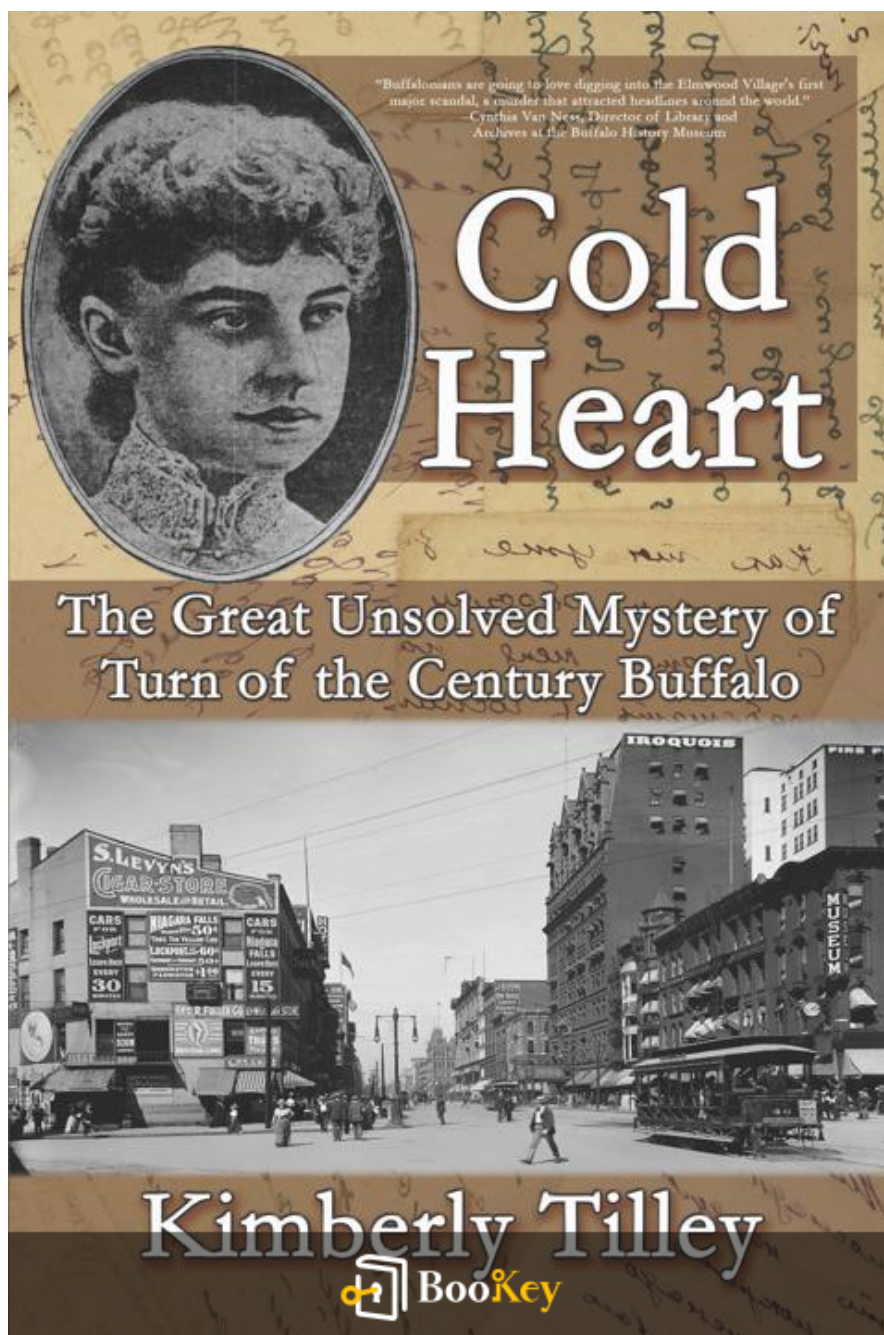


Cold Heart PDF (Limited Copy)

Kimberly Tilley



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Cold Heart Summary

Unraveling a Century-Old Murder Mystery in Buffalo.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

Set against the backdrop of 1903 Buffalo, New York, "Cold Heart" chronicles the life of Ed Burdick, a wealthy manufacturer well-known for his generosity and philanthropy. Living a seemingly idyllic life with his devoted wife, Alice, and their three endearing daughters, the Burdicks epitomize the upper crust of society on Elmwood Avenue. However, beneath this polished exterior lies an undercurrent of discontent that ultimately leads to the stunning announcement of Ed and Alice's divorce, shaking the community to its core.

Amidst this personal turmoil, the family's world spirals into chaos when Ed is found murdered in his study, a gruesome discovery made just as the household remains blissfully unaware of the tragedy unfolding beneath their roof. The murder sends shockwaves through their social circle, prompting detectives to launch a thorough investigation into Ed's death. As they sift through the evidence, a convoluted tapestry of secrets and hidden motives begins to surface, revealing a host of potential suspects—each with reasons that paint a far more complex portrait of the Burdick family life.

Through skillful storytelling, "Cold Heart" intricately unravels the compelling mystery surrounding Ed Burdick's murder, shedding light on the grim realities lying just beneath the surface of turn-of-the-century Buffalo society. As the narrative progresses, readers are drawn into a world where

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appearances deceive, and the hunt for truth mingles with the darker aspects of human nature, ultimately challenging the characters to confront their own secrets and desires.

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About the author

Kimberly Tilley, an accomplished author recognized for her engaging exploration of forgotten crimes from the early twentieth century, weaves her narrative from the shadows of history. Her best-selling works, such as **Grievous Deeds**, **Has It Come to This?**, **Cold Heart**, and **The Poisoned Glass**, showcase her talent for reviving historical mysteries and connecting readers with the past. In addition to her literary pursuits, she serves as the co-founder of Pivot Talent Development, where she partners with organizations to promote a culture of excellence and innovation. Through her unique philosophy, "Raise Your Standards," Tilley empowers businesses to stand out, cultivate growth, and improve talent retention.

The narratives she constructs are not merely tales but windows into societal issues of their time, illuminating how crimes from a century ago resonate with contemporary themes. Her characters often grapple with the constraints of their eras while seeking justice, drawing readers into a web of intrigue and moral complexity. The twists and turns of her plots reflect not just personal stakes but also broader themes of accountability and the human condition.

In Tilley's works, readers are invited to ponder the implications of seemingly forgotten events, urging them to consider how history shapes the present. Each chapter unfolds with a careful balance of historical detail and compelling storytelling, ensuring that the narrative flows logically and

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remains engaging throughout. New characters and concepts are introduced seamlessly, enhancing the reader's understanding and appreciation of the unfolding drama.

Overall, Tilley's exploration into the past serves as both a thrilling escape and a profound commentary on human nature, making her work not only entertaining but also deeply resonant for those seeking to understand the complexities of crime and its lasting impact on society.

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Chapter 1 Summary: A Glittering Life in The City of Light

A Glittering Life in The City of Light

In the early 1900s, Buffalo, New York, emerged as a bustling metropolis, thriving at the pivotal intersection of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. This period marked a significant urban transformation, with the city's population exceeding 350,000 by 1900, making it the eighth largest in the United States. The Pan-American Exposition of 1901 was a crucial event that further solidified Buffalo's prominence, showcasing innovative hydroelectric power derived from nearby Niagara Falls and drawing visitors from around the globe. However, the celebration was tragically overshadowed by the assassination of President William McKinley, casting a shadow over the city's achievements.

The Rise of Notable Citizens

Among those shaping Buffalo's identity was Edwin Burdick, a quintessential self-made man whose entrepreneurial spirit turned a modest envelope manufacturing plant into a thriving enterprise. By 1903, he had co-founded the Buffalo Envelope Co., which produced an impressive 400,000 envelopes daily. Renowned for his kindness and philanthropy,

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Burdick balanced his professional success with a fulfilling family life alongside his wife, Alice, and their three daughters. His ascent in business exemplified the era's burgeoning industrial opportunities and highlighted the American dream of self-improvement through hard work and dedication.

The Burdick Family's Social Standing

Living on the prestigious Ashland Avenue, the Burdick family enjoyed a prominent position within Buffalo's upper echelons. They actively participated in the local elite social scene, attending and hosting upscale events that showcased their status. Their daughter, Marion, gained public attention for her courage during a perilous incident involving a burning electric wagon, further cementing the family's reputation. The Burdicks' luxurious lifestyle and perceived perfection became an aspirational model for others in the community, sharply contrasting with the day-to-day struggles faced by the working class during this period of rapid industrialization and societal change.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Alice's Indiscretions

Summary of Chapter 2: Alice's Indiscretions

The seemingly idyllic life of the Burdicks masks deep-seated turmoil within their marriage, which has been unraveling for the past two years and set on a path toward divorce by February 1903. Perhaps the most surprising revelation is the close ties they share with the Pennells. Edwin (Ed) and Alice Burdick frequently socialize with Arthur and Carrie Pennell, a couple with contrasting dynamics; Arthur, a successful attorney, appears laid-back and enjoys leisure, while Ed is industrious and focused on work.

The unraveling of the Burdicks' marriage gains momentum during a New Year's gathering in 1901 when Carrie Pennell makes a shocking confession to Ed: Alice is having an affair with her husband, Arthur. Initially, Ed is unable to believe Carrie's claims, perceiving their marriage as solid. However, following a tense confrontation with Alice, whose evasive and defensive demeanor raises Ed's suspicions, he begins to investigate further.

Upon searching through Alice's belongings, Ed uncovers a series of love letters exchanged between Alice and Arthur. These letters confirm the infidelity, shattering any remaining illusions he had about their marriage. Conflicted and devastated, Ed keeps the letters to process the betrayal.

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Despite her acknowledgment of the affair, Alice's main concern shifts to how Ed found out, revealing her self-absorption. She seeks comfort from Arthur, who chastises her for being reckless with their correspondence. Nonetheless, Ed's suspicions deepen as he clandestinely checks a post office box where Alice receives further romantic letters from Arthur, confirming that the affair continues.

In May 1901, the inevitable confrontation occurs. Armed with undeniable proof of Alice's infidelity, Ed confronts her about the ongoing relationship with Arthur. Caught off-guard and realizing there's no escape from the truth, Alice reluctantly agrees to leave their home, sealing the fate of their troubled marriage. The chapter lays bare the complexities of marriage, betrayal, and self-deception, revealing how appearances can dramatically differ from reality.

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Chapter 3 Summary: A Good Girl

Summary of Chapter 3: Cold Heart by Kimberly Tilley

In this chapter, we delve deeper into Alice Burdick's emotional turmoil as she grapples with a sense of isolation. Exiled over 400 miles from her family and residing in a hotel in Atlantic City, Alice's distress is palpable in her constant letters to her husband, Ed. She presents herself as a victim of Ed's cruelty, mixing taunts with pleas for reconciliation and desperately yearning to return home for the sake of their children.

Ed, however, responds with conditions. He states he would permit Alice to come back only if she ensures that Arthur, her lover, leaves Buffalo. This creates a precarious situation for Alice, who is torn between maintaining her commitment to her family and her connection to Arthur, which Ed views as a betrayal. Their correspondence is fraught with emotional manipulation, with Ed expressing skepticism about Alice's fidelity and commitment to their marriage.

As tensions rise, Ed considers divorce, catalyzed by a threatening note from Carrie Pennell, Arthur's wife, warning him of a potential countersuit. This revelation further complicates matters, prompting Ed to confront Alice with his intentions regarding the divorce, which sends shockwaves through her.

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Alice, initially shocked by Ed's threats and accusations, seeks clarity by meeting with Arthur. During this confrontation, Arthur pleads with Ed to reconsider the divorce, hoping to salvage their circumstances. However, Ed remains resolute, standing firm in his decision.

Ultimately, Ed decides to halt the divorce proceedings, allowing Alice to return to Buffalo. Yet, the atmosphere in their household remains charged; Alice's indifference towards her family persists, and her affair with Arthur continues unabated. The chapter concludes with escalating arguments between Alice and Ed, leaving the threat of divorce looming ominously over their fragile family dynamic.

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Chapter 4: 1902

In Chapter 4 of "Cold Heart," the fractured relationship between Ed and Alice takes center stage, emphasizing the emotional turmoil and manipulation at play.

The chapter opens with Ed, still reeling from the pain of Alice's infidelity a year prior, convinced that their relationship continues to deteriorate. This continuous strain leads Ed to take a significant step: he decides to file for divorce, articulating his bitterness and hurt in a letter sent from Indianapolis. His determination to end the marriage stems not only from his feelings of betrayal but also from a deep sense of loss.

Alice, however, skillfully manipulates the situation in her response. Presenting herself as a victim of circumstance, she implores Ed to rethink his decision for the sake of their children. Her emotional plea, laden with despair, succeeds in drawing Ed back home, ultimately postponing the divorce. This dynamic illustrates Alice's ability to play on Ed's feelings of responsibility and guilt, revealing a pattern of emotional manipulation that complicates their already fragile relationship.

Once Ed returns, Alice re-establishes her routine, misleading him with reassurances that her affair has concluded. Yet, her actions suggest otherwise, as she buried herself in a facade of normalcy while willfully



ignoring the repercussions of her past decisions.

Parallel to Ed and Alice's turmoil is the perspective of Arthur Pennell, Alice's former lover. In his heartfelt letters to her, Arthur conveys his own emotional despair and longing for Alice's love. His correspondence reveals a

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Chapter 5 Summary: The Last Straw

The Last Straw

As 1902 drew to a close, Ed found himself increasingly disillusioned with his marriage to Alice. Their once-happy relationship had deteriorated into frequent, bitter conflicts that left Ed feeling trapped. Rather than seek reconciliation, he chose to gather evidence for a divorce, feeling it was the only path forward. To this end, he enlisted a private detective, who uncovered Alice's affair with Arthur Pennell, confirming Ed's worst fears. With solid proof of adultery in hand, he prepared to file for divorce by the end of November.

The situation escalated dramatically on December 2 when Ed discovered Alice and Arthur's plans to meet at an apartment. Determined to confront them, Ed demanded to see his wife, but Pennell refused to allow access. Back at home, Ed confronted Alice, who ultimately confessed to being with Arthur. This admission propelled Ed to make a difficult decision: he insisted that Alice leave their home for good. Unprepared for this ultimatum, Alice quickly gathered her belongings and left with Arthur for Niagara Falls, leaving Ed both relieved and resolute.

In the aftermath of Alice's departure, Ed focused on solidifying his intention

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to divorce. He consulted with a lawyer and officially filed for divorce, naming Arthur Pennell as the corespondent, a legal term used to identify someone who participated in a marital infraction. Around the time of their split, Ed was unexpectedly contacted by Carrie Pennell, Arthur's wife. She implored Ed to reconcile with Alice for the sake of their children, revealing the complex emotional landscape surrounding their families.

Despite the emotional turmoil represented by these letters, Ed remained steadfast. Alice, for her part, expressed her distress in correspondence, emphasizing her desire to protect their children from the fallout of the divorce. Yet Ed's resolve only strengthened in the face of Alice's letters, each reiterating his frustration over her infidelity. He reflected on their past together, conflicted yet determined. With the holidays approaching and pressure mounting from both sides, Ed recognized that he could not turn back. He was prepared to act on his decision, ready to embrace a future without Alice.

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Chapter 6 Summary: Desperate Measures

Desperate Measures

Arrival in Atlantic City

On January 1, 1903, Alice Burdick arrived at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, filled with a mix of anxiety and hope. This date marked two years since her husband, Ed, discovered her affair with Arthur Pennell, leaving Alice feeling adrift and isolated from her family. The swift currents of her personal life cast a shadow on her newfound freedom from Ed's scrutiny. Despite her desperate attempts to reconcile with him, Ed's cold indifference deepened her despair, leaving her future with Arthur shrouded in uncertainty.

Continued Persuasion and Escalation

Now unmonitored, Alice met with Arthur more frequently, finding solace in his reassurances that Ed might eventually relent. Yet, Ed remained steadfast in his disapproval, unyielding to Alice's emotional appeals. Frustrated and feeling the weight of impending decisions, Arthur sought a confrontation with Ed regarding the divorce. In their tense exchange, he discovered that Ed was fully aware of their affair and had amassed evidence to support his case



against them. However, Ed presented a surprising ultimatum: he would consider forgiving them if they married and acquired a stable home, igniting a deeper conflict.

Conflict Between Ed and Arthur

Driven by desperation, Arthur's confrontational nature became apparent as he clashed with Ed, revealing the duality of his character—selfish in his obsession yet genuinely caring for Alice. As Ed's refusal to reconcile grew firmer, Arthur's threats of self-harm emerged, escalating the emotional stakes of their tumultuous relationship. The rift between Ed and Arthur widened, with Ed contemplating how to utilize public humiliation as leverage, underscoring the high stakes of their struggle for dominance.

Alice's Countersuit

In a pivotal moment, Arthur devised a bold plan for Alice to file a countersuit against Ed, accusing him of marital infidelity. This strategic move aimed to apply public pressure on Ed, forcing him to potentially abandon his divorce proceedings. Despite the daring nature of this action, Alice remained conflicted, balancing her pursuit of justice with a lingering desire for Ed's forgiveness.

Further Developments

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As Alice moved forward with the countersuit, she found herself caught in a web of contradictions, still yearning for Ed's acceptance. During a subsequent meeting, Arthur attempted to maintain a professional façade, but Ed's response was dismissive, showing little concern for the allegations against him. His judgment fell more heavily on Arthur than on Alice, indicating a shift in the power dynamics of their relationships.

Ethical Dilemmas and Growing Tensions

As whispers of the Burdicks' marital discord circulated through the community, new ethical dilemmas arose surrounding Arthur's role as Alice's legal representative. The unfolding drama prompted a broader discussion about morality and integrity, highlighting the tangled emotional dynamics at play. This environment of escalating tensions set the stage for further confrontations and crucial decisions that would determine the fates of all involved.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Something Wicked

Chapter 7 Summary: "Cold Heart" by Kimberly Tilley

An Ordinary Day with Unusual Signs

In the midst of a seemingly typical Thursday on February 26, Ed Burdick finds himself at a personal crossroads. He treats himself to a bottle of premixed cocktails, marking a departure from his usual patterns, which reflects his desire for change. This light indulgence contrasts with the heavy emotional weight he carries as he faces the impending dissolution of his marriage to Alice. Despite the pain of their separation, Ed approaches the situation with a sense of acceptance, wishing Alice well and acknowledging that their happiness together has faded.

Evening at Home

As evening descends, Ed returns home, spending quality time in the informal back parlor with his family. The interactions seem serene, but the underlying tension of his personal struggles is palpable. Once the children are tucked in, Ed's mother-in-law, Mrs. Hull, retires for the night, leaving the quiet of the home to settle. Later, Maggie, the family cook, returns home late and senses something amiss; the back door stands ajar, and the lights of Ed's

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den illuminate the darkened house.

Morning of Discovery

The following morning, Maggie is unsettled when she discovers the front door wide open and a disquieting absence of Ed in his bedroom. Concerned, she checks the den and finds the door shut. Alarmed, she informs Mrs. Hull, who shares her apprehension and decides to investigate further, fearing for Ed's well-being.

Grim Realization

Their fears materialize when Dr. Marcy, the family physician, arrives on the scene. Upon entering the den, he is met with a horrifying discovery: Ed's lifeless body lies brutally murdered. The brutality of the scene shocks Dr. Marcy, who realizes the gravity of the situation demands immediate action. Struggling to maintain composure, he begins to assess the scene and provides measured instructions to Mrs. Hull amidst the chaos.

Aftermath and Investigation

As the family grapples with the devastating news, a medical examiner, Dr. Howland, arrives and quickly confirms what they dread: Ed's death is a homicide. This harsh reality, which Dr. Marcy had hoped to refute, signifies

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the dark turn their lives have taken. The chapter concludes with a chilling atmosphere as Mrs. Hull and the family are left horrified by Ed's brutal murder. Meanwhile, detectives begin to piece together the circumstances surrounding this violent demise, igniting an investigation that will uncover secrets and lead to profound consequences for all involved.

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Chapter 8: The Savage Murder of Ed Burdick

Summary of Chapter 8: The Savage Murder of Ed Burdick

In this chapter, the narrative unfolds around the investigation of Ed Burdick's brutal murder, spearheaded by Police Chief Patrick Cusack. The story sheds light on the details gathered from the crime scene and insights provided by the medical examiner, Dr. Howland.

Chief Cusack's Arrival

Chief Patrick Cusack, a veteran law enforcement officer aged 64, arrives at Burdick's home to examine the crime scene for evidence. Known for his dedication and respect within the police department, Cusack carefully observes the den's layout, noting the sparse yet comfortable furnishings that reflect Burdick's personality.

Examination of the Body

During the examination, Dr. Howland shares the chilling details of the murder with Cusack. He determines that Burdick was killed around 2:00 a.m. The first blow, a devastating strike to the back of Burdick's head, likely rendered him dead immediately, followed by multiple blows that left his

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skull crushed. The examination reveals signs of a struggle, evident from Burdick's broken fingers, indicative of a desperate attempt to fend off his attacker.

Clues and Possible Weapons

The discovery of a bloody thumbprint on Burdick's calf suggests that the body had been moved after the murder, raising questions about the events that unfolded post-attack. Investigators contemplate various potential murder weapons, postulating that a heavy blunt object may have been used. The nearby golf clubs are considered, although they are found devoid of any blood evidence.

Speculation on the Murderer

In a discussion that hints at possible motives, Dr. Howland suggests that the murder appears to be personal, potentially involving a complicated relationship with a woman. However, he expresses skepticism about a woman's capability to commit such an overtly violent act, highlighting that the brutal nature of the killing lacks the subtler nuances often associated with female perpetrators. This speculation leads to implications of marital discord for Burdick, including possible infidelity and a looming divorce, suggesting that passion may have driven the killer.

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Concluding Thoughts

As Chief Cusack delves deeper into the investigation, he becomes increasingly intrigued by the motives behind Burdick's death, especially considering the complexity of his personal relationships. The chapter closes in suspense as the investigation raises more questions about Burdick's life and the identity of his murderer, setting the stage for further developments in the case.

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Chapter 9 Summary: Three Perspectives

Chapter 9 Summary: Three Perspectives

In this pivotal chapter, the investigation into the murder of Ed Burdick unfolds through the reactions and testimonies of key witnesses, revealing layers of complexity surrounding Burdick's personal and professional relationships.

The narrative begins at the crime scene, where detectives methodically set up their equipment for a photograph—a crucial step in piecing together the events leading to Burdick's untimely death. Chief Cusack is tasked with two critical objectives: interrogating the residents of the household and meticulously observing the scene for clues. His dual focus reflects the urgency and gravity of the situation.

Cusack's first interview is with Dr. Marcy, who exhibits an unusual level of concern for the Burdick family's reputation amid their recent scandal involving a divorce. This focus raises red flags for Cusack, compelling him to question Marcy's priorities. The doctor recounts the day's events, revealing that he discovered Burdick's body and promptly informed Mrs. Hull, the children's grandmother. Marcy's reluctance to discuss the murder itself hints at deeper complexities within the family dynamics.

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Next, Maggie, the cook, enters the scene, surprised to see the chief and the doctor. She recalls Burdick as a man of reason, emphasizing his regard for propriety. As she reflects on the crucial night of the murder, she provides a timeline: she returned home just before 10:30 PM and encountered Burdick alone in the den. Notably, she mentions hearing coal being added to the furnace later that evening, suggesting that someone else may have been present, adding an intriguing layer to the investigation.

Chief Cusack's inquiry then leads him to Charles Parke, Burdick's business partner, who is reeling from the shock of his colleague's death. Parke reveals that Burdick was eager to finalize his divorce, motivated by a desire to protect their children. Furthermore, he raises concerns about Arthur Pennell, a man rumored to have threatened Burdick over the divorce and who was having an affair with Mrs. Burdick. This disclosure points to a possible motive for Pennell, who harbored hopes of reconciling with her, thus placing him at the heart of the investigation.

As the chapter concludes, Cusack gathers insights that elevate his concerns about the tangled web of relationships surrounding Burdick's life. With suspicions mounting against Pennell, who exhibits both a motive and a history of threats, Cusack prepares to delve deeper into the investigation. The complex interplay of personal grievances and ambitions serves as a backdrop for the detective's pursuit of the truth regarding Burdick's murder,

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setting the stage for future revelations.

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Chapter 10 Summary: A Conjuring Trick

A Conjuring Trick

Overview of the Crime Scene

In a chilling investigation led by Chief Cusack, detectives descended upon a blood-soaked den where Ed Burdick's lifeless body lay, the scene marred by violence. Their immediate task was to reconstruct the chain of events that culminated in Burdick's untimely demise, focusing on his final moments.

Timeline of Events

At approximately 9:45 p.m., Ed Burdick retreated to his bedroom, where he changed into a smoking jacket and slippers, suggesting he was settling in for a quiet evening at home. The detectives discovered a small black revolver tucked away in his housecoat pocket, which had not been discharged.

Notably, Maggie, the household cook, confirmed that she saw Ed shortly after her arrival, indicating he was alone at that point—a critical detail that hinted at the unfolding mystery.

Investigation Insights

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Detective Holmlund proposed the theory that Burdick either knew his attacker or had inadvertently allowed them inside. The open kitchen window raised suspicions of a staged break-in, yet the absence of footprints outside revealed a peculiar truth: the snow had been cleared from the inside, implying a carefully orchestrated scene set to mislead investigators.

Murder Theory and Evidence

The evidence indicated that Burdick had likely prepared drinks and snacks for a visitor, though the presence of only a single glass suggested he was not expecting company. Instead, it appeared that the killer had set the stage of a stranger's entry while Burdick had willingly let them in, adding another layer of intrigue to the case.

Critical Pieces of Evidence

A striking piece of evidence emerged from the crime scene: a clump of hair on Burdick's body, hinting at the involvement of a potential female assailant. Furthermore, a newspaper clipping about a divorce was found in his wallet, alongside a series of threatening love letters from a man named Arthur Pennell, one of which expressed a chilling intent to harm Burdick.

Motive and Suspects

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As detectives combed through potential motives, they dismissed burglary, noting the absence of stolen valuables. Rather, personal connections appeared to weave a more complex narrative. Photographs and letters surfaced, suggesting that Burdick's relationships could hold vital clues to his murder, as each correspondence hinted at underlying tensions.

Concluding the Investigation

Distrust began to brew around Dr. Marcy, the family physician, who had requested a temporary halt to the questioning for the family's sake. Chief Cusack remained resolute, determined to revisit the family for further questioning the following day. The shocking nature of the murder sent waves throughout Buffalo, captivating public attention and bringing scrutiny onto those close to the victim.

Next Steps

The next phase of the investigation involved interviewing Burdick's family, particularly Mrs. Hull and the children, to delve deeper into potential motives and suspects associated with his tragic end. With a clear focus, the detectives aimed to uncover the tangled web of relationships surrounding Ed Burdick, seeking answers to bring the murderer to justice.



Chapter 11 Summary: The Jigsaw Puzzle

Chapter 11 Summary: The Jigsaw Puzzle

In this chapter, Chief Cusack intensifies his probe into the murder of Ed Burdick, a well-respected figure known for his structured family life and parenting of three children. Despite his amiable demeanor, Burdick found himself at the center of a tumultuous marital dispute with his estranged wife, Alice, who had filed a countersuit alleging his infidelity. Her telegram from the Hotel Traymore, stating her arrival the next morning, raises questions about her potential involvement as Cusack navigates the intricate motives surrounding the case.

As Cusack delves deeper, he identifies Arthur Pennell as a significant suspect, especially given his history of threatening Burdick and his evident desperation to prevent Burdick's divorce from Alice. The investigator uncovers a series of letters that indicate a deeper emotional complexity in Pennell's relationship with the victim, suggesting that there could be more at play than jealousy alone. Moreover, Cusack considers the potential involvement of other individuals, such as Helen Warren and Gertrude Paine, adding layers to the web of relationships that might have led to Burdick's demise.

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Entering the crime scene, Cusack notes that the murder was executed with a level of familiarity that implies the killer was not a random intruder. The careful staging of the murder to resemble a robbery suggests that the perpetrator had a knowledge of the household, leading Cusack to speculate that the murderer might have even had permission to enter the home. This revelation complicates the narrative further, introducing the possibility that the crime was premeditated among those close to Burdick.

As the chapter draws to a close, Cusack finds himself grappling with more questions than answers. Pennell's recent purchase of firearms heightens suspicions against him, solidifying his status as a prominent suspect. The intricacies of love, betrayal, and complex human relationships emerge as central themes, underscoring the murky motives of those orbiting Burdick. This chapter leaves readers with an anticipation of the unraveling secrets and deeper connections that may illuminate the darker aspects of the murder mystery, setting the stage for further revelations as Cusack continues his investigation.

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Chapter 12: The Police Are Denied

Summary of Chapter 12: The Police Are Denied

In this chapter, the urgency of the murder investigation led by Chief Cusack takes center stage, illustrating the critical need for detectives to promptly interview suspects and witnesses. Time is of the essence, as the longer a perpetrator has to conceal evidence, the more challenging it becomes to uncover the truth.

Detectives, including Holmlund, arrive at the Paine residence late in the evening, surrounding the home for security. The tension escalates as they attempt to gain entry, only to be greeted by a middle-aged man named Carlson, who opens the door. The detectives' initial communication is strained due to a language barrier, but they manage to converse in broken Swedish, paving the way for further discussion.

Despite their pressing inquiry into the murder of their mutual friend Ed Burdick, Mrs. Paine declines to meet with the detectives, citing her husband's absence as a reason for her lack of cooperation. Holmlund leaves the scene perplexed and frustrated, unable to understand the Paines' reluctance to engage in what should be a straightforward investigation.



The narrative shifts later that evening as Mrs. Paine speaks with a reporter from The Buffalo Enquirer. In this interaction, she voices her irritation regarding the police involvement, emphasizing that her husband is out of town and downplaying their acquaintance with the Burdick family. As the conversation unfolds, Mrs. Paine's frustration escalates, and she brusquely dismisses the reporter's questions, highlighting her distress over the public association with the ongoing investigation.

The chapter concludes with Mrs. Paine feeling belittled and irritated by her encounter with the press, hinting at the complications that lie ahead. Her emotional turmoil foreshadows that the ramifications of the murder investigation will continue to affect her, revealing that this situation is far from resolved.

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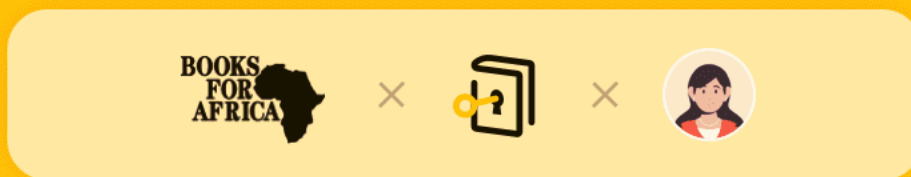




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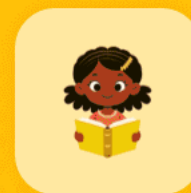
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Chapter 13 Summary: A Visit to Arthur Pennell

In the chapter titled "**Visit to Arthur Pennell**," Detectives Cusack, Coatsworth, Sullivan, and Holmlund conduct a late-night interrogation of Arthur and Carrie Pennell regarding the murder of Ed Burdick. The chapter unfolds as the detectives arrive at the Pennell residence, where they are greeted by a maid and subsequently find the couple in their parlor.

Arrival at the Pennell Home

Carrie quickly excuses herself, indicating her discomfort with the line of questioning, particularly in relation to Alice Burdick, Ed's wife. Arthur, however, shows a mix of nervousness and politeness as he greets the detectives.

Arthur's Statement and Alibi

Detective Cusack takes the lead, breaking the news of Burdick's murder to Arthur. Acting as Mrs. Burdick's legal representative adds an air of tension to the exchange. Arthur appears guarded, refusing to delve into personal matters but instead detailing his whereabouts the night prior—asserting that he was home with Carrie after dinner and did not leave until morning.

Weapons Inquiry and Background Check

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The detectives probe further, particularly about weapons in the house. Arthur admits to purchasing a revolver earlier that day to replace one that had been stolen. Despite this revelation, he insists that he has no connection to the Burdicks' residence, and his responses seem sincere.

Carrie Pennell's Testimony

Carrie is then questioned, and she supports Arthur's account of events, though she is reticent regarding their relations with the Burdicks. Her composed demeanor contrasts sharply with Arthur's anxiousness, heightening suspicions about their connection to the crime.

Police Search

As part of their investigation, the police search the Pennell home for any incriminating evidence, particularly focusing on blood-stained clothing that could link them to the murder. However, the search yields no substantial findings.

Conclusion of the Visit

After approximately 90 minutes at the Pennell home, the detectives conclude their visit. While the visit does not produce any direct evidence against the

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Pennells, Cusack is left with lingering doubts about Arthur's innocence. He senses that there are deeper issues at play and contemplates shifting the investigation's focus, hinting at the complexity and layers yet to be uncovered in this murder case.

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Chapter 14 Summary: Alice Comes Home

In Chapter 14 of "Cold Heart" by Kimberly Tilley, the narrative centers around Alice Burdick's arrival in Buffalo, following the shocking murder of her husband, Ed. Dressed in a chic gray suit, Alice steps into a bustling crowd, feeling the weight of scrutiny as she seeks to remain incognito. However, her efforts are thwarted when she is approached by a swarm of reporters eager to glean information about Ed's violent death.

As the media bombards her with questions, Alice responds with a mixture of shock and sorrow, maintaining her composure despite the traumatic circumstances. She insists that there were no enemies in Ed's life and that their marriage, although marked by minor disputes, was fundamentally loving. The reporters probe further, raising the names of potential suspects, including Mr. and Mrs. Pennell. Despite the inquiry, Alice defends Ed's relationship with Arthur Pennell, his business partner, emphasizing their amicable connection and downplaying any notion of discord.

Despite the chaos around her, Alice professes her unwavering resolve to seek justice for her husband's murder. Her love for Ed shines through as she articulates her commitment to uncovering the truth and ensuring that his killer is brought to justice. As she departs to reunite with her family, this pivotal moment underscores her determination amidst personal turmoil.



Simultaneously, Arthur Pennell finds himself in the media spotlight outside his office. Addressing reporters, he refrains from discussing the murder while confirming that he has been named as a correspondent in Ed's ongoing divorce proceedings against Alice. His evasive demeanor hints at underlying nerves, as he deflects questions about his relationship with her and the tensions surrounding the divorce. The contrasting perspectives of Alice and Arthur illustrate the complexities of their lives intertwined with Ed's tragic demise, setting the stage for further developments in the story.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Window into the Whirlwind

Summary of Chapter 15: Window into the Whirlwind

In the wake of Ed Burdick's murder, the media and public became engrossed in the scandal that unfolded surrounding his troubled marriage and the brewing divorce. Details about Ed's numerous extramarital affairs and the domestic turmoil within the Burdick household fueled speculation that his killer might be a woman intertwined in this personal chaos. High-profile interviews, especially with Dr. Seth Paine, intensified the drama; he expressed skepticism regarding the theory of a female perpetrator, positing that the murderer would likely have had intimate knowledge of the Burdicks' home environment.

As the chapter progresses, it explores the diverse reactions from those close to Ed. Perspectives on his character diverge sharply, with some acknowledging his devotion as a father, while others hint at his relationship with a woman named Mrs. Warren, which stoked distrust in his estranged wife, Alice. The tension in Alice's grief is palpable as she meets with Reverend Levi Powers, who provides a comforting yet ambiguous presence in the tumultuous atmosphere following Ed's violent death.

The climax of the chapter unfolds during Ed's funeral, a subdued event that

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reflected the fractured familial ties and the emotional weight of his passing. The hurried departure of the Burdick family from Canastota soon after the burial underscores the turmoil and detachment each member faced. Alice, in particular, is notably silent and withdrawn during the final rites, emphasizing the complexity of her grief and the broader repercussions of a life overshadowed by scandal and betrayal. This chapter paints a vivid picture of a family in distress, exploring themes of loss, secrets, and the unraveling of personal relationships in the face of tragedy.

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Chapter 16: Investigation and Rumors

Investigation and Rumors

As the Burdick murder case gained unexpected public attention, the police were initially caught off guard. Detective Cusack quickly adapted to the situation by shifting from using plainclothes officers for surveillance of the Burdick, Pennell, and Paine homes to deploying uniformed officers, a move aimed at maintaining order amidst the swelling crowds. Despite diligent efforts, including thorough searches of the Burdick property, the police were unable to uncover any significant leads.

Compounding the mystery, the Burdick family reported that Ed's distinctive heavy gold pocket watch was missing—an item the detectives suspected the murderer might attempt to pawn. Adding to the intricacy of the case was Mr. Hartzell, the family attorney and a long-term houseguest, who was present in the Burdick home at the time of the incident.

In their efforts to piece together the puzzle, detectives conducted interviews with key individuals. Alice Burdick, Ed's wife, offered little helpful information but implied that opposition to her divorce could point to someone involved in the crime. Similarly, Coatsworth attempted to glean insights from Mrs. Hull, though she was notably evasive, frustrating the



investigators. With the inquest approaching, the police prepared for revealing testimony.

On March 2, critical news emerged from the medical examiner: the hair found on Ed's body was confirmed to be his, leading detectives to re-evaluate their assumptions about the murder. The presence of tampering suggested that the killer was likely a woman, reigniting suspicions around female acquaintances.

The media's role in the unfolding investigation was complicated. Although the press maintained a cooperative relationship with law enforcement, rampant inaccuracies in reporting proliferated. Misinformation about missing golf clubs and unfounded accusations against local residents skewed public perceptions, diminishing the media's credibility.

Detective Cusack sought out Charles Parke from the Buffalo Envelope Company, believing he might have insights into Ed's personal affairs. During their discussion, Parke hinted at records related to Ed's divorce case, suggesting tangled relationships among the individuals involved.

Another significant breakthrough came from Alfred Brookman, a furnace technician, who reported seeing Mrs. Hull with an unknown man shortly before Ed's death. This testimony, coupled with Brookman's identification of Mrs. Hull, intensified suspicions regarding her potential involvement in the

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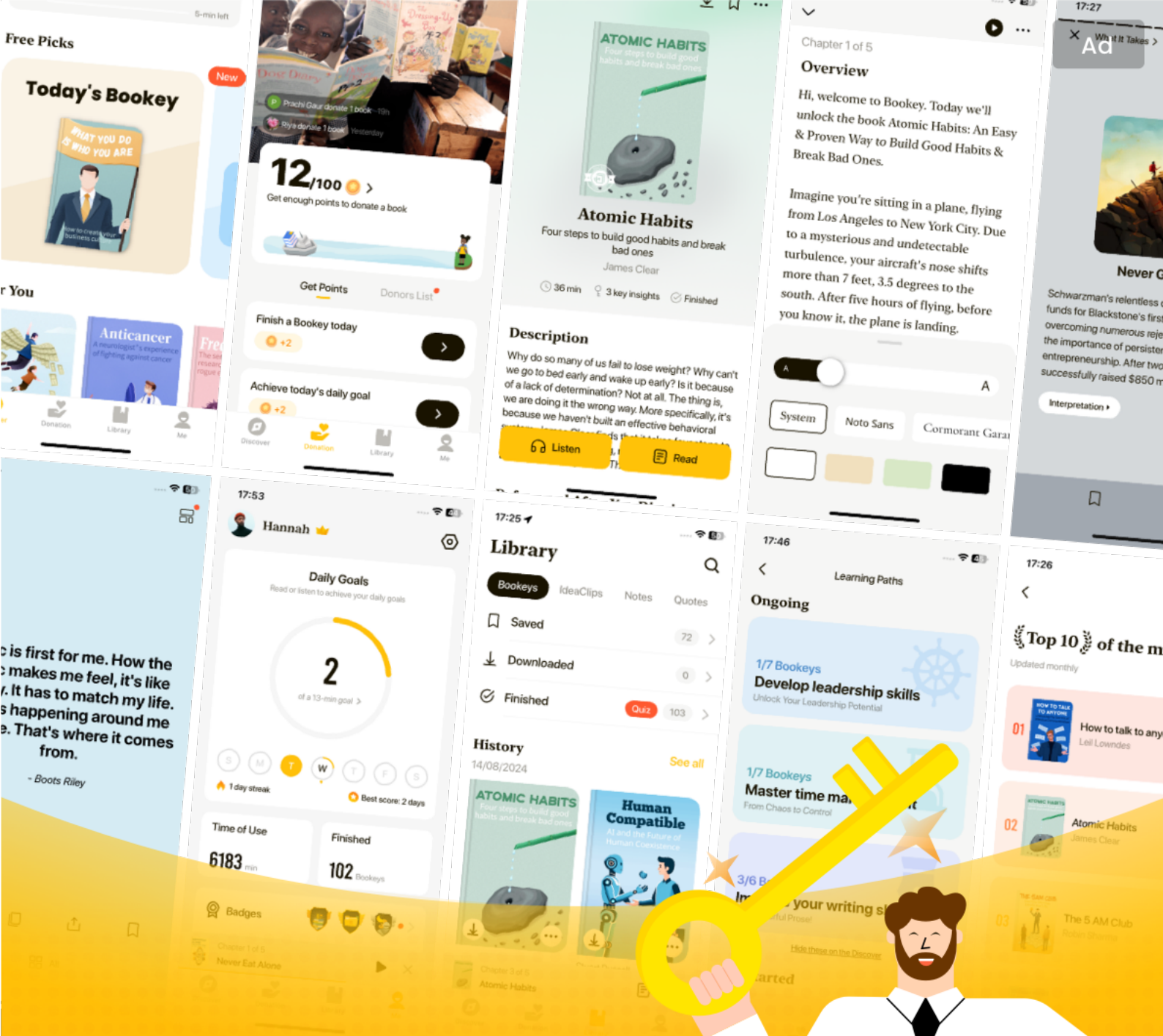
crime.

As the investigation progressed, police remained resolute in their pursuit of clarity amid a web of complexity. The new information from Brookman emerged as pivotal, propelling further inquiries while the public's curiosity and the media's scrutiny continued to escalate, creating a tense atmosphere enveloping the case.

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Chapter 17 Summary: A Talk with Gertrude Paine

Summary of Chapter 17: A Talk with Gertrude Paine

Interview with Police

On March 4, Chief Cusack and Detective Holmlund visited Gertrude Paine at her residence on Elmwood Avenue. Dressed elegantly, Gertrude welcomed them with grace, underscoring her prominence in the community. The officers sought to discuss her recent interactions with Ed Burdick, specifically their last conversation, which took place the Thursday before the interview. Gertrude recollected that Burdick inquired about the Pennells' potential attendance at a dance, revealing his intention to avoid them.

Discussion on Burdick's Personal Life

As the topic shifted towards the ongoing murder investigation, the police brought up Gertrude's connection to Burdick, highlighting the discovery of her photograph in his den. In response, Gertrude asserted that this was standard among their social circle, while Chief Cusack speculated that her friendship with Burdick might yield useful insights. She maintained that she was at home during the murder and had observed nothing unusual about Burdick's demeanor leading up to the incident.

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Relationships and Rumors

The detectives probed into Burdick's troubled marriage to Allie, which Gertrude confirmed everyone in their community was aware of. She recounted an incident where Mrs. Pennell first revealed Burdick's affair, expressing her confusion over the sharing of such sensitive information. Gertrude noted that Mrs. Pennell appeared distressed by Burdick's intentions to divorce Allie, adding a layer of complexity to the already tangled relationships.

Financial Matters

The officers inquired about a loan Gertrude had taken from Burdick for home furnishings. She insisted their relationship was purely social, clearly wanting to distance herself from any implication of financial exploitation. However, her unwillingness to disclose the loan amount or whether her husband was aware of it sparked suspicions about her financial situation and possible dependence on Burdick.

Cautious Conversations

Gertrude mentioned hearing rumors about Mrs. Pennell potentially seeking a divorce, although she indicated that Mrs. Pennell had denied such plans.

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Throughout her interview, Gertrude maintained an air of propriety, insisting that her previous interactions with Burdick were conducted with caution and without any inappropriate undertones.

Detectives' Assessment

Following the interview, Cusack and Holmlund reflected on their impressions of Gertrude. They found her to be charming yet potentially manipulative, with underlying financial motivations influencing her relationship with Burdick. Observations of her home suggested an effort on her part to project an image of affluence that may conceal deeper economic struggles. The detectives noted her strategic behavior, including offering coffee to create an illusion of independence and social status, despite possibly facing financial difficulties.

Conclusion

The chapter wraps up with the detectives contemplating Gertrude's true intentions. They acknowledged her capability to portray an image aligned with her social aspirations while skillfully navigating the complexities of her personal relationships, leaving them with lingering questions about her involvement in the case.

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Chapter 18 Summary: Becalmed

Summary of Chapter 18: Becalmed

In the wake of Ed Burdick's murder, investigators faced a challenging landscape as evidence and theories began to emerge. The initial forensic findings identified Burdick's putter as the murder weapon, containing minute traces of blood and brain matter. This revelation raised questions about the nature of the attack, suggesting a premeditated assault, possibly by a woman. However, the use of a personal item from Burdick's home complicated the narrative, hinting at potential deeper motivations.

Amidst the investigation, media speculation ran wild. Theories ranged from a jealous husband avenging a perceived betrayal to more outlandish notions fueled by anonymous tips flooding in. Many of these leads were irrelevant or bizarre, complicating the detectives' task in sifting through the noise for tangible evidence.

As the police honed in on suspects, J.B. Warren, Burdick's ex-husband, was quickly ruled out after confirming his travel alibi at the time of the murder. However, subtle blood stains discovered on Burdick's clothing indicated a violent struggle, shifting focus back to those closer to him. Detective Sullivan conducted interviews with key individuals such as Burdick's private



investigator, John Boland, and his divorce attorney, George Miller, delving into records pertaining to Alice's affair—an element that could offer insights into potential motives.

The investigation also revolved around three critical missing items: a bottle of cocktails, the detective's records, and Burdick's gold watch. Each item was seen as a potential key to unlocking further leads; however, attempts to trace the watch through pawn shops yielded no results.

The narrative shifted toward Arthur Pennell and his relatives, scrutinizing their behavior and possible motives surrounding the crime. While Arthur claimed to have been home during the murder, inconsistencies in timeframes prompted an evaluation of his wife, Carrie, as well. Concurrently, Alice Burdick emerged as a significant suspect owing to her impending divorce, which could have left her with both financial and emotional stakes that provide a plausible motive for foul play.

As the chapter neared its conclusion, the investigation faced mounting pressure from public scrutiny, leaving the police feeling "becalmed" in their pursuit of the truth. Unable to advance with solid leads and weighing the emotional complexities of the case, the detectives found themselves caught in a web of speculation and stalled efforts, highlighting the intricate dynamics at play within the investigation.

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Chapter 19 Summary: Deluge

Summary of Chapter 19: Deluge

In "Deluge," chapter 19, Arthur Pennell grapples with the haunting consequences of Ed Burdick's murder, which has thrust him into the spotlight of intense media attention and police inquiry. As he heads to his office, the chaos surrounding him makes it nearly impossible for him to concentrate, underscoring the emotional turmoil he is experiencing.

In a desperate bid for clarity and solace, Arthur writes a letter to a friend in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. This correspondence is an attempt to assert his innocence amid sensational headlines that unfairly depict him as a suspect. He feels the sharp sting of betrayal and the heavy burden of public notoriety, which only deepens his sense of isolation.

As the days pass, Arthur's mental health continues to spiral downward. He isolates himself, avoiding social interactions in anticipation of an inquest into Edwin Burdick's murder, set for March 14. The ceaseless speculation weighs heavily on him, fueling his anxiety.

During a visit to the barbershop, Arthur's distress does not go unnoticed by George, the barber. Feeling the need to unburden himself, Arthur shares his



fears of being implicated in the murder, revealing the extent of the stress that stems from his relationship with Mrs. Burdick.

The situation escalates further when a reporter confronts Arthur, armed with details from his letter. The reporter's aggressive questioning amplifies Arthur's anxiety as he is forced to navigate the implications of his words and their connection to the crime.

Ultimately, Arthur is overwhelmed by the media frenzy and the relentless inquiries into the murder. With a crushing realization that discussions about the crime are inescapable, the chapter concludes with Arthur feeling the weight of accusations and public scrutiny pressing down upon him. This relentless deluge of scrutiny and speculation leaves Arthur in a precarious mental state, setting the stage for the unfolding drama ahead.

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Chapter 20: The Valley of Sorrow

In Chapter 20 of "Cold Heart" by Kimberly Tilley, titled "The Restlessness of Arthur Pennell," we delve into the turbulent emotional landscape of Arthur Pennell, who is haunted by the recent murder of Ed Burdick. As he arrives home at 4:30 p.m., a palpable sense of unease permeates his thoughts. Seeking to alleviate his anxiety, his wife, Carrie, suggests a drive together before Arthur's scheduled interview with a reporter later that evening.

The couple embarks on their journey in an electric carriage despite inclement weather, taking an unusual route that raises eyebrows. Their first stop is a nearby saloon, where Arthur indulges in cigars and whisky, a temporary distraction from his troubled mind. However, the drive takes a disastrous turn when a sudden gust of wind blows off Arthur's hat, prompting him to lose control of the vehicle. The carriage careens off the road into a nearby quarry, leading to a tragic accident that claims Arthur's life while leaving Carrie unconscious.

In the aftermath of this calamity, chaos ensues. Bystanders alert the authorities, and Carrie's condition necessitates immediate transport to a hospital facility. Days later, the grim reality sets in as Arthur's body is taken to the morgue. The district attorney, Coatsworth, becomes involved in the investigation, bringing along a young boy named Herbert Martin to identify



the deceased. However, the boy fails to recognize Arthur as the man he observed near the Burdick residence, further complicating the case. Coatsworth conducts a search of Arthur's possessions but uncovers no incriminating evidence, adding a layer of intrigue to the circumstances surrounding Arthur's death.

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Chapter 21 Summary: An Accident?

Summary of Chapter 21: An Accident?

Chapter 21 navigates the aftermath of the tragic accident involving Arthur and Carrie Pennell, unraveling a series of events that deepens the mystery surrounding their deaths.

In the wake of the accident, Arthur's body is promptly released to the undertaker after Dr. Danser determines that no autopsy is needed, classifying the death as an accident. The local newspaper, the Buffalo Enquirer, sensationalizes the tragedy, hinting at potential suicide due to increased police scrutiny—a narrative that begins to intertwine with the ongoing Burdick mystery, involving the enigmatic relationship between Arthur and Alice Burdick.

While Arthur's life is lost, Carrie Pennell struggles to survive but tragically passes away the same evening, never regaining consciousness. This rapid decline raises questions about the event's broader implications, particularly in the eyes of Gertrude Paine, who expresses skepticism about the circumstances.

As the police investigation unfolds, a web of details comes to light,

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including the scheduling of a meeting for reporters and a prior burglary at the Pennell residence. Lizzie, the household maid, is questioned but reveals no useful insights regarding stolen firearms or any threats to the family, leaving investigators grasping for clarity amid a shroud of uncertainty.

Following the deaths, Arthur and Carrie are buried together, a somber event that inadvertently fuels further public speculation. Friends and family insist on viewing the accident as just that—an unfortunate incident exacerbated by poor road conditions—despite the unsettling air of ambiguity that lingers.

The media amplifies this tension by painting Arthur as a possible suicide risk, alluding to shame from his entanglement with Alice Burdick. In contrast, Ed Burdick's attorney firmly rejects any suggestion that Arthur felt morally responsible for anything, attempting to separate personal relationships from the tragedy.

Public figures also take sides. J.B. Warren comments on Ed Burdick's character while assessing Arthur's, dismissing the notion that he had the resolve to take his own life. This adds layers to the narrative, further complicating the perception of both men.

Amidst this backdrop, financial motives surface, stirring speculation about the motivations behind the Pennells' actions. It is revealed that the couple had accumulated significant wealth just as Ed Burdick faced financial

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difficulties. The media seizes on the potential impact of life insurance policies and inheritance disputes—particularly Alice Burdick’s prospective financial windfall from the Pennell estate, highlighted by a newly discovered substantial bond in her favor.

Ultimately, Chapter 21 intertwines themes of tragedy, media-driven speculation, and the complicated interplay of personal relationships and financial concerns. The simultaneous deaths of the Pennells leave an air of mystery and a host of unresolved questions, intensifying public intrigue surrounding the incident and the Burdick mystery.

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Chapter 22 Summary: The Inquest Begins

The Inquest Begins

Four days after the shocking death of Arthur Pennell, the inquest into Ed Burdick's murder commenced, marking a significant moment in the early 1900s American judicial system. Inquests, designed to investigate suspicious deaths, were integral to revealing potential misconduct and often took place swiftly, as evidenced by the Burdick inquest, which occurred a mere 15 days post-murder. This rapidity reflects not only the urgency of justice at the time but also the heightened public interest surrounding the case, intricately linked to societal norms about reputation and personal ethics.

The backdrop of Victorian society played a crucial role in the unfolding drama. During this era, women were held to stringent standards of chastity and propriety, facing severe repercussions for any deviations, as exemplified by Alice Burdick. Her affair with Arthur Pennell resulted in public scorn, contrasting starkly with the more lenient attitudes afforded to men in similar situations. The inquest underscored these disparities, particularly with the media spotlight on Gertrude Paine, a key witness whose insight was eagerly anticipated given her prominence in the unfolding murder saga.

The proceedings began with Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. John Howland,

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who presented the harrowing details of Burdick's death—multiple wounds that spurred questions about the crime's circumstances. Detective Sergeant Holmlund followed, detailing the ongoing investigation and his communications with Dr. Marcy, who appeared reluctant to delve into the specifics of the event. These testimonies revealed not only the brutal facts of the crime but also highlighted the complex interplay of societal expectations, the pursuit of truth, and the legal obligations woven into the narrative of Ed Burdick's murder investigation.

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Chapter 23 Summary: Mrs. Hull

Summary of Chapter 23 from "Cold Heart" by Kimberly Tilley

In Chapter 23, the courtroom buzzes with tension as Mrs. Hull, a seemingly fragile yet commanding presence, takes the stand, accompanied by her attorney. Dressed entirely in black and obscured by a heavy veil, her pale complexion and sharp features create an atmosphere of intrigue about her character. As her testimony unfolds, her initially subdued demeanor intensifies, especially when she discusses the tragic death of her son-in-law, Ed Burdick, and the complexities surrounding her daughter Alice's troubled marriage to him.

Mrs. Hull reveals that Alice was away at the time of Ed's murder, maintaining frequent communication through letters and telegrams. However, inconsistencies arise regarding a specific telegram she claimed to have sent Alice about Ed's death, hinting at a potential lack of honesty in her testimony. This questionable transparency casts doubt over her recollection of crucial details.

As she recounts the night of the murder, Mrs. Hull mentions a missing bottle of dark liquid that Ed had brought home, raising further questions. When interrogated about her whereabouts during the murder, she states that she



remained in her bedroom after putting the children to bed. This account is met with skepticism, particularly because her discovery of an open door and window fails to prompt any immediate action on her part.

Dr. Marcy's arrival at the scene provides an additional layer of complexity. Mrs. Hull claims to have expressed her fears about something amiss but admits to not investigating Ed's death further. This lack of curiosity is seen as troubling by those present in the courtroom, further exacerbating doubts about her character.

Delving into personal matters, Mrs. Hull attempts to distance herself from the conflicts between Alice and Ed, asserting that they were in the process of getting a divorce when Alice left. When asked about Ed's personality, her vague descriptions paint him as narrow-minded without substantiating her claims with specific examples.

The narrative becomes more convoluted with the subsequent testimony of Maggie Murray, who challenges Mrs. Hull's account, especially the events leading up to Ed's murder. Maggie recounts visiting Mrs. Hull's bedroom to report the unsettling state of the house, only to find Mrs. Hull fully dressed—a stark contrast to Mrs. Hull's earlier assertion of having changed clothes in the bathroom.

Public perception of Mrs. Hull begins to shift dramatically. Her cold

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demeanor and apparent lack of emotional response to Ed's murder do not sit well with the courtroom audience. Reports following her testimony suggest an unsettling detachment from the tragedy, raising eyebrows about her emotional connection to her family's turmoil.

As the chapter closes, Mrs. Hull exits the courtroom with a faint hint of a smile that starkly contrasts the somber nature of her testimony. This juxtaposition deepens her character, inviting speculation about her true emotional state and possible involvement in the unfolding events.

Ultimately, Mrs. Hull emerges as a pivotal figure in the investigation, her narrative clouded by inconsistencies and the weight of conflicting testimonies, compelling the court to scrutinize the truth behind the tragedy.

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Chapter 24: In Defense of Mrs. Hull

In the chapter titled "**In Defense of Mrs. Hull**," Reverend Levi Powers, the minister of the Church of the Messiah, publicly expresses his concern over the treatment of Mrs. Hull during a recent inquest into the murder of Edwin Burdick. His statements in the press serve to defend Mrs. Hull against accusations, directing blame towards the now-deceased Arthur Pennell. Powers emphasizes not only Mrs. Hull's potential innocence but also raises doubts about whether the complete truth of the murder will ever be known, particularly critiquing District Attorney Coatsworth's commitment to his own theories about the case.

Moving into the chapter "**Mrs. Hull's Innocence**," Powers further asserts his belief in Mrs. Hull's moral innocence, despite acknowledging that circumstantially she could be implicated in the crime. He argues that she had no motive to kill Burdick, painting a picture of the deceased as a supportive figure who preferred Mrs. Hull's care for the children over their own mother's. This affection highlights Burdick's kind nature, creating an image of a caring family figure who recognized the grandmother's competency.

The narrative then shifts to "**The Actual Suspect: Arthur Pennell**," where Powers identifies the true threat as the now-late Arthur Pennell. He details how Pennell's erratic behavior had destructive effects on his marriage and left a cloud of suspicion over Mrs. Hull. Pennell's orchestrated death



transformed him into a tragic figure, complicating Mrs. Hull's reputation and inadvertently framing her as a suspect in the eyes of the public.

In the face of challenges posed by a skeptical reporter in "**Journalist's Skepticism,**" who questions how Burdick was found in vulnerable

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Chapter 25 Summary: The Inquest Continues

In the chapter titled "The Inquest Continues," the court proceedings take a pivotal turn as Justice Murphy focuses on Dr. William Marcy, a key witness in the murder case concerning Burdick. On March 16, Dr. Marcy, despite facing scrutiny for previous testimonies, enters the court determined to uphold his credibility. He recounts arriving at the chaotic murder scene upon the request of Mrs. Hull, Burdick's wife, and confirming the victim's identity.

During his testimony, Dr. Marcy speculates that the evidence points towards a female visitor as the potential murderer, a conclusion that adds complexity to the unfolding narrative. He exhibits sensitivity towards Mrs. Hull's delicate condition, suggesting she be informed that her husband is simply ill rather than deceased, underlining his awareness of the emotional toll this news could have on her given her weak heart.

However, the proceedings take a tense turn when prosecutor Coatsworth confronts Dr. Marcy, drawing attention to inconsistencies in his statements compared to those made by Mrs. Hull. Coatsworth challenges Dr. Marcy's medical opinion on Burdick's cause of death and underscores the implausibility of suicide, a theory Dr. Marcy had initially floated to shield the family's reputation. Despite acknowledging the potential for murder, Dr. Marcy admits he did not push for a definitive classification of the case as a

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suicide, instead advocating for discretion.

As the day progresses, the courtroom hears from minor witnesses such as cab drivers and a patrolman, whose testimonies fail to provide substantial new insights into the investigation, marking a lull in the courtroom drama as the search for the truth continues. The chapter encapsulates the tension between protecting the Hull family's dignity and uncovering the grim realities of Burdick's death, setting the stage for further revelations in the case.

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Chapter 26 Summary: Puzzle Pieces

Puzzle Pieces

On March 17, Ed Burdick's letter to his mother was made public, detailing his divorce proceedings from Alice Pennell. In this letter, Ed outlined his expectations regarding custody of their children and alimony, expressing a firm belief that the divorce would ultimately be finalized. He conveyed a sense of patience, indicating that he felt no urgency to hasten the trial process despite the emotional turmoil surrounding the situation.

Mrs. Paine's Testimony

Mrs. Paine, composed and dignified, took the stand at the inquest, skillfully navigating the intense pressures of the media spotlight that portrayed her as both refined and intimately involved in the unfolding drama. Her testimony was significant, linked closely to the divorce proceedings of Alice and Ed Burdick. Despite this connection, she firmly denied any implication of an affair with Ed or involvement in a murder. Instead, she characterized her communications with him as benign, noting Ed's concerns for his children rather than any direct threats posed by Alice's husband, Arthur Pennell. Her presence underscored the tangled web of relationships surrounding the case,

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highlighting the tensions and fears that loomed over Ed Burdick.

Charles Parke's Evidence

Next, Charles Parke, a close friend of Ed's, took the stand and emerged as a staunch defender of his character while casting suspicion on Arthur Pennell. Parke spoke about conversations where Ed alleged that the Pennells had attempted to coerce him into withdrawing the divorce petition, hinting that there were threats of harm intended to intimidate. Though Parke believed these threats were mere bluffs, his ardent defense drew scrutiny when he was questioned about why he and Dr. Marcy had seemingly obstructed the police investigation. His responses indicated a struggle to articulate his actions, and although he claimed there was no intent to hinder the inquiry, he admitted to attempts at limiting police questioning of the family, further complicating their involvement in the case.

Alfred Brookman's Account

As the inquest continued, the testimony of Alfred Brookman, the Burdicks' furnace caretaker, added yet another dimension to the investigation. Brookman recalled seeing Mrs. Hull engaged in conversation with an unidentified man on the morning of the murder, weaving yet another thread

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into the intricate narrative of relationships and events surrounding Ed Burdick's death. Following Brookman's account, Justice Murphy called for a recess, acknowledging the emotional high stakes and complexity of the ongoing investigation. The atmosphere in the courtroom was charged, reflecting the gravity of the situation and the myriad of unresolved questions that loomed over the proceedings.

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Chapter 27 Summary: Marion Burdick Amazes Everyone

Summary of Chapter 27: Marion Burdick Amazes Everyone

In this chapter, sixteen-year-old Marion Burdick takes the stand in her father's murder trial, presenting a strikingly detached demeanor that captivates the courtroom. Her testimony reflects a stark emotional coldness that surprises both the District Attorney, Coatsworth, and the audience, leading to a palpable sense of discomfort.

Marion's responses during questioning are terse, revealing little about her father's death or her own feelings surrounding the event. When asked about the circumstances of her father's illness and eventual murder, she shows no curiosity, stating instead that she had awaited guidance from her grandmother, Mrs. Hull. This lack of engagement raises unsettling questions about Marion's emotional state and her connection to her father's demise.

Coatsworth's effort to draw out more detailed answers meets with frustration as Marion's indifference contrasts sharply with the gravity of the situation. Observers in the courtroom take note of her bizarre calmness, especially when compared to Mrs. Hull's more expressive demeanor. This coldness draws disapproval not only from the District Attorney but also from the public and press, who are puzzled by the apparent emotional disconnect in a



moment rife with tragedy.

A pivotal conflict arises in the narratives shared by Marion and Mrs. Hull. While Marion claims her grandmother informed her of her father's death, Mrs. Hull insists it was Dr. Marcy who broke the news. This discrepancy introduces an element of suspicion, prompting the courtroom to question Mrs. Hull's reliability and intentions, particularly as the investigation begins to circle back toward her.

As the inquest continues, public sentiment shifts, leading to increased scrutiny of Mrs. Hull, while suspicions that once surrounded Arthur Pennell start to dissipate. Marion's testimony proves instrumental in influencing perceptions of the family dynamics and suggests deeper, more convoluted layers to the case.

The chapter culminates with an ominous air as the inquest is set to resume, this time focusing on Alice Burdick, the potential new lead in the investigation. Marion's chilling detachment leaves readers questioning her role in the unfolding mystery of her father's murder, setting the stage for further revelations to come.

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Chapter 28: Alice, At Last

Summary of Chapter 28: "Cold Heart" by Kimberly Tilley

Court Proceedings

The chapter begins in a crowded courtroom, buzzing with anticipation as spectators eagerly await the trial of Ed Burdick's murder. District Attorney Edward Coatsworth, still nursing a sore throat, initiates the questioning of witnesses to unveil the truth behind the grisly crime.

Witness Testimonies

Coatsworth first interrogates George C. Miller, Burdick's attorney, but Miller's testimony yields little of significance. Next, Henry Orrett, who had worked on the furnace at the Pennell residence, recounts his encounters with Arthur Pennell shortly after Burdick's body was discovered. Lizzie Romance, another witness, supports the narrative by detailing her observations of the Pennells' behavior during the fateful night, noting they appeared unperturbed.

Alice Burdick Takes the Stand

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The scene intensifies when Alice Burdick, the widow, takes the stand. Overwhelmed by grief, she presents herself as a devoted mother mourning her husband. Although she acknowledges an acquaintance with Arthur Pennell, she tries to minimize their connection. Coatsworth uses a letter from Pennell as a focal point, forcing Alice to grapple with her recollections and subjecting her to intense scrutiny about her relationship with him.

Emotional and Public Reactions

Alice's inability to clearly remember details fuels skepticism from both Coatsworth and the media. Coatsworth's probing emphasizes the romantic undertones in Pennell's letters, suggesting a motive linked to Alice's alleged affair. Her calm and unyielding demeanor clashes sharply with the emotional weight of the proceedings, leading many in the courtroom to question her sincerity.

Lies and Blame

As Alice navigates the cross-examination, her attempts to shift blame toward Pennell further undercut her credibility. The atmosphere in the courtroom shifts, with journalists remarking on her seemingly apathetic response to her husband's brutal death. Public opinion, once sympathetic, begins to sour, viewing Alice as increasingly manipulative and untrustworthy.



Character Insights

Through Alice's conflicting testimonies, a nuanced portrait of Ed Burdick emerges—he is depicted as a noble figure burdened by personal hardships. This juxtaposition of Alice's behavior against Burdick's character evokes a

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Chapter 29 Summary: The Last Witnesses

In the concluding day of the court proceedings regarding the murder of Ed Burdick, new developments emerged concerning the automobile accident involving Arthur Pennell, a pivotal figure in the case. Expert testimonies confirmed that Pennell's car crash was not a suicide, as he had attempted evasive actions, thereby eliminating speculation around his death being intentional.

During this session, Carol Burdick, Ed's daughter, provided a critical eyewitness account. She revealed she had overheard a conversation about an open door during the time adjacent to her father's murder, suggesting the possibility that someone may have exited the premises before the cook, Maggie Murray, arrived. This revelation brought Mrs. Hull, a central character in the unfolding drama, into the spotlight. Evidence hinted at her possible involvement in fabricating a narrative of burglary to deflect suspicion. However, the weight of a child's testimony was insufficient to establish concrete proof of her role.

When Mrs. Hull took the stand, she denied any acquaintance with Arthur Pennell, despite having previously written him a heartfelt letter expressing her worries about family stability in her household. She mentioned that Pennell had rejected her suggestions to leave town, adding complexity to her character portrayal as either distressed or manipulative.



Further unraveling the intertwined relationships, Reverend Levi Powers, who had advised Ed about his marital challenges, testified that there seemed to be lingering affections Ed held for Mrs. Hull. He also alluded to Ed's mindset regarding the letters he had written to Pennell, hinting at further conflict if the countersuit progressed.

As forensic details emerged, a city chemist indicated that while Ed Burdick had consumed alcohol prior to his death, there were no traces of poison found in his system. Detective Malcolm Cornish presented vital evidence from the crime scene, including a bloody undershirt belonging to the victim and a fingerprint that could have crucial implications for identifying the murderer.

As the inquest drew to a close, Justice Murphy announced that findings would be available the following day. However, media attention had started to dwindle, as they were more preoccupied with earlier testimonies rather than the critical details of the final proceedings, even though they held significant importance to those following the case closely. This crescendo of courtroom revelations set the stage for an explosive conclusion to this gripping narrative of murder, familial strife, and deception.

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Chapter 30 Summary: Another Surprise

Summary of Chapter 30: Cold Heart by Kimberly Tilley

In this pivotal chapter, Justice Murphy prepares to unveil his findings on the Burdick case, only to be sidetracked by District Attorney Coatsworth's unexpected request to reopen the inquest. The police department is abuzz with newfound energy as fresh witnesses step forward, signaling a crucial turning point in the investigation.

Among these key witnesses are insurance salesman Alexander Quinn and hotel cashier F.J. King. Quinn recalls a fateful evening at the Hotel Roland, where an intoxicated Arthur Pennell made ominous declarations about his willingness to kill, even willing to accept the consequences of the gallows. King's account reinforces this chilling narrative, providing additional details about a toast that they shared to "death," suggesting a morbid camaraderie surrounding Pennell's sentiments.

While the media is captivated by the dramatic essence of their testimonies, there remains an undercurrent of skepticism regarding the witnesses' reliability. Despite this doubt, the DA and police regard Quinn and King's accounts as potentially substantial evidence, further implicating Pennell in the murder of Ed Burdick, the case's tragic victim.

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This chapter marks a critical juncture in the investigation, emphasizing the tension between emerging evidence and public perception. The testimonies challenge previous assumptions and strengthen the case against Pennell, propelling the narrative toward a more intense examination of his character and actions. Ultimately, the developments in this chapter signal a significant shift in the investigation's trajectory, drawing closer to the truth surrounding Ed's murder.

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Chapter 31 Summary: Justice Murphy's Conclusions

Justice's Verdict

On April 1, 1903, Justice Murphy delivered a verdict in the homicide case of Edwin Burdick, marking a significant development in a grim narrative. The justice concluded that Burdick had been brutally killed by multiple blunt-force blows, indicating a clear intent to murder. Notably, he asserted that Burdick's murderer could not have been a woman, as the force required for such an attack exceeded what a female could muster. Furthermore, expert forensic testimony affirmed that Burdick's death was devoid of any immoral actions leading up to it.

Background of the Case

Edwin Burdick's domestic situation at the time of his death was complex, as he was living with his three daughters and their grandmother while his wife, Alice Burdick, was away on a trip to Atlantic City. The sequence of events leading to the murder unfolded through the eyes of Miss Margaret Murray, the last person to see Burdick alive, and the chaotic condition of the home when authorities arrived the following day. Testimonies, especially regarding Mrs. Hull's questionable behavior on the morning of the murder,



hinted at a possible cover-up, complicating the narrative surrounding Burdick's demise.

Investigation Insights

Justice Murphy took a keen interest in the peculiarities of the crime scene, noting that it appeared to be deliberately manipulated to suggest a burglary. Several factors suggested deeper criminal intentions: the absence of footprints in the fresh snow, the unnatural positioning of Burdick's body, and the theft of his gold pocket watch pointed to a staged scenario rather than a random theft. Dr. Howland's refusal to misclassify Burdick's death as a suicide was commended, as doing so would have obscured the grim reality of the murder.

Suspects and Motives

As the investigation progressed, the focus shifted toward Arthur Pennell, a significant figure in the context of the case. He had a notable connection to Alice Burdick and potential motives for wishing her husband dead. Justice Murphy laid out compelling evidence against Pennell, who had left a trail of love letters and threats toward Burdick, as well as suspicious purchases of firearms and an alarming familiarity with the layout of the Burdick home.

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Yet, despite the circumstantial weight of this evidence, Justice Murphy acknowledged a critical limitation: without Pennell present in court, a conviction was impossible, leaving the question of guilt unanswered.

Moral Considerations

In his closing remarks, Justice Murphy leveled moral criticism at Mrs. Burdick, noting her affair as a betrayal that endangered her marriage. Still, he acknowledged the profound suffering she endured as a consequence of her actions. He emphasized Edwin Burdick's moral standing as a devoted father and husband, ultimately concluding that the case remained unresolved, with no one held accountable for the tragic murder of an innocent man.

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Chapter 32: Aftermath

Aftermath

In the wake of the Burdick murder, tensions ran high as Chief Cusack addressed reporters, emphasizing that had key facts emerged earlier, Arthur Pennell could have been arrested before his fatal driving incident. This statement set a critical tone for the ongoing investigation and legal proceedings surrounding the case.

The judge also weighed in, chastising Mrs. Hull for her reluctance to share information regarding her son-in-law's murder. His remarks suggested that had she and Mrs. Burdick been forthcoming with the police from the start, the investigation might have resulted in a quicker arrest.

Public outrage following the inquest was palpable, especially as evening papers covered the dissatisfaction with the conclusion drawn about Pennell's involvement. His attorneys argued that they were denied a fair opportunity to defend him during the proceedings. The irony was not lost on the Buffalo Commercial, which noted the peculiar situation of a deceased man being accused without the chance to assert his innocence.

Witness testimonies during the inquest painted a divided picture: while



many condemned Pennell, others defended the credibility of the court's findings, reflecting the community's struggle to reconcile the varying perspectives on the case.

Alice Burdick, in an interview with *The Baltimore Sun*, underscored her conviction that an outsider was responsible for her husband's murder, rejecting the notion that Arthur could have been the culprit due to his gentle nature. She provided further insight into her husband's habits, noting that he would not have prepared the food discovered at the crime scene, as he was particular about what he consumed.

The crime scene continued to draw media attention. A determined reporter, invited by Alice to witness the aftermath of the murder, described the chilling sight of blood-stained furniture and personal belongings that had remained undisturbed since the tragic event.

In an effort to reclaim normalcy after such a brutal loss, Alice eventually moved back into their home. She embarked on a legal battle for her children's custody and her husband's estate, successfully obtaining temporary custody of her daughters. Despite the shadow of the murder looming over them, reports from the *Crowley Post-Signal* indicated that life for the Burdick family resumed in an unsettling semblance of normalcy; they even replaced items in the den where the murder occurred, reflecting a desire to move forward.

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However, life was far from easy for the Burdick family in the years following the murder. The separation of Seth and Gertrude Paine was a precursor to Seth's premature death. Meanwhile, Alice continued to face a series of legal challenges related to inheritance rights amidst a gradual

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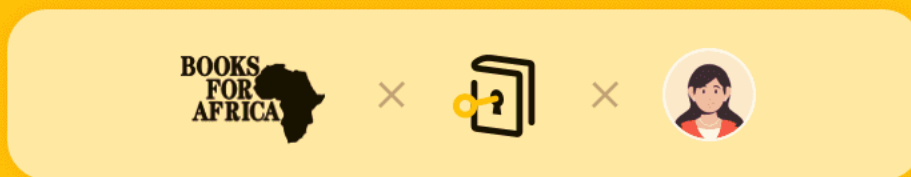




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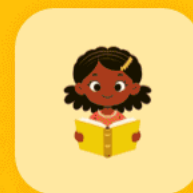
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Chapter 33 Summary: A Cold Heart

Chapter Summary: Cold Heart - Chapter 33

Overview of the Inquest

In this chapter, the inquest into Ed Burdick's murder unfolds, highlighting the conviction of Judge Murphy, who firmly believes in Ed's innocence and is determined to vindicate him. Testimonies from Justice Murphy emphasize Ed's good character while dismissing any female involvement, narrowing the suspect pool to males.

Evidence and Suspect Dismissal

Despite robust evidence from medical and police sources that contradicts the judge's assertions, he dismisses any claims of female involvement in the murder. The investigation focuses on the murder weapon—a golf putter—and scrutinizes the unusual behavior of key witnesses, particularly Mrs. Hull, raising questions about what really transpired.

Dr. Marcy's Interference

Dr. Marcy emerges as a contentious figure in the investigation. His attempts

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to obstruct police inquiries and his inconsistent statements regarding Mrs. Hull's health and the cause of Ed's death cast doubt on his credibility. His actions seem aimed at concealing the truth, deepening the mystery surrounding Ed's murder.

Focus on Arthur Pennell

The narrative shifts to Arthur Pennell, identified as the main male suspect. Jealousy and a desire to eliminate Ed are considered possible motives. Arthur's erratic behavior escalates when he drives off a cliff with his wife shortly after Ed's murder, provoking further suspicion about his role in the crime.

Critique of Evidence Against Arthur

Though Arthur's motives are plausible, the evidence against him remains inconclusive and fraught with contradictions. He maintains his innocence, and many who know him find it hard to believe he could commit such an act, complicating the investigation.

Speculation and Narratives

Justice Murphy's handling of the case draws criticism for its apparent bias toward implicating Arthur while neglecting to address questions about other

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potential suspects, particularly Mrs. Hull. Her complicated feelings towards Ed stemming from family issues and personal grievances suggest motives that warrant exploration.

Contradictions in Mrs. Hull's Testimony

The chapter delves deeper into Mrs. Hull's behavior, which stands out due to her unexpected lack of grief after Ed's death and inconsistencies in her testimony. The financial relationship she had with Ed, as well as her daughter's affair with Arthur, adds layers of complexity to her potential involvement.

Investigative Oversights

This chapter highlights significant investigative oversights, particularly the consistent focus on male suspects at the expense of substantive evidence related to Mrs. Hull. Her possible direct connection to Ed's murder remains largely unexamined, raising concerns about the thoroughness of the inquiry.

Conclusion: A Cold Heart

The chapter concludes by suggesting a possible collusion between Alice and Mrs. Hull, leaving readers with unresolved questions about accountability. It poses whether the actions of Alice, manipulative at heart, and Mrs. Hull,

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driven by personal grievances, were intricately linked in Ed's tragic demise. Ultimately, it explores themes of deceit, moral failings, and complex human relationships, portraying Alice as particularly cold-hearted amid the backdrop of Ed's murder.

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