

Chapter 28_Target ...

In the chapter from *Mother Night*, the protagonist visits George Kraft in Jones' basement, where Kraft is firing at a target resembling a caricature of a cigar-smoking Jew. The target, drawn by the protagonist back in 1941, depicts disturbing imagery with the Jew standing on broken crosses and holding symbols of greed and deception. The protagonist reflects on his surprise at the popularity of the target among the Nazi ranks, acknowledging its crude and offensive execution. Despite his previous intentions to emphasize his loyalty to the regime, the outcome was ironically successful, evidenced by commendation from high-ranking officials like Heinrich Himmler.

As Kraft continues to miss the target with a comically underpowered Luger, a conversation begins between the two men. Kraft learns the protagonist is up and about following an earlier incident, and they discuss the potential for personal growth derived from recent upheavals in their lives. Kraft feels that their unfortunate circumstances might lead to greater artistic insight, claiming that he will be a better painter as a result of experiencing the vibrant tropics, a place he desires to explore.

The dialogue touches on themes of friendship and loyalty, particularly when Kraft expresses a willingness to join the protagonist on his journey, stating that after losing his wife, he finds value only in genuine connections. This heartfelt camaraderie reveals a shift in Kraft's purpose, leading him to embrace the idea of supporting the protagonist and leaving his past behind. The relationship between the characters deepens, highlighting shared struggles and the meaning of true friendship in a chaotic world, as Kraft asserts his commitment to travel along with the protagonist, wherever fate may lead. This theme resonates through their conversation, marking a pivotal moment in their lives.