

Just as the names of the characters changed as the story evolved, so did the name of the book itself. As noted elsewhere, the title started out as The Wind and the Rain. Then for a short time it was Summer Rain, in deference to the weather pattern that happens toward the end of the book—and whatever symbolic meaning it might or might not have. There was also a seasonal reference that occurred to me: the books of the trilogy take place in progressive seasons of the year (though not in the same year), the first book at that time being known among other things as Sun Without Heat. But after the title of the final book of the trilogy became clear, All Fall Down, it followed (as night to day) that the second book was Some Rise, a reference to the characters themselves, that some have risen in the world and some have not, and the theme of how the characters live and deal with that. Of course, the first book, with its introductory nature, needed to be titled for exactly what it was: The Building.

Julian Lyle, for reasons lost to the stars, is known here by a childhood name, Cricket, as well as Nib, short for his (then) Christian name, Niblock. It wasn't until he told me that his name was Julian that his character became his own person. Quinton Todd has become Harry Todd—a name much more in keeping with his steel town roots—an indication that he is coming into his own as a character. He is no longer painter, an artist coming back home—a similarity to the author that was not only forced but restricting as to who the character actually is. His father is Harry, not Quint as previous, coming into his own early on. There's also speculation in all these early drafts of a time that Dickie spent in California after he graduated from Penn State, and an affair he had there with his older brother's wife/lover Laurel. That was part of the early concept of Dickie—my concept of Dickie—I was glad to discover never happened.

Summer Rain
Notes in Progress
Spring 2016

And *Summer Rain* ends with just him watching. His knees drawn up under his chin. Watching.

3-4-16

As in the Prologue for SUN, this book, and all the books of the trilogy, are about how do we live in this world, how to do we get through the everyday, how do we survive. The lesson of SUN is about the need and primacy of our work; RAIN is about dealing with our families; and, FALL is about the need and love of friends. It took me 35 years to find out what the hell I was writing about....

3-9-16

Apropos of absolutely nothing, today is the 50th anniversary of my marriage to Carol....

Let's talk about Harry Todd Sutcliff. What age is he at this point, early 50s. At the beginning they only know he's coming back for a visit...then it turns out he's here for the summer. They're wondering how he can do that, what about his job? He was the manager of a restaurant in Walnut Creek. Harry Todd was sent to Berkeley to school, became something of a hippie at one time, ended up working in a restaurant in Walnut Creek, eventually manager. He recently was in an affair with one of the waitresses, a much younger waitress, but then he's quit his job to come

back east. We don't learn that until much later, we only know he's come back here...and nobody knows why. And why did he? Was it really to take a part of the business? It's certainly occurred to him...but the fact is he came back because there was no place else to go. He couldn't think of anywhere else to be. When Dickie learns that, at their late confrontation, he takes pity on him, and will make a place for him. Harry Todd is flattered that people think he's here to try to claim some of the business, that he'd have that much power, but in fact he knows he doesn't, Dickie is the power. He simply had no place else to go. He ended up the manager of a Denny's. That was the extent of his success in the West.

Okay...WIND takes place in 88 or 89...and HT is in his early fifties...Dickie was born in 1940...would be 22 or 23 after college...worked for his father a few years before marrying Jitters...say 25, which would be 1965...they have a daughter who would be 20 in the 85...which would put her 22 or 23 at the time of the book as she starts working for her dad....

Have to decide what HT did in California. After college he kicked around for a while, went into the hospitality business, was a trainee for a resort company, worked a number of different companies as a management trainee, desk clerk, in a number of hotels, in Northern California, finally after problems wherever he went, ended up five years as a manager of a Denny's, a marriage that failed along the way, then he has an affair with a waitress at his restaurant...had trouble over the years—why? Maybe he was into drugs a bit...or alcohol...grass.... In his early forties he invested all his money and savings into a failed hotel or restaurant...which is why his marriage broke up and he ended up with the only job he could find, a manager at a Denny's....

HT has theories about the family...he had a grudge against his father because his father broke up his relationship with Carol Bruno and sent him away from the town and what he thought was his due, his birthright. Dickie on the other hand played the game and stayed home and was what his father wanted him to be and inherited the family business, the family's position in town.

3-11-16

Harry Todd is not a reflective person. This is all new to him. He never suspected any foul play with the death of Kathleen—in fact he felt very little about it, because he had already signed off on her when she left him hanging that time. So Kitty's mention that she killed Kathleen comes as a complete surprise to him—he never suspected anything wrong, he thought she just died, of a heart attack or stroke or something. He was already withdrawn from the situation.

He had no preconceived notions of Kathleen's death, or the situation that may have inhibited her from leaving. All he knew, all he cared about, was that she asked him to help her get away, and then when he tried, she couldn't do it, left him hanging in front of his father, and he wrote her off.

On the hillside, when Dickie goes after HT after the latter's blowup at the family—HT is advocating that his sister, and by inference, his little brother, have to get away from here if they're going to make something of their lives. He's spouting hippie philosophy at this time...it's not so much against his family, it's their bourgeoisie values, it's the comfortable American life at this time. Again, he's spouting hippie philosophy. And Dickie will comment on

how far that got him, what he made of his life. It's not at all the destructiveness of the family—he actually doesn't know anything about that, he's only thinking of himself.

3-19-16

Page 162 of SUMMER...the ages of the children when Kitty and Doctor have their talk. If Harry Todd is three years older than Dickie and Dickie is born in 1940...HT is born in 1937...so he must be four years older than Dickie...let's so three to four years older...Harry meets Kitty in 1937—is the Depression over enough? Yes, it has to be...and he has to see that there is going to be a world war in Europe. What has happened by 1937...I guess Germany got involved with the Spanish Civil War...and Hitler is gathering power, Mussolini is in Italy. Harry then is really prescient. So Kitty and Doctor have their talk in 1939....

3-20-16

Kitty born in Rome NY in 1913; at time of book in 1988 is 75.
Harry is born 1916; leaves Drumlins in 1936 and goes to NY, sees Kitty
Harry Todd born in 1937

3-24-16

HT's big revelation is that he's been nurturing this grudge against his family all these years for what he's perceived that they did to him...and the fact of the matter is that there was all this other stuff going on, between Kathleen and his father, that was really deadly. He could only see his own grudge, and not the real problem—and his sister was sacrificed—no, she was done in by her own hand, but because he could only see his own problems, he genuinely didn't do anything to help her. Dickie knew/knows that there was nothing anyone could do to help her...but HT doesn't know that, he will of course bring it all back to himself, that he was to blame.

3-25-16

Things to look for in the final read-through:

- Season of the year—I believe it's between Memorial Day and Fourth of July
- Doctor's first name—Should be Bruce
- HT's age is 48-49; Dickie's 44-45
- The biggest of all—That HT hasn't been back for all this time because he felt he was turned out because of getting Donna pregnant, that his father was more concerned for—what? His image in town? His business? His status—than he was for his son, and that his mother let it happen, that she didn't stand up again Harry to keep him at home and have what he considered his birthright, the company. Added to it was what he considered the betrayal of Kathleen to lead him on that she wanted to leave, and then turned him down, and also Dickie's affair with Laurel—the whole damn family. So why is he back now? People think it's because he's come back to claim some part of the company, but the truth is he came back because he has no place else to go, everything he's tried in his life has failed, he has no real plan in town, it was the only place he knew to go to.

[Did Dickie have an affair with Laurel? Out in California? Sounds like something Dickie would do....]

3-27-16 — Easter

We need to review what goes on with Kathleen in this book. The first time we see her, after her shower—she doesn't appear to HT and drop her towel, she comes from the shower and she's wearing the towel, and she says she has to go to the washer to get something, her underwear or something, perhaps she calls down to HT in the rocker and asks him to get something for her, maybe her shorts or something...and he refuses and she goes downstairs to get them and gets by him okay, runs by him as if she's afraid he'll do something and gets what she's after and comes back and tries to run past him, he's looking at something else, and reaches out and grabs the towel and not only pulls off her but she falls on him and they fall to the floor and then they're grappling together and Dickie runs away.

That makes her more of a victim, not a hopeless nymphomaniac, appearing to everyone. So there's the time with Dickie...the first one when she's sick...and she asks him to lay with her, and she says that nothing happened that day with HT, he was just grappling around a bit...and they do nothing at that time but lie together...and he likes it all right...but nothing else happens....

Then there's the problem time...of Dickie in the house as he's older...and she appears in the doorway naked...and maybe she doesn't offer herself to him, maybe the only reason she does it is to scare him...because she knows it will scare him...she isn't serious about it at all, she's only playing with that activity...and enjoys him running away, he wants none of it, and he hears her laughing behind him....

Now then...there are too many seductions, or who fucked who and when going on...I'm even confused reading through it. So...there's the question of Donna Bruno. HT learns first that Dickie slept with her...and then that his father slept with her as well. HT learns that Kathleen learned first that Dickie slept with her...and then that their father slept with her. At first the thought is that the shock of learning that her father slept with her rival, Donna, was what caused her to commit suicide. But the fact is that that wasn't it—as Kitty will tell him: it was that Kathleen offered herself to her father, and he turned her down; moreover, that Kitty came home and found them together in a compromising situation. When Kathleen got so sick in the middle of the night on account of it—and Kitty blamed herself, for leaving the two of them alone in the house, as she was always afraid that Harry would try something with her—and Kathleen took the barbiturates to kill herself, she didn't act to try to stop it, she could understand why she wanted to kill herself...no, a mother wouldn't do that, she might have hesitated for just a moment, but then she would have wheeled into action...but Harry found the pill bottle...and he assumed that Kitty gave them to Kathleen and in effect caused her death. But it wasn't so...does Harry learn this at his death? He certainly needed to tell Dickie that nothing happened between he and Kathleen that day. A revelation that comes to Dickie later, of what his father was talking about.

Now then...HT will learn of all this at the end? In his final talk with Kitty? She will blame herself for not acting fast enough...or not recognizing more of the deadly attraction K had for her father...and for leaving them alone that day. HT's final act of humanism is to absolve his mother of that responsibility, of saying that it was okay, she couldn't have changed it, that they were all to blame and not to blame for her death. And he holds her.

Neither Dickie or Harry slept with Donna...it was all her imagination...people thinking the worst of the two of them...but then who sets HT straight on this? Tinker? Probably, the only one

who knew the whole story from all sides. But HT needs to be filled with righteousness when he confronts Dickie and they have their fight.... It's Dickie that knows that he didn't sleep with her...and realizes that their dad didn't either (though how would he know? He wouldn't but they can both surmise)...that he was referring to himself and Kathleen that day.

So we need to chart the progression of the information—what the characters know and what the reader knows.

So, what is the progression?

- HT comes back to town with a grudge against the family—his father turned him out; his mother did nothing to stop it; Kathleen said she wanted to leave too, but then made him look bad in front of the family; his opportunistic little brother took over the business
- HT learns from Jennifer that there was some suspicion around how Kathleen died, and that the suspicion was fostered by his father, Dickie and Cricket.
- HT talks to his mother who at first says her death was a coronary thrombosis, but then it turns out that's her own prognosis from Reader's Digest, that she says she doesn't know, that there was an autopsy but her husband would never let her know the result. Because Cricket was involved in it, HT surmises that Cricket would know the circumstances and the result of the autopsy

Prelude	Dickie learns that Harry Todd is coming back to town after a long absence. The Question is what does he want after all this time
Part One	
1	HT comes back to town with a grudge against the family—his father turned him out; his mother did nothing to stop it; Kathleen said she wanted to leave too, but then made him look bad in front of the family; his opportunistic little brother took over the business. First time HT thinks he sees K in the window
2	Looking at photos with mother and J on table. Examples of things HT finds wrong with the family. Kitty uses as an example that she might have killed Kathleen.
3	HT takes J to Furnass Landing. He didn't come back for either his father's or his sister's funeral. HT learns there was some suspicion about how K died and that it was fostered by his father, Dickie, and Cricket
4	Dickie trying to call Pamela. Background of brothers. First scene of K turning on HT. Confirming that he turned on K—and that it might be the main reason he didn't come back? HT has no indication that he did anything to screw up K's life. Dickie gets the idea that HT might be back to try to take over company
5	Dickie on his way to see Pamela. Conversation with Cricket. Revelation: Cricket brings up that there was a problem with K's death (also something about Donna—but what?) Sees Pamela at Club. Again possibility that HT is back to reclaim business; Dickie's beginning to give some credence to the idea
6	Kitty laying out photos. The idea that she's trying to show HT something. Rondo: Dickie saw towel event between HT and K; K is wondering what's wrong with her; all the key events of misunderstandings in the house
7	HT back at the house, looks at photos, sits in rocker. Remembers K's betrayal. Remembers pulling towel off K and then drove the rest of summer. Doesn't talk about them rolling around or if he fucked her—he didn't, he only creamed himself.


	Briefly thinks he sees body parts.
8	HT as mother comes downstairs. We learn background of his losing job and coming back here but only vague hints of a plan. At table asks mother how K died; she first says coronary thrombosis, then it turns out that only Reader's Digest reading. She actually doesn't know what death certificate or results of autopsy, but says that Cricket was involved with it all.
9	Dickie with Selby at restaurant. His plan for site, and plan to finance it.
10	HT in room. Remembering Laurel and the change in his life once he got to California. The night his father told him about Donna, that he was sending HT away. His continued curiosity about K's death now that the question is raised, and that Nibs seemed involved with it all. Rondo — no real revelations, just bringing characters up to date, though in Dickie's we see more of the day of the towel, this time HT and K rolling on the floor (was this earlier, when HT ran from the house?)
11	HT in search of tuna salad. Kitty's display shows the deep love that was originally between her and Harry. Then more of the ghost
Part Two	
12	Kitty spying on HT. Cat is sick. Wondering if HT got her latest message
13	HT down a hundred steps. Playing with his attraction to Jennifer
14	Kitty meets Harry in NYC, comes to Furnass
15	Dickie and Pamela after making love in townhouse; she shows him the couch
16	HT talks to Nib in his office—nib circulated brother-sister story; Revelation: there was indeed an autopsy; Nib claims that K died of cardiac arrest.
17	Dickie still with Pamela; she leaves to go see Jack; Dickie's miffed
18	HT meets Donna in lobby, agrees to meet her at restaurant
19	Dickie and McMillan golfing—the new deal to finance Landing
20	HT and Donna at restaurant. Revelation: Death certificate said natural causes but the autopsy said it was a barbiturate overdose
21	Dickie driving back from golf; first memory of K naked in hall, left inconclusive with suggestion of impropriety (she wasn't vamping for him, she was just naked)
22	Kitty's early life in Furnass; growing relationship with Doctor; tells her of Harry's ultimate plan in which Kitty fit. Revelation: Doctor says he loves her. She decides she wants the Buchanan House on the hill. K as glue that held family together—and she was also the thing that drove them apart. Rondo—The main scene of HT and K and what actually happened, that he ran away when he spurted and she was afraid something was wrong with her
23	HT back at house, Kitty cleaning K's room. Revelation: mother knew K died of a barbiturate overdose; doesn't know how she'd get them; she also says that Dickie was sleeping with Donna and that that wasn't the worst thing she did (is that true for rewrite?) This is the first time HT learns that Dickie slept with Donna
24	Kitty goes downstairs. Remembers going to H's office; thinks that she wants him to stay away from K, the implication that he'll do something to her, the implication that she's trying to protect K from him (actually, other way around); says the same to Doctor and the statement that it's against the natural order, but we don't know which relationship. This is the first time that we see there might be something between father and


	daughter. This is also the first time that we see there was a serious thing between Kitty and Doctor.
25	HT wakes from nap; J cutting grass. Revelation: Jennifer saw Kitty find pill bottle in covers and hide it in the pocket of her robe. HT actually does a good thing: J offers herself to go skinny-dipping and he turns her down.
26	Dickie at office, learns from McMillan that Cricket has idea for museum and he's saying he got the idea from HT Rondo—first indication of Harry seeing girl in front of him; of Dickie as a boy lying naked in bed with K; glimpses of all the transgressions in the house but none of the particulars
27	HT visited by Dickie in bedroom; Dickie wants to know what he's doing here; at this point HT thinks he's finding out how K died to tell his mother, that she doesn't know, in addition to his own curiosity; Dickie knows that Kitty knows and thinks his brother is nuts, realizes how little he knows so far
Part 3	
28	HT witnessing dynamite of blast furnace;
29	HT at breakfast; Shari tells him Dickie had affair with waitress; that father, Donna and K used to come in and flirt, talk dirty. The implication is that something improper was going on with Donna—and with K as well. That there is a link between the three of them—also implied in the photos Kitty left for him. Introduces the idea that something improper going on with Kathleen as well as Donna with their flirting and rough talk.
30	Dickie finds the couch on the lawn. She tells him this isn't the way
31	Kitty at the vets, remembering Dr Neely telling that it's not the attraction to HT that's the problem, it's the attraction to Harry. We also see a flashback to the time that she reached out to Doctor, though not the entire exchange. Learns cat is dead. Plays on 29 above by having Neely raise possibility of something improper between Harry and K.
32	Dickie driving. Remembers conversation with father when Harry wanted to get K out more on her own. Dickie has guilt because he didn't do more to help his dad then. Didn't help because of his own shame of the time that he lay naked with K as a kid. Then there is flashback of the time K appeared to him naked when she was older....
33	HT goes to Tinker's flowers. He learns Donna came over to the house a lot with K. Revelations: that K knew that Donna had HT's baby; that his father thought Kitty gave the pills to K, encouraged her to kill herself So at this point he's learned that his father thought that Kitty gave K the pills, but HT wouldn't know why his father thought that. Rondo — D's 2nd remembrance of K's naked appearance to him, again suggestive that he fucked his sister but it's left inconclusive; Kitty at cemetery; HT blames Dickie for all the bad things that have happened
34	HT at home when Kitty brings dead cat home, helps her dig grave. For the first time considers that Dickie might have seen he and K that day
35	Dickie at his office. Father tells him that he didn't touch K that day, but he at first doesn't understand who he's talking about
36	Kitty in house. Rain coming up. Kathleen has learned that Donna and her father are

	lovers and asks why Donna—Kitty totally misunderstands her (at some time, Kitty is going to need to make the connection, that she read her daughter wrong.) (How does she do that? Is it in somehow Dickie? Or HT?) Knows she should have stayed with her daughter that day but left; remembers her own time with Doctor in offering herself. that will be her revelation: she read K according to her own actions
37	HT at church as rain comes up. Donna makes the revelation that K and Dickie slept together, but it's not true, which we'll see in Dickie's section below....
38	Dickie confronts Cricket during run, tells him how it will be. Here he remembers the full time he saw K naked at the house—but though he thought it was his noble act to refuse her seduction, he sees now that that wasn't motive at all, it was just as she said it was, she was wondering what was wrong with her, why wasn't she like other girls.
39	HT restless. Goes to Pgh; drives to D's office; wants to confront D with what he sees as his transgressions. At this point he thinks he slept with Donna and that it had a bearing on K's suicide. Remembers D apparently withdrawn at train station on Mother's return, but we learn later what was going on in his mind Then out of D's house in hills. Revelation: that D was jealous of him as kid, such as his room in the attic; that Tinker is sure D didn't sleep with K; that father was sleeping with Donna; that after Donna told K that Donna was sleeping with father, she went home (and confronted father) and later took the pills. The implication being that her jealousy of Donna, that father slept with Donna and not her, depressed her so much that it drove her to suicide. But that's not it—it's her feeling inadequacy that depressed her.
40	HT and Dickie have confrontation outside house. Whatever it is now, HT confronts D about sleeping with K, and about sleeping with father. Dickie sets matter straight about the time he was with K, that she only wanted to know what was wrong with her, and that that was probably what she was after with father, and somewhere we have to substantiate why D doesn't think she was after to fuck her father—maybe she mentions that day that maybe her father could tell her and Dickie tells her not to try. It also comes out in this chapter why HT is back here—that he has no place else to go. And that now Dickie will take care of him—no, that comes with the later chapter And it comes out that no, father never slept with K, that that wasn't why she came to him that day, she wanted to know what was wrong with her, was she like other girls, and he put his hand on her to reassure her—that's when Kitty saw them and he knew that she would assume the worst. No, they're not going to be friends.
41	HT finds the pill bottles on the mantle; sets the record straight with his mother. She blames herself for leaving pill bottle, she had no idea that she would kill herself, and then when it happened she blamed herself. The realization that she was trying to protect husband from daughter, not the other way around, doesn't come till next chapter. Rondo—now it shows the episode between K and father—but I think we already covered this...don't need this now
42	Dickie on the lawn on couch and rain. He will think about making it right for HT; though remembers the train episode when he realized he would always be second in family
43	Kitty—what does have to learn or reveal. Well, it would be a great relief that hear that her husband didn't do anything with K; her revelation to reader is that she always

	tried to protect husband from daughter, not the other way around. Kitty misread K because of her own fixation on Doctor
44	HT in attic—and what does he have to reveal? He has to realize, or at least consider the possibility that the towel episode, which to him was a lark and brought about by his own inadequacies and fears might have damaged his sister, or at least caused her to doubt herself the rest of her life. did some harm to her.

3-30-16

 All of the rewrite has to show more of K's distress and dilemma—when she and HT rolled on the floor as kids, she got the idea that something was wrong with her, that she was unlovable in a way, and she's spending the rest of her life wondering what's wrong with her. She's seen in the book as fixated on her father...and perhaps she is, and maybe she isn't...maybe she's perceived to be that way, but more to the point she's looking to her father, not as a sex object, but to tell her what's wrong with her, why isn't she lovable. When she goes to Dickie, when she appears naked to Dickie in the house, it isn't to seduce him, it's to ask him what's wrong with her, she knows he's had a lot of experience with girls, she thinks maybe he'll know...and of course he reads it wrong, he thinks she's trying to seduce him, as he's convinced that she went downstairs as a girl to have HT seduce her...and maybe she did, but it didn't at all turn out as she expected....

 And Kitty all the way through appears to be trying to protect K from her father—and it's true she's trying to keep her away from him, but not because she's afraid of what Harry will do, it's because she's afraid of what K will do, and that Harry won't be able to help himself, any more than he can help himself with all the women he sees in town, Kitty doesn't blame him, she believes he can't help himself, it's like a disease, and she's trying to protect her husband from her daughter, not the other way around.

The confusion between Donna and Kathleen—the point is, I think, that Donna did in fact sleep with all of them, and Kathleen didn't. And it appears to have bothered her.... No—it bothered her because she thought there was something the matter with her....


5-10-16

Page 61—how much to show of the time HT pulled the towel from Kathleen....

5-14-16

Page 180 Kitty tells HT that Dickie slept with Donna. Did he really? Or later does he say she supposed he did.... No, he actually did sleep with Donna, the question becomes whether Harry the father did as well. And that he did, is that what sends K over the edge.

5-18-16

 Page 244—be sure to check the death dates of Harry and Kathleen that are given here.

5-19-16

It would be great for the story is there was only one adultery or incest going on...but it seems like there are many.

In asking about K's death, HT finds out that Donna Bruno, his high school lover with whom he had a child, slept first of all with his brother Dickie; and he later finds out the thought was that his father also slept with her. At least it certainly appeared that way, from the flirting and all that went on between Donna and the father, of which K was witness and also participant. In a talk late in his life with Dickie, Harry says that he never touched her—which Dickie thinks is in reference to fucking Donna. As we find out later, Harry was actually talking about not touching K, though at the time he makes that statement the reader knows nothing about that possibility; having told Dickie, though, Dickie is able to tell H at the end that he didn't.

The way it is now, we see glimmers that perhaps Dickie slept with his sister—but that's not true, it's only in appearance. In fact K did appear to Dickie naked at one point, but it wasn't to sleep with him, it was only to ask him what was wrong with her, What's the matter with me? She is wondering because of her initial sexual experience with HT, where he entered her and then ran away and kept away from her afterwards. She took that to mean there was something wrong with her, and it haunted her through her adult life. It reached a climax for her when she found out Donna had slept with her father—it's not that she wanted to sleep with her father, she is simply unhinged by the fact that Donna was that attractive or desirable that her father and her brother both wanted Donna. So why didn't anybody want her?

So she appears to her father to ask him, in her way, what's wrong with me? But Kitty sees her daughter and husband in this compromising position, and thinks the worst, thinks Harry in fact was molesting her as Dr. Neely had wondered about. At the time of K's death, Harry sees Kitty hiding the bottle of pills, and thinks that his wife has helped his daughter commit suicide. But in fact that wasn't true at all—she was hiding the bottle to protect—who? The memory of Kathleen? Her husband?

When does Harry talk about the possibility that Kitty gave Kathleen the pills? To raise that suspicion, by the way, Harry has to have seen Kitty seeing him with Kathleen in the bedroom. Kitty's great error—and somehow we have to see this—is to read her assessment of finding K and Harry together with her own feelings for Doctor, and the time she presented herself to him in the office. HT has to tell her this at the very end...and she has to have a moment of revelation....

So it seems it is necessary for Dickie to have his moment with K in the house...the time she appeared to him naked. The poor girl...she's been forever fucked up because of the episode with HT when she was a girl—though it was only intended as a joke, a teenage prank, a teenager's gonads getting the better of him—it's scared her for life, traumatized her. He needs to recognize that too—so that Dickie has to tell him about that so that at the end, when he's in the tower, he has to realize that he was probably the cause of K's problems.



5-20-16

How does HT feel about the news that Dickie supposedly slept with Kathleen? His first reaction when he hears it from Donna is to think she did so because of her love for him—that when she realized she couldn't be with her older brother, her interest turned to her younger one—and that Dickie must have taken advantage of her! But later, as he goes in search of Dickie, to vent his feelings on him—he's indignant that Dickie attacked him for a lack of morals, when it turns out he not only slept with Donna himself, but also with Kathleen. But he's being careful about too

much moral outrage, aware that he is guilty of the very same things that he might attack Dickie about. Though by this time, he has already disassociated himself with a comparison to Dickie about Kathleen—he's processed the information to the point that he sees no comparison at all, his sexual activity with Kathleen was because he was young and came about as the result of a joke gone wrong, he didn't intend to seduce his own sister as Dickie must have, that would be like Dickie.

Still he knows that he needs to be careful about saying too much, he knows he's on shaky moral ground when it comes to being too outraged at Dickie. So his feelings sort of land on the relationship that Dickie had with Donna, and leaves Kathleen out of the mix.

So his anger with Dickie is sort of free form...it's sort of amorphous, it can't take a real shape for fear of hitting himself as well. It's a strange place to be.... But it doesn't lack any vigor...he's sort of thrashing around in his mind, unsure what he really wants to strike him about, he just knows he wants to. He doesn't know what he's angry about, he just knows that he is, that he wants to take Dickie to task for something because he's sure there's something he should be taken to task for....


5-21-16...total meanderings...they only get meaningful or worth reading toward the end.... What if we totally take the possibility of incest between Dickie and Kathleen out of the equation? Definitely we take Harry out of sleeping with Donna. Or the possibility that Harry slept with Donna only a slight chance...always a possibility of course but not a prime mover of the story.

So what pushes HT over the edge? That he hears from Donna that Dickie slept with her. Not having anything to do with Dickie sleeping with Kathleen—HT never hears anything about that?

So what pushes K to suicide? When she hears Dickie slept with Donna? Or that her father did? Or is it the entire mess? That she sees a world where everybody is trying to sleep with everybody else, and she doesn't feel like she belongs, like she can compete?

Does Kitty misunderstand when she's talking to K? K is talking about a world where everybody is fucking everybody else...and where K is talking about Dickie fucking Donna, Kitty thinks she's talking about Harry fucking Donna.

So what are the revelations that get to HT? He finds out that K died of a barbiturate overdose; that Dickie slept with Donna; that there was a chance that Dickie slept with K?

 Let's drop the father's sleeping with Donna completely out of the equation. The only thing that gets to HT is the idea that Dickie slept with Donna. Donna never even mentions that D might have slept with K—not even in the equation. And when Harry dying tells Dickie that he never laid a hand on her, Dickie assumes he's talking about Donna and says that he never thought his father did. Harry is referring to K here, because at some point he realizes that his wife thinks that he did molest K, but he never did. K appears naked to Dickie in the house, but only to ask him what's wrong with her, not to get him to sleep with her.

So what disturbs K so much that she wants to commit suicide? Donna tells her that she slept with Dickie, which is true briefly (K never tells Donna that she did as well). What is it about the idea that D slept with Donna that disturbs K so? Is it the idea that there are such things going on in the world? Or that it reminds her of sleeping with HT way back when and the guilt of that.... She tells her mother, **I'm such an evil evil girl**. Something has to remind her of HT; but Kitty thinks it's the possibility of husband molesting her....

So then how does Kitty learn the truth? And that she does, she has to tell HT at their final meeting that she was wrong, made a mistake, and learned the truth. But that she ever thought otherwise will always haunt her. Is that when he holds her?

In the confrontation between D and HT, Dickie has to make the point that their father fired Donna after K's death because he simply didn't want any reminders of their relationship around him

So...let's simplify this story once and for all. HT finds out there is some suspicious circumstances about his sister's death. In investigating what happened, he finds out while talking to Donna at the church that at one time she had slept with his younger brother Dickie. That's it—there is no mention or hint or indication of any kind that Dickie also slept with Kathleen. Or that their father slept with Donna either. HT's anger is only directed at Dickie because he slept with Donna. Why does that cause so much anger? Doesn't matter...that can be up to the reader, and there are plenty of suggestions why—jealousy, incest, whatever. Never stated.

Now—about what drives Kathleen to commit suicide. Donna does in fact tell Kathleen that she slept with her brother. And she gets sick and goes home...and takes the barbiturates. Why? We never really know, and we don't need to. Is it jealousy to Donna for sleeping with him? Is it because men are chasing after other girls and not her? Is it lingering guilt from sleeping with HT that time? All possible, all probably—but we never know for sure. She tells her mother—what? And this is after Kitty saw Kathleen and her husband together: What's wrong with me? I'm such an evil, evil girl. No, Kitty tells her, it's my fault, I shouldn't have left you alone with him. And Kathleen would misunderstand that, thinking it's about Harry Todd, and Kitty means it about her husband. And Kitty doesn't get the pills for her—Kathleen has taken them from the shelf. Kitty leaves her alone and Kathleen takes them in the night—though when she finds the bottle in the covers in the morning she tries to hide it, and when Harry sees that, just as Kitty thought the worse of him, he thinks the worst of his wife and thinks maybe she gave them to Kathleen.

So—how to rectify it at the end? HT will tell his mother what Dickie tells him, that the father said he never touched her, and at first Dickie thought it was about Donna but now realizes it must have been about Kathleen. Does that work? And how did Kitty and her husband rectify it at the end? Maybe they didn't...maybe they were estranged through the entire he was sick.

What is then the reconciliation or realization between Kitty and HT at the end? HT tells her what Dickie said that the father said at the end, that he never touched her. Which answers the question for her. So, while Harry was dying, what was the relation between husband and wife?

I don't think that soapy thing of Harry and Kitty getting along at the end was true. Kitty thought that he had molested their daughter...and so the relationship was strained through his death. And in fact that's why he started to fail...Kitty turned on him and thought he molested her—so in the conversation between Dickie and Father, Father has to say that Kitty thinks I molested her but I didn't. it's never said that that is the reason why he's dying...but it's certainly a strong possibility.

5-22-16

Kathleen says to Kitty, in addition to what she says now: "We're just meat to them. Why do they have to be so mean?" Kitty wonders if she's talking about her husband...she's only seeing the thing with Kathleen in the light of her own actions with Doctor. Maybe she says, "Your father is a crude man, I know, dear, but he would never mean to harm you..." and Kathleen just looks at her, "Not my dad, I only wanted to ask him the same thing, why don't I understand this," and then she broke down again and I couldn't understand what she was saying but she said your name, Harry Todd. I've wondered if she ever talked to you about this, or if you know what she was referring to." And yes, Harry Todd knows all too well. And he realizes it wasn't a joke that day, he didn't mean it as a joke, he meant to rip the towel from her because he wanted to see her naked, and he wanted to hold her and he wanted to fuck her on the floor and it was no accident, that was only what he had told himself over all these years, he meant it as sure as if he had set out to rape her. Which in fact is what he did.

From page 296...we have to pretty much start over...a much simpler storyline. Take out the entire hints and suggestion of Dickie sleeping with Kathleen—that's never a part of it.

The story is this: HT comes back home with hints that he's here to get involved in the business. In the process of talking to Jennifer, he finds out his sister died under suspicious circumstances. He starts an inquiry into what happened to her, which leads him to Niblock and his brother. His old girlfriend Donna fills in the missing answers that his sister committed suicide and his brother knew all that. He also learns that Dickie was sleeping with Donna—and that there was a lot of flirting going on between his father, Donna, and Kathleen. We also learn than the mother, Kitty, had fallen in love with her father-in-law, and at one time had offered herself to him, which he reluctantly turned away.

For reasons not yet explained, HT is incensed that Dickie had slept with Donna, his big thing being that Dickie had taken advantage of her, of her vulnerability. Which is funny to Dickie, because he knows just how conniving and strong Donna is, for all her neurotic behavior. Neither Donna nor Tinker ever talk about anything going on between Dickie and Kathleen—because nothing ever did. He's always carried with him the guilty pleasure of lying with her as a kid, and the fact that even at that age he wanted to screw her. In that way, he has come to accept what went on between HT and Kathleen that he witnessed. In addition there's the time that Kathleen appeared naked to him, but that's a strictly private memory, no one else ever knew about that (it's purpose is to give precedent to Kathleen appearing to her father the same way—she's trying to find out what's wrong with her, she wants to know why she isn't pretty like other girls, and why—which comes out in talking to her mother—why women are meat to men, and why they're so mean to women).

Kathleen finally breaks down when she hears that Dickie slept with Donna—that's what sets HT off, that it upset her and was probably the immediate reason why she committed suicide. Who does he hear that from? Donna at the church. So he goes to confront Dickie, and tells him that as a reason—and in Dickie's defense he can say that all that happened several years earlier that he stopped seeing Donna. Somewhere in here there has to be the thing that Harry tells Dickie that he didn't touch her—Dickie always figured he was talking about Donna but now he realizes it was about Kathleen. Dickie has to tell HT about that, so he can forward the information to Kitty in the room.

Dickie wants to know why HT is so concerned about Donna—what difference does it make to you about what I did or didn't do with her. You gave her up years ago and forgot about her soon enough as soon as you got to California. Which HT realizes is true. Maybe the whole thing about his father screwing Donna is in his mind, after what he learns from Shari at the restaurant—that the three of them flirted around a lot. Maybe HT asks Donna at the church if his father was involved with her, and Donna picks up on that and makes more of it, oh wouldn't you like that, that would make it okay, wouldn't it, if your father was screwing me too. Is that what you want to believe? Okay then, yes your father had me too, are you happy? What, did he or is she just saying that. Regardless, he goes after Dickie because he knows that's for sure...and as they're talking he mentions that Donna cast suspicion on the father, and Dickie just looks at him, and says no, he's sure he didn't, the family is sick but not that sick, that at one time he wondered too from what father told him on his deathbed but realized he was talking about Kathleen, that the way they were flirting there must have been some suspicion but that what he said applied to Kathleen, not Donna. Is that making sense? Not quite, will need some refinement.

No—the suspicions that Donna casts about his father—HT mentions that Donna said that to him, but he realized as she said it that she was just making it up, it was another indication of how screwed up she is that she tried to throw suspicion on their father. God, she must hate us. She has every right to, when you think of it. That's when Dickie tells him what Father said on his death bed, that he never touched her. When he first said it, I thought he was talking about Donna, but I wonder now if he was talking about something else, something to do with Kathleen. But I never heard anything about that, did you? No, father had a lot of faults but molesting his own daughter certainly wasn't one of them.

5-23-16

I don't think the issue that Harry slept with Donna ever comes up—including when Donna talks to HT at the church. When Harry says that to Dickie, that he never touched her, Dickie's surprised, he assumes he's talking about Donna, and is saying that for Dickie's Toddedit because Dickie had a thing with her, but then in talking to HT after their fight, he mentions it to HT and they make the connection to father and daughter.

“I never touched her.”

“What?”

“I never laid a hand on her. I wouldn't.”

“Nobody ever thought you did, dad.”

“Your mother did. Thought so.”



Donna reads the autopsy report a few days after K's death—so Harry has to fire her after the funeral, as soon as he gets back. Make sure to check the timing....

5-25-16

“I've never told anybody this, but I found your father and Kathleen in a compromising situation.”

Which is why she left the house...and left K in danger. She knew she should have stayed, it was imperative for her to stay, and she didn't. She left Harry to his own devices with the girl. That's why she could nurse him at the end, he knew it wasn't his fault, he couldn't help himself, and she put him and K in harm's way by leaving her alone. The unspoken text here is that she was reading K's actions in reference to her own with Doctor, when she presented herself to him; and—what—she was wanting Harry to act with the same restraint? Don't know and I don't think that needs to be covered.

Regardless, she blames herself for whatever happened between them. And HT tells her that his father never touched her, that's what he told Dickie. Dickie didn't know anything was possible between K and her father, so he was at a loss as to whom he was talking about. But HT can tell Kitty now that nothing happened. But Kitty will still wonder what it was that led K to commit suicide. And that leads HT to wonder about his own role...he tells her that K was really messed up and it seemed inevitable. She hid the bottle because she didn't want Harry to be implicated, because when all was said and done her loyalties were first and foremost to her husband...which is admirable in a way but unfortunately led to K's death. Does she talk about that?

Chapter 36 Page 263—here is the crux of the problem—what sent K home that day? And when did Kitty take her drive? When K came home that day, she's terribly upset because Donna told her that she had slept with Dickie. And though Kitty tries to comfort her, she isn't surprised about Dickie, both the boys have followed their father's lead, what else could anyone expect? And she doesn't take it seriously enough—does it make her sick and is that when she takes her drive...and then comes back to find K and her father together? (Because as it is...what happens when she finds K and her father together? Is that when she goes on her drive? But a mother wouldn't just do that, no matter how sick at heart she is at the scene. She'd try to rescue her daughter, wouldn't she? Maybe when they notice her in the door, K runs to her and he just looks helpless as she takes her away. Then after she gets K settled down and she seems like she's sleeping and Harry has left the house, she gets in her own car and drives...before turning back. During which time K apparently went down and took the bottle from the mantle and back to her room. During her drive away, she has to remember that Jennifer is coming over and should be back for that too....)

5-26-16

After the fight—Dickie asks him why he should care whether he slept with Donna, HT gave her up years ago for California. Which HT has to admit is true. HT asks why were you so concerned about stirring up things with Mother. That Father thought Mother was responsible for K's death. Yes that might be something you want to bury. Where did you hear that? From Donna. God she must hate us; HT says I guess she has good reason. Both of us screwing her. Dickie says he's pretty sure father didn't, even though he liked having her around. Tells HT about Father's

statement, that he said he didn't fuck her. Never laid a hand on her. [Later, HT realizes Father was talking about K.] So why are you back here? And he says that he doesn't have anywhere else to go. Dickie will take care of him.

35	Dickie at his office. Father tells him that he didn't touch K that day, but never understand who he's talking about
36	HT at church with Donna. She confirms she had slept with Dickie, and that she told K, which would get HT wondering if that was what depressed K enough to kill herself
37	Kitty in the house as rain comes up. Remembers K coming home in tears—she's learned that Donna slept with Dickie. Kitty wants to be sympathetic but can't help thinking what did anyone expect, with the atmosphere that Harry created for the boys. After K settled down, she went on errands, mundane things, stayed away from the house as long as she could. Remembered Doctor, and her presenting herself to him. The scene at the table when Doctor secured her heart forever.
38	Dickie confronts Cricket during run, tells him how it will be. Here he remembers the full time he saw K naked at the house—but it was no seduction, she was wondering what was wrong with her, why wasn't she like other girls. As he returns to town realizes that at the time the greatest threat to the family was the very one he thought needed protection the most.
39	HT goes to confront Dickie about sleeping with Donna—he's convinced that D took advantage of her fragile state. After Dickie settles him down, he mentions HT's poking around about K's death. Why are you so concerned about stirring things up with Mother—see note for 5-26. Dickie tells him about father seeing Kitty hiding bottle and concluded she was responsible for K's death. Or maybe he was feeling guilty himself. Mentions that trailed off talking about smoke and brimstone. Dickie tells HT the reason why father blamed mother: that father saw mother hiding the bottle in the bedclothes
rondo	HT goes into the house and finds the bottle of Nembutal...then upstairs to see Kitty See page 318...HT goes into the house and stands looking around, wondering if the house holds the answers...and then the telling of what K went to her father, and then
40	Kitty tells him about the scene she discovered, and Father's attempts to set it right that she rebuffed. Father must have told her that he saw her hiding bottle and held her responsible. then came back and heard their voices, went upstairs and found K and Harry together. When they saw her in the doorway, K ran to her and she escorted her back to her room, she wouldn't talk to Harry no matter how he tried, and when K was asleep and Harry had left the house, Kitty got in her car and just drove, had to get away from whole sordid mess, ended up close to Youngstown before she remembered she was going to watch Jennifer that night and came back. Kitty says he was feeling guilty himself what happened, and she let him think that of her if it helped him. But HT puts together D's statement and says father never touched her. If you had all that bad blood between you, how were you able to get along so well at the end? You'll learn, my son, that because it is the end, you can forgive a lot. The reason Kitty wanted HT to find out about K's death is that she wanted to know why husband blamed her. And HT tells her that father saw her hiding the pill bottle. And he tells her.

41	Dickie and couch Dickie also has to think here about setting up HT with something to do in the company. Take him on, maybe help him get his realtor's license. He will also think that mother could have simply asked him why father blamed her for K's death. But recognizes that that's not his role in the family, that the first-born still has his mother's heart.
42	Kitty thinks about that he never touched her, that he died and they never understood the story; father thought she hid the bottle because she gave it to K; Kitty thought he had molested their daughter and was going to protect her. She blamed herself for K's death because she didn't protect him enough; that was her focus to protect . Kitty realizes here that when K asked what was wrong with her, she wasn't wondering what was wrong with her thinking men were like they were, she was wondering why she didn't measure up; when she asked why it happened to girls like Donna, she was actually asking why didn't it happen to me? Why don't men find me attractive, why do they always run away?
43	HT in attic. He realizes how much pain that K must have gone through.

5-26-16

Check the description of Doctor's house on page 270 with earlier mentions of the house.

5-29-16

Kitty's chapter after the brother's confrontation: Kitty thought K committed suicide because of her heartbreak with loving her father; and father thought Kitty added her suicide by giving her the pills, he saw her hide the bottle (HT is able to clarify the mystery to her because Jennifer way back at the beginning saw her hide the pill bottle, and said her grandfather saw her hide it too.) HT would comment on the two of them each holding a grudge against the other, and yet he heard they got along together, and Kitty says the fact that it's the end means a lot. She's been leaving the trail for him, because she's wanted to know why Harry blamed her; couldn't believe that he'd blame her when she blamed him. HT says it about the bottle as a possibility, which sounds right to Kitty.

We'll never know for sure, I guess.

5-31-16

Chapter 40—critical chapter, but what goes on here? HT goes in the house after fight with Dickie because he wants to ask his mother why she was laying out all those photographs and clues for him. Questions/issues that need to be confronted in this chapter are Why did she say that she killed Kathleen? Because I did, or I might as well have. And your father thought I did, for the rest of his life. (why would the father think Kitty killed her? Because he saw her hide the pill bottle and felt she must have given K the pills after K appeared naked to father and Kitty saw them.) (that doesn't necessarily make sense: try again:

Why would he think that?

That's one of the things I was hoping you'd find out. I've always wondered myself.

Because he saw you hiding the pill bottle and thought you must have had something to do with it.

Ah, well he right about that. I did give the pills to her. But I never thought she'd overdose.

Is that why you said you killed her?

I guess that could have been a contributing factor. Yes I hid the bottle because I didn't want that implication. But I felt I killed her another way. But I failed her in other ways. I never should have left her alone with her father that day. I spent my life trying to keep Kathleen away from him.

You mean Father away from Kathleen?

No, I meant keep Kathleen away from your father. I knew what he was like, I doubted that he could keep his hands to himself. I wanted to keep her away so he wouldn't be tempted.

But I'm sure he didn't. From what Dickie said.

That dear man.

Wow, you spent those last years each thinking the other was to blame for K's death. But I heard you guys got along at the end when he was dying.

You'll find out dear. At the end you can find you can overlook a lot simply because it is the end.

Okay—that's a general outline of the conversation. But what of HT's responsibility about K's death.

When it comes to that, we all had a hand in it. I don't know what happened, she was such a bright and happy girl, you two were so close, and then something happened there in high school, just before you started getting so involved with Donna. I thought it must have had something to do with donna, but when the two of them became friends, I changed my mind. [she talked about everybody running away from her and that she was an evil evil girl. Do you have any idea what she could have been talking about? You certainly stayed away from her as much as you could that summer.]

HT gets uncomfortable and goes upstairs as soon as he can. He's beginning to get the idea that he knows what had happened to Kathleen

In Kitty's final section, she'll hope that HT has realized what it is. She's done what she can. Now it's up to him.

In the attic, he'll realize that it's probably that event.

Why would father think that mother gave her the pills—not that she did, but why. Kitty says, Ah, I think maybe I know. It probably has something to do with tht I found them in a compromising position. Does that make sense though? Maybe he thought I was trying to get back at him that way. Or maybe he thought it was the best way out of the situation—this still isn't it.

Or maybe he thought I was that much of a dingaling that I would let that happen. Maybe his blaming me was a way to avoid blaming himself for what he'd done.

Did kitty actually give her the pills? No, K must have gotten them herself. but I was still to blame as much as if I had given them to her.



Double check to make sure there isn't an earlier reference to Kitty giving K a sedative—in Forty it's said that K must have gotten the pills herself from the mantle.

The thing about what Kathleen says after Kitty gets her back to her room, happens later in the discussion when Kitty is trying to enlighten HT.

6-2-16

At the end it's about the love of Kitty and Harry, the love for each other. Kitty asked HT to find out what he could, because she wondered if anyone else knew about the thing with Harry and K. Wondered if he said anything to anyone else, if that was a factor. They protected each other at

the end. And HT will think about that in the attic, as he remembers the love he had for K, and the role he had in hurting her life....

No—she asked him to find out because she wanted HT to know what had happened with K, she wanted him to find out, and when he didn't she tells him herself. She both wants HT to know the love Kitty and Harry had for each other, and how fucked up K was.

You think he molested her? Of course he didn't. He wouldn't.



In HT's final section, he thinks about what his mother said about K losing HT—which precipitates his remember them together.



And Kitty in her section will think of the continuation of what she tells HT, that it's terrible when a daughter loves a father too much.

[And then of course it all changes in the actual writing anyway....]

HT didn't penetrate her...he was afraid he did but there was only a pool of semen on the rug and on her stomach and legs...she gasped and he was afraid he hurt her and that's when he ran from the house. And the scene with Dickie and K—Dickie asked if HT hurt her and she said no, HT must have been afraid he did because I gasped when he came all over me, that's when he ran...which helps justify that entire scene, besides the implications.

He'd be messed up when he goes in the house...more has to be made of that....

HT looked for blood on the carpet, at the time he thought it must have blended into the pattern of the rug but after he'd been with other girls and experienced what penetration felt like he was sure he hadn't penetrated her that day, hadn't broken her hymen, that maybe she made that sound because he surprised her....

6-5-16

The final conversation with Kitty may happen in his memory after he gets to the attic. And there's no sighting of the ghost...the ghost is gone from the house....

He also reflects that father didn't confide in him, but his mother did. And that has to count for something.

At the foot of the third floor steps his mother says that Dickie was always the nicest of the boys, that he was more self-contained and accepting. But with Pamela, we see that Dickie always knew his mother thought more of HT from the time at the train station. So which works better—that we see his feelings and her perceptions, or her perceptions of him and his true feelings? Probably the way it is, first her perceptions of him, and then the sadness of how he feels about it, about her love for HT.

What is the relationship between K's feelings for HT and her father? Critical to define....



After HT left her, all those feelings that were divided between HT and her father got located all onto her father, she clung to him even more than before.



In the early section of Kitty talking to HT, Chapter 8 page 74 and later, she says she doesn't know how K died. Doesn't know if there was an autopsy or not. But that's not true, is it? She know it was pills? Critical to check that.

The Progression of the Tennis Scene

Chapter 1, page 12 -- HT

His sister laughing, pleased with herself, whenever she scored. Whenever she beat him...Come on, Harry Todd, don't pout. It's only a game, remember? I'll race you to the house. Winner gets to shower first.... Start thinking about that stuff, my friend, he reminded himself, and they'll be coming to take you away.

Chapter 1, page 15-16 – HT

...we raced back from the tennis court to the house and I let her beat me there too so she could take her shower first and I stayed downstairs in the dark house listening to the sound of the distant water and then the water stopped and the house grew silent again and I thought of going upstairs and just happen to walk into the bathroom while she was drying herself but before I could she came and stood on the landing of the stairs and I could see her from where I was sitting on the old straight-backed rocking chair in the living room, she was wearing only a white towel and the sunlight came in through the stained glass window behind her and the colors all green and blue washed over her soft soft skin and then she came on down the stairs—Stop it!

Rondo, Chapter 6, page 61, Dickie

...it holds the memory of a 13-year-old boy peeking around the post at the top of the staircase to watch his sister wearing only a towel after her shower go downstairs to get something from the laundry and on her way back upstairs as she walks past the doorway to the living room Harry Todd sitting in the room in the old straight-backed rocking chair stretches out and pulls the towel from her body leaving her naked and in the process his sister is pulled on top of him and they end up on the floor rolling around and Dickie runs back to his room and buries his head under his pillow crying "I hate him I hate him I hate him"...

Chapter 7, pages 64-65, HT

He had been sitting in the rocker that day as a teenager when Kathleen beat him at tennis and they ran to the house and he waited downstairs while she took her shower.

...I stayed downstairs in the dark house listening to the distant water rushing through the walls as she was upstairs in the shower and then the water stopped and the house grew still again and then she came and stood on the landing wearing only a white towel with the sunlight against the stained glass window behind her and the colors all green and blue washing over her soft soft skin and then she came on downstairs to get something from the laundry and on her way back I thought it would be funny and as she passed the door to the living room I pulled the towel from her and as she tried to hold on to the towel I pulled her toward me and we fell on the floor and I thought her body was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life but then I ran from the

house and got in the car and spent the rest of the day and every day for the rest of the summer driving around....

Rondo Chapter 10, pages 101-102, Dickie

remembers when they were growing up that Harry Todd always got everything he wanted, the best toys and the best clothes and the best girls, and Dickie got what was available—he flashes briefly on the day he watched from the top of the stairs as Kathleen wearing only a towel after her shower went down downstairs and on her way back up Harry Todd sitting in the living room reached out and pulled the towel from her body and they ended up rolling on the floor and Dickie ran back to his room and put what he witnessed away in a recess of his mind reserved for special hurts and mysteries and scores to settle—because everyone thought such things weren't important to Dickie,

Chapter 21, pages 156-7, Dickie

What made him think of Harry Todd and Kathleen? Well, he knew the answer to that, too. At the time all that happened between his older brother and sister, he had no idea what couples did together, he had only vague suspicions, he only knew that whatever Harry Todd and Kathleen did together that way it didn't include him. He remembered, after the time he saw them from the top of the stairs starting to roll together on the living room floor, he spied on them for months afterwards, trying to catch them again, trying to see more of what went on, to see what it was they did together, but Harry Todd and Kathleen spent less time together after that day; he remembered spying on her, peeking through keyholes and cracks of doors, hiding on the attic stairs, to see her without her clothes in the bathroom or in her room. Over the course of his life, he had had plenty of women, and he would sometimes say they were beautiful, each in her own way, but he had never been awestruck with a woman—the wonder of her, finding beauty in the turn of her leg or the line of her jaw that in anyone else would have elicited nothing—the way he had been with Kathleen. Until now, until Pamela.

Rondo, Chapter 22 pages 175-6, HT

Donna told him at the restaurant about Kathleen, wondering how much he should believe, and how much he should tell his mother, thinking again as he looks at the straight-backed rocking chair in the living room of the day when Kathleen came downstairs after her shower and he tried to make a joke by pulling the towel from her and they ended up rolling on the floor, he was on top of her naked body, and like he'd seen in the movies he got his pants down and started to enter her and she gasped that to him sounded like a scream and before he knew what was happening he had exploded all over her stomach and there was semen dripping everywhere and all he knew was that he had to get out of there [—oh my god, this is wrong this is so wrong—], got to his feet pulling on his pants as she was crying behind him, “Harry Todd, what's wrong, don't leave me” as he ran from the house and got in his mother's car and drove downtown, the start of the afternoons and evenings he drove endlessly up and down the main street when he wasn't dating every girl he could get his hands on and put his hands on them he did, going through dozens of girls in the back seat of his mother's car until he started to date Donna and the idea of dating a cheerleader from the class ahead of him fed his interest in her long after his actual attraction to her had dwindled away, on the track to marriage and babyland until his father stepped in and sent him away to school, thinking, That's how it all got started with Donna, wasn't it, it started with me trying to get away from Kathleen, because I was afraid to be in the

house alone with her again and stands in the doorway of the living room looking down at the place on the living room floor where it happened, remembering that for months after it happened he continually checked for a blood stain on the carpet, at the time he thought it must have blended into the pattern and was it was a red rug, though later after being with other girls and experiencing what it felt like to be inside them he realized he was never inside Kathleen that day, probably wasn't even close, thinking regardless that after he ran from the house that day Kathleen had to clean up the mess by herself because he was too afraid or embarrassed or something to stay around her, thinking I wonder what was going through her mind then, I wonder if she knew it was me I was running away from not her....

Chapter 34, pages 253-4, HT

He knelt at the window, to see if he could see his mother through the trees, remembering that Dickie used to kneel here as a child to watch Kathleen and himself down at the tennis court.

Was he here watching that day, the day Kathleen won and we raced to the house and I stayed downstairs while she took her shower because I guess I knew what would happen if I went upstairs and I guess I must have wanted it to happen too but then she came downstairs anyway after her shower and walked past me on the way to the laundry and I tried to pretend I wasn't watching her wrapped in the towel and then when she came back again I thought it would be a great joke and as she past the door to the living room I reached over and pulled the towel off her expecting her to scream or laugh or get mad or something but when she held on to it I ended up pulling her over on top of me and we tumbled on to the floor and we were rolling on the floor and before I knew what was happening but that's a lie I knew very well what was happening I had my pants down and I tried to put it in her and her and she made a noise and I thought oh my god this is wrong this is so wrong and I ran out of the house, if Dickie was in the house he must have heard us, maybe he even saw us, he knew what happened, I never thought of that before, maybe that's what's been eating at Dickie all these years about me. Mother said, You never realized how close Dickie and Kathleen were. No wonder the son of a bitch hates me, I'd hate me too. Maybe I do....

Chapter 43, pages 326-7 HT—the final time

Because as mother said, the real loss of her brother-love was back in high school, back on that summer day when we ran back to the house after playing tennis; as she went upstairs to take a shower I sat in the old rocker close to the doorway in the living room wanting to go upstairs after her, hoping something would happen with her like that story of the brother and sister that Cricket passed around in school or that I could at least see her naked but then after she was done she came downstairs with only a towel wrapped around her to get something from the laundry and as she was heading back upstairs I thought it would be funny and I grabbed the towel as she passed the door and pulled it from her but she held on to it and I ended up pulling her on top of me and we rolled onto the floor and before I knew what I was doing but I knew very well I got my pants down and tried to stick it in her and for a moment I thought I had but I wasn't even close, I came all over her thighs and up on her stomach and I guess it surprised her and she gasped and that helped snap me out of it, or snapped me into what I was doing or trying to do and I pulled away from her and got my pants back up and ran from the house—Wait—what did she have to feel bad about, I was the one who made a fool of myself, coming like that almost as soon as I touched her—Wait—I was embarrassed and stayed away from her as much as I could after that, I didn't want anything like that to happen again and I didn't want to be reminded of it seeing her looking

at me after that and I spent the rest of that summer and my last year in high school trying getting into as many girls as I could to try to get that memory out of my head—Wait—I thought at most it was a just a joke gone bad and maybe just maybe I did something I shouldn't have but then it was over and I thought I forgot about it but maybe for Kathleen it wasn't over like that, maybe she blamed herself for it—Wait—was that the start of it? They thought Kathleen and I were too close as kids and they thought that was the start of her problems but maybe it wasn't that at all, maybe it was there, that day, what I did, and then what I didn't do, I ran away from her and stayed away and she thought it had something to do with her, that there was something wrong with her that it ever happened, I'm an evil, evil girl, Mother said Kathleen said, oh my god....