

**Chapter 13**

This chapter uses suspense and tension to build reader interest to the point where the murderer is arrested.

→Sam goes to restaurant where he defends Virgil: “He’s smart as hell and he got me out of a jam” (161). Making this statement in public makes him feel proud. He later replies, “Virgil isn’t a nigger. He’s colored, he’s black, and he’s a Negro, but he isn’t a nigger. I’ve known a lot of white men who weren’t as smart as he is” (161).

→Sam and Virgil drive around doing a night shift. They meet Gillespie downtown late at night, (165). Gillespie rides along with Sam and Virgil.

→As three men drive through city a definite tension builds in the air ahead of the arrest of the murder suspect, (referred to as *miasma* in the novel). Men drive into all-night diner and sit down, except Virgil who must wait in the car. (166)

→Sam walks into diner acting very weak and strange. He asks for some water and the counterman, Ralph, refuses. Virgil continues, “I know you have rules down here, but I’m a police officer just like these gentlemen. I don’t have any diseases. All I want is to sit down and have something like the others” (168).

→Ralph puts his hand on Virgil, who twists Ralph’s arm around as Sam protests. At this point Virgil says, “Here he is, Sam. You can arrest this man for the murder of Enrico Mantoli.” (169)

**Chapter 14**

The novel comes to a close and the investigation is fully explained to the reader.

→It is revealed early in the chapter that Ralph signed a confession admitting to the murder (170).

→Gillespie’s change revealed: “The chief drew a deep breath and did what he had never done before. ‘You will have to give credit to Virgil; he had a lot to do with it’” (172). He also shakes Virgil’s hand. Gillespie continues: “You’re a great credit to your race. I mean, of course, the human race” (173).

→The story of Ralph’s arrest is told. It is revealed that Virgil initially believed Kaufmann was responsible due to evidence and motive. It is then revealed that Delores Purdy connected the actual murder with her connection to Oberst and Ralph, two poor white-trash men with whom she’s had relations with (178). Ralph gets Delores pregnant and tries to find solution. Delores’ solution is to accuse Mr. Wood to force a shotgun wedding and a life together (179).

→Ralph murdered Mantoli for money to try and solve problem with Delores (181). Delores ends up not even being pregnant (181).

→Strange ending of novel: Gillespie drops Virgil off at train station and men say thanks and goodnight. Last line, “The chief thought of shaking hands with him, but decided not to. He had done it once and that had made the point” (185).