CHAPTER 1

Bryce goes to Dickie's house to offer condolences and finds Jennifer there instead of Tinker. She backs away to a degree from her original statements

Weather/Atmosphere Perhaps it's a sunny day – or is it cloudy and gray everyday in

Furnass. Edgy, Uneasy.

Time of Day Afternoon, so he can get back home at dusk

Character's Objective To offer his condolences to the bereaved family – the good pastor

Character's Super Objective To find out more about what Jennifer told him at the funeral – and

on some level of his mind to see Jennifer again

Character's Imaginings She thinks I'm hopelessly naïve...she thinks I'm just an odd older

guy who used to know her father...she thinks I don't know very

much of how the world works.

Character's Physical Center His stomach tends to rumble as he talks to her...embarrasses him.

Significant Gesture On the mantle is a small bat the size of a billyclub with Dickie's

company name on it and a championship...she says it was an award for pony league...Bryce swings it a couple times then hits his hand and says it could still do a lot of damage. It makes her shy away

Good and Evil He represents good but seems to make her feel worse the more he

talks to her...feels bad about it

Sights, Sounds Smells, etc. There's a burnt smell, as if a fireplace or wood had been burning...a

mustiness to the air as if it had been closed for a long time. There would be the view of the surrounding hills, a glimpse of the valley far away, through the large windows. The perspective of the day is like looking down through converging planes toward the horizon.

There is a bird feeder outside, lots of activity but no sound,

everything removed. Down the sky moves a silent plane toward the

airport.

What Character Learns Nothing more about a possible murder; but that she considers him

naive and not worth bothering with in regards to more of her

thoughts or suspicions

Character's Choice To find Tinker for his original intention and, half-heartedly, to find

out anything more about Dickie's death.

• The next day, or the day after, he goes to the house to see Tinker, to offer his condolences, to see if there is anything she needs. Instead he finds Jennifer. She tells him that she's at the Flower Shop, or more likely, her words, at her dad's office. She says something to the fact that she can't keep her hands off the business, that she thinks it's her opportunity to go big-time, that it should

be hers. Before it goes too far, she asks why he's here, that her dad didn't go to church, none of them did. He says that he's an old friend of her father and mother, that she might not know that because she was away a lot at private schools...she would talk about her mother...and Bryce would ask her about why she said that about being murdered. She talks about the number of people in town who hated her father. Who would have a reason to kill him or to want him dead? How far into explaining that does she go?

- Chapter 1– Bryce goes to Dickie's house to offer condolences to Tinker. Instead, he finds Jennifer. She has come to the house to clear out some things, to stay out of the way of her mother...who she says in probably at her Flower Shop, or at her dad's office poking around with what she thinks is finally hers. He finds out more of Tinker's wanting the business, and taking this opportunity to grab at it. Jennifer is trying to stay out of her way, because she knows her mother couldn't run it anyway. And regardless, Jennifer already knows where the important stuff is and her mother can't get at it. Talks about the mother-daughter relationship. Explains that he's an old family friend. Asks her why she said that about someone killing her father. Maybe now she won't talk about it, brushes it off, doesn't want to go into it. Why would she, with this man she doesn't know, and doesn't really respect, being a minister?
- Bryce sees Jennifer at graveside, she hints that she thinks Dickie was killed → Bryce goes to Dickie's house next day to console Tinker, but finds Jennifer instead, she may feel the same of killing but is more reticent now, she needs to make some reference to Julian →
- Chapter 2 Bryce waits a day or two...and goes back to Furnass. [The time is probably early afternoon, so that he gets back to the house at nightfall.] It is a good chance to talk about his church, where he lives now, why he's there and doesn't got to Furnass very often. He has some business to attend to with Tinker...perhaps he didn't get paid, or perhaps he didn't have a chance to talk to her and he wanted to thank her in person, do the ministerly thing by her...but the real reason he is going is he is bothered by what Jennifer said about her father dying not from an accident – and her implication, though to what extent he realizes it is up for grabs, that he is naïve and out of touch with the world simply because he is a minister. He goes to Dickie's house, but Tinker isn't there, instead he finds Jennifer. [See Sketches, p 16] [Needs to include the information that she is working on the Furnass Landing project, that she has taken it over and has her office there, in preparation for Bryce's visit in chapter 11 or so.] She has come to the house to clear out some of her things while her mother is away – she's trying to avoid her mother. She didn't feel she had to get them out while her dad was still alive...or that her things might be in jeopardy...or that it would be a problem to encounter her mother then, but without her father, it's a problem. She says her mother's probably at her Flower Shop, or at her father's office, poking around in what she thinks is finally hers. He finds out that Tinker has a share of the business, and now thinks she can have the entire business, and is taking this chance to grab at it. Jennifer is avoiding her – she finds it amusing in a way, because she knows her mother couldn't run it anyway. Besides, Jennifer already knows where the important documents are, her father told her, and they are places where Tinker can't get her hands on them. They talk about the motherdaughter relationship. He talks about being an old family friend, that he knew both of them back in high school, perhaps makes reference to Orchard Hill and Jennifer, who has spent time at

Black Trees Master Outline — 2001 Chapter 1

Kitty's house, knows something about it from Harry Todd. Bryce asks her finally why she said that about somebody killing her father. She calls attention to the fact that that's not what she said exactly, she asked if he believed it was an accident. He stands corrected, but she's pointed it out just for the sake of it, she's not really interested in telling him anything further. She doesn't want to go into it, and why would she, this man being essentially a stranger. Bryce takes it that she won't talk about it because she still considers him a fool and naïve and that she doesn't respect him simply because he's a minister. He might not blame her; he wouldn't respect a minister either.

Bryce would be a little unhinged...more awkward than usual...when he actually finds Jennifer at home at the house. On some level of his mind, he came looking for her...and oh my god, here she is.

Her thinking is that she regrets having mentioned anything about her father's death to this man; he takes it that she doesn't think he's worthy to pursue her feelings and suspicions. Thus is love born.

CHAPTER 2

Julian at his office gets a visit from Kim...who wants Julian to help him find Cory...he's just learned that she hasn't been home for several days.

Weather/Atmosphere In Julian's office you can't tell...a patch of grayness above the

airwell...the circles of light from his green-shaded library lamps.

Tension.

Time of Day Mid-afternoon

Character's Objective To respond to his friend's – or at least client's – request for help

Character's Super Objective To maintain his friendship with this man whose outlaw status in

town Julian finds complimentary to his own status

Character's Imaginings Kim needs my help again...here is this guy who can wipe out a

room, can kill his own father, who likes me enough to ask me to help him find his daughter. By associating with lower, more

dangerous guys like this, I'll show the town

Character's Physical Center His head...he cups it in his hand,

Significant Gesture Cups his head with his hand...his arm wrenched awkwardly to palm

it like a coconut? Rubs it over his brush of hair.

Good and Evil Kim is a force of evil, at least as perceived by the town...and Julian

likes to think of himself as a force of good, though he often traffics with evil because of his attempts at wheeling and dealing. Flattering

to be close to evil.

Sights, Sounds Smells, etc. Kim has the smell of sandalwood about him, incense. A touch of the

Orient. Far off sounds of a truck in the alley, traffic far away on the street. A flickering light as if there is a loose wire. The mustiness of the old theater. Mold, dampness. There is a thumping in the theater, a bumping around like something big moving about, a generator

starting up

What Character Learns Cory is missing...he thinks he has a good case for his friend, and

that she is gone strengthens it.

Character's Choice To find out more about Cory...at first from Connie.

• Chapter 3 – Julian at his office gets a visit from Kim. [Sketches, p 16] Kim wants Julian to come with him as he looks for Cory. He's just learned that Cory hasn't been around for a few days, and he's afraid that she's run off with Stratton, that Stratton is known for going to New York or Florida to pick up drugs and Kim is afraid Cory's mixed up in something. He heard first from

someone down at the studio that she was with Stratton, but when he called at the house, Connie wouldn't talk to him, only told him that she hadn't been around. And she wonders why I'm trying to get custody of her. He wants Julian to go with him to hunt for her but Julian says that's not a good idea with his temper. Kim can't stand the thought that she's strung out on drugs somewhere, of a bunch of guys doing her. Julian calms him down and tells him that he'll go looking for her and let him know what he finds out. Sends him on his way with a reassuring pat on the back.

- Chapter 2 Julian getting a visit from Kim. He wants Julian to come with him as he goes to look for his daughter. He's just learned that Cory hasn't been around for the last few days, and he's afraid she's run off somewhere with this guy Stratton. Kim has heard that he has a room at the old hotel and is going down there after her and wants Julian to come with him. Julian convinces him that that's not a good idea, that he's trying to get custody of her and he knows his temper and if there's trouble it will look bad for the custody fight. Julian convinces him that he, Julian, should go on his own to see if he's there. At this point, does Kim know that Stratton deals drugs? Probably so, and that's what concerns him, she could be lying somewhere strung out, guys doing her...he can't stand it. Julian calms him down. [No, you know what it is? He works at the motorcycle shop, or perhaps it's Sheetz' welding shop, and Kim wants to go find out where she is, and Julian says he'll go on his own..]
- It's probably time to introduce another phase of the story...and it's probably best to have Julian involved with Kim's daughter, Cory. There are probably custody issues with her...or perhaps she's run away again, and Kim has asked Julian's help...something of the sort, perhaps not with Kim yet, but with only the daughter, Julian engaged with this young woman in a similar fashion to Bryce's involvement with Jennifer. [Need to look back over Hunters, to find more of that.] Is Julian actually going around town, to the Hotel to find her? Or looking for her some place for Kim. Perhaps he needs to make the point that he needs to find her first, or whomever she's with, before Kim does. At any rate, another piece of the story, though it has to have it's own interest, its own mystery and compelling nature.... He goes to the hotel...

Let's clarify that: Julian has received a call from a client named Kim that his daughter has taken off again, that Kim has learned that Cory hasn't been home for a couple days and he's afraid she's taken off again...he's tied up at the moment...with what? Something at the school? Has to be serious for Kim not to go after her himself...anyway, he's called Julian and Julian is looking for her at the old Hotel, with Stratton, with all it's bizarreness right there in Furnass, thinks to himself that it's better he finds her than Kim, that he doesn't know what Kim would do. Perhaps that's it, Kim is looking somewhere else for her, and Julian is helping out.... Have to think why Kim can't come...perhaps Kim had called Julian and asked him to join him, and Julian convinced him that he shouldn't...that there could be trouble and with Kim's temper or record or something, it would be better if Kim wasn't involved...that he went himself. Yes, that's more like it.... Can't make it too blatant yet about Kim's violence, only that it will be better for the custody if Julian does it, not Kim. Can't throw too much suspicion on Kim this early. And Julian makes it known that he can more than handle himself, in his mind at least.

• The story of Kim – he is engaged in trying to get custody of his daughter, and his struggles, interest through the book are about that. Perhaps he is facing a custody hearing, or some sort of review – it would have been set up after the fight he had with his father. There would be some question...the mother who wouldn't let him see Cory afterwards, even though acquitted. So he has a custody hearing coming up...a fight for visiting rights or something, but she has disappeared. Would that work in his favor? Would they think it would? Regardless, that is the issue they're up against. She's disappeared, and Julian is working to keep him away from her, away from a potential confrontation, because he is afraid of what Kim will do. And he needs to mention that early on. So it is Julian who goes in search of Cory, to keep Kim out of it.

But in the course of the search he needs to find some things out about Kim, things he wasn't aware of...meaning the relationship with Cory. He thinks the whole reluctance of the mother to allow Cory to spend time with her dad has to do with the murder trial. But it turns out, Cory has claimed to her mother that Kim tried something with her. He didn't actually – and that's got to be clear. But this is what comes out in the conversations of Julian...this is what he discovers, and it hurts his good impression of Kim. And that would hurt Kim a lot. Perhaps that's another important angle here – Kim learns of Julian's suspicions regarding Cory, and it sends him on to help him all the more. Or did so? What is the time frame? Was that why he went to do Dickie? Or was that something else, something he did earlier because of his strong protective feelings for Julian. And learning now that Julian has doubts about him, he goes after Bryce....

- Cory disappears because she has told her mother, and perhaps the judge, that her father molested her. And she knows it's not true. So when the hearing comes up she disappears because she knows she's lied about it. But Kim doesn't know that, he only knows that she's gone off and he supposes that it's with Stratton. That is in fact where she is, or was for some of the time.
- Julian gets a visit from Kim who says that Cory has disappeared. She knows hearing is coming up, that's why she has. Julian tells him that he'll look into it, for him not to get involved because of past troubles →
- Kim's motivation Kim is in a way desperate for acceptance. He has this great capacity to defend himself, to lash out, to kill and he has killed, in both Nam and his father, and Julian makes a lot of this when he talks to Bryce about Kim but what he doesn't have is love and affection. Silly and pedestrian if it's not handled correctly, but true nonetheless. He wants Julian to like him, because Julian represents everything Kim isn't and can never be. He has fixed up his house in this wonderful example of colonial/country style, Americana all over the place, like those places in New Brighton, but he's still left out. (His business has to show involved with this, fixing up the house, or getting more knickknacks, more eagles for the walls, etc.) Julian is that type of person; he comes from Orchard Hill, he has all the inherent refinements of someone in the accepted class structure and, shall we say it, upper class. Julian has all the pretensions of the upper class of the town; those who have known him, who are accepted into the structure such as Dickie and Bryce, see and know Julian for what he is, a somewhat pretentious snob, an

Black Trees Master Outline — 2001 Chapter 2

incompetent bumbler. But Kim buys the image of Julian, and of course, Julian would like him for it.

Remember, in the class structure: Julian is old money and the upper class; Dickie comes from the nouveau riche, but the fact is his money is real; and Bryce came from a workingclass family who found themselves on Orchard Hill, who was accepted as one of the gang of kids but whose parents were not. Telling....

As they sit there and talk there are rumblings in the bowels of the old theater, the sound like something big moving about, but Julian never pays any attention to it, ignores it, used to it. Kim is always looking around at the noises – this indicates that the point of view isn't always pinpointed in Julian's or the character's mind; there may be some interpolation of the narrator. Which would be a good thing....

Kim wants Julian to help him find Cory. But Julian makes it clear he doesn't want Kim to be involved. That's got to hurt Kim...and indicative of the complex set of feelings that Julian has about the man.

Have to keep in mind there are a string of things going on with Julian: Selling his father's house; Dickie's will; finding Cory; preparing for custody hearing; working with Tinker to get control of company – and control of his finances again.

CHAPTER 3

Bryce goes to Tinker's Flower Shop, then to Dickie's office and talks to Tinker.

Weather/Atmosphere It continues to be a cold gray day. Bundles up against the chill, the

feeling that there may be snow coming in a day or so. Portentous.

Time of Day Middle of the afternoon

Character's Objective He's going to follow-up the funeral was a pastoral visit, to pay

respects to the wife of an old friend

Character's Super Objective He wants to find out more of the facts and circumstances around

Dickie's death, to find out more of what Jennifer was talking about

and what obviously seemed to bothering her.

Character's Imaginings Tinker thinks I'm as useless as Jennifer does. Tinker was always

strong as an ox, strong-willed, and she could chew me up and spit me out, Dickie must have been a hell of a man not only to bed a

woman like this but to have stood up to her.

Character's Physical Center His stomach

What Character Learns

Significant Gesture Rests his hands over his stomach, in an unconscious attempt to

protect his center. Folds his hands pastorially, resting them on his tummy as if it were larger but its not. Perhaps realizes he's doing that and feels it's stupid. Wants to move away from such ministerial

gestures.

Good and Evil He is trying to be the force of good, and he sees Tinker as smoky as

evil.

Sights, Sounds Smells, etc. She's smoking, clouds of smoke drifting up over her face. He smells

about her the smoke, and the smells of the Flower Shop, the sickly

sweet smells of perpetual funerals. There is the clatter of the typewriters or computers. Phones ringing for the business, the hushed voices of phone conversations like whispers. Somebody starting to speak loudly then hushed up because of Tinker being

there. The rhythmic clatter of a photocopier spitting out papers. The there seems to be some suspicions about how he died that

Tinker won't talk much about; that she is there trying to find documents because she's afraid of Harry Todd trying to make a grab

for the business; that Dickie and Harry Todd not only hated each

other but once had a fight that Dickie won.

Character's Choice He decides there is something suspicious here. That he will go and

talk to Harry Todd, to see what he thinks, how he acts.

- Bryce goes to Flower Shop but Tinker isn't there, so he goes on to Dickie's office. Tinker is there, all right, and causing quite a stir among the other employees at Sutcliff Realty. She's bossing people around, rooting through his papers and files, trying to take over. Why is Bryce there? The same reasons he came to town in the first place. [At the funeral, Julian was the one who contacted him about giving the eulogy. I don't think he would make mention of anything talking to her here. Though she may ask if he didn't get his honorarium below.] He's telling himself that it's on a ministerial role, a follow-up with the wife of an old friend; but he's also interested – after talking with Jennifer more than ever -- about the facts of Dickie's death, he hadn't really heard, he had only heard that Dickie had fallen in his office and hit his head on a credenza and they called it an accident. Tinker would also want to know why he was there; asks if he didn't get his honorarium or whatever, and he laughs it off, he's only there in a ministerial capacity. Then he starts asking his questions. She tells him that she and Dickie had led separate lives for a long time and that it's no secret that there was no love between them. She tells him that she's in here looking at things before Harry Todd can get his hands on things. Her theory is that the only reason Harry Todd came back to town was to get what he thought was his share of the business, especially now that it's taken off with the Furnass Landing project. She says it was Dickie's theory too. Perhaps mentions though brushes off the fight that was between them. He's asking his questions about how he died, was there an autopsy, did they prove conclusively that it was a fall? After a while, Tinker would not suffer him gladly, brushes away his questions and brushes him away, says she's got more important things than talk to him.
- Bryce goes to see Tinker at Dickie's office. And sure enough, she's routing through things, bossing people around, trying to take over. She wants to know why he's there, if he didn't get paid, and he laughs it off, says no, he's only there on a ministerial visit, and she says that's all very nice but she doesn't need any consoling. She and Dickie had led separate lives for a long time and it's no secret there was no love between them. She's saying that she's had to get in here and look things over before Harry Todd has a chance to. Her theory that the only reason Harry Todd came back was to get a share of the business, now that it's really taking off with the Furnass Landing project. Says it was also Dickie's theory too. Perhaps mentions but brushes off the fight between them. He asks a little bit more of how Dickie died, and she talks a little about him falling in his office, the blow to his head. She brushes him off, is brusquely polite but gets rid of him.
- Bryce goes to see Jennifer, she is reticent to pursue killing talk → she goes to console Tinker who leads suspicions to Harry Todd → Bryce decides, now that Tinker mentioned him, to see Harry Todd, who adds more to idea that he might have had a motive →
- Bryce sees Jennifer at graveside, she hints that she thinks Dickie was killed → Bryce goes to Dickie's house next day to console Tinker, but finds Jennifer instead, she may feel the same of killing but is more reticent now, she needs to make some reference to Julian → Julian gets a visit from Kim saying that Cory is missing, Julian tells him to stay out of it, he'll check into it → Bryce goes to see Tinker, finds her at Dickie's office, she mentions the fight between Dickie and Harry Todd →

The next chapter picks up Bryce going to look up Tinker. Which he does...she's in Dickie's old office cleaning out things...actually starting to take things over...and we see her bossing Dickie's former secretary, demanding things...asserting herself as she's standing there going through his drawers and his files.... Bryce doesn't come right out and ask her about if Dickie was murdered, the purpose of his visit, at least from what he tells her (and probably himself) is that he is paying his ministerial visit...offering condolences...she'd ask if he didn't get paid, was that the reason he was there, her way of thinking...and he says no, no, he's just there to offer condolence, which she obviously doesn't need much of...and perhaps he approaches the subject of Dickie not being very popular...or that a lot of people didn't like him, held a grudge...though wouldn't she need to say something that would lead him more in the direction of his brother...perhaps Tinker is talking about getting in there to the office before Harry Todd has a chance, that the only reason Harry Todd came back was to take over the agency and she's not going to let anyone get in ahead of hers, it's hers it's hers...which would leave Bryce thinking there are two suspects, his wife or brother. Oh, one thing he would definitely have to ask her is about how Dickie died. That he really didn't hear. And Tinker would talk more about the wound itself...a blow to the temple...they guess he fell in his office. Somewhere Bryce might think it could mean either somebody pushed him or hit him...or would he say that to Jennifer? Yes. Perhaps in the next chapter...but probably not...it would be too soon for him to go back to see Jennifer, he couldn't justify it to himself, he would think he wants to go see somebody else, and the logical one would be Harry Todd.