

Chapter 27_Finders Keepers ...

In this chapter of "Mother Night," the narrator reflects on the recent death of Lazlo Szombathy, a man who had taken his own life using a rope meant for the narrator. Szombathy, a Hungarian Freedom Fighter who had killed his brother, Miklos, in Hungary, lamented his inability to practice as a veterinarian in America. He expressed bitterness over what he perceived as the illusory nature of freedom in the United States. Before his demise, he left a note indicating a belief that he possessed a method to cure cancer, a claim that American doctors dismissed as absurd.

The narrator recounts waking up in a cellar, furnished for the infamous Iron Guard, belonging to Dr. Lionel J. D. Jones, D.D.S. The atmosphere is punctuated by the sound of a printing press running copies of "The White Christian Minuteman" and the rhythmic banging of target practice. Following a beating, the narrator received care from Dr. Abraham Epstein, and after some deliberation, Dr. Jones was sought for assistance, trusted by Resi, the narrator's companion. The chapter hints at a web of conspiratorial elements surrounding the narrator's safety, with Resi voicing concerns about being pursued, particularly by the Jews, indicating that there is a serious threat tied to the narrator's past actions.

Amidst this chaotic backdrop, Jones' chauffeur, referred to as the Black Fuehrer of Harlem, serves the narrator breakfast and offers sage advice. The narrator grapples with the idea that the state of Israel is interested in apprehending him, akin to the capture of Adolf Eichmann. The chauffeur starkly conveys the modern might of Israel, raising concerns that the implications of the narrator's past could be far-reaching.

Resi expresses the consensus that for the narrator's safety, the best course of action is to flee the country. Plans are set into motion for the narrator to recover and escape via an arranged flight to an undisclosed location where they can start anew. This chapter encapsulates themes of paranoia, identity, and the complexities of safety in a world riddled with the ramifications of past lives.