

**Chapter 7**

This chapter continues to develop the *whodunit* portion of the plot by focusing on the procedures to solve a murder.

→Gillespie works to “catch the killer himself” by searching for information on Eric Kaufmann. However, he finds that Tibbs already did exactly what he does. (72-73)

→Ralph, the man from the diner, has information on the murder (73)

→New suspect so far: Mr. Gottschalk, driver of Cadillac that was seen around time of murder (75)

→Gillespie leaves Tibbs to interview Gottschalk. Gillespie also reveals that “Tibbs might be better than anyone on the local force, which included himself.” (76)

→Gottschalk a nuclear missile technician traveling through the area. Tibbs dismisses him as a suspect almost immediately, to which Gottschalk replies, “I wish all cops were like you... I’m glad to see that democracy has hit the south in something besides the political sense” (78-79).

→Tibbs reveals to Gillespie that Gottschalk was let off because Mantoli was not killed where his body was found.

**Chapter 8**

This chapter develops the plot but also goes back to focus on the theme of racism in the United States. Tibbs’ character is developed throughout the chapter.

→Other officers surprised that Tibbs and Gillespie had a friendly talk (80)

→Sam Woods and Pete (another cop) talk about Virgil, his intelligence and his commitment to the case. “Smartest black I ever saw,” Pete concluded, then he added a remarkable tribute. “He oughtta been a white man.” (81)

→Tibbs visits Reverend Whiteburn for help and information on the murder weapon, suspected to be a piece of wood about two feet long. (83)

→Mayor and some of the town council put pressure on Gillespie to clear up the murder and rumours about a “nigger cop” at the station (85)

→Clear racial attitudes of those in power: “I don’t want no nigger running around town asking questions of white people like he thought he was somebody” (86). Men also mention that threats of violence have been directed towards Virgil. (86-87)

→Sam and Virgil ride together on a night shift. Men get to know each other, talk about the murder and the discovery of the body. Also Sam clearly starting to like Virgil. (89-93)

→Virgil talks about racism in the United States (94)

→Sam changes his route to avoid driving by the Purdy house and Tibbs notices right away. (96)