The notion of sanctuary juxtaposes substantially with values of justice and accountability, turning Brossard's internal struggle into a battleground of belief. As he interacts with those who harbor him, they echo sentiments of loyalty while questioning the moral implications of protecting a war criminal.

Meanwhile, the wider implications of his presence at the convent present complications as Roux and law enforcement seek to unravel the layers of corruption protecting Brossard for decades. As these realities collide, the narrative echoes themes of guilt, forgiveness, and the quest for redemption against a backdrop of historical atrocities.

Chapter 29 Summary:

At the vineyard, Vionnet's visit underscores the intersection of commerce and justice intertwined with historical accountability. As he maneuvers through meetings with potential buyers, the affair is more than just business; beneath the surface looms the specter of Brossard and the need to address unresolved crimes.

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As conversations unfold within the vineyard's tranquil setting, a murky undercurrent of anxiety streams through discussions, compounding the tension between the search for justice and business pragmatism. Vionnet finds himself tossed back into a spiral of suspicion, grappling with the lines drawn between loyalty, protection, and accountability amidst an institutional backdrop that strains against its own failures.

This smooth, logical summary interweaves background and character motivations, while staying true to the plot development of the chapters provided.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3

Chapters 3, 30-39 Summary

Colonel Roux is summoned to meet examining magistrate Madame Annemarie Livi, an intriguing figure whose Italian surname arouses curiosity. His thoughts turn to the political implications of their meeting, reflecting the intertwining of justice and politics in the aftermath of World War II. They discuss the complex case of Pierre Brossard, a former collaborator involved in the war crimes during the German occupation of France, particularly the deportation of Jews. Madame Livi expresses the urgent need to investigate the circumstances surrounding Brossard's controversial pardon in 1971, particularly the influence of church officials and political elites, indicating that their connections shield many from accountability. Roux and Livi agree on the necessity of bringing Brossard to justice to expose a wider conspiracy that includes powerful figures who benefited from wartime actions.

As tensions mount, a new character, Pochon, an inspector who used to work under Roux, experiences the weight of a failed mission connected to Brossard. Returning to the narrative, Roux arrives in Nice where the search for Brossard intensifies amid secrecy. Roux's operatives await any sign of Brossard while a political chill envelops the case, further complicated by the

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assassination attempts on those involved in Brossard's capture.

While Roux gathers evidence, his wife, Rosa, grows anxious over his involvement in the dangerous political machinations surrounding Brossard, yet is unaware of the depth of his entanglement with the case when she notices his driving tension. They have contrasting perspectives on the war's legacy, reflecting on the wounds still fresh in their society.

Meanwhile, Brossard, under the guise of Père Pouliot, seeks refuge within the confines of a monastic life, befriending Dom Olivier, a leader within the conservative Catholic Fraternity. Dom Olivier's protection creates a haven that is riddled with old loyalties and dark secrets. He tries to make sense of recent events while grappling with the moral implications stemming from his past actions during the war and seeing the consequences unfold not only for himself but for those he considers friends.

However, the sinister forces hunting him encapsulate the moral complexities still haunting France. Brossard is faced with the realization that even in the supposed safety of the monastery, he is not immune to the past that seeks to reclaim him.

As the gendarmerie prepare a raid based on Roux's intelligence, tensions mount in the Priory where Brossard hides. Roux and his team, suspicious and vigilant, plan their strategy as the old man Dom Olivier, himself

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entangled in webs of deceit, tries to mislead and protect Brossard.

When Roux's team arrives at the priory and the search commences, they encounter resistance from the priests. Roux's certainty wanes as no trace of Brossard materializes, leading him to suspect that they may have been deceived. The tension rises as the narrative toggles between Roux's earnest pursuit of justice and Brossard's desperate attempts to evade capture, framing a tale where morality is mired in political posturing, personal vendettas, and the haunting shadows of the Holocaust. Ultimately, Roux's investigation serves as the catalyst that could either bring justice to light or once again allow the powerful to escape accountability as the forces within the Church and state cautiously maneuver to preserve their interests.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The necessity of accountability in the aftermath of wrongdoing

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at the crossroads of justice and politics, where every decision you make resonates far beyond your own life. The investigation into Brossard's past illustrates the profound impact of accountability, emphasizing that the truth must be pursued relentlessly, no matter how deeply entrenched the powerful may be. Let this remind you that in your own life, facing uncomfortable truths and holding yourself and others accountable can lead to healing and change. Like Colonel Roux, you have the opportunity to pursue what is right and just, pushing against the inertia of convenience. In a world often clouded by complacency, your courage can inspire not just your own journey, but also influence the narrative of those around you, fostering an environment where justice prevails and the past does not dictate our future.

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Chapter 4: 4

Summary of Chapters 4 and 40

Chapter 4 Summary:

Monsignor Maurice Le Moyne finds himself reflecting on his dual nature during a visit to Carcassonne, which is a stark contrast to his life in the quiet retreat of Caunes. While the left angel on his shoulder represents his ambitions and his role as Private Secretary to the Cardinal, the right angel embodies spiritual purity and divine service, often chastising him for prioritizing ambition over faith. Le Moyne's work has largely centered around securing a pardon for Pierre Brossard, a man implicated in historical crimes during the war — a mission fueled by both a genuine sense of justice and a desire for recognition.

Having served under three cardinals and accumulated various administrative skills, Le Moyne tirelessly lobbied for Brossard's cause, believing that reconciliation and forgiveness could serve as healing for France's troubled past. Despite his efforts, Brossard remains hounded by the consequences of his actions, a reality that weighs heavily on Le Moyne's conscience. This moment of introspection leads Le Moyne to question the meaningfulness of

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his priestly vocation while he seeks solace in prayer at the Sisters of l'Enfant Jésus' retreat.

Upon returning to Caunes, he learns that Brossard has been anxiously waiting for him and that a Colonel Roux from the gendarmerie is eager to see him. This raises alarms about the precarious situation surrounding Brossard, whose legal troubles have intensified. Le Moyne, prepared for a discreet meeting under the cover of night, successfully arranges a clandestine encounter in the church with Pierre, who reveals the grave news that he has killed a man, claiming self-defense against a Jew who was after him. The gravity of Pierre's admission complicates Le Moyne's responsibilities and moral convictions, as he is both a priest and an advocate for Pierre's redemption.

Chapter 40 Summary:

In a dramatic turn, a young priest helps Le Moyne escape from a precarious situation, urging him to cross a narrow plank between two buildings, away from the watchful eyes of gendarmes. The tension mounts as he crawls across, battling fears of heights and his own frail health exacerbated by mounting panic. Upon reaching safety, he is brought into a makeshift apartment where he meets a young couple, who assist him out of the building, revealing the precarious and dangerous breathing space he finds in

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a city that looms with the threat of discovery.

As he gathers himself, he reflects on the hustle of his current life, feeling both liberated and terrified. Timing is crucial, and he is keenly aware of the need to evade the authorities. His host provides him brief respite, asking if

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5

In this chapter, the protagonist experiences a growing sense of unease as fate seems to conspire against him. He begins at a low point, feeling as if his luck has taken a turn for the worse. Arriving in the small town of Caunes, he plans to seek refuge and spiritual solace from Abbé Fessard, only to find the abbé is unavailable due to guests and that Monsignor Le Moyne is away in Carcassonne for two days. This sudden unavailability raises his anxiety, especially when he learns of a colonel of the gendarmerie wanting to meet with the Monsignor.

The streets of Caunes are deserted as townsfolk enjoy their evening meals, which adds to the protagonist's sense of isolation and urgency. He encounters a local gendarme, intensifying his apprehension as he fears being recognized or followed. Despite his concern, he reassures himself that there's no evidence to suggest that the colonel is aware of his presence. The protagonist recalls moments of peace found in absolution and confession, foundational aspects of his faith that provide him with comfort in these troubling times. He thinks of the Latin phrase "Ego te absolvo," meaning "I absolve you," reflecting his deep-rooted beliefs and the weight of his sins.

Climbing the lane to his lodging at the Pension Medicis, he becomes increasingly anxious, mindful of his irregular heartbeat. The atmosphere thickens as he realizes he is being overly scrutinized by a gendarmerie

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officer who has just parked beside his Peugeot. After a tense moment, the officer departs, but the encounter leaves the protagonist shaken.

As he prepares to leave the pension quickly, he engages with the proprietress, who, curiously, comments on the car he just saw. She confirms the vehicle belonged to an officer from Paris, reaffirming the protagonist's fears. He remains poised, masking his tension behind casual conversation about license plates as he finishes settling his bill and states his goodbyes. He departs the pension, the weight of uncertainty pressing heavily upon him, setting the stage for what lies ahead as he navigates his complicated situation marked by danger and fear.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace the power of faith in overwhelming circumstances

Critical Interpretation: In moments of uncertainty, when the world seems to conspire against you, remember that faith can serve as a beacon of solace. Just as the protagonist clings to the comfort of his beliefs amid rising anxiety, you too can find strength in your values and convictions. Embrace your faith or personal philosophy, allowing it to guide you through shadows of doubt. Just as he finds peace in the notion of absolution, harness that power to release the burdens you carry and move forward with renewed purpose, navigating life's challenges with a steady heart.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6

In this chapter, Inspector Roux delves into the intriguing background of Monsignor Maurice Le Moyne while investigating the complex case surrounding Pierre Brossard, a man with a troubled past linked to the Vichy regime during World War II. Roux has reviewed extensive dossiers on Le Moyne, revealing a man underestimated by his superiors yet capable of wielding influence among the powerful. His psychological profile presents him as manipulative, maintaining a facade of innocence and charity while crucially supporting Brossard, who stands accused of crimes against Jewish families.

Roux drives to a retreat house where he intends to confront Le Moyne about Brossard's new, grave predicament: a Jewish group has formed with the intent to assassinate Brossard, making it crucial for him to turn himself in for protection. Upon arriving, Roux meets Le Moyne, an elderly priest clad in black, who maintains a strong defense of Brossard, asserting that the former milice member acted in good faith and is a victim of historical persecution. Roux pushes back, citing evidence of Brossard's past crimes, including theft from Jewish families during the occupation, but Le Moyne insists on Brossard's innocence and moral integrity, illustrating his steadfast belief in the man he has supported for decades.

As their conversation deepens, Roux tells Le Moyne about the assassins and

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the potential betrayal from someone close to Brossard. Le Moyne's demeanor shifts as he contemplates the implications, revealing the internal conflict within him as he considers whether he could persuade Brossard to surrender. Despite Roux's belief that Le Moyne could be a pivotal ally in the quest to save Brossard, Le Moyne expresses skepticism about reaching him, hinting at Brossard's entrenched sense of persecution and fear of the justice system.

The encounter concludes with Roux leaving his contact information, hoping that Le Moyne might bridge the gap to Brossard, while Le Moyne retreats to make a crucial phone call to a mysterious associate, hinting at a more shadowy side to his past. In this private conversation, he learns information that suggests the situation has escalated to a dangerous level, prompting fear and urgency as he grapples with the moral responsibility he bears in this lethal game of cat and mouse.

This chapter highlights themes of guilt, manipulation, and the politics of memory in post-war France, setting the stage for the struggles faced by both Roux and Le Moyne as they navigate the fraught terrain of personal belief versus societal justice.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7

In this chapter, the protagonist, Brossard, grapples with his tumultuous emotions and the weight of his past as he drives through the night in his car, a small Peugeot. His anxiety is palpable as a large truck nearly collides with him, forcing him to accept that pushing onward to Montpellier is no longer feasible. Instead, he aims for Béziers, a town that looms ahead, but his mind is clouded with memories of his darker deeds during the war.

Brossard reflects on his relationship with sin and absolution, pondering whether one can confess sins to a priest while still harboring deceit. He wrestles with profound guilt from taking part in heinous acts—a bomb thrown at a synagogue, overseeing the loading of doomed souls onto freight trains, and the chilling image of prisoners' faces staring back at him. He yearns for redemption, feeling that he may not truly find peace even if he seeks absolution.

As he drives, Brossard's thoughts turn to his precarious situation. He feels the looming threat of a new judge, Levy, who has the power to further entangle him with the law, demonstrating his isolation in a world where he's become notorious for his past actions. His reflections reveal conflicting loyalties—he recalls missed opportunities to escape persecution, such as false emigration papers offered by a bishop, yet his fierce allegiance to France compels him to remain. He wants to die in the country he loves,

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symbolizing his steadfast attachment despite the risks.

Ultimately, Brossard's journey to Béziers is not just a physical one; it's an exploration of his moral landscape. As he prepares to face what lies ahead, he is haunted by doubts about his safety, his identity, and whether he can truly be forgiven for his past transgressions. The road to Béziers becomes a pivotal moment for him, encapsulating his fear of being discovered and his desperate search for redemption in an unforgiving world.

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Chapter 8: 8

In Chapter 8, the narrative unfolds as César, a lively dog, leads his owner, the protagonist, up the steep stairs to her apartment. Inside, she is greeted by her housekeeper, Madame Deferre, who informs her of a visitor's arrival. The visitor is a young man named Annemarie Livi, who introduces himself as Professor Valentin, indicating a scholarly demeanor.

The protagonist expresses gratitude for Valentin's willingness to meet her. She explains her delay in arriving to the meeting, attributing it to her son's school drop-off and a Métro delay. As they converse, the young professor shares insights from his commission, which is investigating Monsignor Le Moyne's forgotten past. He explains that the investigation is complex, involving decades of secrecy and cover-ups, and suggests that powerful entities, possibly extending to the police and even the Elysée Palace, may have shielded Brossard, a figure under scrutiny.

As their discussion deepens, the protagonist becomes wary, suspecting that the church's involvement may tilt the blame away from its officials. Valentin, however, insists the historians on the commission genuinely seek the truth, rather than a cover-up, pointing out Cardinal Delavigne's admirable stance during the Occupation as indicative of his intentions.

The conversation reveals an intricate history of the Church in France,

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highlighting its autonomy and the varied natures of religious orders that may obscure accountability. Valentin shares that while he believes there are hidden protectors of Brossard, his commission's focus remains narrowly on ecclesiastical involvement. The protagonist, intrigued, understands that linking Brossard to civil authorities could shed light on his long evasion of justice.

As they progress through their talk, the professor underscores the urgency of uncovering the truth about Brossard's connections and the historical implications of his continued hiding. He hands her a dossier outlining connections to a group known as the Chevaliers de Ste Marie—an organization linked to right-wing Catholic activists—implying that finding Brossard hinges on tracking down this network.

Just as the meeting seems to advance meaningfully, the ringing telephone interrupts their discourse. The professor, adhering to his pressing schedule, prepares to leave, only to caution the protagonist about the Chevaliers' ties to traditionalists who have distanced themselves from the Vatican, hinting at a wider web of influential figures involved.

As he exits, the protagonist is left with a host of new questions and leads, particularly concerning the implications of the Chevaliers and their relationship with controversial figures such as Monsignor Lefebvre. The chapter concludes on a note of growing intrigue, laying the groundwork for

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potentially deeper investigations into the shadows of history and the interplay between faith, politics, and morality.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9

In Chapter 9, we find ourselves in a residential area adjacent to a school, where the daily routine involves the distribution of soup to homeless men, most of whom struggle with alcoholism. Father Blaise, the newly appointed caretaker (père hospitalier), is alerted to a ringing bell just before soup is to be served. Initially thinking it might be someone drunk or troublesome, he is surprised to discover an elderly man, Pierre Pouliot, who appears respectable—quite different from the usual patrons of the soup kitchen. Pouliot is searching for Father Dominic, who has recently passed away, prompting an uneasy realization in Father Blaise as he recalls a photograph shared with him by priests from the diocesan office. This photograph depicts a man resembling Pouliot, who is associated with Pierre Brossard, a controversial figure linked to war crimes during World War II, specifically as a member of the milice—a paramilitary group known for its brutality.

As Father Blaise is drawn into a conversation with Pouliot, he remembers the conversation he had with the diocesan priests about Brossard. They had outlined Cardinal Delavigne's instructions that Brossard—despite his long association with church aid—was not to be granted refuge any longer due to the negative attention his presence brought to the Church. The Abbot, upon returning from a school visit, confirms that he knows of Brossard's case and seems conflicted about sheltering an individual he believes may deserve compassion and forgiveness, despite his past actions.

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The dialogue between Father Blaise and the Abbot reveals a generational divide in thinking about guilt, forgiveness, and the Church's obligations. The Abbot, grounded in a historical perspective shaped by World War II, expresses sympathy for Brossard's plight, believing he deserves mercy, while Blaise struggles with the moral implications of potentially sheltering a war criminal, fearing it goes against the directives from the Cardinal and the Church's mission to uphold justice.

This chapter highlights themes of loyalty, the burden of history, and moral ambiguity within the Church, setting a tense backdrop for the conflict between personal conscience and institutional authority. Blaise is torn between his commitment to obey church hierarchy and the ethical complexities of his role as a clergyman, signifying the broader struggle within the Church concerning its association with figures of controversial pasts. The future actions of the Abbot regarding Brossard loom uncertain, leaving Blaise in a precarious position as he considers the implications of sheltering someone with such a notorious history.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10

Chapter 10 Summary

For much of his life, Pierre Brossard respected older men, a sentiment shaped by his father, Henri Brossard, a strict military man who revered the Maréchal, a symbol of French pride from World War I. However, as he aged, Pierre's respect shifted to scrutiny, focusing on their vulnerabilities. Among those he had known for years was Dom André Vergnes, the Abbot of the local abbey, who, as Pierre confronted his own failings, now seemed a figure of fragile strength rather than authority.

When Dom André visited Pierre, their interaction was marked by understated tension. The Abbot, while appearing polite, dropped alarming news about Pierre's recent movements—police inquiries linked to a man named Tanenbaum, a Canadian who had been found shot dead near where Pierre had just stayed. The Abbot's concern mounted as he connected Tanenbaum to a Jewish name, leading to suspicions of retribution against Pierre stemming from his troubling past during the darker times of the Occupation in France.

Pierre attempted to deflect the ominous implications of the Abbot's words, insisting on the coincidence of events. Yet, as Dom André's demeanor grew

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cautious—torn between loyalty as a friend and the need to protect the abbey's reputation—he ultimately refrained from offering Pierre sanctuary, fearing the potential scandal surrounding him. Instead, he offered financial help for Pierre's temporary accommodation, signaling a shift in their relationship.

After Pierre's departure, Dom André wrestled with his conscience, grappling with the implications of having sheltered someone who might beed guilty of heinous acts. Reflecting on the past, he considered their motivations—were they truly acts of Christian charity, or merely justifications for their actions during the Occupation? His last conversation with Pierre revealed a sense of doubt concerning Pierre's honesty, igniting self-reproach over his own complicity in Brossard's life.

Meanwhile, after Pierre's departure, Dom André contacted Dom Vladimir in Salon, admitting his own disbelief in Pierre's claims of innocence regarding the murder. As they discussed the ramifications of potentially alerting the authorities about Pierre's presence and history, they pondered their moral responsibilities—a dilemma between protecting their community's honor and ensuring justice for a possible crime.

Amid this internal conflict, an outside figure, "T," discreetly arrived from Paris. Tasked with surveillance on Pierre, he monitored the area where Brossard was expected to appear. T blended into the environment, noting

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where visits were made and how regularly certain individuals associated with the abbey behaved. The tension built as T awaited his opportunity, capturing the nexus of past sins and present intentions layered throughout Brossard's tale and Dom André's turmoil, leading to questions of morality and the cost of compassion in a fractured society.

The chapter reveals deep character introspection against the backdrop of historical trauma, as personal decisions intertwine with societal implications, leading to inevitable confrontations with truth, guilt, and accountability.

Aspect	Summary
Characters	Pierre Brossard, Dom André Vergnes, Dom Vladimir
Pierre's Background	Respected older men due to strict upbringing; fascination with military authority and historical figures.
Shift in Perspective	As he ages, Pierre scrutinizes the vulnerabilities of those he once respected.
Dom André's Role	The Abbot, balancing friendship and the abbey's reputation.
Inciting Incident	Dom André reveals police inquiries linked to a murder involving Pierre.
Pierre's Reaction	Attempts to dismiss implications of his past and defends against accusations.
Dom André's Dilemma	Struggles with the moral repercussions of potentially harboring a guilty man.

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Aspect	Summary
Financial Support	Offers Pierre temporary financial help instead of sheltering him.
Post-Departure Reflection	Dom André doubts Pierre's claims, questions his own complicity and motivations.
Contact with Dom Vladimir	Discusses the implications of reporting Pierre to authorities and moral responsibilities.
Outside Influence	Arrival of "T," monitoring Pierre's activities and the tension surrounding his presence.
Thematic Elements	Exploration of morality, guilt, accountability, and the repercussions of past actions.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 11

In Chapter 11, Pierre grapples with betrayal as he stands on the steps of the Prieuré St Christophe, the patron saint of travelers. Dom André has turned him away at the very place meant for refuge, offering him financial help while denying him shelter. As Pierre walks away, he feels the weight of this betrayal and reflects on the words of Dom Vladimir, who has likely phoned ahead to ensure Pierre is unwelcome at his next destination, Villefranche.

Feeling both hungry and anxious, Pierre reminisces about how he would typically arrive at the priory around meal times, expecting to see the now-deceased Dominic, who would often inquire about his well-being. Instead, bitter reality looms as he contemplates the implications of being turned away.

His thoughts are interrupted by a luxurious Renault limousine that seems to be following him. Recognizing that he may have picked up a tail, Pierre keeps his composure and continues his routine, moving towards La Mascotte, a café where he used to gather. The café, however, is packed, leaving him no option but to sit at the bar. As he observes the driver of the Renault circling the square, tension builds within him.

Adopting his old strategies, Pierre carefully exits the café through the kitchen, quickly making his way to his car in the municipal parking lot. As

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he settles into the driver's seat of his Peugeot, he practices a meditative technique to clear his mind—repeating "Minute Papillon" over and over again as a form of mental discipline.

Realizing he is being hunted, Pierre reflects on the gravity of his situation. Someone must have betrayed him—someone familiar with his routine and intentions. As he contemplates his next steps, the name "Nicole" emerges in his mind, sparking a glimmer of hope as no one knows about her. With determination, he shifts the car into gear, ready to evade his pursuers and seek refuge.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in the Face of Betrayal

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at a crossroads where the world seems to conspire against you, just as Pierre does when he's turned away from the Prieuré St Christophe. In that moment of betrayal, you might feel an overwhelming sense of despair, yet it is precisely this challenge that can ignite a spark of resilience within you. Perhaps you recall a time when you too faced unexpected rejection, but instead of succumbing to frustration, you harnessed that experience to forge a stronger path forward. Like Pierre, who grounds himself in the mantra 'Minute Papillon,' you can learn to channel your thoughts and emotions, transforming adversity into strength. This chapter inspires you to navigate the shadows of betrayal with courage, reminding you that each setback holds the potential for a new beginning, urging you to embrace your journey with determination and hope.

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Chapter 12: 12

In Chapter 12, we find T, a tense and anxious character, obsessively focused on tracking an old man, presumably a significant target for his mission. The chapter opens with T observing this man at the Café La Mascotte, contemplating whether he will return to the nearby monks' residence after his meal. T recalls a troubling horoscope that suggests urgency regarding a pivotal event set for the following day, the 9th. Determined to take action, he decides today is the day to follow through.

He has a clear plan: he intends to follow the old man when he leaves, potentially even in the parking lot, where he could remain hidden. T tries to reassure himself, telling himself to stay calm and remain in his car. However, after twenty tense minutes of waiting, his gut instinct compels him to investigate further. He enters the café but finds no sign of the old man, leading him to the toilet for a potentially risky check—still, the man is nowhere to be found. Panicking, T considers the implications if the old man has noticed him. He fears losing track of his target could lead to the old man disappearing for good.

Revisiting a prior conversation with his associate Pochon, T recalls the urgent advice to immediately report if he loses sight of the man. Despite returning to the vicinity of the monks' residence, his wait yields no results. He reflects on the emotional farewell between the old man and a tall monk,

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indicating that the man might not return at all. By the end of the chapter, T drives back to his hotel, feeling the weight of the impending deadline and frustration that today's events have not aligned with his objectives. He picks up the phone while grappling with the knowledge that he is still a day away from the crucial date, revealing a sense of urgency and foreboding that permeates the chapter.

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Chapter 13 Summary: 13

In Chapter 13, we dive into the lives of two aging chambermaids, Madame Maranne and Madame Dufy, as they discuss their demanding new work expectations at the Majestic Hotel, which has recently been transformed into a casino under American ownership. Frustration mounts as they realize that management is pushing them to clean hotel rooms in a mere twelve minutes, threatening their jobs if they refuse to comply. To Maranne, who has dedicated seventeen years of her life to working there, this feels both exploitative and insulting, especially considering her age. She contemplates the precariousness of their positions in the face of new competition and economic pressures, fearing the loss of their jobs to foreigners.

As they travel home on the bus, we glimpse into Maranne's relationship with her beloved dog, Bobi. The narrative reflects her thoughts about life, age, and loyalty, drawing contrasts between animals and humans. Lamenting over the perspective of nuns like Mother Annunciata, who claim that animals have no souls, she firmly believes in the purity of Bobi's love.

Upon reaching her apartment, Maranne's moment of peace is shattered when she discovers her estranged husband, Pierre, waiting for her at home. He has returned unexpectedly after a long absence, and the tension between them is palpable. Pierre, rumored to be in hiding from authorities, attempts to re-establish himself in her life, offering her cash in an obvious attempt to

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manipulate her affections. Maranne, feeling a mix of anger and fear, firmly rejects his advances and demands he leave, insisting they are no longer married in any meaningful sense.

Throughout the chapter, Maranne reflects on their tumultuous past, unveiling layers of betrayal and heartbreak. Their relationship was built on lies, with Pierre often using charm and deceit to get his way. Maranne's memories of their time together reveal not only the struggles they faced amidst war and societal upheaval but also the emotional toll of their years together. Bobi's instinctual reaction to Pierre underscores the depth of Maranne's protective bond with her dog compared to her conflicted feelings towards her husband.

In a moment of resolve, Maranne decides to indulge Bobi with treats as a reminder of the loyalty and love he represents, contrasting sharply with her conflicted feelings toward Pierre. As she prepares to go shopping and distance herself from Pierre's presence, we see her reclaiming agency in her life, signaling a move towards independence and self-determination in an increasingly challenging world.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14

In Chapter 14, the narrative is framed around the main character's conflicted feelings about his past and the consequences of his actions. From the first moment he encountered Nicole, a young woman living in a cramped flat on Rue Paradis, he found himself overwhelming seduced by her, a temptation intensified by their living situation complicated by her brother, Jacquot. While grappling with these desires, he reflects on his spiritual journey. After years of wandering away from faith during wartime and living a tumultuous life, he finds solace and redemption in the presence of Abbé Feren, a priest who offers him hope for forgiveness and a path back to God. The Abbé marries him to Nicole in the eyes of God, devoid of formalities but rich in spiritual affirmation.

As time unfolds, the protagonist's life becomes increasingly fraught with temptation. Years later, living away from Nicole in various monasteries, he succumbs to the pull of sin again, seeking anonymous confessions for his transgressions rather than confronting his primary confessor. His relationship with Nicole, once rooted in a pure and hopeful faith, deteriorates as he reflects back on the hollow satisfaction of their bond, now marked by her decline into poverty and complacency.

Nicole, now described as old and unattractive, lives a monotonous life, cleaning homes and indulging her attachment to her dog, all while grappling

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with the isolation that comes from having no family except the protagonist, who is half-heartedly connected to her. The stark contrast between their past and present showcases the change from a marriage steeped in love and hope, to one marked by bitterness and despair. This shift is underscored by his growing realization that fortune has turned against him.

As the narrative pivots into a darker realm, the protagonist experiences disconcerting dreams that reenact the horrors of his wartime actions. He recalls a particular episode of wielding power as he leads an execution squad meant to eradicate Jewish prisoners. This dream illustrates his deep-seated guilt and complicity in acts of inhumanity, where he revels in a sadistic power over those he deems enemies.

The climax of this memory hinges on the methodical execution of fourteen Jewish prisoners, emphasizing the dehumanization and cruelty that define his past. The visceral details given within these dreams serve as a metaphor for his internal turmoil, as he grapples with the weight of his sins while simultaneously seeking to maintain the illusion of his newfound spiritual righteousness.

Awoken abruptly from the nightmare, he encounters the reality of his deteriorated life and relationships—symbolized by the old dog and Nicole's complaints—highlighting the dissonance between his aspirations for grace and the haunting shadows of his actions. The chapter closes with the chilling

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reminder of the nightmares that persist despite his efforts to reform, encapsulating the struggle between his past sins and the memory of their consequences.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 15

In Chapter 15, Valentin finds himself in a tense meeting at the archbishopric, accompanied by Professor Proulx, the eminent chairman of the Cardinal's commission. The atmosphere is charged as they learn about a tragic murder involving a Canadian tourist, linked to an enigmatic figure named Dom Vladimir Gorchakov, an abbot known for his conservative views and previous connections to controversial political figures during the Vichy regime. The Cardinal, tall and stooped, gathers Proulx and Valentin to discuss the implications of sheltering the fugitive Brossard, who has questionable ties to the deceased.

The Cardinal reveals that Gorchakov had recently hosted Brossard at his monastery, but the latter's sudden departure coincided suspiciously with the murder. A foreign tourist's body, identified through a fraudulent Canadian driver's license, raises concerns that Brossard may have committed a crime while attempting to evade the scrutiny of Jewish groups hunting for him. The Cardinal emphasizes that, as members of the commission, they must maintain confidentiality about Brossard's whereabouts to avoid scandal, yet they must produce a report addressing the Church's connections to him.

Monsignor Flandin interjects, highlighting the precarious situation regarding the Jewish community's potential reaction if it is exposed that the Church is harboring Brossard. The Jesuit Father Thiers points out a pattern in

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Brossard's movements—his knowledge of certain monasteries that have offered him refuge in the past suggests a systematic evasion of law enforcement.

As discussions escalate about crafting a preliminary report, Proulx remains wary. He questions the morality of supporting the Cardinal's desire for damage control, suggesting that transparency about their findings is crucial, particularly in light of their ethical obligation to assist in legal matters.

Valentin echoes this sentiment, believing that withholding information from the authorities could amount to obstruction of justice. However, Proulx insists that the decision to inform the police lies with the Cardinal alone, leaving Valentin torn between loyalty to the Church and the pursuit of justice.

The chapter wraps up with Proulx expressing his doubts about the Cardinal's motives, while Valentin grapples with the moral implications of their inaction. The complexities of their roles as historians and as members of the Church come to the forefront as they navigate a web of secrecy and ethical dilemmas, setting the stage for deeper conflicts to unfold.

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Chapter 16: 16

In this chapter, tension and urgency permeate the scene as Rosa, the main character, receives a crucial phone call from Monsieur Pierre, an individual of significant concern to her husband, Henri. Previously, Henri had instructed Rosa that if Monsieur Pierre were to call, she must retrieve an address or a phone number due to the urgency of their communication. Rosa's heart races as she recognizes the name, indicating Henri's serious intentions regarding this matter.

Henri, busy in the potting shed, emerges quickly upon hearing Rosa's announcement of the call, suggesting that he senses the gravity of the situation. When he answers the phone, the anxious tone of his voice reveals the stakes involved. The conversation with Commissaire Vionnet reveals that Pierre is being pursued by an unknown group who seems to track his movements closely. This concern is heightened when Vionnet informs him that a driver's license linked to Pierre is fraudulent, implicating deeper issues surrounding his identity and safety.

Pierre explains that after a narrow escape from an unseen assailant outside the St Christophe priory in Aix, he is now relocating to an abbey in Villefranche to evade his pursuers. He has a potentially safer connection there, an old friend who is the almoner of the Carmelite abbey, suggesting that this might provide him shelter away from the threats he has

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encountered. This strategic move illustrates his resourcefulness amidst danger.

Vionnet, showing concern for Pierre's safety, insists on being updated and requests the address and contact number of the abbey. As Pierre provides the

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17

In Chapter 17, Valentin walks through the historic Tuileries gardens in Paris, reflecting on how history echoes through the present. He engages in a conversation with Colonel Roux, both of whom were born during WWII but grew up with differing familial perspectives on the war. Valentin expresses regret over his parents' silence regarding their experiences during the German Occupation, unlike Roux's father, who claimed to have been involved in the Resistance. This exchange deepens their connection and highlights how personal histories shape their views of the past and present.

As they discuss the war and its aftermath, Roux hints at the complexities surrounding Charles de Gaulle, the leader of Free France, suggesting that de Gaulle's motivations may not have aligned with the true interests of the nation. Their conversation shifts to the current case against Brossard, a former collaborator being pursued for his crimes during the war. Roux reveals that Valentin has given him new leads—essential information that may aid in the investigation. He plans to travel to Salon that night to follow up on these leads and to protect Brossard from potential vigilantes seeking revenge for past injustices.

The scene transitions to Inspector Cholet, who enthusiastically invites Roux to lunch at a local restaurant where the renowned dish, bourride, is served only once a week. Cholet's jovial demeanor masks a keen intelligence, and

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as they dine, Roux conveys the urgency of the investigation into Brossard. Cholet reveals that the police have interrogated the Abbot at St. Cros, where Brossard was known to stay, but there are gaps in the information, particularly regarding the lack of follow-up on Brossard's whereabouts.

As they enjoy the bourride, Cholet raises questions about the circumstances surrounding Brossard's potential murder, including the presence of a silencer-equipped revolver in the deceased man's car, which suggests a more sinister motive behind the murder than mere robbery. The scene reflects on the complexities of crime, justice, and the lingering shadows of their shared history as Roux and Cholet seek to unravel the truth while navigating the intricate web of personal and collective pasts, even as they indulge in the national culinary treasure that is the bourride.

Through their conversation, Roux grapples with the implications of his investigation, realizing that the implications of the case extend beyond mere legality into the realms of morality, justice, and the scars left by a painful history.

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Chapter 18 Summary: 18

In Chapter 18, Father Jérôme, a monk at the Abbaye de St. Cros, introduces Colonel Roux, an army officer, to the Abbot. The Colonel seeks information regarding Pierre Brossard, a fugitive linked to war crimes committed during the Vichy regime in France. This chapter delves into the moral complexities surrounding Brossard, whose earlier pardon by a president raises questions about the Church's role and the definitions of forgiveness.

As the Abbot and Colonel Roux converse, the Abbot expresses his protective stance towards Brossard, emphasizing the confidentiality of asylum granted to guests in the monastery. He shows disdain for the reliability of Colonel Roux's lay informant, leading to a philosophical dialogue on the nature of forgiveness. The Colonel presses the Abbot on whether Brossard has genuinely repented for his crimes against humanity, to which the Abbot defends the sanctity of absolution granted to sincere penitents.

Roux reveals urgent circumstances, suggesting that Brossard may be in danger from those seeking vengeance for his past atrocities. He uses the recent murder of a tourist, suspected to be an assassin hired by a Jewish commando, as a grim illustration of the stakes involved. The police believe Brossard might be implicated in the killing, reinforcing the urgency of the Colonel's request for the Abbot's assistance in locating him before a

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potential second assassination occurs.

The conversation progresses, and the Abbot, admitting to having sheltered a possible murderer, expresses a newfound commitment to help. He provides insight about Brossard's past connections to a group called the Chevaliers de Ste Marie—a conservative, Catholic lay organization that supports Brossard financially. The Abbot discusses the Chevaliers' dual composition of ultra-conservatives and former Resistance members, and mentions their annual ceremonies that invoke a sense of knightly duty.

Altogether, the chapter intricately weaves themes of morality, loyalty, and the complexities of justice within the context of war's legacy, setting the stage for the Abbot's eventual decision to help the Colonel in tracking down Brossard, who has evaded justice and now faces an uncertain fate.

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19

Summary of Chapters 19 and 2

In Chapter 19, Inspector Cholet visits Bar Montana to investigate the past of an individual named Brossard, who has recently been in the news after receiving a controversial pardon. Madame Marchand, the bar owner, calls her son, Jules, who identifies a photograph of Brossard and recalls past interactions with him. Through their conversation, it's revealed that Brossard, referred to as "Monsieur Pouliot" during his visits, was known for his openly racist views, particularly an incident where he objected to black customers at the bar. Inspector Cholet and his companion Roux learn that Brossard's visits were accompanied by registered letters from Paris, typically arriving before he departed, though Jules could not recall any acquaintances Brossard made. This exchange lays the groundwork for their inquiry into Brossard's connections.

Chapter 2 introduces T, a young man in a cafe near the Place de l'Alma in Paris, waiting to meet a contact involved in serious, covert activities. His unease about the meeting grows, reflecting the tension of the espionage world he's part of. When the contact arrives, he provides T with a new identity and specific instructions for his next assignment: to assassinate Brossard. T learns that he is the second attempt at this mission, with the first

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operative having been killed. The contact warns T of the risk and urgency involved, emphasizing that he must succeed on this attempt.

Afterward, T spends time pondering his relationship with Janine, a girl he's been dating who comes from a wealthy background but is unaware of his true life. Their conversation about horoscopes foreshadows the dangers T is about to face, as Janine reads a warning about his "sudden trip" and potential perils that lie ahead. The chapter concludes with T receiving final details about Brossard's whereabouts and contemplating the sad truth of his own background as the son of a Harki—a native who fought for France during the Algerian War, creating a complex intertwining of personal and historical grievances that drive his motives.

As T prepares for his mission, he grapples with the weight of his family's legacy, highlighting themes of betrayal, identity, and revenge, framing his mission against Brossard as not just a job, but a deeply personal one intertwined with his heritage. Unbeknownst to him, his quest is fraught with danger and the lingering specters of history.

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Chapter 20: 20

In Chapter 20, the story unfolds in the private study of Judge Livi, who engages in a clandestine meeting with Colonel Roux. Roux has just returned late last night from a critical mission and immediately seeks Judge Livi's assistance. His request is urgent: he needs a search warrant for a religious house, which he believes is vital to their investigation. He emphasizes the need for utmost secrecy due to the complexities and potential leaks within their own law enforcement agency.

As they converse, Roux reveals disturbing details from an investigation in Salon where a man, believed to be a hired assassin, was murdered. The absence of his fingerprints in police files raises suspicions of foul play, suggesting that records could have been tampered with. This leads to a troubling realization that calls into question the trustworthiness of the police, the ministry, and even the internal police agencies.

Judge Livi shares her own findings from a thorough review of past records, connecting Brossard, the target of Roux's investigation, to a right-wing Catholic group called the Chevaliers de Ste Marie, which had been financially supporting him. Intriguingly, Brossard was previously engaged as an informant for the government against terrorist groups, illustrating a complex web of political protection surrounding him.

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Roux deduces that Brossard is likely being shielded, not just by the Church, but perhaps by high-ranking officials within the police or government. As they delve deeper into this labyrinth of corruption and intrigue, they realize the need to act quickly. Judge Livi agrees to process the search warrant under the radar, promising to do it themselves to safeguard the operation. The atmosphere is charged with tension as they prepare to take on the formidable challenge posed by Brossard and the shadows he seems to inhabit.

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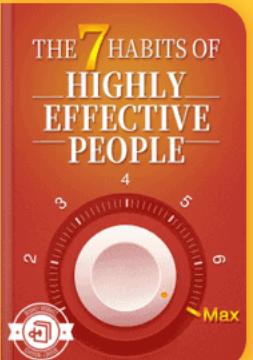
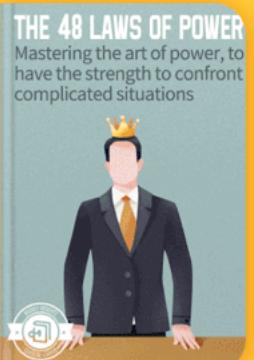
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Chapter 21 Summary: 21

In Chapter 21, we find T, a character under pressure, reminiscing at his hotel pool in Aix. As he struggles to read a gritty series of police novels—contrary to his usual preference for fairy tales—his mind is occupied with anxiety about a colleague named Pochon, from whom he has received no updates regarding a critical job. This situation has been exacerbated by his failure to find Brossard, a subject of concern in their line of work.

As T grapples with the weight of his circumstances, he feels compelled to call his partner, Janine, in Paris. The call quickly turns tense when Janine reveals shocking news—T's father is dead, not merely ill as he had claimed. This revelation about his father's demise, communicated by his estranged sister Farah, complicates T's already strained relationship with Janine, who feels betrayed by his deception. Despite the emotional turmoil, T insists he cannot make it back for his planned fête on Tuesday.

Throughout their conversation, Janine expresses her disappointment over T's absence and the food preparations she made for the celebration, highlighting the inefficacies of their communication and emotional disconnect. In a moment of clarity, T recalls a horoscope Janine had read him, which ominously predicted his upcoming challenges. As their call ends, T reassures her of his love and promises to keep her updated.

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Confined to his hotel room out of fear of missing communication from Pochon, T finds the dining options disappointing. However, his patience is rewarded when Pochon finally contacts him later that evening, detailing a new assignment involving a target's movements to an abbey near Villefranche. T prepares for the mission, indicating his adaptability and determination amidst the chaos of his personal life. He recognizes the risk ahead, understanding the importance of staying under the radar while completing his task efficiently. This chapter effectively interweaves T's professional obligations with his turbulent emotional landscape, setting the stage for crucial events to come.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 22

In Chapter 22, the protagonist finds himself at the kitchen table, contemplating the remnants of a casual yet significant morning with Nicole, the woman who has offered him a temporary refuge in Cannes. She has prepared three buttered tartines and a small pot of apricot jam—his favorite. The nostalgia of simpler times washes over him as he remembers how much he values her thoughtful gestures, even though he harbors a tumultuous relationship with her.

Nicole is set to take the bus to La Napoule to work at a hotel where guests are checking out early in the morning. As he reflects on their time together, the protagonist feels a mix of gratitude and sorrow, recognizing that despite her animosity towards him, she still cares enough to remember his preferences. This bittersweet acknowledgment leads him to resolve to leave at night, believing she can celebrate her freedom after just a couple of days of dealing with his presence.

Amid his reminiscing, he recalls the yearnings that plague him since the war ended: a desire for a normal life—marriage, children, and joy. Instead, he has found himself in a close-knit existence, wandering through monasteries, living under the radar, and treated as a beggar. This reality is compounded by his grim acknowledgment of being a hunted man, forced into a transient lifestyle where no one genuinely loves or remembers him, aside from

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fleeting connections like Nicole.

As he prepares to leave, he pens a brief note to her, combining a farewell with a token of thanks, before packing his belongings. His reflections touch lightly on the presence of enemies from his past and the dangers that still shadow him, fueled by his status as a notorious fugitive. With calculated movements, he ensures that he's not discovered before making his escape.

Once outside, he blends into the crowded streets of Cannes, a town bustling with tourists unaware of his notorious history. Though he feels a sense of safety among the anonymity of the crowds, he remains profoundly aware of the risks surrounding him—an ever-present fear that someone from his past could catch up with him.

As he takes a leisurely stroll along the Croisette, basking in both the warmth of the sun and the weight of his existential worries, he is struck by the tolling of a church carillon, instantly tying his thoughts to mortality and the life he has pursued. He mutters a prayer to protect him from harm, reflecting on his precarious position.

Although he entertains thoughts of escaping further afield—flying to Paris and continuing to a distant location—he realizes he cannot act independently without jeopardizing the support of the Commissaire, who has become a lifeline for him. Ultimately, he understands that he must adhere to the

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careful plans laid out by those who offer him sanctuary, feeling trapped yet obliged to obey the mandates that keep him safe.

As the chapter closes, the distant church bells resonate ominously, echoing his fears and the ever-loomng specter of death that has been a constant in his life since the war. This moment encapsulates his internal struggle between the desire for freedom and the need for protection, making it clear that departure is both a physical and emotional burden he carries with him.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 23

In Chapter 23, T is driving on a winding road from the Nice–Monaco highway to the picturesque village of Villefranche, consumed with anxiety as he searches for a place to stay. The bustling resort season has begun, leaving him turned away from several hotels. Finally, after midnight, he finds lodgings in a shabby establishment tucked away in an alley, which evokes unwelcome memories of his childhood in Sète. The room is minimalistic and uncomfortable, with a worn mattress, where he anticipates a restless night.

As dawn breaks, T rises early, preparing under a lone, dim light in a grimy bathroom, before heading to the village square. There, cafés begin to set up for the day, and he notices a waiter washing the pavement as the heat of the sun begins to intensify. He stops at a kiosk for a local map and observes the date on a nearby newspaper—May 9, 1989. Sitting at an outdoor café with a coffee and half-eaten brioche, he studies the map of the Haute Corniche, which runs above the Nice–Monaco highway.

After retrieving his car, T drives towards the priory, which is nestled behind high stone walls. The lush surroundings of elegant villas provide a serene backdrop, but the road is also busy with traffic, making it an unsuitable location for his purpose. When the priory finally comes into sight, he finds no parking opportunities, but luck strikes as he discovers a Vista Point

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nearby—an ideal vantage spot to await his target.

He positions the car facing the wooden gates of the priory, contemplating the significance of the horoscope he glanced at earlier. Its ominous prediction urges him to avoid risky actions on this particular day. Although he considers the advice seriously, recalling a warning from an older acquaintance—the rich old Jew from his St Germain apartment—who insisted on the necessity of completing the task on the first attempt, T is torn between caution and urgency. The internal struggle culminates in his decision to observe but not act—promising himself to wait until tomorrow, May 10. Ultimately, he reasons that today is not the day to be a hero, despite the pressing stakes of his mission.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of patience in decision-making

Critical Interpretation: In the whirlwind of life, there are moments when the pressure mounts and choices feel urgent, but like T, you might discover that taking a moment to pause and reflect can lead to wiser decisions. Rather than rushing into action when faced with anxiety or high stakes, embracing the virtue of patience can illuminate better paths, help you weigh your options more clearly, and ultimately allow you to act with confidence and purpose when the right moment arises.

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Chapter 24: 24

In Chapter 24, the narrative unfolds on the morning of May 9th, as Captain Daniel Dumesnil receives an urgent phone call from Colonel Roux, a familiar figure from their military training days. Roux's request is discreet; he needs Dumesnil's assistance with a private matter that pertains to a critical investigation involving an elusive individual known as Monsieur Pierre, who is old and likely driving a 1977 white Peugeot.

Roux travels to Nice for this covert operation and requires four of Dumesnil's finest men for surveillance duties, emphasizing the need for secrecy. Their task is to monitor a Carmelite priory located on Haute Corniche road in Villefranche. Given the sensitive nature of the operation, Roux insists that no one must be informed about their mission, particularly the identity of the person they're tracking.

Dumesnil realizes he will have to pull his best team from other assignments, limiting their availability until two in the afternoon. Roux concurs, suggesting that their target may not appear until later in the day and warns Dumesnil about the complexities of pursuing someone on church property—an area governed by the right of asylum laws. Despite these hurdles, Roux reassures Dumesnil that they are prepared with a search warrant, which adds a layer of legality to their mission.

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As Dumesnil prepares to mobilize his team, the chapter captures a tense atmosphere, signaling the high stakes of the operation and the delicate balance of adhering to legal protocols while pursuing a suspect who has proven adept at evading capture. The tension mounts as they get ready to execute the stakeout, knowing that every minute counts in this high-stakes pursuit.

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Chapter 25 Summary: 25

Chapter 25 Summary

The priory of St Michel des Monts above Villefranche, once known as Villa Del Lago, became a retreat for contemplative monks of the Carmelite Order after its wealthy owner passed away in 1930. Dom Henri Arminjon, an esteemed prior and author on mystical theology, leads a community of eighteen monks who host businessmen for retreats while maintaining a serene environment.

Pierre, the protagonist, arrives in his small white Peugeot, hoping for a warm welcome and no ongoing retreat that would disrupt his plans. Fortunately for him, the prior is currently in Rome, leaving Father Joseph Cartier in charge, an old classmate of Pierre's. Although both men share a similar upbringing influenced by military fathers and traditional Catholic values, their paths diverged. Joseph has embraced a life of contemplation and distance from worldly matters, while Pierre's past is marred by violence and conflicted loyalties.

Upon meeting Joseph, a palpable tension ensues. Joseph expresses concern over Pierre's presence during the upcoming retreat due to Cardinal Delavigne's instructions not to shelter him, hinting at Claudia Delavigne's

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rigid stance against aiding someone like Pierre, who has blood on his hands. As they converse, their history reveals deep-rooted conflict; Joseph resents the betrayal of their country while Pierre insists he acted rightfully during the war.

Although Joseph agrees to allow Pierre to stay for one night despite the risks, it becomes clear that their friendship is now fractured. After Joseph departs, Pierre reflects on the precariousness of his situation, suspects he is being followed, and contemplates his next escape plan.

He resolves to call the Commissaire in Avignon for guidance on obtaining a passport for potential asylum, aware that the threats against him have intensified. After a painful conversation with the Commissaire, who assures Pierre that the police are tracking those who seek to harm him, Pierre feels a mix of skepticism and desperation but is also grateful for the reassurance.

As he stirs in the shadows of Villefranche's secrets, Pierre seeks solace in a familiar café in the Rue Obscure, where he enjoys a comforting meal of pan bagnat. This moment of nostalgia is abruptly shattered by a sense of impending danger, which heightens when he notices an unusual kid in a blue anorak lingering in the café's toilet. Feeling the weight of potential threats from both old adversaries and new, Pierre instinctively prepares for confrontation.

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His worst fears are confirmed when he sees the kid reach for a weapon. In a decisive moment of survival, Pierre draws his revolver and fires twice, leaving the young man dead on the filthy tiles of the restroom. As he concocts a quick cover story for the café owner, he flees into the vibrant streets filled with oblivious tourists, blending back into the life he had once navigated with ease, now shadowed by violence and paranoia.

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Chapter 26 Summary: 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Lieutenant-Colonel Roux arrives at the priory of St Michel des Monts in a gendarmerie jeep, frustrated to find an apparent roadblock instead of a discreet stakeout. After confirming the presence of uniformed officers, he orders them to follow him inside the priory, where they intend to execute a search warrant for Pierre Brossard, a man wanted for crimes against humanity.

Roux meets the elderly monk, Father Joseph, who manages the priory in the absence of the Prior. Though Joseph recognizes Brossard from their youth, he invokes the Church's law of asylum, asserting the need for the Prior's authority to fully answer Roux's questions. Despite the tension, the search proceeds, revealing the striking contrast between the monks' humble lifestyle and the priory's opulent environment.

As the search unfolds, Roux notes inconsistencies. Father Francis, the gendarmerie's guide, behaves innocuously, yet the investigation leads them to a gardener's cottage. Here, the team discovers several heavy suitcases and a trunk filled with Nazi memorabilia, including an SS insignia — all belonging to Brossard.

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Father Joseph's conscience is pricked as he reflects on his responsibilities as a Carmelite monk in light of the unfolding situation. He wrestles with the moral implications of either aiding Roux by disclosing Brossard's whereabouts or adhering to his vow of silence and order loyalty. Meanwhile, Father Francis rushes back to inform Joseph of the gendarmerie's findings.

Convinced of Brossard's ongoing presence at the priory, Roux presses Joseph for answers but is met with evasion. Joseph maintains that Brossard is not currently on the property while feeling the weight of his own ethical dilemma. As tensions escalate, Roux orders a direct approach, engaging Sergeant Picot to monitor communications at the gate.

The search intensifies, and Roux sifts through files linked to Brossard, discovering efforts to overturn past judgments against him. Just as Roux digs deeper, he receives a call indicating a major breakthrough in his search for Brossard, urging him to act quickly.

This chapter highlights the intersection of faith, moral responsibility, and the law, as Roux's pursuit of Brossard intensifies amid the ethical conflict faced by the monks.

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Chapter 27 Summary: 27

In Chapter 27, unfolding events take place in Villefranche as Inspector Roux and his partner, Daniel Dumesnil, investigate a recent murder linked to Pierre Brossard, a former official implicated in atrocities during World War II. The chapter opens with the proprietor of a local establishment expressing frustration over being unfairly impacted by the crime that led to their closure, emphasizing the repercussions on their business.

Inspector Sarrat assesses the situation, conferring with Colonel Roux about the investigation's progress. Roux queries Max Pellan, who had seen the victim, a man named Pouliot—a regular at the bar who was frugal and private. Pellan describes Pouliot's concerns over receiving a registered letter from Paris, hinting at his cautious nature. They learn that the victim was murdered by another individual, whom Pellan claims not to have seen before.

As the investigation continues, Dumesnil notes the cooperation from local law enforcement and highlights a suspicious manifesto linked to Brossard, which implicates him in past crimes against Jewish individuals. This revelation sparks further concern for Roux, who insists that the case is far from resolved.

The narrative then shifts to the morgue, where the body of the assassin,

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Benrehail Ben Said—alias Tomas Said—is examined. Dumesnil explains Said's background as a hired gun connected to drug lord Muhammad Remli and an informer who was later released. Roux's suspicions grow when they consider the possibility that Brossard is being targeted by a clandestine Jewish group, raising questions about their motives and connections.

The suspects are examined closely, contemplating how Brossard might anticipate further danger given that it's likely the assassin had followed him from a previous location. Roux posits that Brossard could realize the threat looming over him and might attempt to evade capture by returning to the priory where he was previously staying. Dumesnil suggests maintaining a stakeout to monitor Brossard's movements, while Roux resolves to return to Paris with Brossard's files for deeper investigation.

This chapter captures a tense investigation against the backdrop of historical horrors, emphasizing the interplay between past and present as the characters navigate political intrigue and the legacy of violence. The stakes are high as they race against time to uncover the truth behind the murder and the complex web of associations surrounding Brossard.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The enduring impact of historical injustices on present actions

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on the tensions in Chapter 27 of 'Statement', let the story inspire you to recognize how the shadows of the past continue to shape our present lives. The investigation into Pierre Brossard's past serves as a reminder that unresolved grievances can echo through generations, influencing decisions and relationships. Consider how understanding and acknowledging historical injustices can empower you to forge a more compassionate and just future, not only for yourself but for those around you. Engage with the legacy of the past, and use it as a stepping stone towards creating positive change, fostering dialogue, and preventing the cycles of violence and misunderstanding.

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Chapter 28: 28

Chapter 28 unfolds amidst the historical backdrop of the post-Vatican II church tensions, particularly focusing on the Fraternity of St. Donat, a traditionalist Catholic group that rejected the modern reforms of the Church. This chapter is set in Nice, specifically at a building on the Boulevard Jean Jaurès, which the Mayor has given to the Fraternity contrary to the Bishop's cautionaries regarding its Prior General, Dom Olivier Villedieu. Dom Olivier is an ally of the controversial Monsignor Lefebvre, who had acted against the Vatican's directives by ordaining priests in a manner deemed illegitimate.

The atmosphere at the Fraternity's house is immediately welcoming for Pierre Brossard, the chapter's protagonist, who is seeking refuge. Father Rozier greets him warmly, and soon after, Dom Olivier expresses brotherly concern for Pierre's well-being, revealing their bond amidst the church's internal conflicts. Dom Olivier describes the ongoing trials Pierre faces, highlighting a recent judgment against him by a cowardly official, Delavigne, which has forced Pierre into a precarious existence characterized by constant hiding.

As Pierre settles into the house, it becomes clear he has left behind his belongings in Villefranche due to his evasive maneuvers against law enforcement. His apprehensions are palpable as he contemplates the risks of

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his situation, including the potential consequences for his friend Joseph, should the police come looking for him. Pierre reflects on his past actions, especially a traumatic incident involving a boy, grappling with guilt and the sense of being watched and judged by an unseen force—the divine or otherwise—as he lies on a modest bed.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 29

Summary of Chapters 29 and 3

In Chapter 29, we are introduced to the modest Caves des Saussaies vineyard, located along the Route Nationale near Vaison la Romaine and Nyons. The vineyard features a simple farmhouse, a garage, and some storage barns, and offers tastings of their unassuming Côtes du Ventoux wine, although they do not actively attract tourists. The former Commissaire Vionnet, now the owner, has been waiting for potential buyers from a supermarket chain and has turned to charm them after a long wait, aided by his partner, Marie-Ange Caillard, who prepares hors d'oeuvres.

However, tension arises when Vionnet receives an urgent call from Inspector Pochon in Paris, hinting at a serious police matter that seems to pull him back into investigations despite his retirement. As the conversation unfolds, it reveals worries about a letter mentioned in a newspaper, indicating Vionnet's concern over a case involving a seventy-year-old man with a violent past. After handling the call, he reassures Marie-Ange that the deal with the buyers is likely to finalize positively while keeping his police troubles under wraps. This suggests that Vionnet's retirement may not be as peaceful as it seems, with shadows from his past still looming.

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In Chapter 3, we shift to Colonel Roux, who reflects on the mysterious Madame Annemarie Livi, the examining magistrate with whom he has been summoned to work. Acknowledging the sensitive political implications involved in their investigation, Roux recalls a dinner with his wife Claire, who expresses her curiosity about Livi. Upon meeting her in the Palais de Justice, he finds her impressive and direct as they discuss the complex case at hand—one that involves political corruption and wartime collaboration.

Judge Livi reveals her determination to uncover the truth behind the 40-year-old case involving Brossard, a former member of the milice, suspected of complicity in wartime crimes against Jews. She seeks clarity on how influential figures, including those within the Church and the government, were able to secure a pardon for Brossard. Their conversation unveils the interconnectedness of the past with present political affairs, as well as Roux's insights into the powerful individuals involved in the cover-up of war crimes, hinting at the potential for a broader conspiracy.

As they strategize how to proceed, they uncover evidence that a Jewish group is actively looking for Brossard, which adds urgency to their investigation, as there are also indications of a commando planning to kill him. The duo recognizes the need for quick and decisive action to ensure justice and to navigate the complexities posed by their powerful adversaries. This scene sets the tone for a tense, morally driven investigation that intertwines individual lives with the larger fabric of historical accountability.

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Together, these chapters lay the groundwork for a gripping narrative that combines personal stakes with historical gravity, showcasing the collision of past injustices with present-day efforts to prosecute those who evaded accountability.

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Chapter 30 Summary: 30

Chapter 30 Summary

As night fell over Paris, Pochon waited anxiously in a crowded café by the Place de l'Alma. He was expecting a contact—the usual procedure involved waiting for the man to arrive by the 63 bus. However, tonight was different. His contact had informed him he would be driving a red Peugeot 306 and would stop at the bus stop. At precisely nine o'clock, Pochon spotted the car and left his untouched beer behind, crossing the avenue hurriedly.

Inside the car, an unemotional man in his fifties, presumably a lawyer, drove purposefully without engaging in conversation. Pochon, uncertain and on edge, attempted to break the silence by acknowledging the recent news, but the contact merely nodded, emphasizing the discomfort of the situation.

As they drove past notable landmarks like the Invalides and the National Assembly, Pochon realized they were heading to the address of a powerful figure, the patron, known as Maurice de Grandville. Pochon was familiar with this address because of its association with a deeply troubling incident involving a young man referred to as the Harkis kid, who had been sent there before being dispatched to Aix.

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Upon arrival at Rue St Thomas d'Aquin, Pochon ascended the stairs of an old, discreet building, noting his companion's anxiousness as they were exactly three minutes early. A servant, dressed formally, greeted them without asking names, guiding them through a corridor adorned with Roman busts and leading them to an ornate library furnished with leather chairs and a cluttered teak desk. An old man, clearly of high status, was present—de Grandville, infamous for his past as Paris Prefect under General de Gaulle. He had orchestrated a brutal response to the Algerian protests in Paris, actions that left a dark mark on his record.

De Grandville's history also included facilitating deportations during the Nazi occupation, a crime against humanity for which he could not escape accountability. Nevertheless, he had managed to evade serious legal repercussions throughout the years, thanks to powerful connections and considerable financial influence. Pochon regarded the old man with a mix of respect and unease, knowing that their shared history was steeped in moral and legal ambiguities.

As de Grandville puffed on his cigarette, he expressed his disapproval of the recent blunder involving their operation, which had potentially jeopardized his safety as well as the intricate web of protection that shielded him from scrutiny. He pointed out that the individuals involved in the operation had proven incompetent, highlighting an alarming search warrant that had been issued unbeknownst to them. With the gendarmerie pursuing Brossard, a

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critical figure whose whereabouts were uncertain, tension escalated.

Pochon explained that Brossard was likely in hiding among a group of fundamentalist clerics in Nice but that their efforts to communicate with him had been thwarted. De Grandville pressed for details about Pochon's relationship with Brossard, as the connection could significantly impact their precarious situation. Pochon's admission of familiarity with Brossard, grounded in their shared history during the Algerian conflict, hinted at the grave implications of his reliability as a witness—or worse, an assassin.

The realization dawned on Pochon that he had been brought to de Grandville not just as an investigator, but as a pawn in a larger, dangerous game wherein the old man's survival depended on how well he could manipulate Pochon and the circumstances they found themselves in.

Key Element	Details
Setting	Paris, at a crowded café near Place de l'Alma
Main Character	Pochon
Contact Description	A lawyer in his fifties, drives a red Peugeot 306
Journey	Driving past landmarks towards the address of Maurice de Grandville
Maurice de	A powerful figure with a troubling history, including Nazi collaboration

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Key Element	Details
Grandville	and brutal suppression during Algerian protests
Location Details	Rue St Thomas d'Aquin, an old building with a grand library
De Grandville's Attitude	Disapproving of a recent blunder that risks his safety
Key Conflict	Brossard's uncertain whereabouts and potential legal issues faced by de Grandville
Pochon's Role	A pawn in de Grandville's game, with a complicating past linked to Brossard

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The dangers of moral ambiguity in authority figures

Critical Interpretation: Reflecting on Pochon's encounters with figures like de Grandville, you learn that power can often cloak moral failures and that complicity in systems that uphold such authority can lead to uncomfortable discernments in your own life. This chapter provokes you to question the nature of your actions and the influences you choose to accept, inspiring a deeper commitment to ethical integrity even in the face of pressure. While others may prioritize self-preservation or blind allegiance, let Pochon's story remind you that standing firmly in your convictions can safeguard your conscience and lead you to a more honorable path, regardless of the stakes involved.

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Chapter 31 Summary: 32

In Chapter 32, Colonel Roux finds himself surrounded by a clutter of historical documents in a dimly lit room. The lamp on his desk casts a warm glow on worn exercise books and folders filled with yellowing letters and newspaper clippings, primarily composed by Monsignor Le Moyne. Over the course of nearly four decades, Le Moyne has diligently corresponded with high-profile figures, such as government officials, church leaders, and members of the Resistance, advocating for the forgiveness and rehabilitation of a wartime collaborator. This effort culminated in a presidential pardon in 1971. However, the subsequent publicity surrounding the pardon reignited attention on the collaborator, leading to renewed accusations of crimes against humanity, intensifying the stakes of Le Moyne's campaign.

As Roux sifts through this labyrinth of paper, he realizes that the collection, although extensive, lacks a clear biographical narrative or a timeline of the collaborator's whereabouts. Yet, while examining a page filled with codes and notations related to abbeys and priories, he suddenly deciphers a significant clue. He recognizes the abbreviation "CSM"—Chevaliers de Ste Marie—associated with payment schedules indicated by single letters for months. This pattern of payments reveals a link between the religious institutions and the hidden collaborator.

Roux's excitement builds as he uncovers that the most recent entries

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concerning two abbeys remain incomplete. Particularly noteworthy is the last entry for Prieuré de la Fraternité Sacerdotale de St Donat, which lacks both the CSM initial and a monthly payment record. Understanding the urgency of this discovery, Roux quickly checks the time—6 a.m.—and promptly contacts the operations room of the gendarmerie, signaling that he is ready to take action based on his newfound insights into the mysterious network protecting the collaborator.

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Chapter 32: 33

In Chapter 33, Rosa Vionnet awakens to find Henri, her partner, absent from their bed, a development that instantly evokes concern linked to a mysterious phone call from the previous night. As she prepares breakfast, she notices Henri sitting silently on the porch, lost in thought and unresponsive to her inquiries. His distant demeanor heightens her anxiety, particularly regarding his health; at seventy-five, he struggles with blood pressure issues and takes various medications. Rosa's protective instincts kick in as she worries that his distress may lead to further health complications.

When she brings him coffee and a tartine, Henri finally speaks, instructing her to wait in the bedroom while he makes a phone call. Rosa suspects he is contacting Paris, where he still maintains ties to his former role in the préfecture, particularly with an Inspector Pochon, despite claiming retirement. This secrecy surrounding his communication adds to her unease but she rationalizes it as his business.

In the parlour, Henri picks up the phone and calls the Prieuré St Donat in Nice, seeking information about a man named Pierre Pouliot, a guest whom he has been attempting to locate under urgent circumstances. The priest who answers informs Henri that no one by that name is staying at the priory, disappointing Henri but also affirming his suspicions — he realizes that if

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Pouliot is indeed there, they wouldn't admit it. The chapter concludes with Henri's resolve; despite the priest's dismissal, he understands the significance of any news regarding Pouliot, foreshadowing a deeper connection that may unfold in the narrative.

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Chapter 33 Summary: 34

In Chapter 34, set in the austere confines of the Fraternité St Donat, Pierre endures a silent meal alongside the other priests, led by the strict and watchful Dom Olivier. The refectory, marked by its minimalist furnishings and a prominent crucifix, serves as a backdrop for the monks' disciplined lifestyle. Dom Olivier's imposition of traditional practices reflects his mission to combat the perceived moral decay within the modern Church, presenting a challenge for any who linger here too long.

After struggling to eat due to his dentures, Pierre's attention is drawn to Dom Olivier, who gestures for him to join him outside the refectory. In a small parlor, the elder priest reveals a newspaper headline about a recent shooting involving a Canadian armed with a link to the controversial Brossard Affair. This news shakes Pierre, who, upon reading, realizes that the events he has stumbled into may not be mere coincidence.

Dom Olivier then broaches a more sinister topic: the notion of the Devil's influence in the world and specifically the targeting of Pierre. His theory suggests that orchestrated attacks aimed to manipulate public sentiment against certain influential figures in France, linking them to old grievances from World War II, particularly those affecting the Jewish community. He implicates a Jewish assassin trying to frame Pierre's demise as part of a continuing societal guilt around historical offenses.

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Though incredulous at first, Pierre grapples with Dom Olivier's assertions, especially as he learns that the assassin carried a leaflet intended to instigate chaos should Pierre have been killed. Dom Olivier, a member of the Chevaliers, expresses a protective sentiment towards Pierre, supporting the idea that his actions against the would-be assassin were justified and commendable.

The chapter takes a tense turn as Dom Olivier advises Pierre to consider fleeing the country due to the growing dangers he faces. Despite his initial reluctance to abandon his homeland, Pierre acknowledges this realization. They discuss potential avenues for escape, including assistance from Pierre's lay friends with ties to the Vatican; however, Dom Olivier cautions him not to rely on the contemporary leadership in Rome, which he believes has strayed from its historical commitments.

In the end, after a heartfelt exchange which underscores the bond of faith they share, Dom Olivier invites Pierre to join in prayer before his mass, acknowledging a sense of shared vulnerability under divine protection. The chapter closes with Pierre contemplating his next steps while the pressing call to the Commissaire is deferred in the face of spiritual duty.

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Chapter 34 Summary: 35

In Chapter 35, Colonel Roux discusses a potential lead in his investigation with Judge Livi, who is reviewing notes related to the case. Roux reveals that they have pinpointed the location of a key suspect, Brossard, linking him to a priory run by Dom Olivier Villedieu in Switzerland. The investigation has become pressing, especially in light of a recent murder that has shifted public and media interest from historical wartime narratives to contemporary crime, particularly involving the Church.

Judge Livi expresses her confidence in Roux's ability to find Brossard, understanding the impact his capture could have on a broader spectrum of cases involving high-profile individuals charged with crimes against humanity. She notes that a murder involving significant Church involvement would garner international attention, which may facilitate justice for other perpetrators who have previously been protected.

However, Roux voices his concerns about the urgency of the search, hinting that another party may be in pursuit of Brossard with lethal intentions. This adds a layer of urgency and danger to the case, as they are not the only ones seeking him.

The discussion takes a critical turn when Judge Livi brings up the mysterious large payments Brossard has been receiving from a source in

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Paris, unrelated to his known affiliations with the Chevaliers, a Catholic organization. The implication is that this financial support might be meant to ensure Brossard remains silent or safe, suggesting that he could be under the protection of someone who is himself potentially implicated in the ongoing criminal investigation.

Thus, the chapter builds tension and intrigue, setting the stage for a high-stakes race against time as Roux and Livi navigate political complications and potential threats that loom over their quest for justice.

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Chapter 35 Summary: 36

In Chapter 36, the narrative centers on an unnamed protagonist who finds himself kneeling in the rear of the Fraternité's chapel, where Dom Olivier, a priest, is conducting a Latin mass. This traditional service harks back to a time when French culture was more idyllic and unified, contrasting sharply with the present-day reality where the protagonist feels alienated in a France seemingly governed to serve specific ethnic groups. His reflection on the mass stirs a profound sense of nostalgia and discontent with the current socio-political landscape, further fueled by a belief that powerful outside forces exert influence over French governance.

During the mass, a pivotal decision crystallizes within him: he will leave France, regardless of the potential obstacles he might face, such as the Commissaire—an official who had hinted at providing him with necessary assistance. With life savings stored in a money belt and deposits made in a bank in Bern, he feels financially prepared for this drastic change.

As the mass concludes, he seeks Father Rozier, a hospital priest who had promised him access to a telephone. However, he is met by a young priest who informs him that a Monsieur Saussaies has called for him, recognizing his name and implying that he has something important to discuss. The priest directs him to the bindery, a secluded room where he can make the call in privacy.

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Upon dialing, he connects with the Commissaire in Nice. The Commissaire exhibits impatience, clearly aware of the turmoil that has engulfed the nation. In their conversation, he suggests that the time has come for the protagonist's escape from France, something the protagonist feels relieved to hear. They discuss possible locations for his exile, with the protagonist inquiring about Bolivia, a place previously mentioned as a potential refuge. However, the Commissaire dispels any notion of assistance from the Vatican, stating they would arrange a passport independently.

Inspector Pochon, who had previously made contact with the protagonist, is assigned to help facilitate this escape and will meet him later that evening. The Commissaire stresses the importance of secrecy regarding this plan, warning him to remain indoors until the meeting to avoid attracting unwanted attention due to his face being publicized in the media.

As the protagonist hangs up, a lingering concern surfaces—whether the payments he has been relying on will continue. He resolves to inquire with Pochon about this matter when they meet. Just as the chapter draws to a close, the protagonist's sense of impending change is palpable, setting the stage for the potential for new beginnings beyond the constraints of his current life, underscored by themes of nostalgia, alienation, and the search for refuge.

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Chapter 36: 38

In this chapter, set against the backdrop of a priory where austerity reigns, the protagonist, Monsieur Pierre, reflects on his surroundings while navigating a precarious situation. During a sparse midday meal of simple bread and fish stew, he learns that the Father Prior, Dom Olivier, is undertaking a week of fasting. This stark culinary backdrop contrasts with Pierre's state of anxiety, as he grapples with the threat of being followed.

Father Rozier informs Pierre that he has a call waiting for him, prompting him to retreat to the dimly lit bindery where he finds a blinking telephone. The voice on the other end is familiar, indicating a sense of urgency in protecting Pierre's safety. The caller, a figure who has been tracking Pierre's movements, instructs him to avoid his car and, instead, to prepare for a covert departure. This instruction reveals the gravity of his situation—indicating he may be in danger and under surveillance.

As the call unfolds, Pierre receives directions to meet at Café Corona later that evening, a rendezvous meant to facilitate his escape from France. The caller reassures him, indicating that arrangements to secure his exit will be finalized soon. The gravity of Pierre's predicament weighs heavily on him, instilling a mixture of fear and reluctance to leave his homeland.

After the call, Pierre briefly indulges in observing a woman on a neighboring

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terrace, a moment that juxtaposes a fleeting desire in the midst of his anxiety about exile. The heat of the day bears down on him as he confronts his feelings of connection to France, despite the threat of being forced away from it.

The chapter wraps up with Pierre reflecting on the pervasive tensions in society, as well as his own internal struggle—a conflict fueled by the rhetoric of Dom Olivier, who views the Jews as the embodiment of malevolence. This sets the stage for Pierre's complex emotional state as he contemplates the implications of both his personal situation and the larger socio-political climate around him.

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Chapter 37 Summary: 39

In Chapter 39, Colonel Roux prepares for a covert operation targeting the Prieuré St Donat, a monastery believed to be hiding Pierre Brossard, a man wanted for crimes during World War II. To avoid detection by the police, Roux's team arrives under the guise of a raid on a factory employing illegal immigrants. Upon arriving at the monastery, they are greeted by Father Rozier, who informs them that the Prior, Dom Olivier, is currently engaged in fasting and prayer. Roux presents his search warrant, but the Prior asserts that Brossard is not present. Despite the Prior's protests, Roux's team begins a thorough search of the premises but finds no sign of Brossard, leaving him feeling increasingly uneasy.

In Chapter 4, Monsignor Le Moyne reflects on his dual existence; on one side, the ambitious cleric who sought prestige and influence under various cardinals, and on the other, the devoted priest entrenched in silence and humility at a retreat house in Caunes. He has dedicated much of his career to advocating for Brossard's presidential pardon, yet feels his efforts have not yielded success, and he grapples with feelings of regret and ambition. Le Moyne is picked up by Jean Marie Bouchard, a local winegrower, who expresses his growing anxiety over immigrants and their perceived impact on society.

Upon returning to the retreat house, Le Moyne learns that Brossard has been

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waiting for him, revealing further complexity to the situation. When Brossard calls to request a meeting in secret, he confesses something deeply troubling: he has killed a man in self-defense, amplifying the risks to his already precarious existence. Struggling with the moral implications, Le Moine provides Brossard with absolution, while being acutely aware of the increased scrutiny from law enforcement that surrounds Brossard's case. This chapter serves to build suspense as Brossard's life remains perilous, enveloped in the darkness of his past, and hints at the unfolding narrative of guilt, redemption, and the pursuit of justice amidst the shadows of history.

Chapter	Summary
Chapter 39	Colonel Roux leads a covert operation at Prieuré St Donat, searching for war criminal Pierre Brossard. Disguised as a factory raid, they meet Father Rozier and are informed that Prior Dom Olivier is fasting. Roux presents a warrant, but Brossard is not found, heightening Roux's unease.
Chapter 4	Monsignor Le Moine reflects on his life as an ambitious cleric and a humble priest. He advocates for Brossard's pardon while grappling with regret. After meeting a concerned local winegrower, he discovers Brossard waiting for him. Brossard reveals he has killed a man in self-defense, leading Le Moine to grant him absolution while worrying about the increasing scrutiny on Brossard's situation.

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Chapter 38 Summary: 40

In Chapter 40, the protagonist finds himself in a precarious situation as he is led across rooftops by a young priest to escape the gendarmes who are searching for him. The tension escalates as he hesitantly crawls along a precarious wooden plank bridging the gap between two buildings. Battling his fear of heights and shortness of breath, he eventually makes it safely to the other side.

Upon entering the makeshift living quarters of a stout young man and a young woman, he learns more about the underground communication system utilized by the priests. They are sheltering him temporarily and discussing potential escape routes. The young woman, displaying a mix of curiosity and disdain, offers him water while the young man offers to help him escape further. As they converse, the protagonist finds himself experiencing chest pain, heightening his anxiety about the unfolding events.

The tension in the room rises with news that gendarmes have briefly approached the rooftops, but they soon depart. Once reassured, the protagonist prepares to leave with the young man, who guides him through a basement furnace room and into an alley filled with refuse—the first taste of freedom he's seen in a while.

Aware of his time constraints, the protagonist makes his way to Rue

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Recamier, where he finds a taxi rank as advised. He reflects on the danger he has narrowly escaped and contemplates a future away from hiding, seeing visions of a simpler life—sitting in a foreign city, free from fear.

At the Café Corona, he meets Inspector Pochon, who expresses his readiness to help him cross the border into Italy under the guise of having a French passport. Relief washes over the protagonist at the mention of Canada, which represents safety and a new beginning. However, as they prepare to leave, Pochon's demeanor suddenly shifts, revealing that he is not the ally he seemed to be.

In a shocking twist, Pochon draws a gun on him, firing two bullets into the protagonist before he collapses. In his final moments, the protagonist experiences haunting visions of fourteen dead men he had previously condemned, a reminder of his past transgressions. Unable to feel true remorse, he grapples with the weight of his choices as Pochon methodically connects him to his own grisly history, pinning a statement to his lifeless body to ensure there is no trace of his fingerprints, solidifying the betrayal and danger that pervades his life.

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